

Opening of the NONCONFORM exhibition from #VirtualSPAR

The opening of the online exhibition “NONCONFORM” will take place March 2nd at 20:00 (Moscow time, 12:00 noon EST), presenting the results of the 6th season of the Saint Petersburg Art Residency at “Pushkinskaya-10” and the virtual art residency #VirtualSPAR. This season’s theme is nonconformism, and the project arises from cooperation between the Museum of Nonconformist Art and the Russian Studies Workshop at Indiana University. The exhibition will take place in a fictional house of culture on an ice island, created on the Mozilla Hubs platform. “Nonconform” will be available for complimentary viewing until October 2022.

In autumn of last year #VirtualSPAR invited six artists from Russia and the United States, who were encouraged to theorize about nonconformism in art. The resulting project is dedicated to the examination and redefinition of the nonconformism phenomenon from all perspectives, and to a renewed dialogue between art specialists in both Russia and the United States.

“The legacies provided by Soviet counter-culture, its representations and reception in the US, became the primary point of departure for our reconceptualization. Beyond that, we wanted to reexamine the idea of nonconformism in a wider context, without historical, geographical, or political limitations. During the residency, the artists considered what nonconformism could look like today. Thus, six unique projects appeared — video and sound installations, photographs and three-dimensional art objects,” said Anastasia Patsey, director for the St. Petersburg Art-Residency at “Pushkinskaya-10” and the virtual art-residency #VirtualSPAR.

The unveiling of the exhibition will take place simultaneously online and offline. On the 2nd of March, at 20:00-21:00 (Moscow time, 12:00 noon EST) the virtual house of culture at Mozilla Hubs will open its doors. The artists’ works will be displayed in various parts of the space — the audience members will find the art in the cinema, in the canteen, in home economics or regional studies classrooms, or in other spaces within the house of culture. The online opening will feature presentations from both the artists and the exhibition’s curator, Dmitry Pilikin.

The offline presentation will take place from the 2nd to the 20th of March in the art center “Pushkinskaya 10.” Visitors will be able to view the exhibition on the big screen, or through a VR-headset in gallery 2,04.

On the 3rd and 4th of March, there will be a virtual conference as the culmination of the project, dedicated to the phenomenon of nonconformism in art and culture. All of the events associated with the project are free of charge, but attendees must register at:

<https://forms.gle/B8aNYmMJXa7Qd1Bb9>

The #VirtualSPAR project arose in April 2020 as a response to the global pandemic. This space is open to professionals in the art sphere from all over the globe, and allows

artists to share their artistic processes and final products, as well as connect with like minded individuals, exchange ideas, open their studios for virtual visitors, and participate in virtual exhibitions.

The Artists of #VirtualSPAR Season 6 / Nonconform

Ludmila Belova is an artist and curator, specializing in video and audio art, painting, photography. She researches the topics of memory, space and time; investigates the influence of new technologies on people in art practices; engages viewers to the process. Ludmila Belova's art was exhibited in Europe, the USA, Russia and Asia. She was awarded the "50 Bestern" ZKM prize (Karlsruhe, Germany, 2000) and Sergei Kurekhin prize for the best curatorial project (St. Petersburg, Russia, 2017).

Yevgeniy Fiks has been living and working in New York since 1994. Fiks has produced many projects on the subject of the Post-Soviet dialog in the West, among them: "Lenin for Your Library?" in which he mailed V.I. Lenin's text "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism" to one hundred global corporations as a donation for their corporate libraries; "Communist Party USA," a series of portraits of current members of Communist Party USA, painted from life in the Party's national headquarters in New York City; and "Communist Guide to New York City," a series of photographs of buildings and public places in New York City that are connected to the history of the American Communist movement.

Tom Kotik is an artist, curator and musician based in Brooklyn, New York. Tom's artwork often explores the intersection of sound and vision and is architectural in form, that he attributes to his life in New York, calling architecture the landscape he draws from. Since 1996 Tom has exhibited his work nationally and internationally including solo and group shows.

Aloyna Levina an artist, illustrator, independent curator, researcher and feminist activist, working on issues of disabled women. Alena has participated in a number of group shows in Russia and the USA, and in international scientific conferences. She paints portraits and nudes. She also researches the practice of self-presentation through a series of self-portraits.

Andréa Stanislav is based in New York City, NY and splits her practice between St. Petersburg, Russia and Bloomington, IN, where she serves as an adjunct professor of sculpture and an affiliate of the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University. Ms. Stanislav's hybrid practice spans sculpture, immersive multimedia installation, video and public art. Her artwork has been exhibited internationally and nationally at museums, contemporary art centers, galleries, biennials, art fairs and video festivals.

Symphocat is a moniker of Ilia Pucheglazov, a musician, composer, curator, and sound engineer. *Symphocat*'s style can be most closely associated with meditative Ambient, Drone, Experimental Music, Field Recordings, which intersect with styles hinting of Modern Classical music and minimalism.