

Symposium *Russian Avant-garde Revisited*

Within the framework of the FORMER WEST project

13 -14/03/2010

The Van Abbemuseum organises the symposium *Russian Avant-garde Revisited* that will take place on Saturday 13 March (3 - 5pm) and Sunday 14 March 2010 (11am – 5pm) at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven.

The symposium is part of the long-term project FORMER WEST, which aims to investigate the influence of the end of the Cold War (in the year 1989) on contemporary Western culture. It takes place in the context of Victory over the Sun, an exhibition that explores the designs of Lissitzky and Malevich for the opera and also their work in UNOVIS, Vitebsk together with Chagall and others in the early years of the Soviet Union.

The symposium *Russian Avant-garde Revisited* will revisit the cultural history of Russia and other Eastern European countries in the 20th century, histories that still remain virtually unknown or misrepresented in the West due to a lack in the flow of information on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Russian Avant-garde is relatively well known in the West. Therefore, the discussion will not focus on the history of the Russian Avant-garde as such, but rather the influence that Utopian projects of the Russian Avant-garde exert on contemporary culture. There is no doubt that contemporary art practices like participation art, installation art and socially engaged artistic projects are creating new audiences that are deeply influenced by the Russian Avant-garde. Today however, it is considered even more important to understand that the Russian Avant-garde tried to expand the notion of art and its inclusion in everyday life, something that is traditionally believed not to be part of the sphere of art. The attempt to democratize the notions of art and artistic practices can be understood as a precursor and future model for many similar artistic and theoretical investigations on the level of the quotidian.

Programme 13-14 March

Saturday 13 March 2010

15:00 Welcome by Charles Esche
15:30 Boris Groys
16:30 Discussions
17:15 Drinks
20:00 Closing

Sunday 14 March 2010

11:00 Welcome with coffee
11:30 Peter Osborne
12:00 Anton Vidokle
12:30 Katherina Degot
13:30 Lunch
14:00 Claire Bishop

14:30 Bik Van der Pol
15:00 Tania Bruguera
15:30 Discussion panel, moderator Boris Groys
17:00 Drinks and dinner
20:00 Closing

More information about the speakers can be found on the website of the Van Abbemuseum.

Reservations

Reservations for the symposium can be done via www.vanabbemuseum.nl. Entrance fee for both days will be Euro 15,-. This includes a ticket for all the talks, lunch and simple dinner on 14th March. Payment at the door.

FORMER WEST

The symposium is realized within the framework of FORMER WEST, a contemporary art research, education, publishing, and exhibition project (2008–2013), initiated and organized by BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht, the Netherlands, and generously supported by the Mondriaan Foundation, EU Culture Programme, European Cultural Foundation, and the City of Utrecht. FORMER WEST is initiated by Maria Hlavajova, artistic director BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht. It is curated by Charles Esche (curator, author, and director, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven), Maria Hlavajova, and Kathrin Rhomberg (curator, Berlin Biennial 6, 2010) and developed with a dense network of researchers and partners. For more information please visit: www.formerwest.org.

Press release
March 2010

Subsidisers

FORMER WEST is supported by the Mondriaan Foundation, EU Culture Programme, European Cultural Foundation, and the City of Utrecht.



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www.formerwest.org

The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is one of the first public museums for contemporary art to be established in Europe. The museum's collection of around 2700 works of art includes key works and archives by Lissitzky, Picasso, Kokoschka, Chagall, Beuys, McCarthy, Daniëls and Körmeling. The museum has an experimental approach towards art's role in society. Openness, hospitality and knowledge exchange are important. We challenge ourselves and our visitors to think about art and its place in the world, covering a range of subjects, including the role of the collection as a cultural 'memory' and the museum as a public site. International collaboration and exchange have made the Van Abbemuseum a place for creative cross-fertilisation and a source of surprise, inspiration and imagination for its visitors and participants.

Van Abbemuseum

Bilderdijklaan 10
Eindhoven, The Netherlands
For more information, please visit www.vanabbemuseum.nl

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 11:00 – 17:00
Thursday 11:00 - 21:00
On Thursdays, entrance to the museum is free from 17:00

Entrance

Adults: € 9,00
Groups of 15 persons or more, senior citizens: € 6,50
Students; holders of the Dutch young people's cultural pass (CJP): € 4
Thursdays from 17:00 - 21:00: free entrance (until 31/12/2010)

For more information please look at our website www.vanabbemuseum.nl

For the editors

More information and images can be downloaded from:
www.vanabbemuseum.nl/pers.

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