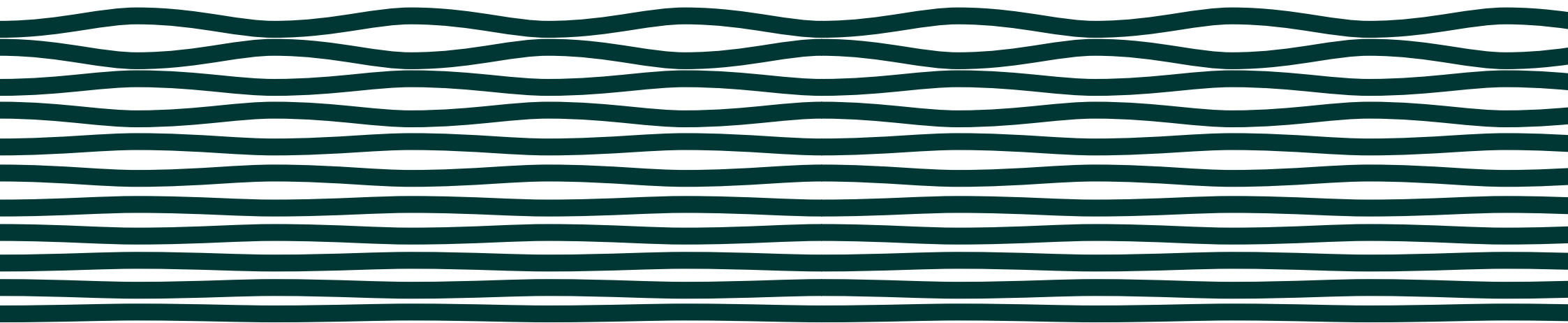




INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

11.11.2020



UTOPIA SAVED. LEE BUL ON THE RUSSIAN AVANT-GARDE

## MODERATORS



### SEMYON MIKHAILOVSKY

Semyon Mikhailovsky is an expert in art and the history of architecture, Rector of the St Petersburg Academy of Fine Arts, academician of the Russian Academy of Arts, member of the RF Presidential Council for Culture and Art, Distinguished Member of the Art Community of the Russian Federation, Honorary Member of the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma, and chair of the Board of Trustees of Manege Central Exhibition Hall in St Petersburg. Semyon has organised and curated exhibits in Russia, China, the USA, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Finland. He has been awarded the Russian Federation Government Prize in Culture and the St Petersburg Government Prize in Culture, the Order of the Star of Italy (Commander), and other honours.



### SUNJUNG KIM

Sunjung Kim is a curator and currently the President of the Gwangju Biennale Foundation. Throughout her career, Kim has made an enormous contribution to the development of contemporary art in South Korea.

She has also done a great deal to establish enduring ties between cultural figures in South Korea and the global art scene. In addition to her role as curator, Sunjung Kim is artistic director of the *Real DMZ Project*, a contemporary art project based on research conducted on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in South Korea and its border area, which she founded in 2011.

Previously, she was chief curator and deputy director (1993- 2004) and the director (2016-2017) of the Art Sonje Center in Seoul, where she curated numerous exhibitions, including solo exhibitions of Martin Creed (2009), Haegue Yang (2010), Abraham Cruzvillegas (2015), and Francis Alÿs (2018). She was also the commissioner of the Korean Pavilion for the 51st Venice Biennale (2005), the artistic director of *Platform Seoul* (2006-2010), a professor at the Korea National University of Arts (2006-2012), the artistic director of Media City Seoul (2010), a co-artistic director of the 9th Gwangju Biennale (2012), the artistic director of the ACC Archive & Research at Asia Culture Center (2014-2015), and the chief curator of the 12th Gwangju Biennale *Imagined Borders* (2018).





## PAVEL PRIGARA

Pavel Prigara has been in charge of Manege since its mass renovation in 2016. He is also responsible for Manege's structural and conceptual development on the local and international level.

## PROGRAMME

**11.00 – 11.20**

### INTRODUCTION

Symposium's moderator, art expert, curator of the Utopia Saved exhibition Sunjung Kim on preparing the exhibition during a pandemic



11.30 – 12.30

## SESSION 1

### PRESENTATIONS BY THE MAIN SPEAKERS

The speakers will be introduced by Sunjung Kim and Semyon Mikhailovsky.

#### SPEAKERS:



#### MAMI KATAOKA

Kataoka was Chief Curator at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery (1997-2002) prior to the Mori Art Museum (2003-) where she holds the current position since 2020. Kataoka was also International Curator at the Hayward Gallery, London (2007-2009); Co-Artistic Director for the 9th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2012); and Artistic Director of the 21st Biennale of Sydney (2018). She has been serving as a Board Member of CIMAM [International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art] and currently the President of CIMAM 2020-2022. Chair of Contemporary Art Committee Japan, Art Platform Japan [Initiative by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan]; Councilor of Tokyo Council for the Arts [Initiative by Tokyo Metropolis, Japan]; and Member of AICA [International Association of Art Critics]. Visiting Professor at Kyoto University of the Arts Graduate School; Visiting Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts' Faculty of Fine Arts, Graduate School of Fine Arts. Kataoka frequently writes, lectures, and juries on contemporary art from Japan, Asia and beyond.

Mami was the curator of Lee Bul's retrospective exhibition *Lee Bul: From Me, Belongs to You Only* at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo (2012). Mami will discuss Lee Bul's work between the years of 2005 and 2012, when the artist's interests were focused on the history of modernism and she started creating such seminal works as *Mon grand récit*, *Civitas Solis*, and *Study for Russian Constructivism*.



## SPEAKERS:



### STEPHANIE ROSENTHAL

Stephanie Rosenthal is the Director of the Gropius Bau, Berlin. She began her programme in 2018 with the exhibition *Lee Bul: Crash*, which was organised together with the Hayward Gallery, London. Her subsequent shows have included *Garden of Earthly Delights* (2019), *Wu Tsang: There is no nonviolent way to look at somebody* (2019), *Lee Mingwei: Li, Gifts and Rituals* and, most recently, *Otobong Nkanga: There Is No Such Thing as Solid Ground* (2020).

Stephanie was the curator of Lee Bul's most recent retrospectives at the Hayward Gallery in London (2018) and the Gropius-Bau exhibition centre in Berlin (2018-2019). She was also the artistic director of the 20th Biennale of Sydney (2016), for which Lee Bul created the *Willing To Be Vulnerable* series of immersive installations. Stephanie will discuss Lee Bul's most recent period of work.

She studied Art History at the Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich and received her doctorate from the University of Cologne. Since then she has published influential articles and catalogues, and lectured widely on contemporary art with a focus on performative methods. She is a member of numerous international juries, chairing the International Jury of the Venice Biennale in 2019, and currently serving in the Hyundai Blue Prize and the Gwangju Biennale juries.



### ALEX TAEK-GWANG LEE

Alex Taek-Gwang Lee is a professor of cultural studies at Kyung Hee University in South Korea and a visiting professor at Jamia Millia Islamia University in India. He is a member of the advisory board for the International Deleuze Studies in Asia Conference and one of the founding members of the Asia Theories Network (ATN). He has written extensively on French and German philosophy and its non-Western reception, Korean cinema, popular culture, art, and politics. He has also recently launched the Global Network of Critical Postmedia Studies.

Alex will present his reading of utopianism in Lee Bul's works from the point of view of modern philosophy and narratological practices.



13.00 – 14.30

## SESSION 2

### DISCUSSION AND Q&A

#### SPEAKERS:



#### LEE BUL

Lee Bul (b. 1964) is an artist based in Seoul, South Korea. Trained as a sculptor during the period of social and political upheavals of the 1980s, she started off her artistic career with performative pieces that incorporated wearable soft sculptures. In the 1990s she gained international recognition with a series of provocative works, including her scandalous installation of fresh fish left to decay and her *Cyborg* sculptures, hybrids of machine and organic forms. In the 2000s she became interested in using her art to explore the history of modernity. Lee began creating large-scale installations and architectural sculptures – imaginative inquiries into history fused with her personal memory and experience.

In more recent projects and exhibitions, Lee Bul has produced stunning, immersive installations, such as *Civitas Solis II* and *Aubade III* for South Korea's National Museum of Contemporary Art in 2014 and Palais de Tokyo in 2015, and *Willing To Be Vulnerable* for the 20th Biennale of Sydney in 2016. Her most recent survey show encompassed the entire 30 years of her career; *Lee Bul: Crashing*, curated by Stephanie Rosenthal, was held at London's Hayward Gallery and Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin from May 2018 through January 2019.



## SPEAKERS:



### SOOJIN LEE

Soolin Lee is an art historian, teaching as an Assistant Professor at Hongik University in South Korea. Previously, she taught and worked at the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Art Sonje Center.

Her recent articles include “(Un)see and Be (Un)seen: Yoko Ono Between Avant-Garde and Mass Culture” (2018), “Emoji at MoMA: Considering the ‘Original Emoji’ as Art” (2018), “Archives as Method: When the Artist Becomes the Art” (2019), and “Yours: Performing (in) Nikki S. Lee’s ‘Fan Club’ with Nikki S. Lee” (2019). Her curatorial research contributions include the 2018 Gwangju Biennale’s archive exhibition and the 2019 *DMZ* exhibition in Seoul.



### ELIZAVETA LIKHACHEVA

Yelizaveta Likhachova was born July 20, 1978 in Moscow. She graduated with honours from the Lomonosov Moscow State University’s History Faculty, Department of Art History and Theory. She is an expert in Italian baroque, and her favourite architect is Francesco Borromini.

Likhachyova has worked in the Shchusev State Museum of Architecture since 2006, and was the head of the architecture popularisation department, where she worked on educational projects and publications. At her initiative, the museum created guides for all its exhibitions, and also developed popular routes for exploring the city. Yelizaveta Likhachyova is currently the museum’s most demanded lecturer and guide.

From June 2014 through March 2017, Likhachyova was deputy director of the State Museum of Konstantin and Viktor Melnikov (a branch of the Shchusev Museum). She headed the museumification of the Melnikov House while there.

On March 22, 2017, Yelizaveta Likhachyova was appointed to the post of director of the Shchusev State Museum of Architecture. Under her guidance, the museum has organized such successful exhibits as: The Architecture of Stadiums; Matvey Kazakov and Pre-Fire Moscow; The Era of Art Nouveau; Shukhov. Formula of Architecture; and others.

Photo: Olga Otchenasheva



## SPEAKERS:



### OLESYA TURKINA

Olesya Turkina is an art critic, curator, senior research fellow at the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, and associate professor at Saint Petersburg University. She has been a member of the Russian Cosmonautics Federation since 1999, and has collaborated with KSEVT (Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies, Slovenia) since 2012. She has curated numerous exhibitions, including the Russian pavilion at the 48th Venice Biennale, 1999, and has contributed to several publications dedicated to contemporary art and the cosmos. Her recent books include *Louise Bourgeois: Pandora's Box* (Ad Marginem, Garage, Moscow, 2015), *The Life of the Remarkable Monroe* with Viktor Mazin (Saint Petersburg, 2014), and *Soviet Space Dogs* (Fuel Publishing House, London, 2014).



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15.00 – 16.30

## PRESENTATION OF THE *UTOPIA SAVED* EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

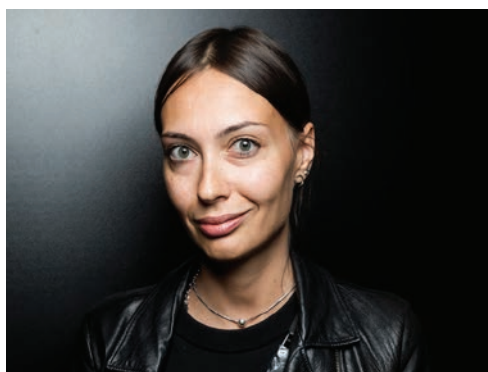
### SPEAKERS:



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### ANNA KIRIKOVA

Anna Kirikova is the advisor to the director of Manege on international initiatives, initiator and head of the *Utopia Saved* project, co-editor of the exhibition catalogue. Specialist in philology and literature. Has previous work experience in different cultural spheres. Ms. Kirikova’s professional experience includes teaching, PR support of architectural studio projects, journalism and creation of cultural projects in Berlin. Anna is responsible for developing the overall strategy of cooperation, for creation and preparation of exhibition and public programs with participation of international cultural actors. She is also the curator of a number of ongoing public programmes, including *New Now at Manege* and *Manege Documentary*.



## SPEAKERS:



### VALERIIA DEMKOVICH

Valeriia Demkovich is a Deputy Director of the Autonomous Non-profit Organization for the Development of Art and Culture «Independent Artists» (ANO «IA») under the aegis of the Independent Artists of St Petersburg independent project, founded by Yuri and Dmitry Saulidi in 2009.

The organization's main goals are preserving cultural heritage, creating and maintaining links between generations, understanding historical roots, and applying this all to contemporary art. From its inception, the reconstruction and renovation of churches has been one of the core activities of Independent Artists of St Petersburg. These projects include the Church of St Nicholas at Kronstadt's naval hospital, the Chapel of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God, St Andrew's Cathedral in Kronstadt, and many others.

One of Independent Artist's most important activities is the organization of cultural events (exhibitions, festivals, forums, conferences, and round tables). Many of its projects were implemented in partnership with the State Russian Museum, Manege Central Exhibition Hall, the St Petersburg Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design, and the Repin St Petersburg State Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture at the Russian Academy of Arts.

ANO "IA" has aided in creating more than 50 publications, including 12 albums and catalogues with Palace Editions (the publishing house of the State Russian Museum) and 7 catalogues with Manege Central Exhibition Hall.

The organization also helps to promote individual contemporary artists in St Petersburg and the Northwest Region, and provides support for talented youth.



### OLESYA TURKINA

Olesya Turkina is an art critic, curator, senior research fellow at the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, and associate professor at Saint Petersburg University. She has been a member of the Russian Cosmonautics Federation since 1999, and has collaborated with KSEVT (Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies, Slovenia) since 2012. She has curated numerous exhibitions, including the Russian pavilion at the 48th Venice Biennale, 1999, and has contributed to several publications dedicated to contemporary art and the cosmos. Her recent books include Louise Bourgeois: Pandora's Box (Ad Marginem, Garage, Moscow, 2015), The Life of the Remarkable Monroe with Viktor Mazin (Saint Petersburg, 2014), and Soviet Space Dogs (Fuel Publishing House, London, 2014).



## SPEAKERS:



### IRINA CHEKMARYOVA

Irina Chekmaryova is a graphic designer and general director of Faro LLC. She has more than 20 years of experience in her profession. She has been the art director for MIR Aeroflot (2000-2001); art director for *Komsomolskaya Pravda in Spain* (2002-2003); art director of the newspaper *Italica!* (1997-2000); chief designer for the newspaper *Izvestiya* (2004-2007) and the *Artkhronika* (2007-2010) and Hermitage (2012-2015) magazines; designer for the Russia pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2012-2019); designer for the Manifesta-10 European Biennial of contemporary art (2014); designer for the Moscow International Biennial for Young Art (2018); designer of the “Innovation” contemporary art prize (2017); exhibition designer for the Hermitage, Manege Central Exhibition Hall (St Petersburg), the Academy of Arts (St Petersburg), the Institute of Russian Realist Art (Moscow), and Palazzo Esposizione (Rome, Italy); designer of the visual identity for the “Year of the Theatre” in Russia (2019); designer of the visual identity and exhibitions for the St Petersburg International Legal Forum (2016-2019); and designer of the visual identity for the St Petersburg International Cultural Forum (2014). Irina was a winner of the Russian Federation Government Prize in Culture (2018), a winner of the St Petersburg – City of the Future Prize from *Sobaka* magazine (2017), winner of Exhibition of the Year from *The Art Newspaper Russia* (2019), and has won other awards in professional competitions for book and periodical design.



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## PARTNERS OF THE *UTOPIA SAVED* EXHIBITION:

