

X Media Forum
The official program of the XXXI Moscow International Cinema Festival
20-24 June 2009

More than just cinema...

Organized by: MediaFest, The cultural and art centre "MediaArtLab"
The sites: "Hudozhestvenny" cinema, Schusev museum of architecture,
The Garage, Center for Contemporary Culture, Ravenscourt galleries

In 2009 "MediaForum" – the most uncommon program at the Moscow cinema festival – celebrates 10 years of its existence. It is here that the most avant-garde cinema experiments, unexpected video-art or performative multimedia art (like the last year VJ – show by Peter Greenway) find place. "MediaForum" holds its own video works competition, in which the artists from 5 continents and more than 20 countries take part; it has its own lecture program, within which the celebrities give master-classes for Moscow audience, round tables and club events.

"Media Forum" proves continuously that cinema in fact is a much more wider notion than what we see in auditoriums. It may be interactive and polyscreen, it may create a special space environment, which naturally admits the viewer inside. The films themselves may last days, reminding us about classical picture – and all this is really worth seeing!

This year competitive program jury:

Victor Miziano (art-critic, curator, Russia), Daniil Lebedev (artist, Russia), Berta Sichel (director of the audio-visual department at Reina Sofia museum, Spain), Yang Fudong (artist, China), Nina Fisher, Maroan el Sani (artists, Germany), Jesper Just (artist, Denmark), Johanna Billing (artist, Sweden).

June 22 21.30 and **June 23 22.30** – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: X Media Forum competition programme screening – hall 7.

Our celebrities:

Yang Fudong (China) – the Russian premiere of the "Seven intellectuals in the bamboo forest" (full version) and "East of Que Village" exhibition.



The main work of the Shanghai artist Yang Fudong "Seven intellectuals in the bamboo forest" was presented for the audience at 50th Venetian Biennial. Within the X Media Forum it will be possible to see, in the end, in Russia the full version of this Yang Fudong installation. Within the X Media Forum it will be possible to see, in the end, the full version of this Yang Fudong polyscreen installation. The artist revives for the

spectators a story about seven Chinese wise men, running away from the bustling world. He does it in noir-film aesthetics accompanied by an ambient soundtrack. Contemporary scenery doesn't diminish the poetry and depth of the narrative, which theme is the frustration and confusion of young intellectuals, these ambitious and well-educated people, who expected from the world something it couldn't have given them. Fudong tells the story about the way which his heroes go through in search of Utopia, ignorant of their own future or the purpose of this way.

June 20 19.00 – Schusev State Museum of Architecture: opening of exhibition Yang Fudong (China) East of que village;

June 22 20.30 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya : the Russian premiere of the complete version of Yang Fudong's (China) film "Seven intellectuals in the bamboo forest", (parts 1-2) – hall 4;

June 22 22.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya : the Russian premiere of the complete version of Yang Fudong's (China) film "Seven intellectuals in the bamboo forest", (parts 3-4) – hall 4;

June 23 19.00 – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: lecture by Yang Fudong (China) and screening of his short films;

June 23 21.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: the Russian premiere of the complete version of Yang Fudong's (China) film "Seven intellectuals in the bamboo forest", (part 5) – hall 4;

June 24 18.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: the Russian premiere of the complete version of Yang Fudong's (China) film "Seven intellectuals in the bamboo forest", (part 5) – hall 7;

Eve Sussman (USA) – "89 seconds in Alcazar", "The Rape of the Sabine Women" and 2009 film "White on white"



Sensual beauty and bright images of Eve Sussman works don't associate with glamour Hollywood show. On the contrary, her works refer to classical painting, important for the mankind subjects return to life and are reconsidered in them. "89 seconds in Alcazar" is a video-interpretation of the famous "Las Meninas" by Diego Velazquez. The film "The Rape of the Sabine Women" in 1960-s stage scenery retells the legendary story, which happened in Ancient Rome; it reminds to the art-critics of the neo-classical canvasses by Jacques-Louis David and Nicolas Poussin. "White on white" is the last part of this trilogy, and its first episode premiere will take place at our festival. This time American artist resorts to the Russian source: the plot sends an illuminated viewer to the works of Kasimir Malevich and the film about suprematism, which was begun by the avant-garde German director- Hans Richter, but was never finished. The action takes place at the legendary object of the modernity – "Baikonur" cosmodrome.

19.00 – Schusev State Museum of Architecture: opening of exhibitions Yang Fudong (China) *East of que village* and Eve Sussman (USA) 89 Seconds at Alcázar;

June 21 21.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: screening of Eve Sussman's (USA) film "The Rape of the Sabine Women" – hall 7;

June 22 16.00 – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: premiere of the first episode of Eve Sussman's "White on white" project and the project's presentation;

June 22 19.00 – Ravenscourt Galleries: opening of Eve Sussman's (USA) exhibition – a three-channel installation "How to tell the future from the past, v.2" and Simon Lee's photographs as part of the "White on white" project;

The retrospective of Jesper Just (Denmark)



This Danish videoartist doesn't attempt to demonstrate the seriousness of his art by pseudo documentary or "non-professional" filming. There is no trash, on the contrary, his films please the eye with the visual effects luxury, complex light work and considered music; the professional actors, sound directors, camera men, light designers are brought into play – everything associated with the expensive full-length production is present here. Nevertheless, the artist can't fool the viewers and critics with his sweet visual "trompe-d'oeils" – they compare atmospheric works by Jesper Just with the movies of Visconti, Fassbinder, Gus van Sant, and come to look at them to the Brooklyn museum or Tate Gallery.

June 21 13.00 – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: presentation of Jesper Just (Denmark) works with artist's own comments;

June 21 19.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: Jesper Just retrospective – hall 7;

June 23 20.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: Jesper Just (Denmark) retrospective – hall 7;

Ryoichi Kurokawa (Japan) multimedia performance



This Japanese artist creates digital worlds in his music videos and albums, installations and live performances. The beauty of these worlds is almost palpable, thanks to the silky, "cloth" texture and light effects experienced in a tactile way. The images which are being created in the viewers presence most of all remind of the revived works by abstract expressionists. Departing from this imagery the artist tells us about physiology of the world perception – the information about it arrives to the person as a stream of undivided visual and sound images, and only then does the consciousness processes data.

June 24 20.30 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: awards giving ceremony of the X Media Forum winners followed by Ryoichi Kurokawa (Japan) "Rheo" multimedia performance

"The Rise" – film of Nina Fischer and Maroan el Sani (Germany).



It could be an opening shot of a Hollywood movie. At the beginning of *The Rise* a young man looks out of a panoramic window at the South Axis hotel in Amsterdam which is under construction. Standing in front of a window with his back to us, he stares at the area which is supposed to become a new centre for Amsterdam leaving the old, canal-ridden and congested space ultimately to tourists. But Nina Fischer and Maroan el Sani haven't made a film about the power of a human being to change the world according to his wishes, but of how the uncanny, the unforeseen reality, which lurks directly under the glossy surface of the modern environment, suddenly seeps through. Public buildings in the numerous photo-, video- and cinema-works of these German artists change into symbols of the unfulfilled utopias. The main theme of their work is the search of the evidence that the mankind ever lived on the earth when we are no longer here.

June 21 16.00 – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: screening of the *Rise* by Nina Fischer and Maroan el Sani (Germany);

«This Is How We Walk on the Moon» – videos by Johanna Billing (Sweden)

It is hard to say what interests the Swedish video artist Johanna Billing more – experimental music or dance, performance arts or social sciences. For one of her projects she invited the Stockholm art college graduates, young people of various professions, frequently clumsy and awkward, to rehearse an experimental dance together and watched the results. For another project she sent local Edinburgh musicians and freshwater sailors on their first ocean voyage accompanied by an ironic soundtrack of the same name, *This Is How We Walk On The Moon*. In most of her looped works the artist concentrates the viewer's attention on those events that slip out of the ordinary and rule-regulated course of life, awkward situations and moments of discord, instability and tension.



June 23 18.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: screening of videos by Johanna Billing (Sweden) "This is how we walk on the Moon" – hall 7;

World premiere of Galina Myznikova and Sergey Provorov /PROVMYZA/ video work «Pitter-Patter», 2009

The plot of the video is based on the famous photograph by the well-known English photographer Henry Peach Robinson who created his works in the middle of the nineteenth century. The action is centered around the sick girl lying in bed and the crowd of people who have come to bid farewell to the dying girl. The sunlight and wind with their metaphysical qualities, which keep appearing in the room throughout the plot, make it possible to perceive the video work through sensory, existential and poetical associations. The end is not far off. But the living process does not come to an end. It takes the shape of water which slowly fills the bed and, in a way, continues the sentimental and lyrical plot, running pitter-patter.



June 21 15.00 – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: the world premiere of "Pitter Patter" video by Provmzya group;

Screening of the video works from the collection of the Reina Sofía Museum and a lecture by Berta Sichel – Director of the museum Department of Audiovisuals.

The Museum is Spain major contemporary art center, holding such exhibits as Picasso's Guernica, possesses an ample collection of video art and multimedia art which chief curator is the consultant, researcher and writer Berta Sichel. In Moscow she plans to show a selection of the best videos form Reina Sofia collection (**Nan June Paik, Bill Viola, Dara Birnbaum, Antoni Muntadas, Rebecca Horn and**

others) and lecture on contemporary trends in curatorship, the criteria necessary to apply when creating a museum-standard or a private collection.



June 22 13.00 – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: screening of videos from The Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid (Nam June Paik, Bill Viola, Dara Birnbaum, Antoni Muntadas, Rebecca Horn and others);

June 22 14.30 – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: lecture by Berta Sichel, director of the audio-visual department of the Reina Sofia museum;

The festivals night in the “Hudozhestvenny” cinema theatre.

One of the festival nights in the “Hudozhestvenny” cinema theatre will be dedicated to the programs of the greatest world media-festivals 2008-2009 (in the club format, non-stop). This will include the programs of Transmediale Festival for Art and Digital Culture – Berlin (Germany); Freewaves Festival of Experimental Media Art – Los Angeles (USA); EMAF – European Media Art Festival – Osnabrück (Germany); Athens Video Art Festival – Athens (Greece); Japan Media Arts Festival – Tokyo (Japan); International Kansk Video Festival – Kansk (Russia); International Media Art Biennale WRO – Widok (Poland);

June 20 22.00 – Hudozhestvenny cinema: Night of the Festivals;

June 21 20.30 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: best works from Japan Media Arts Festival – hall 4;

June 21 22.30 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: a selection of the best from EMAF European Media Art Festival (Germany) – hall 7;

June 22 19.00 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: a selection of best works from Transmediale Festival for Art and Digital Culture (Germany) – hall 7;

June 23 22.45 – Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: best works selection from the Freewaves Festival of Experimental Media Arts (USA) – hall 4;

Lectures program:

Master-classes of our artistes Yang Fudong (China), Jesper Just (Denmark), Eve Sussman (USA), Johanna Billing (artist, Sweden) and Berta Sichel (the director of the audiovisual department at the Reina Sofia Museum, Spain).

Round table “The New Imagery: expanding the cinema borders...”

The participants: Kirill Razlogov (Moscow Cinema Festival art-director), Victor Miziano (curator, Russia), Jesper Just (artist, Denmark), Eve Sussman (artist, USA), Yang Fudong (artist, China), Johanna Billing (artist, Sweden), Nina Fischer&Maroan el Sani

(artists, Germany), Anne Bray (the director of the Freewave festival, USA), Berta Sichel (the director of the audiovisual department at the Reina Sofia Museum, Spain), Arjon Dunnewind (the director of the Impakt festival, Netherlands), Olga Shisko (Media Forum director, Russia).

June 23 15.00 (first part) **17.00** (second part) – Garage Center for Contemporary Culture;

Locations:

Cinema Centre at Krasnaya Presnya: Druzhinnikovskaya, 15

Tel.: (499) 255-96-92,
(495) 605-73-06

Hudozhestvenny cinema: Arbat sq, 14

Tel.: (495) 291-55-98

Schusev State Museum of Architecture (MUAR): Vozdvizhenka, 5/25

Tel.: (495) 291-21-09

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: Obrastsova, 19a

Tel.:(495) 645-05-20

Ravenscourt Galleries: Gagarinsky lane., 35

Tel.: (495) 221-22-18

For more detailed information go to: <http://mediaforum.mediaartlab.ru/>
Questions and accreditation for the events: pr@mediaartlab.ru