

The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg selected as Host of Manifesta 10 in 2014

In February 2013, Manifesta was delighted to announce that the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation will host Manifesta 10. The collaboration will celebrate a meeting of anniversaries and a shared historical relationship.

2014 will mark the 20th anniversary of Manifesta, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art, which was initiated in response to the new social, cultural and political reality that emerged in the aftermath of the Cold War. This Jubilee year event will analyze 25 years of changing realities and experiences as they transformed within this new global world order.

One of the oldest and most prestigious museums in the world, the State Hermitage Museum was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great as her personal art collection, and has been open to the public since 1852. In 2014 the museum celebrates 250 years of existence. The newly renovated General Staff Building, the new premises of the State Hermitage Museum dedicated to modern and contemporary art, will be fully open in 2014, and will be the main stage of Manifesta 10.

The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg was selected by the Board of Manifesta Foundation because of its critical intellectual and historical relationship with East and West Europe: a uniting principal that is also central to Manifesta, as the single roving European biennial of contemporary art. Manifesta 10 will consider the historical perspective of St. Petersburg's view to the West, and its extensive relationship with Europe at large. Other venues in the city will also participate and further details will be announced soon.

Hedwig Fijen Founding Director of Manifesta said on the occasion:

"We are excited that the Manifesta 10 jubilee edition will be hosted by the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. This partnership, of Manifesta with its roving nature, its innovative curatorial methodology and experimental artistic practices, with such an influential historical museum as the Hermitage, is unprecedented. For more than 300 years St Petersburg bridged the gap between East and West Europe. Through the spirit of the European enlightenment movement in the 18th Century, the notion of the Encyclopaedia edited by Diderot and D'Alembert and acquired by Catherine The Great for the State Hermitage Museum, could become a moral and spiritual inspiration for Manifesta 10 in 2014."

Prof. Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director General of The State Hermitage commented:

"The State Hermitage museum is glad to host Manifesta 2014, the year when the Hermitage will be celebrating its 250th anniversary. With the arrival of Manifesta, the Hermitage will highlight its traditions: its roots within the epoch of Catherine the Great and her passion for the contemporary art of her time, and the role that the museum's collections and exhibitions have always played in the artistic life of Russia. We see contemporary art is a natural, albeit intricate, development of these age-old traditions. Therefore, the key moment in Manifesta 10 for us will be the theme of the Hermitage in today's context."

Viktor Misiano, Chair of the Manifesta Foundation, Russian art critic and curator added:

М А Н И Ф Е С Т А 10

Европейская биеннале современного искусства

28 Июня — 31 октября, 2014

Россия, Санкт-Петербург

Государственный Эрмитаж

“Manifesta was built up as a platform for dialogue in between the East and the West. Reaching St. Petersburg Manifesta will find itself in the country of an extreme European East and in the city that was conceived as its extreme Western outpost. Manifesta has always been seeking new places, their genius, their particularity and their historical, cultural and political complexity. St. Petersburg is a city of the complex cultural and political past and of the present. To do a Manifesta here is a challenge. And that is another strong reason to be present. Manifesta is approaching its 10th edition; its history is short, but it already exists. The Hermitage with its glorious heritage is a coherent place to reflect two “Manifesta decades.”

Vassily Kizhedzhi Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg also commented:

“St. Petersburg has been historically and remains the outstanding cultural centre of Russia. Supporting the leader of Russian culture – the State Hermitage Museum – in its aspiration for development of the interest of the society towards contemporary art and the understanding of art processes taking place in the world, the City Government will give it's support in the preparation and organization of Manifesta 10 in the cultural capital of Russia”.

Kasper König, Chief Curator of Manifesta 10

Berlin-based Kasper König has been selected as Chief Curator of Manifesta 10 to be hosted in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. The main venue for Manifesta 10 will be the State Hermitage Museum. The City of St. Petersburg will be a strategic partner of Manifesta 10. The exhibition and program will take place 28 June – 31 October, 2014

König is one of the most iconic figures in the contemporary art world, his experience spans a generation, as does his know-how and close relationships with international artists. Among the numerous large-scale exhibitions that König has previously curated are; Westkunst 1981 in Cologne, von hier aus – Zwei Monate neue deutsche Kunst in Düsseldorf 1984 and Der zerbrochene Spiegel in

Vienna and Hamburg. He was also the co-initiator of the Skulptur Projekte Münster 1977. From 1988 to 1999 he was professor at the Städelschule in Frankfurt and was also founding director of the Portikus, Frankfurt/Main. König was the director of Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany, from 2000 to 2012.

“... Manifesta 10 in the Hermitage will be subtle and substantial; contemporary art and exhibits from the State Hermitage Museum should dance side by side. The Manifesta Biennial will complement the Hermitage's 250th anniversary while celebrating its own 20th anniversary, so it should provide another perspective. I look forward to the challenge of working with contemporary art in this context, hoping to make an exhibition that is intelligent and playful...”

— Kasper König

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