

**Creative Association of Curators TOK  
presents**

**CREATIVE AND SOCIAL PRACTICES IN PUBLIC SPACES  
summer school  
in the framework of 'Critical Mass' project  
St Petersburg, Russia  
July 21-27, 2014**



Gareth Kennedy, "The Last Wooden House of Kupchino" (2013), part of the exhibition of public art 'Critical Mass 2013', TOK

Creative Association of Curators TOK is pleased to invite young Russian and international artists, curators and art producers interested in creating projects in the public realm to participate in our summer school **'Creative and social practices in public spaces'** that will take place in St Petersburg from July 21 to July 27.

The summer school represents an interactive platform for experience exchange, producing new knowledge and discussing the cutting-edge artistic and curatorial practices related to public spaces. At the series of lectures and workshops conducted by Russian and international artists and curators participants will examine socially-engaged and community-based art practices as well as artistic research methods. One of the school aims is to create a professional network for potential collaborations, therefore a particular emphasis of the program is put on meeting local artists and curators and exploring the cultural context of St Petersburg. While in St Petersburg the school participants will also have a chance to attend the European Biennale of contemporary art Manifesta 10 and meet some of the organizers.

TOK also sees the school as a think tank where knowledge and expertise of the school participants could be applied to a particular local context. The school will be organized as a part of TOK's ongoing public art project ['Critical Mass'](#) and around the upcoming 'Critical Mass' exhibition, which is planned for summer 2015. The school will be incorporated into a series of preparatory events that aim to warm up a new location of 'Critical Mass', an old wooden 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion the Gromov's Datcha, that had been neglected for decades but is now planned to be turned into a community cultural center. Together with members of local community, artists, designers, architects and social scientists TOK will work on revitalization of the Gromov's Datcha, which in the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was one of the hot spots of

the summer cultural and social life. By analyzing the past and recent of the Gromov's Datcha participants of the summer school will be involved into development of new knowledge about this unique location. Together we will try to create strategies for bringing the building into life and incorporate it into the social and cultural landscape of the neighborhood.

### **Terms of participation**

Russian and international artists, curators and art producers with strong interest in artistic/curatorial practices in public spaces are encouraged to apply. Previous experience of doing projects in the public spaces is preferred but not necessary. 10-12 participants will be selected to take part in the school.

Participants outside St Petersburg will be provided with **accommodation** (large shared flat in the center of St Petersburg)t. Transportation expenses will be covered for 1 participant from **Ukraine**, 1 from **Moldova** and 1 Russian participant **outside St Petersburg**. International participants will be provided with an invitation to apply for the Russian visa (visa costs are covered by TOK).

By the end of the project TOK will release a publication on art in public spaces in Russian and English. The publication will focus on successful and sustainable art projects in the public sphere and will include theoretical texts, case descriptions and interviews. TOK's summer school participants are encouraged to submit texts for the publication.

The working language of the school is English.  
Participation in the school is free of charge for all participants.

### **How to apply:**

Please send the following documents to [tok.press@gmail.com](mailto:tok.press@gmail.com) before **July 14, 2014**

- your CV with an outline of your previous experience
- motivation letter (1 page max)

### **About TOK**

Creative Association of Curators TOK is a non-profit art organization founded by Anna Bitkina and Maria Veits in 2010 as a platform for conducting interdisciplinary projects in the fields of contemporary art and design and social sciences. Today TOK is an interactive intellectual platform for collaborations of curators, artists, researchers, designers, sociologists, anthropologists and other professionals in the sphere of art and culture from Russia and other countries. The main goal of TOK is to elaborate and realize projects that are based on the research of cultural processes in contemporary society. One of our main principles is the combination of theory and practice and a cross-disciplinary approach.

**More info: [www.tok-spb.org](http://www.tok-spb.org)**

<b>PRELIMINARY PROGRAM</b>			
<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Title of the event and a presenter</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>July 21, Monday Day 1 Why the context matters</b>			
12.00-13.00	Opening	Welcoming speech by TOK, brief introduction of the school and “Critical Mass” project	Pro Arte Foundation
13.00-14.30	Introductions	Presentations: school participants introduce themselves and one of their projects of public art	Pro Arte Foundation
16.00-17.30	Site visit	Visit to Gromov’s Datcha and introduction of the site: brief history of the space, meeting the local community and theater company	Gromov’s Datcha
19.00 – 20.30	Foundation Projects (NL), presentation	The design collective will speak about their pop-up design projects created together with community and will present their project for the Gromov’s Datcha	Gromov’s Datcha
<b>July 22 , Tuesday Day 2 Artist as a researcher</b>			
11.30-13.00	Silas Emmery (Denmark), artist talk	Silas Emmery, who closely deals with personal histories and archives in his work, will speak about his artistic practices and artistic research methods	Tbc
13.00-14.30	Emily Newman (USA), artist talk, “The New Chelyuskinets”	Newman will speak about her project focused on the story of the Soviet expedition to the Arctic in 1930s. One of the main questions the artist raises in her long-term project is how to communicate Soviet history to children and involve them into creative process aimed at learning history through art.	Tbc
16.00 - 18.30	Manifesta Parallel program	The projects at the main venue of the M10 parallel program were specifically created for the context of the old neglected building of the First Cadet Corpus	First Cadet Corpus
19.00-21.00	Alevtina Kakhidze (UA) “Where the Wild Things Are” Lecture-performance as a part of Manifesta Public program	Ukrainian artist reacts to the information war between Russia and Ukraine, East and West, and connects it to her biography and the local context.	General Staff Building, Lectorium
<b>July 23, Wednesday Day 3 Making private public</b>			
10.00 – 11.30	Alevtina Kakhidze (UA) In little places any corner can be seen as public Artist talk	The Muzychi Expanded History project is a private residency program organized by Alevtina Kakhidze and located in a small village near Kiev. The artists will spak about the communication of the local residents and artists in residence.	Gromov’s Datcha
11.30 – 13.00	Artist talk by a local artist/curator – tbc		
15.00 – 16.00	Joanna Warsza (PL), curator of M10	Warsza will speak about challenges she has faced while organizing the public program and will	Manifesta 10 Office

	public program. “Doing public program of M 10” (tbc)	Speak about her choice of participating artists	
16.30 – 18.00	Discussion with TOK and school participants	Interval results of the school, discussing site visits and lectures, planning publication	Tbc
<b>July 24, Thursday Day 4 Public art and the sociopolitical context</b>			
11.00 – 12.30	TOK (RU), workshop “How to conduct a sustainable event of public art”	TOK will speak about Russian and international examples of public art projects that can be used as successful models by artists and curators	Pro Arte Foundation
13.30 – 15.30	Street art museum, guided tour with curators	The curators of the exhibition Casus Pacis will speak about the exhibition concept that had been changed in the last moment due to vents in Ukraine.	Street Art Museum
19.00-20.30	TOK (RU) “Creative and socially engaged art practices that change the city and citizens”	Curators will speak about their projects in St Petersburg that has had an impact on the local community with a specific focus on ‘Critical Mass’ project of public art they first launched in 2010.	Gromov’s Datcha
<b>July 25, Friday Day 5 Community-based projects - how to engage the audience into creative process?</b>			
11.00-12.30	Flo Kassearu (EE), artist	The artist will speak about Majamuseum – the house museum that she created in the home where she lives.	Gromov’s Datcha
13.30-15.30	Jekaterina Lavrinets (LT), curator, researcher “Creating space for interaction: dialogue with citizens”	Lavrinets will speak about her experience of engaging various audiences in her projects and will demonstrate examples of that during the fieldwork with the community around the Gromov’s Datcha.	Petrogradskiy District, open air session
19.00 – 20.30	Stefan Kaegi (GE), artist, performer, ‘Rimini Protocol’. ‘Performative actions in the city space’ (tbc)	Kaegi will speak about Rimini Protocol projects in the city spaces and the ways to engage the audience by giving it an active role of a project participant. He will speak about the international projects and the projects in the public program of M10.	
<b>July 26, Saturday Day 6 Manifesta Day</b>			
12.00-17.00	Guided tour at the main project of Manifesta 10		General Staff Building, Hermitage Main Building
17.00	Feedback session		
19.00-...	Farewell Dinner and bar crawl		
<b>July 27, Sunday</b>	Departure Day		