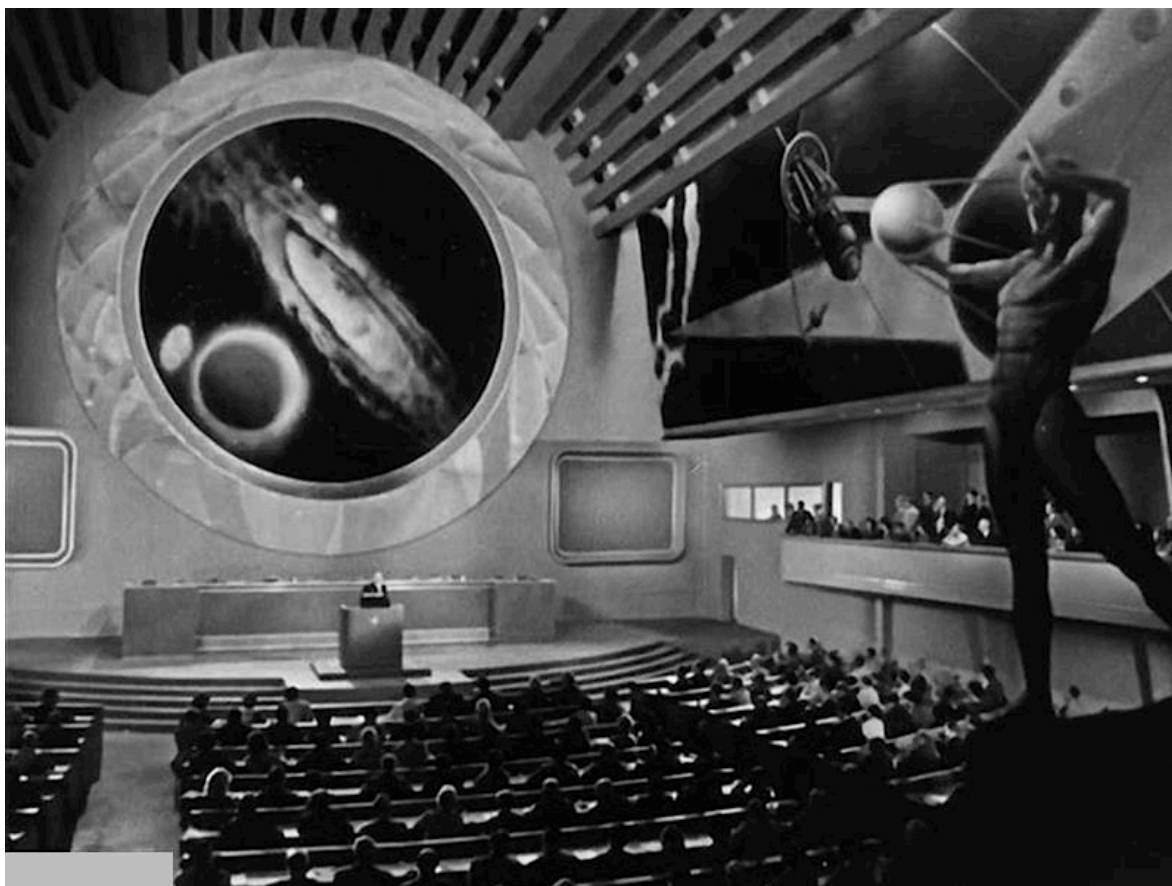


KADIST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 2, 2014



M.I.R.: Polite Guests from the Future

Opening: Wednesday, July 9, 6-9pm

Dates: July 9 – August 23, 2014

Gallery hours: Wednesdays – Saturdays 2-7pm, or by appointment

M.I.R.: Polite Guests from the Future is the first solo exhibition in the U.S. by Moscow-based artist, Arseniy Zhilyaev. Implementing the museum as a medium, Zhilyaev models his approach after the “negative display” exhibitions of A. Fedorov-Davydov, a Soviet art historian who disregarded the authenticity and centrality of the museological object, in favor of depicting social processes. When Soviet museums became institutionalized, they were instrumental in producing a new critical subjectivity where the roles of the artist and curator were not mutually exclusive. In the text *Politics of Installation*, German theorist Boris Groys differentiates between these two figures, remarking that they “embody, in a very conspicuous manner, [...] two different kinds of freedom: the sovereign, unconditional,

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politically non-partisan freedom of artistic self-expression, and the institutionalized, politically responsible freedom of curatorship.” Through his practice, Zhilyaev reveals these once-hidden borders between curatorial and artistic installation, demanding a new form of democratic participation from his viewers.

The second chapter of an ongoing investigation initiated at Kadist, Paris, this iteration of the imaginary *Museum of Russian History (M.I.R.)* focuses on outer space conquests under the flag of the “Russian Cosmic Federation.” The Russian word ‘mir’ means both ‘world’ and ‘peace’ and also refers to the legendary MIR space station. In the context of the exhibition, the cosmos provides the backdrop for new dialogues addressing dichotomies of former East-West and projected Future-Past. A new video work by Zhilyaev serves as the museum’s anchor, and is comprised of a series of commercials for the *Polite Guests from the Future* program. These commercials appropriate footage from the films, “Planet of the Storms” (1962) and “Voyage to the Planet of Prehistoric Women” (1968) (as remade by the U.S.), which were inspirations for San Francisco-based Lucasfilm Ltd.’s vision for space colonization in the late 1970s. With the cyclical repetition of history in mind, the artist suggests that current interest in space exploration has revitalized tensions reminiscent of the Cold War, while also signifying possibilities of unification for mankind in the fight for universal peace.

The title “Polite Guests from the Future,” references the cult series *Guest from the Future* (1985), a narrative metaphor for envisioning contemporaneity through the lens of a possible tomorrow. For the exhibition, Zhilyaev critiques the political climate of Russia with a revisionist and speculative eye, tracing the nation’s intergalactic achievements—from their origins in the “polite politics” of the early 21st century, to the future space militia, charged with defending the Tarantula Nebula RCΦ 0021.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

Exhibition Opening Reception
Wednesday, July 9 6-9pm

M.I.R. Artist Tour & Tarasov Soviet Cartoon Screenings
Saturday, July 19 tour at 5pm, screenings at 5:30pm
On Saturday, July 19, Director of Cosmic Affairs for the *Museum of Russian History*, Arseniy Zhilyaev, will deliver a private tour of the exhibition. Immediately following the tour, a series of Soviet cartoons by Russian Sci-Fi animator and director, Vladimir Tarasov, will be screened in the gallery.

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Performing Politicians with Larry Bogad

Wednesday, July 23, drinks at 6pm, talk at 7pm

In his museum, Arseniy Zhilyaev positions Vladimir Putin as a model for artistic performance. On this occasion, author, performer, and the founding Director of the Center for Artistic Activism/West Coast, Larry Bogad will deliver a performative lecture that uses his analysis of “Tactical Performance,” questioning and undermining the power-plays of political rulers. Bogad's analysis will cite the recent paintings of George W. Bush and Mussolini's theatrical Fascist failure, “18BL,” among other examples of this phenomenon. Following the lecture, Arseniy Zhilyaev will join Bogad in conversation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Arseniy Zhilyaev (born 1984 in Voronezh, Russia) is an artist who lives and works in Moscow and Voronezh. Using artistic, political, scientific, and museological histories to uncover and propose potential futures, Zhilyaev explores a productive space between fiction and non-fiction. Within his recent projects, the artist casts a revisionist lens on the heritage of soviet museology: *Museum of Proletarian Culture. Industrialisation of Bohemia*, Tretyakov State Gallery, Moscow, 2012; *Pedagogical poem* in collaboration with Ilya Budraitskis, Presnya Historical Memorial Museum, Moscow, 2012; and *M.I.R.: New paths to the objects*, Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, 2014. Since 2011, he has also been a member of the editorial board of the Moscow art magazine, *Khudozhestvennyi Zhurnal*. Zhilyaev graduated from Voronezh State University, Philosophical Faculty (2006); Moscow Institute of Contemporary Art (2008); and MA International Programs, Valand School of Fine Arts, Goteborg, Sweden (2010). Recent accolades include the Innovation 2010 Russian state award in the sphere of contemporary art, the Soratnik [Companion-in-Arms] 2010 and 2012 awards, and a nomination for the Visible Award in 2013.

ABOUT KADIST:

Kadist Art Foundation encourages the contribution of the arts to society, conducting programs primarily with artists represented in its collection to promote their role as cultural agents. Kadist's collections and productions reflect the global scope of contemporary art, and its programs develop collaborations between Kadist's local contexts (Paris, San Francisco) and artists, curators and art institutions worldwide. Each year Kadist hosts international artists in San Francisco and Paris for extended residency periods. While traditional residency programs are organized in the style of a retreat, removing the artist from the commotion of urban life, the Kadist residency places artists squarely within the heart and history of the urban experience. Each resident is assisted in the production of a new work for public presentation. Exhibitions take place either at Kadist's own venues, or in partnership with another area art institution. Kadist residencies seek to bring international perspectives into conversation with local audiences, histories and culture.

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Image credit: Arseniy Zhilyaev, *Commercials for the Polite Guests from the Future* program (film still), 2014. Courtesy the artist.