

CHTO DELAT?



Perestroika Songspiel. Victory over the Coup (2008), Video, 26 min 23 sec

Project authors: Chto Delat? Olga Egorova (Tsaplya); Dmitry Vilensky; Natalia Pershina (Gliuklya); Nikolai Oleinikov Director: Olga Egorova (Tsaplya) Composer: Mikhail Krutikov Screenplay: Tsaplya, Dmitry Vilensky, Gliuklya Camera and lighting: Artem Ignatov Sound: Sergei Knyazev Set design: Nikolai Oleinikov, Dmitry Vilensky

Perestroika Songspiel. Victory over the Coup is a video structured in the form of a song that conveys and analyses a key episode in the final period of Perestroika in the Soviet Union. In August of 1991 an unprecedented popular uprising against the established order took place. This uprising represented the end of the Soviet period and was deemed by the West to be the final triumph of democracy in Russia. This film is part of the trilogy *Songspiels* that the collective Chto Delat? made between 2008 and 2010, in which it uses the term created by Bertolt Brecht (“songspiel”) as a perversion of “singspiel” (German popular opera). The video speaks ironically about the epic genre that tinges certain historical processes, such as the one that meant the end of the Cold War and plays with a distanced re-writing of history.

Shown in *Points of Resistance* in Berlin’s historic Zionskirche, the format of the songspiel invokes the tradition of choral church music, while furthermore addressing the remarkable history of this church as a crucial point of resistance during the GDR. With the proximity of the Zionskirche within meters to the former path of the Berlin Wall (on the East side!), and to the struggles of the many once trapped within it, *Perestroika Songspiel. Victory over the Coup* takes on a particular significance in light of Berlin’s divided past – a legacy that exists to this day in the ongoing tensions between East and West.

BIO

The collective Chto Delat? (What is to be done?) was founded in early 2003 in Petersburg by a workgroup of artists, critics, philosophers, and writers from St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Nizhny Novgorod with the goal of merging political theory, art, and activism.

The group was constituted in May 2003 in St. Petersburg in an action called “The Refoundation of Petersburg.” Shortly afterwards, the original, as yet nameless core group began publishing an international newspaper called Chto Delat?. The name of the group derives from a novel by the Russian 19th century writer Nikolai Chernyshevsky, and immediately brings to mind the first socialist worker’s self-organizations in Russia, which Lenin actualized in his own publication, “What is to be done?” (1902). Chto Delat sees itself as an artistic cell and also as a community organizer for a variety of cultural activities intent on politicizing “knowledge production”.

In 2013, Chto Delat initiated an educational platform—School of Engaged Art in Petersburg and also runs a space called Rosa’s House of Culture. From its inception, the collective has been publishing an English-Russian newspaper focused on the urgent issues of Russian cultural politics, in dialogue with the international context. In 2014 the collective withdrew from the participation in Manifesta 14 in Petersburg as a local protest against the developing the Russian military intervention in Ukraine and with this act has triggered a current debate on the participation and boycott of art events.

The artistic activity is realizing across a range of media—from video and theater plays, to radio programs and murals—it include art projects, seminars and public campaigns. The works of the collective are characterized by the use of alienation effect, surreal scenery, typicality and always case based analyses of a concrete social and political struggles. The aesthetics of the group is based also on heretic unpacking the artistic devices offered by Bertolt Brecht, Jean-Luc Godard and Reiner Fassbinder. The collective make a strong focus on the issue of cultural workers labour rights.

These activities are coordinated by a core group including Tsaplya Olga Egorova (artist), Artiom Magun (philosopher), Nikolay Oleynikov (artist), Natalia Pershina / Glucklya (artist), Alexey Penzin (philosopher), Alexander Skidan (poet and critic), Oxana Timofeeva (philosopher), Dmitry Vilensky (artist) and Nina Gasteva (choreographer).

CV

Solo shows

2020

- *When the roots start to move and get lost* State of Concept, Athens
- *Times, Lines, 1989s* Khoj International Artists’ Association, New Delhi

Group shows

- Videofoma, VIII International festival of video art, Kurechin Art center, Saint Petersburg
- Time on Earth, Luleå Biennial 2020 (*video Perestroika Songspiel*) at
- Million Roses for Angela Davis Kunsthalle im Lipsiusbau, Dresden (*textile works*)
- TIME FOR OUTRAGE! ART IN TIMES OF SOCIAL ANGER, Kunstpalast Dusseldorf (*textile installation "Blood-Tears-Slime: Black Sails of Care, 2020"*)
- Worlds without end Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, Dublin, Ireland
- A Careful Strike Mint, Stockholm, Sweden
- In Limbo, Anti-festival of Mutations, Borey Art center, Saint Petersburg
- Unflattening National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea
- Out of the Dark II KOW Berlin (*posters work – Chronicles of Mutation*)
- Games. Fights. Encounters Oncurating Project Space, Zurich, Switzerland (*video work Baden-Baden Lessons of Disconsent*)

This We Believe 21c Museum Hotel Chicago, IL United States

Selected Screenings:

- ONE NIGHT IN A SOCIAL NETWORK. AN OPERA FARCE KOW Berlin, online project
- "Tenderness" screend online at Kunsthalle Vienna part of our project "And if I devoted my life to one of its feathers? A Prologue in Public Space"
- LaForesta Academy, assembled by Alessandra Pomarico of Free Home University.
- "The Excluded. In a Moment of Danger" is featured in What Is Contemporary Art?, by MoMA's new free online course about contemporary art from 1980 to the present.
- BECOMING A COLLECTIVE BODY, MAXXI, Rome within The Independent SUMMIT.

FRIENDSHIP | SOLIDARITY | ALLIANCES curated by Giulia Ferracci, Elena Motisi and Valerio Del Baglivo

Solo Shows

2019

- *Times, Lines, 1989s* CCA Glasgow

GROUP SHOWS

- *ALL WE HAVE IN COMMON*, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MSU), Skopje, North Macedonia
- *PROLOGUE. Tongue on tongue, nos salives dans ton Oreille*, (*Safe Haven video*) Kadist, Paris
- *AR Pavilion – Helsinki. Mass Memory Machines*, (*Safe Haven video*) Galleria Rankka, Helsinki
- *Tirana Patience (The Builders)* National Museum of Fine Arts, Tirana
- *The Missing Planet. Visions and re-visions of 'Soviet Times'* Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci in Prato, Italy
- *Songspiels and Tragicomedies*, Bellas Artes Projects, Manila, Philippines

- Eyewitnesses of Conflict: Goya, Beuys, Dumas Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven
 - *Hello, My Name Is Capitalism, The Builders video* Peak Art, London
 - *STATISTA*, Haus der Statistik, Berlin Alexanderplatz
 - *After Canal, (textile works)* City Museum of Ljubljana, Slovenia
 - *The Art Encounters biennial, The Excluded video film* Timisoara, Romania
 - *Orient V / Fotograf Festival – Archeology of Euphoria: 1985–1996 Partisan Songspiel* City Gallery Prague, Czech Republic
 - *Hotel Europa: their past, your present, our future* A group exhibition and a performance program across different venues in Tbilisi, Georgia
 - *Revolution from Without (textile works)* The 8th Floor, New York
 - *In your trace. Inspirational forces in Russian and Hungarian Art, (Safe Haven video)* Budapest Art Week
 - *An Opera for Animals (One Night in a Social Network: An Opera-Farce)* Para Site, Hong Kong
 - *Are You Satisfied? Aktuelle Kunst Und Revolution (textile works)* Galerie im Körnerpark, Berlin
 - *ACTION: between figuration and abstraction* from the collection of Andalusian Centre of Contemporary Art, Seville, Spain
 - *Videonale 17 – Refracted Realities (Safe Haven video)* Bonn, Germany
- Selected Screening
- *The Slow Orientation in Zapatism* Making Now-Time: Film and Discussion, O Meteoritis, Athens
 - the UNIDEE program at Cittadellarte Michelangelo Pistoletto Foundation
 - *One night in Social network: An Opera-Farce* The Committee for Tacit History, Monument to Cold War Victory The New School, New York
 - *One Night in Social Network: An Opera-Farce* the Parliament of the Bodies at Bergen Assembly 2019
 - *One Night in a Social Network: An Opera-Farce* Bar Laika, New York

2018

- *Chto Delat. Performative Practices of Our Time*, Vox, Montreal, Canada
- Group Shows:
- *9 Hours Away, (Partisan Songspiel)* PICA Annex, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art
 - *Debes seguir – No puedo seguir – Seguiré (The Excluded, 4 channel version)* Espacio Odeón, Bogota, Columbia
 - *Progress: The 12th Shanghai Biennale, (mural work and Builders)* Shanghai, China
 - *Un mundo donde quepan muchos mundos, Arte Zapatista, (Installation Summer School of Slow Orientation in Zapatism)* en Casa de las Américas, La Habana, Cuba
 - *Extra States: Nations in Liquidation (Installation Summer School of Slow Orientation in Zapatism)* Extra City Kunsthall, Antwerp, Belgium

- *Chto Delat and Babi Badalov Come In Quickly, Otherwise I'm Afraid Of My Happiness!*
Xenia At The Time Of War The Gallery Apart, Rome, Italy
 - *R_E_Volution, (4 Season of Zombies)* Motorenhalle, Dresden
 - *The Idea of the Avant Garde, (Baden-baden Lessons of dis-consent)* NeMe Arts Centre, Limassol (Baden-Bade Lessons)
 - *Constructing the World: Art and Economy 1919-1939 and 2008-2018 (Tower Songspiel)* Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany
 - *Artists at risk (ar) pavilion – berlin: mutatis mutandis, (Safe Haven)* Galerie Kai Dikhas im Aufbau Haus am Moritzplatz, Berlin
 - *Das Lehrerzimmer*, Zentrum fuer Kulturproduktion, Bern, Switzerland
 - *The Modern Art: 1960–2000. Restart, (Installation Negation of Negation)* Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow
 - *Gangwon Biennale, (Songspiel Triptych)* South Korea
 - *The Storming of the Winter Palace. Forensics of an Image (4 Season of Zombies)*– Muzeum Sztuki LodzLodzPoland
 - *Ton Nord est mon Sud (Border Musical)* La Kunsthalle Mulhouse, France
 - *Riots: Slow Cancellation of the Future (Flags textile works)* ifa-Galerie Stuttgart and Berlin, Germany
- Public art commissions:
- Park Fables* Fast Forward Festival 5, Onassis Cultural Center, Athens
- Selected Screenings:
- Festival Videoart at Midnight*, Berlin
- A Film Program on the Tectonics of Camaraderie with Eric Baudelaire*, Chto Delat and the Otolith Group, curated by Azar Mahmoudian, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm
- The tools for conviviality. The open lesson.* Summer School, performance, Vierte Welt, Berlin (im)PRACTICAL CONFERENCE, Free Home University, Lecce, Italy

2017

Solo shows:

- *When we Thought we Had all the Answers, Life Changed the Questions* Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), Sevilla and Muac, Mexico
 - *On The Possibility Of Light* KOW, Berlin
- Selected Group Shows:
- *Sturm auf den Winterpalast – Forensik eines Bildes* Hardware MedienKunstVerein, Dortmund (*Palace Square – 100 Years After. 4 Seasons of Zombie video film*)
 - *Berliner Herbstsalons*, Gorky Theater, Berlin (*new version of Actist club module*)
 - *dis/order Art and Activism in Russia since 2000* Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen (*Russian Woods video film*)

- The Weight of history E-Werk Freiburg, Freiburg
 - Romanze mit der Revolution | A Romance with Revolution ACC Galerie Weimar, Weimar and Museum of Non-conformist Art, Saint Petersburg (*Palace Square – 100 Years After. 4 Seasons of Zombie video film*)
 - We woke up and what? (Вот мы проснулись) Типография (КЦСИ «Типография»), Krasnodar, Russia (*Palace Square – 100 Years After. 4 Seasons of Zombie*) – Publishing as an Artistic Toolbox: 1989–2017 Kunsthalle, Wien, Austria (*Newspapers Chto Delat*)
 - Kosmopolis, Center Pompidou, Paris (*installation “Slow Orientation in Zapatism”*)
 - Letters to the Future (Письма в Будущее), ДК РОЗЫ, Petersburg
 - WAS TUN?! Aspekte Galerie, Munchen, Germany (*Dream of Protestor – video installation*)
 - COLLATERAL, curated by Artist at Risk Marsistanbul, Turkey(*Safe-Haven video film*)
 - Great and damned October Revolution(Великата и проклетата Октомврийска революция) Ica Sofia, Bulgaria
 - Propositions on revolution (slogans for a future),Krannert Art Museum(*Partisan Songspiel*)
 - Podmínky nemožnosti I/VII: Ztráta časuFoundation and Center for Contemporary Arts, Prague
- Screenings:
- 1917/2017; Revolutions, communist legacies and spectres of the future Conference organized by European University, Peterburg
- Monday at MOMA(*4 Season of Zombies*)
- Public art commissions & curatorial works:
- Liberating Knowledge, Field research exhibition, (the research and section of the show on Houses of CultureGarage Museum, Moscow Monument to the century of Revolutions Nuit Blanche Paris and Toronto
- Performances
- Becoming With the Museum* – collaborative performance КРИК – фестивал за критичка култура, Contemporary Art Museum of Macedonia, Skopje

2016

Group Shows:

- My sweet little lamb (Everything we see could also be otherwise),– a series of exhibitions based on the Kontakt Art Collection, dedicated to Mladen Stilinović, Zagreb(*The Excluded video film*)
- BRIC-à-brac:The Jumble of Growth– Today Art Museum, Beijing, China(*Tower Songspiel*)
- The collection of Van Abbemuseum at Le Musée Égaré, Toulouse(*Museum Songspiel*)
- Politics of Affinities. Experimentations between Art, Education and Politics,– Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto, Italy
- Rauma Biennale Balticum, Vulnerability, Finland(*The Excluded video film*)
- Intermarium– travelling show at BWA Sokol Gallery of Contemporary Art, Nowy Sacz, Chimera-Project, Budapest, Futura, Prague

Out Of The Dark– KOW, Berlin

If All Relationships Were to Reach Equilibrium, Then This Building Would Dissolve – Middlesbrough
Institute of Modern Art (MIMA), UK

Making Use Life In Postartistic Time– Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Warsaw

Our national body,– Shevchenko National Museum, Kiew

Restart. The Modern Art: 1960–2000.– as part of the project “The Tretyakov Gallery Opens Its Store”,
Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow (*The Builders video film*)

Affect and Exchange,– Kings Artist-Run, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia (*Baden-Baden Lessons
of Disconsent*)

– Ermilov Center, Kharkov, Ukrain (*The Excluded*)

Selected screenings

– Moderna galerija (*The excluded*)

– Transborder Café, Kirkenes, Norway (*The Border Musical*)

– The CompARTE Festival and Solidarity, Chiapos, Mexico

– ISD Museum, the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) (*The Border Musical*)

Theater performances:

– New People”Impulse Theater Festival, Germany

– Novi ljudi”, Centar za kulturnu dekontaminaciju, Belgrade

2015

Solo Projects:

Chto Delat. At a moment of danger,– Gävle Konstcentrum, Sweden

All Our Futures (staged demonstration in public space)– Kortrijk Congé theater festival, Belgium

What Struggle do we have in common? (A learning play)– Tanz Quartier, Vienna

On the sources and currents of Chto Delat– Gallery Luda, St. Petersburg

Chto Delat – Time Capsule– KOW (Koch Oberhuber Wolff), Berlin

Group Shows 2015:

Hotel Theory– REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA

A Century of Centuries– SALT Ulus, Ankara

Project 35: The Last Act– Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow

Preaching to the Choir– Herzliya Museum, Israel

How to (...) Things That Don't Exist– Serralves Museum, Porto

Our National Body– Galeria Arsenal (power station), Bialystok, Poland

Curriculum (set for the summit)– Creative Time Summit 2015 at Venice Biennale

Fire And Forget– KW Institute for Contemporary Art , Berlin

A Century Of Centuries– SALT Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Innovation Art Prize (exhibition of nominees), Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow

Vertical Reach: Political Protest and the Militant Aesthetic Now – Artspace, New Haven, CT
Specters of Communism: Contemporary Russian Art The James Gallery, New York
Grammar of Freedom / Five Lessons: Works From Arteast 2000+ Collection– Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow
Selected screenings

– OCTOPUS film series, Hornsey Town Hall, Arts Centre, London– Demotivators, organised by REPA group, Saratov – Tout va Bien, discussion series, Landmark, Bergen– “Eros-effekten” at Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden – Indonesia Media Arts Festival, Jakarta– Draftprojects – conferences in Khanabadosh, Bombay – Art festival “Moget” (Could be), Tipographia, Krasnodar

2014

Solo Projects:

Time Capsule. Artistic Report on Catastrophes and Utopia– Seccesion, Vienna
Chto Delat– Brandenburgischer Kunstverein, Potsdam, Germany
At the moment of danger– kunstbunker – forum für zeitgenössische kunst e.V.Nürnberg, Germany
What is Monumental Today?– the festival “Into The city”, Vienna
*Anti-anti Communism*tranzit.cz, Prague, Czech Republic
Nevrossiya (Not-in-Russia),– FABRIKA, Moscow

Group Shows 2014:

Los Trabajadores De La Luna– Museum Of Contemporary Art Of Santiago De Chile
Really Useful Knowledge (Un saber realmente útil)
– The Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía.
– 31^a São Paulo Biennial
«Десять тысяч уловок и сто тысяч хитростей» (Ten thousand wiles and a hundred thousand tricks), Meeting Points,– The Institute of African Studies, Moscow
“Несогласие/Disconsent”– Center For Contemporary Art Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Другая Столица (The other capital) (Tower Songspiel) – Museum of Moscow
The Need for Practice– tranzit.sk, Bratislava
Ökonomie Der Aufmerksamkeit– Kunsthalle Wien (Museumsquartier), Vienna
Survival Kit– Umeå Festival, Sweden
Playgrounds. Reinventing the Square– Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid
III Manifesto. Art Today, Facing Doubts (Tower Songspiel)– Fabra i Coats, Centre d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona
Empowering audiences (Shivering with Iris)– Blueproject Foundation, Barcelona
Utopian Days – Freedom– Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul
surplus living– KM Temporaer, Berlin
Disobedience Archive – The park– Salt, Istanbul
Resistance – And Then, We Built New Forms, – Manif d’art 7 Biennial, Quebec city, Canada

Yebisu International Festival for Art and Alternative Visions 2014: True Colors – Tokyo

Metropolitan Museum of Photography

Subterfuge– The Gallery Apart, Rome

Video Screenings 2014

The excluded.– Counterhegemony: Think Laboratory Reading Room in Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius

The Tower. A Songspiel. The City as a Common. Artistic Practices of Commoning– STAB, Bishkek, Kirgizstan

The excluded. Krakow Theatrical Reminiscences

The excluded. Conference: Political Violence and Militant Aesthetics after Socialism Studio LenDokFilm, St. Petersburg

Border Musical. Soft City festival, Kunsthall Oslo

Border Musical. Ashkalalwan, Beirut, Lebanon

Tower Songspiel. TEOR/éTica, Costa Rica

Angry Sandwich People or in praise of Dialectics Worm Rotterdam

Border Musical. MUNDUS VADIT RETRO KIBLA, Maribor, Slovenia

Tower Songspiel Teatro Valle Occupato in Rome, Italy