

ARTWIN Gallery



#### Inside an Event

A Special Project of the 6<sup>th</sup> Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art

Curator: Vladislav Efimov

Artists: Polina Kanis, Alexey Korsi, Alexey Mandych

Opening: September 11, 2015, 7:00 pm

Dates: September 12 – November 1, 2015

#### Inside an Event

This exhibition gathers three Moscow-based artists who each examine their relationship to the past, present and future, based on personal experience as a knowing subject. The condition in which precise information about what is happening is substituted with hopes and expectations illustrates the impossibility of total certainty in the knowability of the world and its security.

The works of Alexey Korsi explore the existential suspicion that often gives form to the little conspiracy theories of daily life. Lacking an absolute knowledge of reality, we suspect the worst of it, in any event focusing first and foremost on any potentially ominous signs. In this sense, normal bags – pictured in compositional opposition to the standard urban landscape – can stir up anxiety by suggesting the figures of their owners, who are standing nearby, but do not quite enter into the frame. An end product of evolution, our protective instinct goads the viewer to presume images of silent figures to be a threat. There are processes that remain largely concealed from us, but that play out over and over again in daily life. Secret, but incredibly significant for the course of world events, these processes reveal themselves in the form of certain traces, little lights accidentally left on our dashboard. This secret service goes about its business, so clandestinely that all we can understand about it is that the process is running and will continue to run further. In this work, a connection is forged between reality and the imagination that seeks to deceive us. A similar kind of imagination can be inferred in the still-smoldering ashtray, the focus on which is deeply tied to our experience of time. In a moment of deep thought, that instant when some idea has seized us, time around us can stop, leaving our physical processes to wait for us to return our attention to them.

In the work of Polina Kanis, we see how a place deemed a safe haven for a group of people seeking refuge from the world becomes, in practice, not a shelter, but a waiting room. Darkness, dankness and a lower gravitational force define this space, laden with all its symptoms. People manage to get by in this bunker only because they have experienced true danger outside its confines. Isolated as they are, the developments of what to come hold little importance for them.

Alexey Mandych's work lays out a history of the inability to conform, to meet the impossible expectations of being the same. While it affects us all, time is only a habit, after all. By breaking the rhythms of time we can uncover the key to the world's diversity and understand why there can never be complete control over it. The attempt to measure time, to calculate a unified standard, leads to a lack of curiosity, as well as a lack of aging and the development that comes with it.

Audience participation is part of the artistic process. The White Cube – the accepted setting for contemporary exhibitions – denies architecture and prevents viewers from fully participating in creating the meaning of a work. This kind of collaboration demands a conducive environment, set with 'traps' for the viewer to help foster engagement. The furniture specially designed and constructed by Korsi fills this function, by providing a comfortable vantage point for viewing the works and absorbing the new ideas they present.

Vladislav Efimov

Maison DELLOS  
MOSCOW - PARIS - NEW YORK

Artwin Gallery Москва Тверской бульвар 26 стр. 1

[www.artwingallery.com](http://www.artwingallery.com) [info@artwingallery.com](mailto:info@artwingallery.com)

+7 903 138 31 38

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Polina Kanis (b. 1985, Leningrad) studied at the Herzen State Pedagogical University, before enrolling at the Rodchenko School of Photography and Multimedia in Moscow. In 2010, she was nominated for the Kandinsky Prize in the category of Young Artist. In 2011 and 2015, she received the national Innovation Award. Kanis has had personal exhibitions as part of Manifesta 10 (St Petersburg, 2014), as well as on the island of New Holland (St Petersburg, 2013), and in the Mystetski Arsenal (Kyiv, 2012.) Her works can be found in collections including the National Center for Contemporary Art (Moscow), the Stella Art Foundation (Moscow), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Warsaw), The Art Vectors Investment Partnership Foundation (Vienna), the Foundation of Vladimir Smirnov and Konstantine Sorokin (Moscow) and Foundation Videoinst (Bologna).

Alexey Korsi (b. 1986, Moscow) studied residential and public architecture at the Moscow Institute of Architecture before enrolling in 2010 in a course on design photography with Vladimir Kupriyanov at the Rodchenko School of Photography and Multimedia in Moscow. In 2012, he curated the exhibition "Barbarians," a special project of the III Moscow International Biennale of Young Art. Korsi has participated in solo and group exhibitions at E.K. Artbureau, Open Gallery, Triumph Gallery, the National Center for Contemporary Art, and the Moscow Museum of Multimedia Art. He was nominated for the Innovation Award in 2012 and the Kandinsky Prize in 2013.

Alexey Mandych (b. 1973, Moscow) graduated in 1999 from the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University. In 2010, he began to practice art, enrolling, in 2011, in the Institute for the Problems of Contemporary Art. He has participated in multiple exhibitions including "From the Realm of Practical Knowledge," a special project of the 4<sup>th</sup> Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, "Unlimited" at the International Forum for Art and Reality (St Petersburg, 2011), and "Glyphs" at the National Center for Contemporary Art's outpost in Kronstadt (2014.)

Vladislav Efimov is a curator, artist and photographer, who has worked on the Russian art scene for over twenty years. He lives and works in Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow, where he heads up the faculty for design photography at the Rodchenko School of Photography and Multimedia.

#### Artwin Gallery

Moscow gallery that was established in June 2012 by sisters Madina and Mariana Gogova. Before opening its new space in February 2015, Artwin Gallery organized exhibitions in museum venues, actively supporting the artists on its roster, and participating in contemporary art fairs. The gallery's main objectives are to create a platform for dialogue between artists of different countries and generations, and to promote emerging Russian art both at home and abroad. Artwin Gallery's focus on Russian artists, its bold approach to curating and exhibition making, and its in-depth understanding of the art market in Russia and CIS countries, allows the gallery to create extraordinary projects across a wide range of styles and genres of contemporary art. Artwin Gallery has participated in multiple international exhibitions and biennales, including the Moscow International Biennale of Young Art, Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Cosmocosmos, and the Artbat Fest, a festival of contemporary art in Almaty, just to name a few. The gallery also helps foster the growth of contemporary art through a series of lectures and round table discussions featuring art world professionals, as well as its contributions to other educational initiatives, like the gallery's collaboration with the Turandot Academy. Artwin Gallery currently works with artists Olga Kisseleva, Olya Kroytor, Almagul Menlibayeva, Gulnur Mukazhanova, Dima Rebus and Katya Shkolnik. Its new space measures 130 square meters in the historic center of Moscow, in the building of Maison Dellos, a strategic partner of the gallery. In May 2015 Madina Gogova was appointed Minister of Culture of The Republic of Karachay – Cherkessia, and the gallery is currently run by Mariana Gogova. In September 2015 Artwin Gallery is opening its new exhibition space in Baku, Azerbaijan.

For more info and images please contact Anna Dzulgerova  
+7 903 790 0792  
a@annadyulgerova.com



Artwin Gallery Москва Тверской бульвар 26 стр. 1  
www.artwingallery.com info@artwingallery.com  
+7 903 138 31 38