

‘Revolutionize’ – a contemporary art exhibition held by Mystetskyi arsenal.

‘Revolutionize’ opens on November 21st at Mystetskyi Arsenal. It is an international research and exhibition project that brings together art and museum institutions from Ukraine and the Netherlands.

Organizers: National Art and Culture Museum Complex ‘Mystetskyi Arsenal’, National Memorial Complex of Heroes of Heavenly Hundred – Museum of the Revolution of Dignity, ‘A Tale of a Tub’ Foundation (Netherlands). The project is implemented with support of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation.

Project curators: Kateryna Filyuk (Ukraine), Nathanja van Dijk (Netherlands).

30 contemporary artists and art groups from 15 countries through the language of installation, painting, multimedia, video and photo speak about the revolutionary events, and analyze the revolution as a social phenomenon. The project explores the abilities of art in times of crisis. A personal, critical, and retrospective view focuses on a special historical event – the Revolution of Dignity.

Francis Alÿs (BE), Lara Baladi (EG), James Beckett (ZA), Maksym Bilousov (UA), Marinus Boezem (NL), Adelita Husni-Bey (IT), Irina Botea (RO), Nazar Bilyk (UA), Latifa Echakhch (MA), Harun Farocki (CZ), Jack Goldstein (CA), Hamza Halloubi (MA), Yuriy Hrytsyna (UA), Iman Issa (EG), Illya Isupov (UA), Alevtina Kakhidze (UA), Lesia Khomenko (UA), Sasha Kurmaz (UA), Dariia Kuzmych (UA), Cristina Lucas (ES), Basim Magdy (EG), Lev Manovich (RU), Olexa Mann (UA), Olaf Nicolai (GE), Maria Plotnikova (UA), Leticia Ramos (BR), Vlada Ralko (UA), Fernando Sanchez Castillo (ES), Wolfgang Tillmans (GE), Mona Vatamanu (RO) & Florin Tudor (RO), Vova Vorotniiov (UA), Pavel Wolberg (RU). With the participation of the Planning for Protest, Mystetskyi Barbican, Strike Poster, Piotr Armianovski, Aftermath VR: Euromaidan. The exhibition also presents artifacts from the National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity collection.

Participants’ and artworks’ diversity is an attempt to go beyond the already acquired patterns of the Revolution of Dignity perception. ‘Revolutionize!’ puts Ukrainian events into a wider world context, presenting simultaneously the uniqueness and universality of certain situations, events and phenomena. The exhibition demonstrates that the aspiration for freedom, decent living standards, respect for citizens are the universal values shared by all people.

Olesia Ostrovska-Liuta, director general of Mystetskyi arsenal:

«The ‘Revolutionize’ exhibition is an attempt to put the Ukrainian experience of protest and revolution into the world context. And to see what can we tell the world

and where in the world can we find any similarities. Five years is enough time to start re-thinking our Maidan not only from the point of view of Ukrainian history, but also in a broad world dimension.»

Ihor Poshvailo, director general of the National Museum of the Revolution of Dignity:

«The Revolution of Dignity events, that are at the same time inspiring and demotivating, joyful and tragic, understandable and hard to understand, for millions of Ukrainians have not become history yet. It takes time to figure out, to understand, to heal. But do not forget. 'Revolutionize' offers a contemporary art space for new reflections, rethinking, interpretations of our complex past. The artists formed the identity of Euromaidan and were its avant-garde. We hope that within the Mystetskyi arsenal walls visitors will discover unknown dimensions of the Maidan revolutionary element in a broader context, they will feel free and responsible co-authors of our history.»

Kateryna Filyuk, curator of the exhibition:

«I could never imagine living in times of revolution and war in my country. Seemingly such important events belong to history and they can be found in books. Now we are 5 years away from the Revolution of Dignity, and the war in the East is still going on. At the time when history is being created, it seems to me important to look at the Ukrainian revolution through the optics of contemporary art and try to comprehend our own experience through metaphors, generalizations, parallels with other protest movements in different parts of the world. [Of course, the Ukrainian experience is unique, however, it is also inscribed in the global context and resonates with a number of protest movements and revolutionary events that shook the world in the first decades of the twenty-first century.]»

Nathanja van Dijk, curator of the exhibition:

When people in Ukraine took to the squares in 2013, I was in the midst of a research into the position and the possibilities of art in the face of a crisis driven time. The research focused on the recent rise of protest movements; hence I closely followed the events on Maidan. What I learned from working with and within the Ukrainian context in the years that followed, is that art and by extension art museums, are a crucial place to commemorate and simultaneously critically reflect on a historical moment that is unfolding in the present. This is relevant for Ukraine, but also concerns everyone who wants to question the status quo of our contemporary moment and who wants to rewrite the singular, hegemonic narratives with which we describe our present.

The project creates a possibility for visitors to explore, recall, discuss, leave their thoughts about the Revolution of Dignity. The exhibition provides a platform for an

open discussion about the role of art and artists during the revolution and the ability/capability to talk about recent historical events in the language of art. A special educational program for visitors is planned for the exhibition. Performances, audio tours at the places of the Revolution of Dignity, special projects and discussions will be held within the exhibition.

The exhibition opening – November 21 at 18:30.

On November 21-22 admission is free for all visitors.

***National Art and Culture Museum Complex 'Mystetskyi Arsenal'** is a flagship Ukrainian cultural institution that aims to promote the modernization of Ukrainian society and the integration of Ukraine into the world context, basing on the value potential of culture. Synthesis and development of contemporary art, new music, theater, literature and museum spheres are made through exhibition projects and activities of the laboratories. Thus, various arts are developing and enriching each other, while artistic and professional communities find points of intersection and mutual reinforcement. Mystetskyi Arsenal also serves as a platform for interaction with the world's cultural community through joint cultural projects.*

***National Memorial Complex of Heroes of Heavenly Hundred – Museum of the Revolution of Dignity** is a multi-purpose cultural and educational center. The museum keeps, studies and presents a collection of historical objects related to the movement for freedom, in particular with the Revolution of Dignity, previous Maidans and recent revolutions abroad. Also, it disseminates experience and memory of national and personal freedom, dignity and human rights in Ukraine and in the world. As well as encourages public initiatives for the establishment of democratic values in Ukraine.*

***A Tale of a Tub** is an exhibition-space based in Rotterdam. It is committed to supporting developments in contemporary art and to investigate their meaning within today's society. A Tale of a Tub offers a testing ground for ideas stemming from the practices of artists, curators and theorists.*

***The Ukrainian Cultural Foundation** is a state-owned institution created in 2017 in correspondence with the Law of Ukraine with aim to facilitate development of culture and arts in Ukraine, to provide favourable environment for development of intellectual and spiritual potential of individuals and society, wide access for the citizens to national cultural heritage, to support cultural diversity and integration of the Ukrainian culture into the world cultural space. Activities of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation are guided and coordinated by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.*