



MOSCOW  
BIENNALE OF  
CONTEMPORARY  
ART

parallel event

Gridchinhall Art Centre presents:

Parallel Event of the 5th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art

Sonia Leber and David Chesworth (Australia)

## ZAUM TRACTOR

Date and Time: Sunday, 22 September 2013, 6 - 7 pm

Curator: Maria Sigutina

### PRESS RELEASE

28 August 2013, Moscow – The new two-channel HD video by Sonia Leber and David Chesworth **Zaum Tractor, 2013** presents notions of freedom and collectivity; contradictory forces that reside within the Russian socio-political environment.

In a series of encounters with contemporary Russia, the artists re-imagine artistic ideas and actual events that have attempted to transcend the lived experience of the Russian participant.

**Zaum Tractor** opens with a face-off between 'The Rite of Spring' and 'Victory over the Sun', both premiered in 1913, here specially performed by the cargo ships of the Don River. The year 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the Futurist 'transrational' Zaum opera 'Victory over the Sun'. The opera attempted a fresh start, dispensing with meaning and symbolism. Promoted by Kruchonykh, Khlebnikov and other so-called zaumniks, the 'transrational' then influenced Malevich's Suprematist abstract art.

In **Zaum Tractor**, Rostov-on-Don's famous Constructivist Gorky Theatre building reinstates the symbolic, as two performers recite 'transrational' Zaum poetry across its vast public space, built in the shape of a super-sized tractor. The work also visits 'eternal pools' celebrating life and remembrance, contemporary social gathering spaces, the machine-like playing of church bells and modern-day Cossacks.

The video performance is set to a series of compelling soundscapes built up by the artists during a three-month residency in Southern Russia, with added chaos inspired by the wild rhythms and 'pure sound' of Zaum.

#### **About Sonia Leber and David Chesworth:**

Collaborating since the 1996, Melbourne-based artists Sonia Leber and David Chesworth have created a series of large-scale installation artworks, using sound, video, architecture and public participation. *The Way You Move Me* (2011) focuses on the rhythms and intensities of large-scale animal herding, *Richter/Meinhof-Opera* (2010) creates an encounter between Gerhard Richter and Ulrike Meinhof and *Almost Always Everywhere Apparent* was a major solo exhibition at Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne in 2007. These are immersive conceptual works that envelop the viewer in cycles of evaluative and experiential contemplation. For more information: [www.waxsm.com.au](http://www.waxsm.com.au)

#### **About Gridchinhall Art Centre:**

Gridchinhall Art Center is a non-commercial organization founded in 2009 by Sergey Gridchin. It was created to realize original projects and ideas in the sphere of contemporary art and culture. Gridchinhall is open over weekends (from Friday till Sunday) and it is often called the art-dacha. Picnics, excursions, master-classes for children, painting and drawing lessons, meetings with artists, critics and curators are held here. For more information: [www.gridchinhall.ru](http://www.gridchinhall.ru)

#### **The project is supported by:**

*Gridchinhall Art Centre (Moscow), Australia Council for the Arts (Sydney, Australia), Arts Victoria (Melbourne, Australia), Creative Industries Centre - CreativeSpace.PRO (Rostov-on-Don, Russia), Theatre 18+ (Rostov-on-Don, Russia), Art-Amnesty Project by Olga Kalashnikova (Rostov-on-Don, Russia), The 16thLINE Gallery (Rostov-on-Don, Russia), Fehily Contemporary (Melbourne, Australia).*

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