



IRIS
FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release:

FotoFest Media Event Connects Moscow and Houston

BRIDGE MOSCOW>HOUSTON

Video Teleconference Sponsored by RIA Novosti and the Iris Foundation

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

MOSCOW

RIA Novosti International Multimedia Press Center
Garage Center for Contemporary Culture

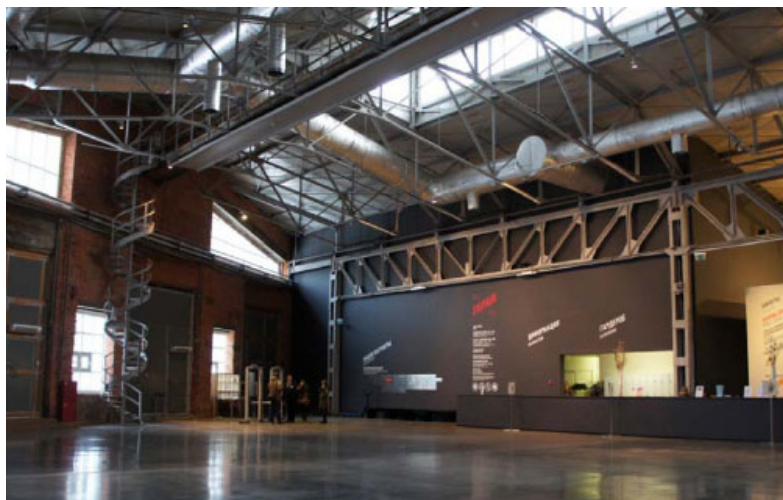


HOUSTON

Four Seasons Hotel Downtown



FotoFest Portfolio Review



Garage Center for Contemporary Culture

HOUSTON, TEXAS - AUGUST 19, 2011 - FotoFest, the international photographic arts and education organization in Houston, joins the Iris Foundation, RIA Novosti and the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture in Moscow to present a bi-continental media event connecting Moscow and Houston.

BRIDGE MOSCOW>HOUSTON, is sponsored by RIA Novosti, Russia's largest news information agency, and Iris Foundation to highlight international partnerships in the arts between public officials, philanthropists, artists, business representatives and journalists.

The media event brings together three panels of prominent public figures supporting and sponsoring the arts – the Mayors of Moscow and Houston, representatives of prominent private corporations supporting the arts, international philanthropists, well known artists and journalists.

The catalyst for the media event is the collaboration between FotoFest, the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, RIA Novosti and the Iris Foundation to present the first international portfolio review for Russian photographers . PORTFOLIO REVIEW RUSSIA will take place at the Garage Center August 29 - September 2, 2011 in Moscow.

Celebrated Russian art collector and philanthropist Daria Zhukova will participate as a special guest on the panel in Houston. Ms. Zhukova is the founder of the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture in Moscow, regarded as one of Europe's most exciting contemporary art centers.

Emphasizing the importance of Moscow and Houston as international arts centers and their partnership with Portfolio Review Russia is the planned participation of Moscow's Mayor, Sergey Sobyenin.

The panels will talk about the role and function of art, in particular the photographic arts, in modern cities; the different ways that cities support the arts, through public and private sources; the impact of artists and arts organizations like FotoFest in creating international bridges across the world.

"It is part of our goal to open new avenues around the world for contemporary art and to promote what is happening in Russia. Photo-based art is a vital part of the Russian and international art world," says Garage Founder Dasha Zhukova.

The list of participants in the Bridge Moscow>Houston includes (as of August 19, 2011) :

HOUSTON

Dasha Zhukova
President, The Iris Foundation
Founder, Garage Center for
Contemporary Culture

Britt Langford
Managing Director
JP Morgan Chase Bank

Marshal Lightman
Executive Vice President
Gilbane Builders
Board Chairman Houston Arts Alliance

Minnette Boesel
Mayor's Arts Liaison
City of Houston

Catherine Ansporn
Arts Writer
PaperCity Magazine

Vinod Hopson
Media/Information Coordinator
FotoFest International

MOSCOW

Hon. Sergey Sobyenin
Mayor of Moscow

Svetlana Mironyuk
Editor in Chief, RIA Novosti Agency

Frederick Baldwin
Chairman and Co-founder
FotoFest International

Wendy Watriss
Artistic Director and Co-founder
FotoFest International

Evgeny Berezner
Curator and Co-organizer
Portfolio Review Russia

AES+F
Multi-media Artists

Anton Belov
Director
Garage Center for Contemporary Culture

Irina Chmyreva
Curator
Portfolio Review Russia

Two hundred photographic artists from all over Russia will participate in Portfolio Review Russia. Based on FotoFest's pioneering portfolio review program in Houston, the international Meeting Place, Portfolio Review Russia makes it possible Russian photographers to individually meet and show their work to 50 invited international and Russian museum curators, publishers, editors, photography collectors, heads of photo agencies and galleries.

Portfolio Review Russia is the precursor event to the FotoFest 2012 Biennial in Houston, presenting a series of large-scale exhibitions and programs on Contemporary Russian Photography, March 16-April 29, 2012.

“It has been many years since there has been a large presentation of contemporary Russian art photography from the late 1950s to the present,” says FotoFest Co-Founder and Senior Curator Wendy Watriss. “The central goal of the Portfolio Review Russia and the FotoFest 2012 Biennial is to bring new international visibility for Russian contemporary photography and create new international opportunities for Russian photographers.”

The Russian exhibitions for the FotoFest 2012 Biennial will present works by 70-80 Russian artists. The exhibitions are being organized by Russian curators Evgeny Berezner and Irina Chmyreva, with media consultant, Natalia Tarasova, in collaboration with FotoFest.

The principal sponsor of Portfolio Review Russia is the Iris Foundation, with additional support from RIA Novosti and the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture.

MEDIA CONTACTS

For further information please contact FotoFest:
Vinod Hopson, Press Coordinator
TEL 713 223 5522 ext 26, press@fotofest.org

For further information on Portfolio Review Russia and the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, please contact:
Evgeny Berezner, Irina Chmyreva and Natalia Tarasova.
TEL +7 495 640 4975, info@portfolioreview-russia.com



AES+F, *Episode 2, No. 12, 2003*
from the series *Action Half Life*

FOTOFEST 2012 BIENNIAL CURATORS:

Wendy Watriss
Fred Baldwin
Evgeny Berezner
Irina Tchmyreva



FOTOFEST INTERNATIONAL

FotoFest International, based in Houston, Texas, is an internationally known non-profit photographic arts organization founded 26 years ago by two award-winning photographers to create an international platform for the discovery and presentation of U.S. and international photographic art. FotoFest created and continues to sponsor the first international Biennial of photography and photo-related art in the United States. FotoFest has pioneered the format for the international portfolio review program for photographic artists that have been emulated around the world. It is the basis for the 2011 Moscow Portfolio Review.

In 2012, FotoFest will focus its Biennial exhibition program on Contemporary Russian Photography. FotoFest Co-founders and Creative Directors Wendy Watriss and Frederick Baldwin are co-curating the 2012 Russian exhibitions with the organizers for Moscow portfolio review, Evgeny Berezner and Irina Tchmyreva, and Natalia Tarasova.

Early supporters of the FOTOFEST 2012 BIENNIAL are JP Morgan Chase, The Brown Foundation, William Stamps Farish Foundation, the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, Texas Commission on the Arts, Doubletree Hotel Downtown Houston and individual donors.

RIA NOVOSTI

RIA Novosti is a leading Russian media company with an important 70-year history. The core of the RIA Novosti holdings is its well-known news agency. The agency publishes social, political, economic, scientific and sports news 24/7 in 14 languages and has an extensive network of correspondents in 45 Russian cities and 40 countries. RIA Novosti gives strong coverage to major events in the field of arts and culture.

GARAGE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture is a project of the Iris Foundation. Garage opened in 2008 as a major non-profit international arts space based in Moscow, dedicated to exploring and developing contemporary culture.

Garage has two distinct program goals: “to bring important international modern and contemporary art and culture to Moscow” and “to raise the profile of Russian contemporary culture and to encourage a new generation of Russian artists.” These goals are achieved through exhibitions ranging from major surveys of important art collections to single artist retrospectives and group exhibitions.

Garage hosts a series of on-site events including talks, film screenings, workshops, performances and creative activities for children. Housed in a 20th century Constructivist masterpiece by Konstantin Melnikov, the Garage space includes galleries, open exhibition spaces, courtyard, cafe, kids’ space, public auditorium and media room, designed by the award-winning architect Jamie Fobert.

THE IRIS FOUNDATION

The Iris Foundation is a non-profit organization, founded in 2008 by Dasha Zhukova, dedicated to promoting the understanding and development of contemporary culture. The Foundation supports the activities of the Garage in Russia and worldwide