

ДЕСЯТИЛЕТИЕ «ГАРАЖА»

# GARAGE

10TH ANNIVERSARY

**GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS:  
A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON ILYA AND EMILIA KABAKOV**

*August 7, 2018*

**To mark Ilya Kabakov's 85th birthday, Garage has produced a documentary film on the life and work of Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, the star duo of Russian contemporary art.**

Ilya and Emilia Kabakov and Garage are long-time collaborators. The Museum, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, opened with the artists' retrospective exhibition in 2008. A decade later, Garage, with the support of its co-founder Roman Abramovich, is releasing a documentary about the Kabakovs. Directed by Anton Zhelnov, *Poor Folk. Kabakovs* takes its name from Fyodor Dostoevsky's first novel published in Russia and reflects the Kabakovs' choice of characters for their works: ordinary people and the small dramas of their life in the Soviet Union.

In *Poor Folk*, Ilya Kabakov talks about his sources and influences, including the tragic life of his mother, which had a profound effect on his views and artistic career. Together with his wife and collaborator Emilia he discusses Soviet underground art, the birth of Moscow Conceptualism, the couple's emigration to the USA, and international acclaim after thirty years of almost no exhibitions (Kabakov did not show his work at state-sanctioned exhibitions in the Soviet Union): today the duo's works are in the world's leading museums, including MoMA, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; and Hamburger Kunsthalle.

The documentary was filmed over 2017 and 2018 at the Kabakovs' home on Long Island (USA) and in St. Petersburg. It includes previously unpublished photographs and videos from their personal archive and from Garage Archive Collection.

Anton Zhelnov commented: "We visited the Kabakovs on Long Island twice. The result was twenty hours of recorded conversations. I was very happy to work on the film with Mikhail Krichman, who I believe to be the best cinematographer in Russia. And, of course, it was great have access to places which hadn't been filmed before: to see the studio and the way Ilya and Emilia work. We came every day at 7 a.m. and watched the paintings being made. We also worked with their personal and professional archives from before and after their emigration. Some of those materials will be shown for the first time."

**The premiere of *Poor Folk. Kabakovs* takes place on September 6 at Garage Screen summer cinema as a part of the *CENTER Festival*, which is organized by the Center for Documentary Cinema.**

**The film will be released on September 13, 2018.**

## Film crew

*Director: Anton Zhelnov*

*Cinematography: Mikhail Krichman*

*Camera operators: Aleksei Kurbatov, Dmitry Krylov, Artur Bergart*

*Sound: Viktor Malov*

*Music: Andrei (Oid) Antonets, Nikolay Kartoziya*

*Producer: Natalya Golodova*

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**Ilya Kabakov** (b. 1933, Dnepropetrovsk) is the most acclaimed contemporary artist from Russia, one of the key figures in the history of Moscow Conceptualism, and the inventor of the total installation. After graduating in drawing from the Surikov Moscow Art Institute in 1951, he worked as an illustrator of children's books and magazines. In the 1960s, he started showing his work at underground art exhibitions and experimenting with drawing. In the 1980s, he began making installations reflecting on Soviet communal life, the best-known being *The Man Who Flew into Space from His Apartment* (1982, Centre Georges Pompidou), which was the first of his total installations (large scale projects that implied working with large spaces). In the late 1980s, Kabakov became active on the European and American art scenes. His wife, artist Emilia Kabakov, became his permanent collaborator. The artists live and work on Long Island, USA. In Russia, they have had solo exhibitions at the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg; the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow; and Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow.

**Emilia Kabakov** (née Lekach) was born in 1945 in Dnepropetrovsk. She was close to Ilya's family from childhood and communicated with his mother her whole life. In the 1950s, Emilia studied at the Moscow music school, moving to the music college in Irkutsk in the 1960s, and on to Moscow University. In 1973, Emilia emigrated to Israel with her three-year-old daughter, moving to the United States in 1975, where she worked as a curator and art expert until she met Ilya Kabakov in the late 1980s. Ilya and Emilia have worked together since 1989.

**Anton Zhelnov** is a journalist, TV presenter, and documentary filmmaker. His films include *Brodsky Is Not a Poet* (with Nikolay Kartoziya, TEFI Prize for Best Documentary, 2015) and *Sasha Sokolov. The Last Russian Writer* (with Nikolay Kartoziya, Lavr Prize for Best Television Film, 2017).

## GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Garage Museum of Contemporary Art is a place for people, art, and ideas to create history. Through an extensive program of exhibitions, events, education, research, and publishing, the institution reflects on current developments in Russian and international culture, creating opportunities for public dialogue, as well as the production of new work and ideas in Moscow. At the center of all these activities is the Museum's collection, which is the first archive in the country related to the development of Russian contemporary art from the 1950s through the present. Founded in 2008 by Dasha Zhukova and Roman Abramovich, Garage is the first philanthropic organization in Russia to create a comprehensive public mandate for contemporary art and culture. Open seven days a week, it was initially housed in the renowned Bakhmetevsky Bus Garage in Moscow, designed by the Constructivist architect Konstantin Melnikov. In 2012 Garage relocated to a temporary pavilion in Gorky Park, specifically commissioned from award-winning architect Shigeru Ban. A year later, a purpose-built Education Center was opened next to the Pavilion. On June 12, 2015, Garage welcomed visitors to its first permanent home. Designed by Rem Koolhaas and his OMA studio, this groundbreaking preservation project transformed the famous Vremena Goda (Seasons of the Year) Soviet Modernist restaurant, built in 1968 in Gorky Park, into a contemporary museum.

Garage is a non-profit project of The IRIS Foundation.

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## UNIQLO

UNIQLO designs functional, innovative, and affordable apparel. The LifeWear line's DNA is high quality, simplicity, longevity, and trendiness regardless of a person's lifestyle or style.

As part of the strategic partnership between UNIQLO and Garage, a series of special events and activities are held. Garage and UNIQLO has launched UNIQLO Free Friday Nights, continuing the tradition of free admission for all visitors every Friday evening at such key art institutions as MoMa in New York and Tate in London. Garage visitors can enjoy free admission to all exhibitions every Friday between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Garage Lounge Zone opened at the UNIQLO Atrium store, Moscow, in 2017. Customers can immerse themselves in the art world with books and magazines about art, fashion, and contemporary culture. The zone is also a space for free lectures and master classes, as well as special projects by Garage.

## PIK GROUP

PIK is the largest real estate development company in Russia. Constructing modern and comfortable homes, it sets a new standard for architecture and quality of life. PIK is known for clean, minimalist design with a few bright accents. Inviting emerging architecture studios to design its facades, and combining their input with its own technical expertise, the company offers new solutions for urban construction.

As partners, PIK and Garage will join forces and expertise to create public spaces that will be comfortable and interesting for all visitors. When they buy a new home, PIK customers will receive a free GARAGE card that gives them free priority admission to Garage's exhibitions and special events, as well as discounts at Garage Café and Bookshop, for one year. Garage visitors will be able to take part in events organized with PIK's support.

## INGOSSTRAKH

Ingosstrakh has been a major player in both the Russian and international markets since 1947. The company is the national leader in Russia based on total insurance premiums in the voluntary insurance sector (not including life insurance). Ingosstrakh is authorized to handle all types of insurance services (in accordance with the insurance company's specialization) specified in Article 32.9 of the Insurance Law of the Russian Federation, as well as reinsurance services. For many years, Ingosstrakh has provided insurance services for important works of art and other valuable historical objects. The company has 149 locations throughout Russia, as well as branches and subsidiaries worldwide.

Ingosstrakh is the Official Insurance Partner of Garage Museum of Contemporary Art for the second year running. For Ingosstrakh, the partnership with Garage is an important stage in expanding cooperation with leading museums in Russia and across the world. The company insures the artworks exhibited and, jointly with the Museum, implements a wide range of special programs for visitors.

## BMW GROUP RUSSIA

BMW Group has had a presence in the art world for many years thanks to its BMW Art Car project that lists artists like Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Roy Lichtenstein, Frank Stella, and César Manrique among its participants. Since racing driver and art enthusiast Hervé Poulain invited Alexander Calder to paint the first car in 1975, some of the world's biggest artists have created nineteen

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unique designs based on the company's models. BMW Group is also a long-time partner of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York and has organized long-term projects in collaboration with Tate Modern in London and the National Gallery in Berlin.

Garage helps to promote art and culture and inspire millions of people to discover new things. For BMW Group, which celebrated its centenary in 2016, the partnership with Garage is a wonderful opportunity to support contemporary art. Starting from 2017, BMW Group supports one of the Museum's main programs, offering Art and Technology grants to contemporary artists.

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