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**Press Release**

**The program of the first 1703 Art Fair in St. Petersburg has been announced**

**On June 16, 2022, the Manege Central Exhibition Hall in St. Petersburg is set to host 1703 Art Fair for the first time. The fair is being organized by Gazprom with the support of St. Petersburg Cultural Committee. Today, the details of the program have been revealed. Galleries, Collections and Digital Art are the three sectors at 1703, where visitors will see all the facets of the contemporary art process, from pictorial art and photography to sculptures, installations and digital art objects accompanied by NFTs. Cultural and educational program of 1703 art fair is presented in partnership with Masters school, at the fair site, there will be art mediations as well as lectures and discussions with representatives of the art industry.**

In the Galleries sector, 17 Russian art galleries are exhibiting contemporary artists’ works of various genres, united by the principle of historical references and homages to various artistic styles. All displayed art objects are available for purchase. The announced participants are 11.12 GALLERY, ART & BRUT, ARTSTORY Gallery, ASKERI GALLERY, a-s-t-r-a Contemporary Art Gallery, Azot Gallery, FINE ART GALLERY, FUTURO, K2-studio, Marina Gisich Gallery, SAMPLE, Syntax, Third Place NFT, Triumph Gallery, White Lines, E.K. ArtBureau and KultProekt. Alexandra Vertinskaya, Maxim Ksuta, Maria Safronova are the artists who have already become legends of Russian contemporary art. At 1703 participating galleries will put their works on view for the public to see. Visitors are going to discover monochrome works by Kirill Chelushkin, Nadya Zubareva, Grigory Maiofis, reflecting the dichotomous thinking of the modern world. Also, guests are able to get acquainted with the techno-landscapes of the future created by Olga Michi and Sergey Lotsmanov. Korean artists Kwan Yong Chan and Lee Chinju will add a special optics to the Galleries sector – their works will be presented at the ASKERI GALLERY and Triumph stands.

The participants of the Digital Art sector of the fair are the Art & Science Center of ITMO University, which is a platform for developing transdisciplinary dialogue between the artistic and scientific communities, multifunctional digital art platform - Masters digital, and a multi-format project Generative Gallery.

The Art & Science Center will show some of the works of students and graduates of the master's program, representing the intersection of art, science and technology. The projects explore boundaries of the virtual space, experimenting with traditional materials, refracting them through the use of scientific research methods, and transfer laboratory aesthetics to the exhibitional space.

Especially for 1703, Masters digital will present the Chimeras project, an NFT exhibition of works by young media artists from Russia and Kazakhstan, who analyze the plasticity of the new digital body. The authors are reflecting on the hybridity of the physical and digital bodies (Yulia Nizamutdinova / Julia Cyberflora, Rinat Abdramakhnov / L’bank) and rethinking classical images from the history of visual culture. The works examine images of masks and skulls — from the vanitas and theatrical phantasmagoria genres (Maria Arkhipova, Kirill Reyv) to modern digital avatars (Alexey Efremov / Solar.w). The curator of the Chimera project is Oksana Chvyakina and the producer is Alexander Karlyavin.

Generative Gallery is coming to 1703 with an exhibition of phygital art, which will include multimedia installations, objects and videos accompanied by NFT tokens from Max Silenkov, Orkhan Mamedov, Roma Bantik, Stain, Artur Gadzhiev, Alexander Abramov, Kirill Rave, Aizek, László Bordos, AUJIK, Daniel Rossa and Radugadesign.

The main theme of the first season of the St. Petersburg 1703 Art Fair is collecting. The non-commercial sector is dedi cated to the practices of forming collections as one of the most significant components of the development of contemporary art. The program includes three special large-scale curatorial projects by Marina Gisich Gallery, KGallery and the Béton Visual Culture Center.

To Be With Art is the name of a special exhibition project prepared for the Collections sector by the team of Marina Gisich Gallery, which is one of the first and most experienced gallerie in St. Petersburg. The project invites to reflect on what it means to be with art in our time. The gallery’s team will present the result of more than 20 years of work aimed at promoting the dialogue with art as a way of life. In addition, they will elaborate private collections as a result of painstaking collaboration with the Marina Gisich Gallery. The famous athletes whose fate is inextricably linked with the Zenit football club stand out among all the gallery's collectors. Along with the art works from the family collections of Natalia and Konstantin Zyryanov, Ekaterina and Vyacheslav Malafeev, Anna and Sergey Semak, Ekaterina and Igor Smolnikov, Victoria and Oleg Shatov, Veronika and Alexander Erokhin, iconic works from personal collection of Marina Gisich will be displayed.

In the Collections sector at 1703, KGallery exhibits the project ELEVEN, dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the first joint exhibition of the members of the Leningrad group of artists called Eleven. Each of those artists is a great individuality. The project will show the objects from the gallery's collection, including paintings by Zaven Arshakuni, Valery Vatenin, German Egoshin, Yaroslav Krestovsky, Viktor Teterin, Vitaly Tyulenev, Boris Shamanov, Valentina Rakhina, Evgenia Antipova, Konstantin Simun and Leonid Tkachenko.

Another participant in the Collections sector, the Béton Center for Visual Culture, will introduce the viewer to the photographic works of the leading national and foreign photographers of the second half of the 20th century. The exhibition showcases works by Yevgeny Khaldei, Leonid Lazarev, Francis Infante-Aran, Andrey Chezhin, Mario Giacomelli and other famous photographers, demonstrating how they, while being located in different regions of the world and not knowing about each other's work, solve the same artistic tasks with similar visual means.

Lectures and discussions are going to be held daily at the fair, presented in partnership with the Masters school. Among the key topics are - collecting, bioart and digital art. The full program of the lecture hall is published on the official website of 1703. Also, cultural educational program will include art mediations, which are lively dialogues about art between the mediator and the audience. Mediator Natalia Agapova is an art manager and a graduate of the School of Mediators of the Ural Biennale of Contemporary Art. She will introduce the visitors to the art works of the 1703 exposition and to the peculiarities of the art market structure through the prism of the audience’s own feelings. You can sign up for the art mediations on the art fair website.

**About 1703**

1703 Art Fair in St. Petersburg is a large-scale cultural project, which is designed to foster the institution of collecting in Russia as well as to support national artists and art galleries. The fair is conceived as a new annual cultural event in the city, and its first season is timed to coincide with the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Peter I.

The organizer of the fair is PJSC Gazprom. The Gazprom Group is carrying out large-scale work on the comprehensive improvement of St. Petersburg. Moreover, the company is providing continuous support and assisting with the development of culture and art, mass and professional sports, healthcare, and science. By 2022, the Gazprom Group has taken part in more than 220 charity projects. By the beginning of 2022, as a result of Gazprom for Children program, 37 modern sports facilities have been built in the city, including sports complexes, swimming pools and skating rinks. As part of the program for the comprehensive improvement of St. Petersburg, more than 80 streets, parks, embankments, and squares have been reconstructed; furthermore, more than 16 thousand street lights have been installed. Large-scale restoration projects are underway in the largest museum complexes. Through the courtesy of Gazprom, the interiors of the Lyon Hall have been reconstructed, the Church of the Resurrection of Christ has undergone restoration, and the interiors of the Zubovsky wing of the Catherine Palace in the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Reserve are being re-created. Since 2009, Gazprom has been a permanent partner of the Peterhof State Museum-Reserve in restoring the Chinese Palace in Oranienbaum; to date, 12 out of 17 interiors of the palace have been restored. The Gazprom Group supports large-scale exhibition and restoration projects, in particular those taking place at the State Hermitage Museum, the State Russian Museum, and the Faberge Museum.

1703 Art Fair in St. Petersburg is taking place between 16-19 June, 2022 at The Manege Central Exhibition Hall with the support of St. Petersburg Committee for Culture. The event is included in the official cultural program of SPIEF-2022. Tickets for the fair can be purchased through the website of The Manege Central Exhibition Hall or at the box office of The Manege during the days of the fair. Age restriction - 12+

Official website of the project:

<https://www.1703af.ru/>

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