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**Press release**

**1703 Saint Petersburg art fair welcomes applications for the new season**

***The fourth edition of the 1703 art fair is set to take place at the Manege Central Exhibition Hall from June 17 to 22, 2025. Galleries, art associations and new media platforms are invited to apply on the*** [***fair's website***](https://1703af.ru/en/auth/) ***from January 21 through February 28, 2025.***

First launched in 2022, the 1703 art fair has become one of the most anticipated cultural events, bringing together contemporary art enthusiasts. This season the fair continues its mission to promote contemporary art, develop the collecting practices and consolidate the artistic community.

Participation remains free of charge for galleries as a strategic decision by the 1703 art fair founder, PJSC Gazprom, since the company is a long-term advocate of contemporary art in Saint Petersburg. Promoting the values of equality and fairness, fair organizers design the exhibition booths’ dimensions equally in size and allocate them randomly, regardless of the gallery's experience or status. Once the open call reaches the February 28, 2025 deadline, a panel of experts will review all the entries and select the final list of participants for the new season.

During the application round, each participant can choose the desired section based on the booth’s concept and the specifics of the artworks:

* Base – the primary section of the fair brings together iconic and established galleries as well as the emerging ones with their own exhibition space and permanent exhibition program,
* Algorithm — well suited for galleries and platforms specializing in new media, NFT and digital art,
* Project — perfect for galleries without permanent exhibition space, art associations, groups and platforms,
* Material – tailored for galleries featuring artists who work with diverse materials, presenting collectible design and three-dimensional art.

The main program is complemented by a non-profit section – The Collections, showcasing rarely exhibited artworks from private, institutional and corporate collections, highlighting the diverse approach to private collecting.

A hallmark of this season is **the Annual Lecture Program**, offering visitors valuable insights into various collector's strategies, learning the essentials of regional art and understanding the economics of the art market. In collaboration with the Masters School, a series of lectures and discussions will be held throughout the year, culminating in a comprehensive program during the fair.

**The 1703 Collectors Club** will continue to pursue its mission of building a community: in the new season experienced and aspiring art collectors will have an opportunity to discuss ongoing trends, meet with art market professionals, visit closed vaults and make useful contacts.

***Reference***

The 1703 art fair is carried out in Saint Petersburg since 2022 with the support of the Saint Petersburg Committee for Culture and the Manege Central Exhibition Hall. The event is part of the SPIEF cultural festival “Saint Petersburg Seasons”.

The Fair initiator, Gazprom, is making a great effort in Saint Petersburg to uphold and develop culture and arts. Among the company’s projects are the reconstruction of the Lyon Hall, the Church of the Resurrection of Christ and the Zubov Wing of the Catherine Palace of the Tsarskoe Selo State Museum, restoration of the Chinese Palace of the Peterhof State Museum in Oranienbaum, maintenance of exhibition and restoration projects at the State Hermitage, the State Russian Museum, the Fabergé Museum, the actualization of multifunctional social project "Friends of Saint Petersburg".