

“Russian Cosmism: Trilogy”

Anton Vidokle

25 November - 24 December, 2017

Open Thu & Sat: 16:00 - 22:00, Sun: 12:00 - 19:00

Late hours and Sundays only due to neighbour building constructions

Supported by Arts Council Tokyo

ASAKUSA is delighted to announce the screening exhibition "Russian Cosmism: Trilogy" by Anton Vidokle, New York and Berlin based artist and founder of e-flux. Vidokle focuses on video and creates works in collaboration with artists including Liam Gillick and fiction writer Hu Fang. His collaborative practice extends to cross-disciplinary projects that penetrate the existing infrastructure of art education and economy: unitednationsplaza (2006-7), for instance, is the unrealised Manifesta 6 experimental art-school-as-exhibition which invited Boris Groys, Martha Rosler and others; Time/Bank (2010-, e-flux), an ongoing platform that enables people to trade artistic skills using time as a unit of exchange; and e-flux journal (2008-, e-flux), a monthly art periodical featuring critical essays and contributions by some of the most engaged artists and thinkers of our time. Through his strategic interventions, Vidokle consistently aims to support the autonomy of art and art community at large.

The exhibition screens Vidokle's film trilogy centered on the ideas formed by philosopher Nikolai Fyodorov, known as Russian cosmicism. Fyodorov believed that death is a "mistake" that has to be corrected, and that all human endeavours advancing science, technology, and the control of nature, should eventually overcome death and resurrection of life. Fyodorov addressed topics traditionally confined to esoteric literature, exploring the influence of cosmic rays, energy particles and humans as cosmic beings, while his writings draw diverse philosophical streams into one, including Enlightenment, Russian Orthodox, Eastern philosophy, Cosmology, and Marx's historical materialism. In the early 20th century at the time of Italian futurism, Cosmism permeated into the psyche of Russian intellectuals endeavoured towards political and cultural advancement.

The films accompany the actors' recitation of the scripts from a wide range of literature such as philosophical insignia, scientific papers, and literary poems written under the influence of Cosmism. Part 1, This is Cosmos (2014), begins with the personal remembrance of the artist's father which leads the foundations of Cosmist as resurrection of fathers: Part 2, The Communist Revolution Was Caused By The Sun (2015), investigates a comparative historical analysis of the relationship between key political events and solar activity: Part 3, Immortality and Resurrection for All! (2017), restages the museum as a site of resurrection of all lives, suggesting its cosmic function and its relevance to today.

Many Bolshevik Party members were influenced by Fyodorov's thoughts. Cosmo Immortalist Party won seats in the first Soviet Congress, and even successfully passed a bill on the right to immortality and freedom of interplanetary travel. K. Tsiolkovsky, founding father of modern rocketry and astronautics, was also a Cosmist, and technologically and spiritually fueled the Soviet space program. Its immeasurable impact can be seen in the work of Russian Constructivists, A. Rodchenko, writers L. Tolstoy and F. Dostoyevsky, poet V. Bryusov, and filmmaker A. Tarkovsky. Their belief in the evolution of human body and cognitive ability made possible by new science and technology beyond boundaries between mind and body reverberated most powerfully in transhumanism. The exhibition considers Russian Cosmism as a pivotal convergence of political reform with a progressive view of history, notions around techno utopia with extension to spiritual capacity: which lead to a project of cosmic entirety and of human body.

In conjunction with this exhibition, a meetup discussion with the artist will be held on December 17th. A small booklet of the dialogue between Anton Vidokle and Artist Hito Steyerl will be translated and made available at the exhibition venue.

"Russian Cosmism: Trilogy" is realised through generous support by Arts Council Tokyo.

Wanted!

Film extras and support staff for Vidokle's new film production in February.
Write to info@asakusa-o.com.



Anton Vidokle: Immortality and Resurrection for All! (2017)

Round-trip meeting to Japan

Towards a new film "Cosmo (Tentative)" set in Tokyo



Anton Vidokle

Anton Vidokle is one of Russian cosmicists. Based on Svatogor's Declaration (1922), I am working on a new movie. This work shifts the stage of shooting to Tokyo, and it is a musical using telekom that was invented as biocosmism (raw cosmology) and the world's first electronic musical instrument. We will visit Japan during the exhibition and hold an information exchange meeting for our work and new production.

Sunday, December 17, 2017 17: 30-19: 00
Asakusa Public Hall Second Conference Room (4th Floor)
1-38-6 Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo 111-0032

With support by Art Council Tokyo

Capacity: 40 people

*Japanese & English interpretation available

Those who can participate please e - mail [info@asakusa - o.com](mailto:info@asakusa-o.com), your name, contact address. We will send you detailed information on that day. In addition, we are looking for extra assistants who can cooperate in shooting in February next year together with assistants. Please contact us if you are interested.

Artists:

Yoko Ono (b.1933, Tokyo) is a multimedia and performance artist, singer, songwriter, and peace activist. Ono's artistic formats have varied from visual art, music, film, performance, and poetry. She is often associated with Fluxus and the early Conceptual art of the 1960s and as a precursor to the Feminist art. She has staged performances worldwide including *Cut Piece* (1965) and participatory projects such as *Wish Tree* (1981-). Her recent exhibitions include: "Yoko Ono: One Woman Show, 1960–1971" at Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2015; "YOKO ONO: FROM MY WINDOW" at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2015; "Y E S YOKO ONO", organized by the Japan Society in New York which traveled to 6 cities in North America, 2000-2002, and Asia, including 5 cities in Japan (Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Hiroshima Contemporary Art Museum, Mito Art Center, etc.), 2003-2004. In 2009, Ono participated in the Venice Biennale and received the Golden Lion award for Lifetime Achievement. She has released music albums including: "Yoko Ono/Plastic OnoBand", 1970; and "Double Fantasy", 1980, with John Lennon which won the 1981 Album of the Year at the 24th Annual Grammy Awards. She studied Philosophy at Gakushuin University, Tokyo; and Music at Sarah Lawrence College, New York. Ono lives and works in New York.

Rirkrit Tiravanija (b.1961, Buenos Aires) is a contemporary artist whose works concern the individual's experience of the communal, where he often invites viewers to socialise and inhabit the space. His solo exhibitions have been shown at public institutions including: *Reiña Sofia*, Madrid, 1994; Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1997; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1999; Serpentine Gallery, London, 2005; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, 2009; Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2012; and Brooklyn Museum, New York, 2017. He has participated in numerous biennales including Venice Biennale, 1999, 2003 and 2015; Whitney Biennial, 1995 and 2005; Liverpool Biennial, 2002 and 2004; São Paulo Bienal, 2006; Gwangju Biennale, 2012; Sharjah Biennial, 2015. In Japan, he had individual exhibitions at Sumida River Project, Asahi Beer, Tokyo, 2002; Opera City Gallery, Tokyo, 2002; CCA Kitakyushu, 2001; amongst others. He is recognized with numerous awards such as Gordon Matta Clark Foundation Award, Lucelia Artist Award, and Hugo Boss Prize. He received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is currently on the faculty in the School of Visual Arts at Columbia University, New York. Tiravanija lives and works in New York, Berlin, and Chiang Mai.

Performers:

Yuki Kobayashi (b.1990, Tokyo) is an artist whose action-based performance seek to reveal the authenticity of the human condition, working with the spontaneous to discover the invisible. Questioning both power and restrictive social codes towards a more uncertain world of freedom and equality. He recently made a tribute performance to Yoko Ono at White Cube, London, 2015. Kobayashi holds an MA from the Royal College of Art, London. He lives and works in Tokyo and London.

Yen Noh (b.1983, Daegu) takes language and translation as her themes in producing installation and speech-performance, both of which relevantly face each other in a space. Her major projects include "Aveugle Voix", *das weisse haus*, Vienna, Austria, 2016; and "Voice Over Three, Part I: The First Letter", Heiligenkreuzhof, Vienna, Austria, 2014. She holds an MFA from the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Noh lives and works in Vienna.

Curators:

Asakusa is a 40-square-meter exhibition venue for contemporary art programmes committed to advancing curatorial collaborations and practices. Since its inauguration in October 2015, the gallery has worked with Mikhail Karikis, Héctor Zamora, Oliver Beer, Yoshua Okón, Thomas Hirschhorn, Santiago Sierra, and Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz. The exhibition with Yoko Ono & Rirkrit Tiravanija marks its seventh exhibition.

Exhibition Facts:

Title: "Acting Together"
Artists: Yoko Ono & Rirkrit Tiravanija
Curated by Asakusa with On-site Performance by Participating Artists

Dates: 24 November - 25 December, 2016
Venue: Asakusa
Location: 1-6-16 Nishi-Asakusa, Taito, Tokyo
Opening hours: Thur. 19:00 - 22:00,
Sat. & Sun. 12:00 - 19:00

URL: www.asakusa-o.com
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