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**New Museum to Present “Ostalgia,” a Survey Devoted to Eastern Europe
and the Former Soviet Republics**

Multi-floor Exhibition Will Be on View from July 14–September 25, 2011

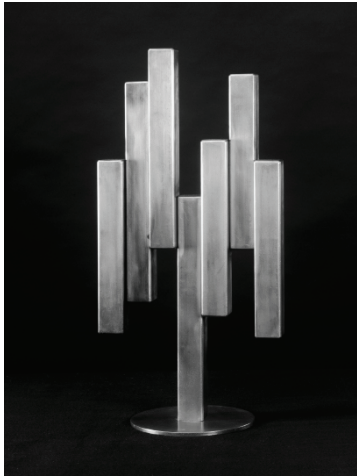
New York, NY... This summer, the New Museum will present “**Ostalgia**,” an exhibition that brings together the work of **more than fifty artists** from twenty countries **across Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Republics**. Contesting the format of a conventional geographical survey, the exhibition will include works produced by Western European artists who have depicted the reality and the myth of the East. “Ostalgia” is curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Associate Director and Director of Exhibitions with Jarrett Gregory, Assistant Curator, and will be on view at the New Museum from **July 14 through September 25, 2011**, occupying all four gallery floors and the lobby.

The exhibition takes its title from the German word *ostalgie*, a term that emerged in the 1990s to describe a sense of longing and nostalgia for the era before the collapse of the Communist Bloc. Twenty years ago, a process of dissolution began, leading to the break-up of the Soviet Union and of many other countries that had been united under communist governments. From the Baltic republics to the Balkans, from Central Europe to Central Asia, entire regions and nations were reconfigured, their constitutions rewritten, their borders redrawn. “Ostalgia” looks at the art produced in and about some of these countries, many of which did not formally exist two decades ago. Mixing private confessions and collective traumas, the exhibition traces a psychological landscape in which individuals and entire societies negotiate new relationships to history, geography, and ideology.



Sergey Zarva, *Ogonyok*, 2001. Courtesy the artist and Regina Gallery, Moscow/London

Some of the works in “Ostalgia”—both from the East and West—describe the collapse of the Communist system and offer a series of personal reportages on aspects of life under Communism and in the new post-Soviet countries. Romanian artist Irina Botea, for example, re-enacts the 1989 revolution as it was broadcast on TV, while Phil Collins interviews teachers of Marxist theory who were left jobless and disoriented by the fall of the Berlin Wall. Legendary photographer Helga Paris presents her poignant portraits of female factory workers in divided Germany, while Vladimir Arkhipov displays photographs of his collection of found objects, improvised tools, and survival designs conceived by Russian citizens during the economic crash of the early 1990s.



Hermann Glöckner, *Beam-Tree*, 1970. Estate of Hermann Glöckner, Private Collection, Dresden.

A remarkable group of Russian artists constitutes the core of the exhibition, presenting works that retrace the origins of Moscow Conceptualism, and others that point to new directions in contemporary art. Along with the austere paintings of Erik Bulatov, a site-specific installation by Andrei Monastyrski, the drawings of Dmitri Prigov, and the photographic interventions of Anatoly Osmolovsky, visitors will encounter the eccentric self-portraits of Alexander Lobanov, the everyday poetry of Olga Chernysheva’s videos, and the ritualistic gestures of Victor Alimpiev and Evgeny Antufiev. The collective *Chto Delat?* will create a timeline of the dissolution of the Soviet Bloc. The portraits shot by Nikolay Bakharev on Siberian beaches will be presented along with the erotic fantasies of 14 year-old Evgenij Kozlov, collected in 150 pages from his *Leningrad Album*.

Composed as a visual archive, “Ostalgia” pays particular attention to the unique place that artists came to occupy in socialist countries, acting simultaneously as outcasts, visionaries, and witnesses. The miniaturized sculptural mock-ups by Hermann Glöckner will be shown next to the urbanistic fantasies of Pavel Pepperstein and the cosmic exploration of Stanislav Filko. The films by Polish workers rescued and archived by Neil Cummings and Marysia Lewandowska will be presented in dialogue with Mirosław Batka’s uncanny reinterpretation of religious sculpture.

“Ostalgia” does not make a case for a unified history of art in the former Eastern Bloc: instead it illuminates similar atmospheres and sensibilities across nations, and points to dramatic differences, for “Ostalgia” is more about a state of mind than a specific place in time.

Some of the preoccupations that seem to unite the artists in “Ostalgia” are a romantic belief in the power of art as a transformative, almost curative agent; an obsession with language and particularly with its propagandistic use; the conception of a new aesthetic of the body to contrast with the heroic bodies of Socialist Realism; a fascination with the ruins of history as represented by monuments and architectural vestiges; and an understanding of the artwork as a form of sentimental documentary that mediates between cultural pressures and individual anxieties.

The video *Dammi I Colori* by Anri Sala—with his hallucinated vistas of the Albanian capital Tirana—chronicles the struggle to resuscitate a city with the collaboration of artists, while documentaries by Deimantas Narkevičius and Tacita Dean depict the urban fractures caused by revolutions. Dean’s *Palast* is a visual eulogy for the imminent destruction of the Palace of the Republic, the Parliament of the former German Democratic Republic in Berlin. The divided city also returns in the 100 photographs that compose Michael Schmidt’s tour de force *U-NI-TY*.



Tacita Dean, *Palast*, 2004. Courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery, New York/Paris

Combining seminal figures and younger artists, “Ostalgia” does not follow a chronological perspective, establishing instead a series of dialogues between different generations and geographies. Focusing, for example, on the conceptual performances of artists as diverse as Ion Grigorescu, Andris Grīnbergs, Hamlet Hovsepian, Sanja Iveković, Július Koller, and Jiří Kovanda, the exhibition exposes local avant-garde practices and highlights international affinities, while questioning the centrality of Western paradigms. In the work of younger artists, many of whom grew up after the fall of the Iron Curtain, one can detect a tension to recuperate the past through individual perspectives. Andro Wekua, for example, reconstructs a mental panorama of his native Georgian town; Roman Ondák satirizes on what it means to wait in line in the East and the West. Andra Ursuta presents the interior of her house in Salonta, Romania, while Paulina Ołowska transports to New York the decorations of an old Polish puppet theater.



Mirosław Balka, *Black, Pope and Black Sheep*, 1987. Courtesy Gladstone Gallery, New York

Zig-zagging across distant geographies and personal histories, “Ostalgia” composes an imaginary landscape, tracing the cartography of the dreams that haunted the East, for ultimately “Ostalgia” is an exhibition about myths and their demise.



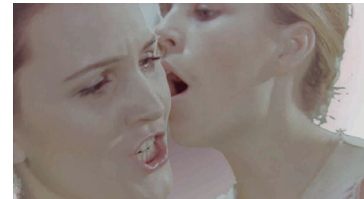
Nikolay Bakharev, *Relationship #14*, 1989. Courtesy the artist

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue featuring contributions by Massimiliano Gioni, Boris Groys, Ekaterina Degot, Viktor Misiano, and others, as well as texts by a selection of the exhibiting artists.

Exhibition Support

Lead Producer: V-A-C, VICTORIA—the Art of Being Contemporary Foundation.

Additional support provided by Lietta and Dakis Joannou, and the Toby Devan Lewis Emerging Artists Exhibitions Fund. Artist travel is made possible, in part, by the Trust for Mutual Understanding. Support for Paulina Ołowska’s work is made possible by the Polish Cultural Institute in New York.



Victor Alimpeiev, *My Breath*, 2007. Courtesy the artist and Regina Gallery, Moscow/London

About the New Museum

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum was conceived as a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding, dedicated building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of ongoing experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

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Artists

Vyacheslav Akhunov
Born in 1948 in Och, Kyrgyzstan
Lives in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Victor Alimpiev
Born in 1973 in Moscow, Russia
Lives in Moscow, Russia

Evgeny Antufiev
Born in 1986 in Kyzyl, Russia
Lives and works in Tuva, Russia, and Moscow, Russia

Vladimir Arkhipov
Born in 1961 in Ryazan, Russia
Lives in Moscow, Russia

Said Atabekov
Born in 1965 in Bes-Terek, Kazakhstan
Lives in Shymkent, Kazakhstan

Nikolay Bakharev
Born in 1946 in Mikhailovka, Russia
Lives in Novokuznetsk, Russia

Miroslaw Balka
Born in 1958 in Otwock, Poland
Lives in Otwock, Poland

Irina Botea
Born in 1970 in Ploiești, Romania
Lives in Chicago, Illinois, USA

Geta Brătescu
Born in 1926 in Ploiești, Romania
Lives in Bucharest, Romania

Anatoly Brusilovsky
Born in 1932 in Odessa, Ukraine
Lives in Cologne, Germany, and Moscow, Russia

Erik Bulatov
Born in 1933 in Sverdlovsk, Russia
Lives in Paris, France

Olga Chernysheva
Born in 1962 in Moscow, Russia
Lives in Moscow, Russia

Chto Delat?
Founded in 2003 in St. Petersburg, Russia
Based in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia

Phil Collins
Born in 1970 in Runcom, UK
Lives in London, UK

Neil Cummings and Marysia Lewandowska
Born in 1947 in Aberdare, UK; Born in 1955 in Szczecin, Poland
Live in London, UK

Tacita Dean
Born in 1965 in Canterbury, UK
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Stanislav Filko
Born in 1937 in Velká Hradná, Slovakia
Lives in Bratislava, Slovakia

Hermann Glöckner
Born in 1889 in Dresden, Germany
Died in 1987 in Berlin, Germany

Ion Grigorescu
Born in 1945 in Bucharest, Romania
Lives in Bucharest, Romania

Andris Grīnbergs
Born in 1946 in Riga, Latvia
Lives in Riga, Latvia

Aneta Grzeszykowska
Born in 1974 in Warsaw, Poland
Lives in Warsaw, Poland

Tibor Hajas
Born in 1946 in Budapest, Hungary
Died in 1980 in Szeged, Hungary

Petrit Halilaj
Born in 1986 in Skënderaj, Kosovo
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Hamlet Hovsepian
Born in 1950 in Ashnak, Armenia
Lives in Ashnak, Armenia

Sanja Iveković
Born in 1949 in Zagreb, Croatia
Lives in Zagreb, Croatia

Július Koller
Born in 1939 in Piestany, Slovakia
Died in 2007 in Bratislava, Slovakia

Jiří Kovanda
Born in 1953 in Prague, Czech Republic
Lives in Prague, Czech Republic

Evgenij Kozlov (E-E)
Born in 1955 in St. Petersburg, Russia
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Edward Krasiński
Born in 1925 in Łucka, Poland
Died in 2004 in Warsaw, Poland

Alexander Lobanov
Born in 1924 in Mologa, Russia
Died in 2003 in Yaroslavl, Russia

Jonas Mekas
Born in 1922 in Semeniškiai, Lithuania
Lives in Brooklyn, New York, USA

Boris Mikhailov
Born in 1938 in Karkov, Ukraine
Lives in Kharkov, Ukraine, and Berlin, Germany

Andrei Monastyrski
Born in 1949 in Petsamo, Russia
Lives in Moscow, Russia

Deimantas Narkevičius
Born in 1964 in Utena, Lithuania
Lives in Vilnius, Lithuania

Paulina Ołowska
Born in 1976 in Gdańsk, Poland
Lives in Raba Niżna, Poland

Roman Ondák
Born in 1966 in Žilina, Slovakia
Lives in Bratislava, Slovakia

Anatoly Osmolovsky
Born in 1969 in Moscow, Russia
Lives in Moscow, Russia

Helga Paris
Born in 1938 in Goleniów, Poland
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Pavel Pepperstein
Born in 1966 in Moscow, Russia
Lives in Moscow, Russia

Susan Philipsz
Born in 1965 in Glasgow, UK
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Viktor Pivovarov
Born in 1937 in Moscow, Russia
Lives in Prague, Czech Republic

Dmitri Prigov
Born in 1940 in Moscow, Russia
Died in 2007 in Moscow, Russia

Anri Sala
Born in 1974 in Tirana, Albania
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Michael Schmidt
Born in 1945 in Berlin, Germany
Lives in Berlin, Germany

Thomas Schütte
Born in 1954 in Oldenburg, Germany
Lives in Düsseldorf, Germany

Simon Starling
Born in 1967 in Epsom, UK
Lives in Copenhagen, Denmark

Mladen Stiliновиć
Born in 1947 in Belgrade, Serbia
Lives in Zagreb, Croatia

David Ter-Oganyan
Born in 1982 in Rostov-on-Don, Russia
Lives in Moscow, Russia

Jaani Toomik
Born in 1961 in Tartu, Estonia
Lives in Tallinn, Estonia

Andra Ursuta
Born in 1979 in Salonta, Romania
Lives in New York, USA

Andro Wekua
Born in 1977 in Sukhumi, Georgia
Lives in Zürich, Switzerland, and Berlin, Germany

The Workshop of the Film Form (Wojciech Bruszewski, Józef Robakowski, Ryszard Waśko)
Founded 1970 in Łódź, Poland

Sergey Zarva
Born in 1973 in Krivoy Rog, Ukraine
Lives in Odessa, Ukraine

Jasmila Žbanić
Born in 1974 in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Lives in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Anna Zemánková
Born in 1908 in Olomouc, Czech Republic
Died in 1986 in Prague, Czech Republic

Please note, locations are listed according to the current name of the city and nation. Many of these names have changed since 1989.