

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**OPEN LECTURE HALL AT NEW HOLLAND ISLAND**  
**April-October 2019**

On 2 April the third season of the Open Lecture Hall series of regular educational events will open in the New Holland Island Pavilion. For 2019, the project will comprise 10 programmes: the *Séance* magazine film-club, the European University at St. Petersburg lectures, the philosophy programme, a series of lectures by the *Garage Museum of Contemporary Art*, lectures on architecture from *Project Baltia* magazine, social science lectures from the Higher School of Economics at St. Petersburg, lectures on science and technology from ITMO University, lectures on graphic design prepared by the New Holland Island design department, as well as a programme of lectures on contemporary theatre and performance theory and practice.

The objective of the Open Lecture Hall series is to promote high quality educational initiatives to a broad-based audience of visitors to New Holland Island. The disciplines covered by the lectures have been selected to appeal to people of all ages and walks of life. The lecture season on the island will continue until October. Admission is free of charge; attendees must register in advance. A comprehensive timetable can be found at [www.newhollandsp.ru](http://www.newhollandsp.ru).

Please note that the Frigate children's playground, herb garden and lawns are currently closed until the warm weather. Summer opening hours will begin on 1 May, when the park will be open daily from 9:00am.

*\*For questions regarding the cultural program, restoration work or island facilities, contact New Holland Island Press Office, [pr@newhollandsp.com](mailto:pr@newhollandsp.com); tel. +7 906 268 83 18*

*\*For questions regarding the investment contract, contact John Mann, [john.mann@millhouse.ru](mailto:john.mann@millhouse.ru)*

*New Holland: Cultural Urbanisation:*  
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**OPENING HOURS**

| <b>PARK</b>                                | <b>THE BOTTLE HOUSE</b>                        | <b>KUZNYA HOUSE</b>  | <b>COMMANDANT'S HOUSE<br/>(«Mayak» School)</b> |
|--|--|--|--|
| Mon–Thu: 9:00–22:00<br>Fri–Sun: 9:00–23:00 | Mon–Thu, Sun: 8:00–23:00<br>Fri–Sat: 8:00–2:00 | Sun–Thu: 12:00–23:00<br>Fri–Sat: 12:00–until the<br>last guest | Mon–Fri: 15:00–21:00<br>Sat–Sun: 11:00–21:00   |

## ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

### **Garage Museum of Contemporary Art lectures**

#### **The art of the present. Practical artistic strategy and practice**

A new programme of public lectures focusing on the study of practical artistic strategies aimed at broadening art's horizons and achieving a qualitative transformation in surrounding reality. The lectures will be divided into a series of blocks covering the most popular practices in the field of art, including the archiving and institutionalization of art, participation-art and DIY projects.

The invited experts will share their observations and experience in adopting strategies for projects of various sizes. Attention will centre on self-organized festivals and institutions, various types of art-activism, along with the art of new technologies, street-art and new approaches to working with meaning and viewer-perception.

The first block of lectures is devoted to various forms of artistic activity – independent curator-strategies, art-activism and DIY projects, drawing on examples from Russian activist art, grass-roots initiatives in public art projects, creative self-organised groups and ways of institutionalizing street-art. Several of the lectures will touch on themes relating to the art of the future, including projects from the *science & art* series and artistic practices that open up new possibilities in the perception of art. The cycle will conclude with a series of meetings studying projects by the School of Engaged Art (St Petersburg) focusing on post-Soviet research.

### **Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg lectures**

*Curator: Margarita Kuleva, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Director, Design and Contemporary Art Unit, Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg*

This lecture series will examine modern society through the optics and tools of sociology, anthropology, political science, cultural and media theory.

How is “human science” possible without people? Which is more important to the global cultural economy – London or Siberia? Is sixty the new thirty? Can talent replace oil? What is work in the age of robots and craft breweries? Do classical museums and *Instagram* compete with one another? Do new technology and opportunities in education help to rid us of social inequalities based on class, gender and race?

These and other questions will be addressed by renowned overseas and Russian social scientists in dialogue with artists, industry professionals and the lecture audience.

### **European University at St Petersburg lectures**

The European University at St Petersburg presents a series of lectures entitled *Don't forget to remember*, focusing on the study of the politics of memory in a variety of aspects. How does information pass from generation to generation through scholarship and folklore, how and for what purpose were the monuments of the Soviet period built, what is happening to monuments in the USA, and how do monuments reflect the periods in which they were built. The lecturers will cover issues ranging from the regeneration of authoritarian regimes to sensory memory and unique religious discourse.

The lecture series will feature leading specialists and professors from the University, who will show the latest results of studies in the fields of history, anthropology, political studies and art history.

**ITMO University lectures**

*Curator: Dmitry Malkov, Director of the ITMO Centre of Scientific Communications*

A cycle of public lectures on science and technology from ITMO University which will transport the audience to the very epicentre of the technological revolution, where every day new discoveries are being made which broaden the horizons of our contemporary understanding of the world and the capabilities of humanity. Leading scientists and science commentators will discuss how computer technology predicts epidemics, why economists scan the human brain, and why the world is in no hurry to combat climate change.

The invited scientific researchers will help lecture-goers to see scientific and technological progress through the prism of social, political and economic changes rather than in isolation from real life, by relating how machine learning affects our understanding of social justice, how scientific superpowers emerge, and where the myths about science in the movies originally stem from.

**Séance magazine Film Club**

*Curator: Vassily Stepanov, film critic, Chief Editor, Séance magazine*

For the new season, the *Séance* magazine film club will concentrate its attention on films that cannot be found on the internet, and which are therefore almost impossible to come by without the assistance of a curator. Among the themes to be covered: rarities and curiosities from festival programmes, repercussions from film competitions, wide-ranging lectures based on historical materials, controversial theories about the near future and paradoxical discoveries from the recent past.

Lecture-goers will have the chance to interact with young directors, to watch rare films selected by the magazine's regular contributors, and to take part in special events combining film and related topics. The spring programme begins with short films: two screenings based on the competition programme from the *Spirit of Fire* festival for film-débuts, presented by the film critic and festival selector Anisya Kazakova, and *Scéance* contributor Andrey Kartashov, who this year sat on the jury for the short-film competition.

**Project Baltia magazine lectures**

*Curator: Vladimir Frolov, architecture critic, Chief Editor, Project Baltia magazine*

The subject of *rational city* is similar to the popular contemporary concept of the *smart city*, as a technological megamachine for habitation, which at once controls people and serves them. The discussions will cover the systematising, constructivist, ordering approach to space – the approach which ultimately leads to the emergence of the *smart city* of today and tomorrow, even though this *smart city* is sometimes far from the posited ideal.

A range of invited historians, architects and urbanists will discuss various settlement models, both utopian and real: from the building reforms of Catherine the Great to the developer's pragmatism of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The lecture cycle aims to shed light on where the phenomenon of today's megapolis first appeared from. The city of St Petersburg will take centre stage: a city created as a model for other Russian cities to follow, it came to formulate its own unique architectural tradition, one which still inspires urbanists to this day.

**New Holland Island Design Department lectures**

*Curators: Ivan Gerts, Yuri Kuznetsov, Valentina Schapova*

The design lectures are a showcase for leading independent studios, social projects and initiatives in the design field. Lectures, film-screenings, master-classes and one-day exhibitions, all in the name of sharing experience, creating new ideas and continuing the fight for a harmonious visual environment.

### **Philosophy lectures**

*Curator: Alexey Artamanov, film critic, Editor, syg.ma*

The relationship between film and philosophy has a long history: when the new medium first appeared in the *moderne epoch*, it provoked a great deal of thought, and not only about film itself. At various times in history, the filmmaker has frequently been a subject of discussion, a metaphor for thought and perception, a peculiar form of knowledge, and much more besides. Cinema, unlike works of philosophy, is familiar to all, and is an integral part of the collective human experience.

It is for this very reason that film can help us to understand contemporary, and in some cases largely inaccessible, philosophical concepts. In this lecture cycle, Russian researchers and scholars representing a range of disciplines will use individual films to resolve the philosophical problems that occupy their thoughts, along with the relationship between philosophy and film.

### **Performance theory and practice lectures**

*Curators: Marina Israilova, independent researcher, curator, Anna Kozonina, researcher and contemporary dance critic.*

The academic study of performance is a field of knowledge which eschews rigid frameworks and definitions, primarily because the very word «performance» exists in a range of disciplines and is understood in different ways. Today, its interdisciplinary links extend from theatre studies and the history of dance to ethnography and anthropology, from linguistics and philosophy to physics, from sociology and political studies to gender studies.

This course of lectures will focus on performance as an art form, studied in a broad context. Practice, as well as theory, will be included in the course: documented and «live» performances, artistic interventions and situations which reveal the performance-related character of everyday behaviour.

### **Contemporary theatre lectures**

*Curators: Maria Beylina and Anton Flerov, curators of the Institute of Theatre, an educational project by the Golden Mask festival.*

A programme of lectures which highlights the names and trends in contemporary Russian and international theatre that will define its future. The people featured in the lecture cycle, along with their work, may not be well known to the wider audience and may not even fit their understanding of what theatre is, and it is for this very reason that the curators feel it is important to talk about them now.

The contemporary theatre lectures are a continuation of the public *Institute of Theatre* programme, an independent educational project whose objective is the structured training of theatre professionals, and the study and critical analysis of new forms of theatre and new theatrical practice.



#### **NEW HOLLAND: CULTURAL URBANIZATION**

In 2010, *New Holland Development*, an affiliate of Roman Abramovich's company *Millhouse, LLC*, won the tender for the restoration and renovation of New Holland Island, with the goal of creating a mixed-use complex that will serve as one of the epicenters of cultural life not only for St Petersburg, but for Russia as a whole. To help determine the concept and creative direction of the island's development, Millhouse turned to the Iris Foundation, a non-commercial initiative for the support and advancement of contemporary culture and art, launched by Daria Zhukova. This collaboration resulted in *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization*, a fresh approach to the restructuring and modernization of the territory, a monument of cultural and national historical significance. Following the success of the seasonal programs, the project investors decided not to proceed with the original plan to clear the territory to construct a new building. Instead, they chose to organize a full-fledged city park, complete with a modern and convenient infrastructure, which each and every person could find his or her place. The island continues to host cultural programs as well as grand-scale civic initiatives. Future plans for the development of the territory include not only commercial enterprises, but also cultural and educational institutions, research laboratories, and exhibition spaces, whose programming will be overseen by emerging specialists. *New Holland: Cultural Urbanization* helps recruit a team of architects, designers, and urban planners, as well as provide the cultural content for the island's programming and participate in the selection of partners and operators. In August 2016, the first phase of the project came to completion, with the launch of New Holland's park zone, and the island begin to operate all year long. As of now, three historical buildings have been restored: the Forge, the Commandant's House and the Bottle.