

St. Petersburg,
February 19, 2021

PRESS RELEASE
OPEN LECTURE HALL AT NEW HOLLAND ISLAND
March-October 2021

On March 1st, the fourth season of the regular educational events *Open Lecture Hall* will begin in the Pavilion of New Holland Island. In 2021, the project will be focused on ten key themes:

- Cinema Club from *Seance* magazine, curator — film critic, editor-in-chief of *Seance* magazine Vasily Stepanov
- Lectures from the *Garage Museum of Contemporary Art*, curator — PhD in Art Studies, curator of the *Garage Museum of Contemporary Art*, Ekaterina Lazareva
- Lectures on Local Studies, curator — journalist, special correspondent of the internet publication *The Village*, co-author of the book *The Stories of St. Petersburg Houses told by their residents*, Yulia Galkina
- Lectures on Architecture from *Project Baltia* architectural magazine, curator — architectural critic, editor-in-chief of *Project Baltia* magazine, Vladimir Frolov
- Lectures on Science and Technology from ITMO University, curator — Daria Denisova, Director of the Center for Scientific Communications at ITMO University
- Lectures on Graphic Design, curators — design team of New Holland Island
- *New Social Reality* lectures, curators — *Takie Dela* publication
- Lectures on Philosophy, curator — independent art critic and philosopher Alla Mitrofanova
- Lectures on Academic Music, curator — independent curator of educational programmes on academic music, former marketing expert of the St. Petersburg Philharmonia, Nina Ivanova
- Lectures on Theatre, curator — theatre and art critic, PhD in Art Studies, editor-in-chief of *Theatre* magazine, Marina Davydova

Open Lecture Hall aims to promote meaningful educational initiatives among the diverse audience of New Holland Island and make learning activities accessible and fun. Themes of the lectures are selected to reflect the interests of different ages and groups. It is a free student pass and an opportunity to learn from experts and scholars from a variety of fields in an informal setting.

The lectures will be held on the Island until October 2021. Entry to all events is free of charge but registration to all events is essential. In the current conditions of the Coronavirus restrictions, lectures will be organised in accordance with the safe seating regulations and a limited number of attendants. Detailed schedule can be found on the newhollandsp.com website.

Please note that the Frigate playground, Herb garden and lawns are closed until the warm weather, the Ice Rink will remain open until March 14 and operates in all weathers.

NEW HOLLAND

CULTURAL URBANIZATION

New Holland: Cultural Urbanization:

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OPENING HOURS:

PARK Mon-Thu: 9 am – 10 pm Fri-Sun: 9 am – 11 pm	THE BOTTLE HOUSE Sun-Thu: 8 am – 11 pm Fri-Sat: 8 am – midnight	ICE RINK Sun-Thu: 10 am – 9 pm Fri-Sat: 10 am – 11 pm
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**Questions on cultural programme, project of island restoration and adaptation: pr@newhollandsp.com, tel. +7 906 268 83 18*

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 Foundry, the Commandant’s House and the *Bottle House*. In 2020, *House 12*, which is located on the embankment of Kryukov Canal, was restored and the area around it was landscaped. An additional park territory near the northern side of the Basin was also put into operation.

ANO NEW HOLLAND
190000, Russia, Saint Petersburg, Admiralteysky Canal Embankment, 2
www.newhollandsp.com

PROGRAMME THEMES

Contemporary Art: Current Approaches

Garage Museum of Contemporary Art Lectures

Curator: Ekaterina Lazareva, Ph.D. curator of the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art

The third joint series of lectures of the *Garage Museum of Contemporary Art* and New Holland Island brings together artists, curators, critics and scholars who will talk about what art is in the 21st, how this concept is changing over time, what formats, conceptual approaches and methodologies are relevant today.

More than half a century has passed since the emergence of contemporary art. Today, the logic of its narrative increasingly abandons the linearity inherent in modernism, justifying the diversity of phenomena by a consistent change in artistic trends. The eclectic landscape of contemporary art in “the epicentres” complements the polyphony of differences on the periphery. The vertical Eurocentric art history is being replaced by a horizontal global one.

The variety of available intellectual sources and critical approaches gives the freedom to address all relevant agendas and research scopes. Science fiction and speculative geography, grand narratives and slow activism, the back of psychoanalysis and non-human agents - these and other intellectual and artistic territories comprise the new series of the lectures from the *Garage Museum of Contemporary Art*.

Science and Technology

Lectures from ITMO University

Curator: Daria Denisova, Director of the Centre for Scientific Communication at ITMO University

A series of public lectures on science and technology from ITMO University will take the audience to the epicentre of the technological revolution, where discoveries that expand the boundaries of modern ideas about the world and human possibilities happen every day. Leading scientists and popularisers of science will talk about the way computer technologies predict the spread of epidemics, why economists want to scan the human brain and why the world is in no hurry to come to grips with climate change. Invited researchers of science will look at scientific and technological progress through the prism of social, political, and economic changes, in the context of reality, rather than in isolation from it. Lecturers will explain why machine learning interferes with our ideas about social justice, how scientific superpowers are born and where myths about science in cinema come from.

Design

Lectures from New Holland Island design team

Curators: Ivan Herz, Artyom Strizhkov, Valentina Schapova, Igor Simkin, Anya Morozova

Lectures on design aim to create a platform for leading independent studios, social projects, and research in the field of design. Lectures and film screenings, workshops, one-day exhibitions and first-hand insights will be offered once a month.

Cinema

Lectures from Seance magazine

Curator: Vasily Stepanov, film critic, editor-in-chief of Seance magazine

Seance magazine continues a series of lectures and film screenings dedicated to outstanding film debuts, unknown chapters in the history of cinema, books and the most important trends in the world of cinema

today. Films that are not shown in cinemas, meetings with directors and experts from other cinematic professions, essential to the film process.

Local studies. *Everyday life of St. Petersburg - from the beginning to the present day*

Curator: Yulia Galkina, journalist, special correspondent of The Village, co-author of the book The Stories of St. Petersburg Houses told by their residents

The main characters of this series are ordinary people as they are the most interesting phenomenon of the local history. What was the life of a 19th-century citizen like? Why in the 21st century St. Petersburg millennials suddenly fell in love with the old housing? What was it like to live in the House of Political Convicts and the *Tear of Socialism* building? Areas of new buildings: deprivation and destruction of social institutions or strong horizontal ties? Lecturers are historians, city guides, sociologists, researchers of St. Petersburg and will try to answer all these questions. The aim of the series is to show how St. Petersburg's daily life has changed and why it affects us more than we would like.

Architecture

Lectures from the architectural magazine Project Baltia

Curator: Vladimir Frolov, architectural critic, editor-in-chief of Project Baltia magazine

The fourth year of the lecture series is dedicated to personalities: first of all, to the creators of buildings and ensembles, but not just them. Traditionally, the common theme set by curator Vladimir Frolov will be refracted in its own way at every meeting. Lecturers will discuss the great architects and engineers of the past, give an opportunity to speak to those who design and build works of architecture today, talk about the all-powerful figure of the client and the role of tradesmen - masons, carvers, programmers, as well as look at the profiles of house residents from different eras.

The subject of heroism will have a special place in the series of lectures. Should those who created the most monumental structures be called the true heroes of architecture? Or the real leaders of the profession are those working on the most outstanding examples from the creative point of view? Is there a place for heroism in today's time where any kind of heroism seems to be alien? Or maybe modern heroes are the ones who preserve existing buildings rather than design new ones?

The lectures will highlight and discuss a variety of aspects of heroism and the heroic in architecture: the phenomenon of "celebrity architecture" of the 1990s and 2000s and the reasons for its decline, the Nietzsche-like character of the architects of totalitarian regimes, the public as the key participant in heroic construction works in the USSR of the 1960s, and, of course, the heroes of the city on the Neva — architects, critics, artists of architecture: from Peter the Great's Baroque to meta-modernism and super-eclecticism of our day.

Philosophy: Imagine the Future

Curator: Alla Mitrofanova, independent art critic and philosopher, member of the Cyberfeminist International, curator of Philosophical Caf" (open seminars on modern philosophy)

The beginning of the 20th century was associated with the rise of the trend for imagining the future in the fantastic novel *Red Star* by Alexander Bogdanov, as well as the works of Herbert Wells and Alexander Belyaev. In the last ten years we have seen a shift from critical thought to projective imagination. Without imagination and modelling the future does not come, and we get stuck in the stale waters of the present as the only available option. If we accept reality as a process, we become curious about the direction which transformation can develop in. Imagination is not a dream about the unattainable, not a utopia, but the concentration of the meanings attached to a new configuration of reality which requires a preliminary analysis of processes, reinvention of cultural codes and perspectives.

Imagination (political, social, cultural) requires systemic participation of many groups and the broadening of the horizon of reality. We can say that the imagination opens up a perspective into which reality is drawn. Lecturers will talk about new aesthetics, social processes, new forms of work (caring professions), environmental ecology of nature and society, will consider examples of creative projects that change the boundaries of admissible meaning, and cultural codes with which we form our reality.

New Social Reality: lectures from Takie Dela publication

Curator: Takie Dela publication

Takie Dela portal tells the stories of people from all over the country and writes about social problems to draw attention to them and try to solve them together. Lecture series *Takie Dela* will invite the audience to think and understand the meaning of the term “social” today, to ponder on how our society is changing and how it concerns each of us. Can we influence these changes? Why should we talk about social problems at all and what kind of language do we need? People creating real change — who are they? And after all, how should we live with it?

Academic Music: The School of Listening

Curator: Nina Ivanova, independent curator, ex-curator of the educational project about music Musitoria in which she produced more than 100 lectures on music. She curated an educational panel for Colisium Workshop musicians at the Colisium International Music Conference. She was the coordinator of the showcase-festival Colisium Music Week. specialist in marketing communications in culture, former marketing specialist of the St. Petersburg Shostakovich Philharmonia, a visiting lecturer at the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts, the department of Communications in Culture.

The School of Listener is a lecture programme created by independent curators, researchers, and promoters of classical music. The task of the *School* is to help those who want to understand and appreciate academic music, but for some reason do not do it.

There are many stereotypes around classical music that interfere with its perception. In the *School of Listening* in the format of anti-didactic lectures and master classes will be an attempt to overcome these stereotypes. The task of each lecture is not to teach, but to work out solutions for the problems that the novice listener usually faces. The structure of the programme is based on general questions, such as “why even listen to classical music?” and more specific, such as “how to choose a concert?”.

The audience will look for answers to these questions together with the course experts — specialists in different fields of musicology, art researchers, composers and those who have made listening to music a career of their lives.