



12.09 – 1.12.2019

БЕССМЕР-  
ТНОЕ • УЛ  
ИМПОРТА-

## URAL INDUSTRIAL BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Ural Industrial biennial of contemporary art is one of the biggest Russian regional projects in the field of contemporary art with international participation, organized and held by the Ural Branch of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts (NCCA-ROSIZO) in Ekaterinburg and the Ural region since 2010.

Uniqueness of the Ural Industrial biennial is defined by specifics of the region itself and its industrial heritage. The Biennial offers a new vector of the area development by utilizing contemporary art as a relevant resource. New meanings arise at the intersection of contemporary culture and local specifics, involving the region in the cultural context. The Biennial is a unique event not only in its concept and scale but also in cooperation with business community, functioning industrial enterprises, key cultural institutions and large companies of the Urals.

Industrialness defines the uniqueness of the project.

Since 2010, the Biennial does:

- revitalize abandoned industrial sites;
- explore new means of artistic and cultural production;
- research notion of labor in post-industrial society;
- run historical research projects about the industrial part of the Ural;
- replicate its practices and make it accessible for other cultural institutions in the Ural region.

### STRUCTURE

- Main project – the key exhibition, occupying an abandoned industrial site.
- Artist-in-residence program – intertwines artistic and industrial practices: international artists visit operating plants and factories of the Ural and, during their stay, create site-specific projects, to which the team launches guided bus tours, starting in early summer.
- Performance platform – conceive new theatrical formats and create performances for nontheatrical spaces.
- Intellectual platform – serves as the discussion platform for the issues, raised by the main project, and invites the public to get acquainted with important strands of thought.
- Educational program – ongoing participatory project focused on art-mediation, storytelling practices and new ways of audience involvement along with traditional formats.

### **1st URAL INDUSTRIAL BIENNIAL**

*Theme:* Shockworkers of the Mobile Image

*Curators:* Ekaterina Degot (Moscow/Cologne), Cosmin Costinas (Bucharest/Vienna), David Riff (Moscow/Berlin)

*Dates:* 09.09.2010–10.10.2010

*Venue of the Main project:* Uralsky Rabochy Publishing House

*Site:* <http://first.uralbiennale.ru>

The main themes of the 1st Biennial explored industrial and symbolic production, industrial and artistic labour, industrialness and post-industrialness in the context of Ekaterinburg and the Ural region. The specifics of this context lies in the hybrid economy of the city and the region; this duality distinguishes the Ural from Europe as well from an industrial Asia by connecting them and making its socio-economic situation a global status.

### **2nd URAL INDUSTRIAL BIENNIAL**

*Theme:* The Eye Never Sees Itself

*Curator:* Iara Boubnova (Sofia, Romania)

*Dates:* 13.09.2012–22.10.2012

*Venue of the Main project:* Uralsky Rabochy Publishing House

*Site:* <http://second.uralbiennale.ru>

The 2nd Biennial focused on the exploration of the potential of contemporary art for appropriation and reconfiguration of various non-exhibition spaces and creation of new viewers' communities. The Biennial expanded the meaning of *industrial* through studying the figure of an artist as the subject of production.

### **3rd URAL INDUSTRIAL BIENNIAL**

*Theme:* Mobilisation

*Curators:* Biljana Ciric (Shanghai, China), Li Zhenhua (Beijing/Zurich)

*Dates:* 09.09.2015–10.11.2015

*Venue of the Main project:* Iset Hotel (monument of constructivist architecture)

*Site:* <http://third.uralbiennale.ru/en/>

The key term of the 3rd Biennial is *mobilization* as an ability to change and to rise to a fundamentally different level. The main research direction of the Biennial is to define specifics of contemporary mobilizational scenarios, possibility of reconsidering conceptual apparatus and what is the role of culture, critical thinking and contemporary art in a situation of mobility.

#### **4th URAL INDUSTRIAL BIENNIAL**

*Theme:* New Literacy

*Curator:* João Ribas (Porto, Portugal)

*Date:* 14.09.2017–12.11.2017

*Venue of the Main project:* Ural Instrument-making plant

*Site:* <http://uralbiennale.ru/en>

The 4th biennial was dedicated to work and recreation in the near future. It anticipated the coming social, economic and cultural changes. The fourth industrial revolution of information and communication technologies has transformed the way we live, work, dream, and play. How might the visual and bodily practices of contemporary artistic production form the basis for understanding the speeds, languages, and interfaces of this transformation? Employing the exhibition as a tool for visual, experiential, and discursive investigation, the 4th Ural Industrial Biennial will be organized around a series of convergent themes and will propose forms of critical literacy toward understanding the future of our network-driven conditions.