

V-A-C Foundation presents:

Paweł Althamer

Anatoly Osmolovsky:

Parallel Convergences

1 June – 6 October 2013

Curated by Nicholas Cullinan

Casa dei Tre Oci

Giudecca – Zitelle

Venice, Italy

29, 30, 31 May

Open 10am–6pm

Press preview with the
participation of the curator
and the artists

30 May, 10am–1pm

Opening

31 May, 3–6pm

Paweł Althamer

Anatoly Osmolovsky

Parallel Convergences

V-A-C Foundation, a not-for-profit, Moscow-based institution, committed to the international presentation, production and development of Russian Contemporary Art, is proud to present the exhibition **Paweł Althamer and Anatoly Osmolovsky: Parallel Convergences**. This unique project brings together for the first time the work of these artists – one Polish and the other Russian – both of whom are from the generation shaped by the decisive shift from communism to post-communism, experienced in Russia and the Eastern Bloc in the early 1990s, and whose work shares many interesting parallels.

The exhibition pairs Althamer with Osmolovsky in a fluid conversation that acknowledges the differences between their works as well as the many similarities and overlaps. Despite the different forms and media they adopt – ranging from sculpture, installation and video, to more politically engaged actions and social forms of practice – the work of both artists often pivots around the idea of the body and modes of perception.

Paweł Althamer (b. 1967, Warsaw) will be represented by works that embody some of the central concerns tackled in his practice: collaboration, self-portraiture and the centrality of subjective human experience. Althamer's major video cycle *So-called Waves and Other Phenomena of the Mind* from 2003–4, an eight-screen installation of short films made in collaboration with the Polish artist Artur Zmijewski, will be shown in its entirety. The videos document Althamer's experiments with an array of mind-altering substances, ranging from hashish, LSD and magic mushrooms to peyote and truth serum, while also exploring hypnosis and the varying psychological states engendered by all of these means. Consciousness, rather than an altered conscious *per se*, is enacted in one of the videos titled *Veronika* (2004), which chronicles, in graphic but objective detail, the birth of the artist's daughter.

victoria –
the art of being
contemporary

виктория –
искусство быть
современным

119021, Россия, Москва, Олсуфьевский переулок, дом 8, строение 2
+(495) 643 1976

Olsufievskiy side-street, 8, bld. 2, Moscow, Russia, 119021

V — a — c

The video then jumps forward several years to father and daughter playing in a park together and the way in which seeing things anew through her eyes transforms Althamer's perception and understanding of the world around him, and through which the quotidian and mundane become marvellous. Althamer will also present a large-scale new bronze cast of the work *Parys*, which continues the investigation into monumental and statuesque forms of the human body that has spanned his career.

Anatoly Osmolovsky (b. 1969, Moscow) will be considered in the exhibition by a survey of his work in all media dating from the early 1990s until now, most of which have seldom been seen outside Russia. Osmolovsky began his career in the (then) Soviet Union as a writer in the late 1980s and staged a series of confrontational political performances in Moscow as the leader of the E.T.I. (Экспроприация Территории Искусства – Art Territory Expropriation) movement. Most of his production in those years was characterised by collective participation, working closely with the members of the *Radek Community*, who saw art as a tool for protest. These important actions will be represented in the exhibition through a series of films and documentary photographs. In 1995, Osmolovsky founded *Radek* magazine, a Russian journal that put forward a politically radical and intellectually wide-ranging agenda, during the rise of Eastern Europe's period of 'wild capitalism'. By the early 2000s, Osmolovsky once again began to consider the more formal aspects of his art practice. Osmolovsky's move into sculpture over the last decade or so will be examined in the exhibition through a series of major works such as *Hardware* and *Breads*, which manifest his radical shift towards investigating the vexed legacy of both Russian icons and the early-twentieth century *avant-garde*. New works by Osmolovsky that have not previously been exhibited will also be presented.

Althamer and Osmolovsky will also collaborate together on a new sculptural work for the V-A-C exhibition, which will evolve through an exchange of ideas between the two artists.

Pawel Althamer and Anatoly Osmolovsky: Parallel Convergences

is curated by Nicholas Cullinan, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

V-A-C Foundation supports as donor the 55th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

A fully illustrated catalogue will be produced to accompany the exhibition.

V-A-C is dedicated to the international presentation, production and development of Russian contemporary Art – across a multitude of forms and within the framework of an invigorated and informed educational programme. Particularly important to the new generation of artists in Russia, V-A-C's focus is on practically supporting and expanding the platform for home-grown talent, giving artists the opportunity to experience, engage with and interrogate international cultural practices whilst developing an authentic and autonomous artistic language. It is deservedly considered as one of the key proponents in opening out contemporary Russian culture to the wider world, and practically supporting and developing emerging artists through finding new international platforms for exhibition and opportunities for commissions as well as ways of encouraging cross-cultural exchange – especially important in the current climate.

For all further information

please contact:

Helen Weaver
International PR+Development,
V-A-C Foundation
Tel. +44 (0)7772 159219 (UK mobile)
+39 346 2165881 (Italian mobile)
helweaver@gmail.com

**victoria –
the art of being
contemporary**

**виктория –
искусство быть
современным**

119021, Россия, Москва, Олсуфьевский переулок, дом 8, строение 2
+(495) 643 1976

Olsufievskiy side-street, 8, bld. 2, Moscow, Russia, 119021

V — a — c

Notes to Editors

Full Artist/Curator biogs available on request

About V-A-C Foundation

V-A-C Foundation is a non-for-profit private institution founded in Moscow in 2009 and committed to supporting contemporary art in Russia. Our focus is directed towards contemporary art and cultural practice with the aim of providing a platform for creativity in the wider sense of the word. We strive to be actively engaged in artistic production, rather than the patronage or sponsorship of ongoing artistic processes. V-A-C is deeply committed to the growing importance of art made in Russia as well as the new generations of artists from around the world.

www.v-a-c.ru

About Casa dei Tre Oci

Casa dei Tre Oci was designed by the artist Mario De Maria (Marius Pictor) and built in 1913. It is an acclaimed example of neo-gothic architecture in Venice, officially declared as a palazzo of historic and artistic interest by the Direzione Regionale per i Beni Culturali e Paesaggistici del Veneto in 2007. Bought by Fondazione di Venezia in 2000, following a period of careful restoration, it became a public exhibition space, showcasing contemporary art exhibitions with particular attention on photography. Casa dei Tre Oci has always been a place of artistic production, a centre for meetings and debates, a studio space for artists taking part in the Biennale, hosting internationally acclaimed figures such as Peggy Guggenheim, Sciltian, Morandi, Fontana, Dario Fo' and Renzo Piano. The Casa dei Tre Oci exhibition space is managed by Civita Tre Venezia in association with Veneto Banca.



Tre Oci

Full Address

Casa dei Tre Oci
Giudecca 43
Venice, Italy
(Vaporetto Stop "Zitelle")
www.treoci.org

Opening hours

Every day 10 am – 6 pm
Tuesday closed
free admission

For all further information

please contact:

Helen Weaver
International PR+Development,
V-A-C Foundation
Tel. +44 (0)7772 159219 (UK mobile)
+39 346 2165881 (Italian mobile)
helweaver@gmail.com

**victoria –
the art of being
contemporary**

**викторія –
искусство быть
современным**

119021, Россия, Москва, Олсуфьевский переулок, дом 8, строение 2
+(495) 643 1976
Olsufievskiy side-street, 8, bld. 2, Moscow, Russia, 119021