



## XVI Media Forum 37 Moscow International Film Festival

**Dates:** June 21—26, 2015.

**Venue:** Multiplex Cinema October (Novy Arbat St., 24),  
MUZEON Summer Movie Theater (Krymsky Val, 2).

**Project curator:** Olga Shishko (art director of the MIFF Media Forum, director of the Centre for Art And Culture MediaArtLab).

**Producer:** Elena Rumyantseva (program director of the MIFF Media Forum).

**Event Organizers:** MediaFest, Centre for Art and Culture MediaArtLab.

**Co-organizer:** MUZEON Art Park

**With support of:** Prokhorov Foundation, Swedish International Committee for artists support Jaspis, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of the United States of America in the Russian Federation, Embassy of the State of Israel in the Russian Federation

Event participants: Gary Hill (USA), Anri Sala (Albania-France) together with Liria Begeja (France), Anton Ginzburg (Russia-USA), Santiago Sierra (Spain), Yael Bartana (Israel), art group Provmyza (Russia), art group "Boundless expanses" (Russia), Guido van der Werve (Netherlands), Aram Karsi (Russia), Bill Morisson (USA), Johanna Billing (Sweden).

Participants of the *Talking Cinema Parallel Program*: Nicolas Rey (France), Alain Cavalier (France), Jonas Mekas (USA), James Benning (USA), Angela Ricci Lucchi & Yervant Gianikian (Italy).

Participants of the *Great Expectations Project*: Antonina Baever, Evgeny Granilshchikov, Elena Koptyaeva, Roman Mokrov, Sasha Pirogova, Tatiana Akhmetgalieva and Albert Soldatov (all — Russia).



XVI Media Forum of the Moscow International Film Festival is an annual parallel program within the film festival, which brings together contemporary artists and film directors working between the intersections of film, video and media art.

Exhibition, theater and movie theater spaces converge and expand their spheres of influence: contemporary video artists can be seen more and more within programs of film festivals, while film directors – at the museum spaces. Reflecting on this trend, this year's Media Forum rejects the usual exhibition format and places new works by internationally known video artists in the **movie theatre space**. Contemporary avant-garde art also falls within this research interest: multidisciplinary projects break standards of audience's perception, reflect on artistic method and go beyond movie screens and exhibition halls.

The 2015 Media Forum is bringing several season **premieres of international video art celebrities** to Moscow, among them — **Gary Hill, Yael Bartana, Johanna Billing and art group Provmyza**. And works by artists **Anri Sala, Santiago Sierra, Guido van der Werve, Bill Morrison and Anton**

**Ginzburg** who have been acclaimed by the leading film festivals and museums of the world, such as **MoMA** in New York, **Stedelijk Museum** in Amsterdam, **film festivals in Locarno, Rotterdam, Manchester**, and galleries of London and Berlin.

## **Program *Video Walk with a Troubadour*: 11 works by international stars of video art and artist talks**

*Video Walk with Troubadour* is the Main program of the Media Forum, which will be held on **June 21-26 at the October Movie Theatre**. The program explores performative possibilities of sound **and its influence on psychological and visual experiences**: each of the 11 artists somehow violates the barriers of perception and the spectator's usual comfort zone. This program is the start of long-term and large-scale **interdisciplinary project on sound in contemporary visual culture**, which will include workshops, research conference, several exhibitions and educational program in the coming year. The project will continue on through inviting new artists, curators and spaces, with the aim to foster the development of different and alternative views on the topic at future stages.

In the works of the program *Video Walk with Troubadour*, music, text and images intertwine in a touching, intimate and irrational message, which makes these contemporary artists similar to troubadours – authors of ancient songs. From the moment of its emergence, a song was an imaginative and emotionally charged message, combining melody and lyrics, author's personal experience and performing style. Medieval troubadours were musicians and poets, keen observers and sincere artists at the same time. They were the first to talk about the world as bearers of high culture, at the same time remaining accessible to common people: they performed their songs both at court and city squares. So troubadours were the first artists for the masses, involving citizens and peasants in the art, previously available only for the elite, behind closed doors.

According to the concept elaborated by **Olga Shishko, curator of the program *Video Walk with Troubadour***, contemporary experimental artists are troubadours of today – nomads and pioneers, authors and narrators at the same time. They work **beyond geographic and genre boundaries**, combine authors and performers within themselves, reject usual narrative and literal images. They have a colossal potential to tell complex things in a simple way, clear to everyone, address the audience in an intelligible yet lyric language, which is intuitively understood by everyone. Instead of a one-sided narrative of everyday life they offer a lyric allegoric dialogue of sound pieces and visual images, rich in associations and open to interpretation. Their main method of interaction with the audience is through works based on sound, melody, musical fragments, lyrics and poetics of noise.

Invisible and intangible sound, which seems to be a secondary instrument in video and cinema, is in fact the **key element of atmosphere and dramaturgy of the moving image** since sound film has emerged. The main feature of the sound is a freedom from the viewer's control. The sound is able to affect inner conditions and provoke emotions independently of our will, to create an alternative narrative, which contravenes what we see and comprehend. Music, text and images in the work of every artist of the program intertwine into a touching intimate experience, unique for every viewer, yet bearing a recognizable author's manner.

## **Gary Hill. Retrospective**

American artist **Gary Hill** has dealt with linguo-acoustics throughout his entire career and explores border between noise and narrative, when words cease to be an array of spoken sounds and acquire meaning. The outstanding experimentator and thinker **comes back to Moscow** for the Media Forum to **meet audience** and present his **new work *The Psychedelic Gedankenexperiment*** about hidden linguistic mechanisms of psychedelic experience and sound manipulations. Gary Hill is one of the live classics of conceptual video art, a pioneer of sound installations and a researcher of the corporeal;

more than 40 years he works at the intersection of linguistics, avant-garde poetry and video art. His **Retrospective** at the Media Forum, which includes his most significant works, will allow tracing the trajectory of his creative work.

Swedish artist **Johanna Billing** will present her recently accomplished work ***Pullheim Jam Session*** about spontaneous combination of sounds from 60 cars stuck in traffic and impromptu pianist, who rehearses nearby. Billing's creative work in general and this piece in particular is about a collective sound, which is formed of individual melodies, about a sound vector of each person, and their intersection in a public space.

Israeli artist **Yael Bartana** will be at the Media Forum with her work *Paradise*, in which she talks about a search of inner harmony and identity through ancient sound rituals, pagan and Jewish prayers and religious sound trance.

New work by the **Russian art duet Provmyza** (Galina Myznikova and Sergey Provorov) and art-group ***Boundless expanses*** *Canons and eves* reflects upon the topic of representation of body in actionism, and contraposes conventional voices – sound sequences – of 'high' and 'low' culture.

The work by Albanian artist **Anri Sala and Lidia Begeja** ***1395 Days Without Red*** is a poetic metaphor of war tragedy and life under fire, when bright color of clothes makes you an easy target for snipers, and a pass through home street may become a road of death. Music by Tchaikovsky resonates with dismay, fear and inner strength of the heroine, and poses the question about possibility of survival in conditions of war without losing one's identity.

American artist of Russian origin **Anton Ginzburg** in his film ***Walking on the Sea*** reinterprets the Soviet utopia during a solitary and meditative journey along the bottom of dried-up Aral sea. Landscape has altered beyond recognition after the Soviet agricultural reforms and irrigation projects, and the music emphasizes unworldly nature of the present almost cosmic landscape of the desert.

Dutch artist **Guido van der Werve** in his video ***Nummer Veertien*** embarks on a poetic journey from Paris to Warsaw – cities where body and heart of Chopin were buried. 1700 kilometers of his journey are broken into chapters by church choirs, which create a parallel storyline and help legendary composer to metaphorically reunite in his parts.

Work by **Santiago Sierra** ***Lucia and Prisoners*** captures author's experiment on 5 men in one of Vienna's prisons. Experimental lamp system Lucia is able to induce ecstatic experiences, possible in natural environment only after many years of meditation. Disquieting sound of operating camera, video portraits of sitting prisoners and hectic electrical rhythm of the experiment unveil mechanism of almost near-death experience: Sierra demonstrates borderline states through electrical sound and disturbing synthetic nature.

Visual poetry of **Bill Morrison** in his ***Great Flood*** is a meditation on catastrophic flood in Mississippi in 1927 accompanied by musical improvisation of Bill Frisell and devoid of facts, figures and narration. Through animated photos, carefully selected chronicles and cinematic soundtrack, going against traditions of documentary, Morrison recreates the story of struggle for life and patient resistance to natural disaster.

## **Parallel Program of Media Forum in collaboration with Muzeon Art park: *Talking Cinema* and *Big Hopes* at the Summer Movie Theater MUZEON**

Parallel Program of the XVI Media Forum will be held at the Summer movie theater MUZEON. *Talking Cinema* Program curated by **film critic Alexey Artamonov** consists of several outstanding pieces of

contemporary avant-garde cinema, where authors experiment with possibilities of narration. The program will present films-essays ***Differently***, ***Molussia*** by **Nicolas Rey**, ***Le Paradis*** by **Alain Cavalier**, ***Outtakes From the Life of a Happy Man*** by **Jonas Mekas**, ***Pays Barbare*** by **Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi** and ***Stemple Pass*** by **James Benning**. The film directors work differently with tactics of the so-called *talking cinema*; their films – diaries, films – confessions, films – poems participated in programs of leading international film festivals — Berlinale, festivals in Rotterdam, Locarno, Toronto, Vienna and Torino. Artistic strategies of these films go beyond both traditional entertaining cinema and festival art mainstream, that is why their works remain virtually unknown to the mass audience. Screenings at the Summer movie theater MUZEON will provide the important film directors with a place within public space and give an opportunity to the mass Moscow audience to get acquainted with their work.

Within the ***Great Expectations*** cycle Media Forum introduces works by **young Russian video artists**, who also experiment with sound and present an alternative view of contemporary experience. Eponymous exhibition project was held during last year at the Central Exhibition Hall Manege and resulted in a group exhibition. Works by **Antonina Baever**, **Evgeny Granilshikov**, **Elena Koptyaeva**, **Roman Mokrov**, **Sasha Pirogova**, **Tatyana Akhmetgalieva** and **Albert Soldatov** will be shown within one of the screenings at the MUZEON.

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