

**Press Release**

**Yuri Albert. Elitist-Democratic Art**

**21 September 2018 – 20 January 2019**

Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein is devoting the first comprehensive solo exhibition outside of Russia to the Russian-born artist (\*1959) who today lives in Cologne and Moscow.

“Is it possible to make an absolutely incomprehensible artwork?” – Yuri Albert

Yuri Albert is one of the most important exponents of the second generation of the Moscow Conceptualists. Excluded from the state culture industry in the 1970s and 1980s, from the official infrastructure of museums and galleries, but also from the discourses of aesthetics and art criticism, the artists themselves were forced to take on the task of presenting, commenting on and reflecting theoretically on their activities. Marked by the historical experience of self-organisation in the late Soviet milieu, Albert arrived at his critical and, at the same time, (self-)ironic reflections on the art system.

The focus of the exhibition showcasing Yuri Albert's work for the first time outside of Russia in this fullness is on the *Elitist-Democratic Art* series (1987–2017). In this series the artist contrasts the language of art with the languages of blind or deaf mute people or also the terminology of sailors and stenographers in order to analyse the individual semiotic systems and the system of art as a whole, their comprehensibility and accessibility. The museum visitor is always an interlocutor in these studies of the relationship between artwork and interpretation, image and text, visibility and invisibility, original and copy. Yuri Albert's works draw us into a dialogue with and about art, inviting us to ponder the status of art: elitist or democratic.

The exhibition conceived in close collaboration with Yuri Albert is a production of Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein in cooperation with the ERC project *Performance Art in Eastern Europe (1950–1990): History and Theory* (University of Zürich), curated by Sandra Frimmel.

**Publication**

The show will be accompanied by a publication in German, edited by Sandra Frimmel and Sabine Hänsgen. It comprises a selection of the artist's texts and a comprehensive works section.

**Opening**

Thursday, 20 September 2018, from 6pm

**Public guided tours**

Thursday, 27 September 2018, 6pm

Thursday, 6 December 2018, 6pm

Thursday, 10 January 2019, 6pm

**Take Away (short guided tours)**

Thursday, 27 September 2018, 12.30pm

Thursday, 25 October 2018, 12.30pm

**Side programme**

**Thursday, 27 September 2018, 6pm**

Guided tour

**Was wollte der Künstler damit sagen? (What did the artist mean by that?)**

with Alex Hanimann

**Thursday, 4 October 2018, 6pm**

Lecture

**Wohnungsausstellungen, Küchengespräche und Reisen aus der Stadt.**

**Yuri Albert im Kontext der inoffiziellen Moskauer Kunst**

by Sandra Frimmel

In cooperation with Liechtensteinische Kunstgesellschaft.

**Thursday, 18 October 2018, 6pm**

Museum Filmclub

**Brillantowaja Ruka**

by Leonid Gaidai, USSR 1968, 88'

**Sunday, 4 November 2018, 11am**

Public guided tour „One Hour“

**Museumsführung mit verbundenen Augen (Blindfolded tour of the museum)**

with Didi Fromherz, in the presence of Yuri Albert

In cooperation with Liechtensteinische Kunstgesellschaft.

**Thursday, 22 November 2018, 6pm**

Museum Filmclub

**Kawkaskaja plenniza, ili nowyje priklutschenija schurika**

by Leonid Gaidai, USSR 1967, 82'

**Thursday, 6 December 2018, 6pm**

Guided tour

**Was wollte der Künstler damit sagen? (What did the artist mean by that?)**

with Stefan Baltensperger and David Siepert

**Thursday, 17 January 2019, 6pm**

Museum Filmclub

**Iwan Wassiljewitsch menjajet professiju**

by Leonid Gaidai, USSR 1973, 93'

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