

PRESS RELEASE, 2 October 2009

RE-IMAGINING OCTOBER

Curated by Mark Nash and Isaac Julien

2 OCTOBER– 13 DECEMBER 2009

Calvert22's third exhibition is *Re-Imagining October*, curated by Mark Nash, writer and curator, and Isaac Julien, artist and film-maker. The exhibition features work by both emerging and established artists from Russia and Eastern Europe, all of whom include the moving image in their artistic practice.

As the title implies, *Re-Imagining October* explores the ways artists have re-imaged and re-imagined a shared history of being part of the Soviet Union. This relationship may be direct, as in the case of Dmitry Gutov, a participant in the Lifshitz Institute group, who seeks to explore the continued relevance of Marxist aesthetics today, or Vadim Zakharov whose photographic works such as *Red Square behind Black Square* echoes the work of the historic Soviet avant-garde in its formal composition. *Re-Imagining October* demonstrates that the relationship to this past can also be much more indirect, as in the video installations of Gluklya and Tsaplya's *Factory of Found Clothing* projects, which draw on traditions of cinema and theatre which can be traced back to Sergei Eisenstein.

Re-Imagining October includes films by artists who visited the former Soviet Union: Abderrahmane Sissako's *October* reflects on the experience of African students in Moscow in the 1980s whilst Derek Jarman's *Imagining October* explores connections between Soviet and Thatcherite homophobia on either side of the Iron Curtain. The exhibition also features Almagul Menlibayeva's *Exodus* from *Unconditional Love* and an element from Kristina Norman's *After-War* installation, both shown at this year's Venice Biennale.

Mark Nash was a co-curator of *Documenta 11*, (2002) and also curated *Experiments With Truth* at the Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia in 2005; *Pere Portabella*, at MOMA New York in 2007; and *The View from Elsewhere* (with Kathryn Weir) at the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney 2009. His book of essays *Screen Theory Culture* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2008. He is Professor and Head of Department, Curating Contemporary Art, Royal College of Art, London.

Isaac Julien is an artist and film-maker. Julien is represented in museum and private collections throughout the world, including Tate, MoMA, Centre Pompidou, the Guggenheim Museum, the Hirshhorn Museum and the Brandhorst Museum. His curatorial credits include *Derek Jarman: Brutal Beauty* in 2008 at the Serpentine Gallery, London, which subsequently travelled to Kunsthalle Zürich and Kunsthalle Wien. He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2001 and was winner of the PERFORMA Award in 2008.

Notes to Editors

Calvert22 is London's first not-for-profit foundation specialising in art from Russia and Eastern Europe and opened in London's East End in May 2009. Founded by Russian art collector and economist Nonna Materkova, Calvert22 presents three curated exhibitions each year, with the aim of promoting Russia and Eastern Europe's rich contemporary art culture. Calvert22 is currently developing a board of expert advisors that includes Joseph Backstein, Commissioner of the Moscow Biennale.

Visitor Information

Address: 22 Calvert Avenue, London E2 7JP

Opening Hours: Wednesday – Saturday: 10am – 6pm; Sunday: 11am – 5pm

Admission: Free

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Nearest Tube: Old St / Liverpool St

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