

CASSINA PROJECTS

Press Release

Devyanostie

Nataliya Chernakova, Daria Dmytrenko, Vitaliia Fedorova, Victoria Kosheleva, Bogdan Koshevoy

with the special participation and prelude by **Chto Delat**

September 22nd – November 26th, 2022

Cassina Projects is delighted to announce *Devyanostie*, an exhibition that gives voice to a group of artists born at the turn of the fall of the Soviet Union, sons and daughters of a period which in the Russian collective consciousness has gone down in history as "the dashing nineties".

Through the use of paint, sculpture, video and installation, in the work of each artists reside cultural attributes of Eastern European, personal childhood memories and a common sensibility which overcomes the geographic boundaries as we know them today.

Devyanostie (**Девяностые**) - literally 90s - is a word that more than pinning an historical period refers to a feeling and to the strong memories of events that occurred with the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Childhood memories of the Devyanostie kids are very different from European children 's memories from the same generation. Speaking with artists emerged a very strong and clear memory of early childhood. Living a period where a socio-economic revolution was impacting each of their lives, remembrance of daily life of this period grew crucial for them, thereafter those memories became central to their creative process and visual expression. Among their practices we can see symbols and visions that clearly unify them.

All the artists have an art education which started from their hometowns - spanning from Yekaterinburg, Dnipro, Kiev and Moscow - and continued in Europe and the USA. They now live and work between Milan, Kiev, Venice, Paris and Moscow.

Parallel to the exhibition, two works of the artistic cell and community CHTO DELAT create a generational confrontation on the theme.

Most of the artists in the Devyanostie exhibition grow up looking up at the collective activity as an artistic point of reference.

The concept of the exhibition was born in December 2021, In light of current events, all the artists participating in the exhibition are unanimously opposed to the ongoing conflict and against any form of war.

Opening hours:
Tuesday – Saturday | 11– 19

Via Mecenate 76/45
20138 Milan, Italy
+39 02 3928 4131

info@cassinaprojects.com
www.cassinaprojects.com

Follow us



WeChat ID: Cassina Projects



CASSINA PROJECTS

Nataliya Chernakova (1990, Yekaterinburg, USSR). After graduating from a BSc in industrial design in Russia in 2011, the artist obtained an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art in London (UK) in 2017. The artist has participated in a number of exhibitions internationally, including the official collateral event "Machines of Loving Grace" at the Venice Biennale (2015). In 2019, Chernakova was among 20 artists shortlisted for the Premio Cairo. The practice of Chernakova can be seen as influenced as equally by contemporary art and society, as by classic art forms, most notably the impressionist and baroque periods, with their focus on sumptuousness matched only by their tendency towards introspection. Above all, the artist's work— whether referencing contemporary artistic trends or historical examples—deals with the thin line between inner and outer worlds and values, and the history of their representation both in painting and sculpture. Along the way the subjects of desire and nostalgia are approached as examples of the emotive longing to impossibly escape life's present conditions which underpins art as an activity.

Daria Dmytrenko (1993, Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine) lives and works in Venice. She studied painting at the National Academy of Visual Arts and Architecture in Kiev (2012-15), and after that she moved to Italy to continue her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. Among the exhibitions in which she took part are *Degree Show II* at Palazzo Monti (Brescia, 2021); *Extraordinario*, Vulcano agency VEGA (Venice, 2020); 103rd Collettiva Giovani Artisti, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Galleria di Piazza S. Marco (Venice, 2020); *Spin Off*, Calle Lunga Santa Caterina (Venice, 2019); *Speculum mundi*, Davide Gallo (Milan, 2018).

Vitaliia Fedorova (1996, Kyiv, Ukraine) is a visual artist based in Kyiv. Her artistic practice focuses on introspection and stretches on the poetic-social axis. Her main interest is to explore the possibilities of art as a political force that not only reflects social processes, but can significantly influence and shape them. Based on the thesis that the personal is always political, she uses the mediums of installation and video in order to transform the personal experience into common, and common into personal. The result of her creative process is reminiscent of storytelling, because it is at this point that she sees an opportunity for open dialogue with the audience. Fedorova began her exhibition activities in 2019 - Erase to make a mark #20, Fondazione Pini, Milan; Second wave, COVIDE019 (2021); ReA Art Fair II edition, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan (2021); Filmmaker Festival, section Prospettive, Arcobaleno Film Center, Milan (2021); Alias, Opal, Milan (2022).

Victoria Kosheleva (1989, Moscow, Russia) is a Russian artist currently living and working between Paris and Moscow. In her artistic practice, Kosheleva combines contemporary and classical imagery, describing her work as a "cyber expressionism". In her paintings, she strives to create surrealistic world consisting of memories and fantasies, images and landscape that are often taken out of their usual context. Kosheleva often uses images of phone screens or movie screens and mirrors, all of which act as portals to the theater of the unconscious.

Bogdan Koshevoy (1993, Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine) lives and works in Venice. In his practice, Koshevoy explores story lines that take place in suggestive open spaces between the dreamlike, the imaginary and the hypothesized. These panoramic imageries are often made up of forgotten architectures and punk characters who weave ever new relationships, giving rise to countless interpretations.

Chto Delat (What is to be done?) Is a collective founded in early 2003 in St. Petersburg by a working group of artists, critics, philosophers and writers with the aim of merging political theory, art and activism. The collective's activities are coordinated by a core group that includes Tsaplya Olga Egorova (artist), Artiom Magun (philosopher), Nikolay Oleynikov (artist), Natalia Pershina / Glucklya (artist), Alexey Penzin (philosopher), Alexander Skidan (poet and critic), Oxana Timofeeva (philosopher), Dmitry Vilensky (artist) and Nina Gasteva (choreographer). The artistic activity is achieved through a wide range of media, from videos and theatrical performances, to radio programs and murals. It includes art projects, seminars and public campaigns. The collective's works are characterized by the use of alien effects, surreal landscapes, specificities and case-by-case analyzes of concrete social and political struggles. In 2013, Chto Delat started an educational platform called the School of Engaged Art in St. Petersburg and also manages a space called Rosa's House of Culture. Since its inception, the collective has published an English-Russian newspaper focused on the politicization of the Russian cultural situation in dialogue with the international context. The collective was part of the Journal of Journal a documenta 12 project in Kassel in 2007; its members participated as fellows in the 11th edition of the Gwangju Biennial in 2016; took part in the Garage Museum Field Research Program in 2017; and has had many other long-term collaborations with large-scale institutions.