

**ALANICA FORUM 2015**

**9th International Art Symposium ALANICA in Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Ossetia, from 1st – 15th August 2015**

**12 & 13 August – International Conference**

**15 August – Exhibition Preview**

***The Identity Complex***

**Art and Identity in the 21st Century**

The 9th International Art Symposium ALANICA in Vladikavkaz, Republic of North Ossetia, will consider how artists and thinkers seek to mirror the complexities of identity formation for societies and individuals in the world today. Long after the established discourse of ‘identity politics’, often associated with the art of the 1980s in the western world, artists around the globe today have been generating a new wave of enquiry into the notion of identity and what it could mean after the advent of globalisation. How could this subject be considered within the broader scope of international society, as well as more specifically in such a diverse region such as the Caucasus?

A new generation of artists today seem to be more interested in the formation of identities as part of a broader understanding of complexity. They are asking themselves how they can achieve an ever more nuanced and relevant understanding of what identity means to individuals and their sense of self, as well as how it can be articulated in creative practice. By considering identitarianism as being an inherently conservative position, this forum will ask – how are artists and thinkers critiquing the myth of national monoculture? And, what kind of expertise and energy can art bring to such a multifaceted and loaded subject?

ALANICA is an international symposium of contemporary art that has been held annually in Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia-Alania, since 2007. There are two main parts to the forum – A 15 day residency and exhibition for invited artist, and an international conference. It is organised by the North Caucasus Branch of the National Centre for Contemporary Art (NCCA), along with the Non-Profit Fund for the Support of Culture, Architecture and Arts “Art Caucasus”; and supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. For ALANICA 2015, twenty artists have been invited to undertake a residency from 1–15 August, engage in dialogue with regional and international artists and thinkers, and create work for the exhibition opening on 15 August. An international conference with invited speakers is planned for 12 & 13 August. The overall forum, including conference and exhibition will be held at the National Scientific Library, Vadikavkaz.

**The curator of Alanica 2015 is Nav Haq, Curator at MuHKA Antwerp**

**www.art-alanica.ru, contact: art-alanica@mail.ru**

**Participating Artists:**

**Alexander Povsner** (Moscow, Russia)

**Alisa Gokoeva** (North Ossetia-Alania, Russia)

**Aslan Gaisumov** (Chechnya, Russia)

**Bouillon Group** (Georgia)

**Dmitri Venkov** (Moscow, Russia)

**Doa Aly** (Egypt)

**Elmas Deniz** (Turkey)

**Evgeniy Granilshikov** (Moscow, Russia)

**Haseeb Ahmed** (USA)

**Homayoun Askari Sirizi** (Iran)

**Ilyas Hajji** (Dagestan, Russia)

**Kazbek Tedeev** (North Ossetia-Alania, Russia)

**Michèle Matyn** (Belgium)

**Nastya Kuzmina** (Moscow, Russia)

**Nazrin Mammadova** (Azerbaijan)

**Oscar Santillan** (Ecuador)

**Savage** (UK)

**Tembolat Gugkayev** (North Ossetia-Alania, Russia)

**Thea Gvetadze** (Georgia)

**International Conference Participants:**

**Alexander Evangely** (Moscow, Russia). Curator, critic, and lecturer in Media Theory at the Rodchenko School, Moscow

**Andrey Misiano** (Moscow, Russia). Curator at Garage Museum for Contemporary Art

**Dmitri Venkov** (Moscow, Russia). Artist based in Moscow

**Erden Kosova** (Turkey). Writer and theorist based in Istanbul

**Haseeb Ahmed** (USA). Artist based in Brussels

**Igor Demchenko** (Stavropol Krai, Russia). Architecture Historian at MIT, Zurich

**Lali Pertenava** (Georgia). Art historian based in Tbilisi, specialising in modern Soviet and Post-Soviet art in Georgia

**Mi You** (China). Researcher, curator and artist. Academic staff at Academy for Media Arts Cologne

**Mia Jankowicz** (UK). Independent Curator and Writer. Lecturer in Fine Art, American University, Cairo

**Michèle Matyn** (Belgium). Artist based in Antwerp

**Nav Haq** (UK). Curator at Museum for Contemporary Art Antwerp (MuHKA), and guest curator of Alanica 2015

**Pascal Gielen** (Belgium). Director of the research centre Arts in Society at Groningen University, Netherlands, and Editor-in-Chief of the ‘Arts in Society’ book series

**Sabina Shikhlinskaya** (Azerbaijan). Independent Curator and artist based in Baku

**ZIP Art Group** (Krasnodar). Artist Collective based in Krasnodar

***The Identity Complex* – Conference Schedule**

The international conference will take place over two days (12 & 13 August), with four sessions each day. Each day will have it’s own theme, and each day will be a mixture of speakers, and artists giving performances. In total, there will be 12 speakers, plus 2 artists’ performances. Each speaker talks for 30 mins followed by 30mins discussion.

**Day 1 – Identitarianism and Difference**

The first day brings perspectives on the question of identity and geography. To what extent should biography be a factor in artistic thinking? How do ideas of difference become legitimised in different contexts? What is the relation of place and its politics towards the formation of identities? Who gets to decide? How might we deal with being an artistic practitioner in a different place, with different conditions of practice and a different story?

Introduction: Nav Haq

Session 1 – 2 hours. Moderator: Nav Haq

Andrey Misiano

Lali Pertenava

Session 2 – 1 hour

Artist’s talk – ZIP Art Group

Session 3 – 2 hours. Moderator: Nav Haq

Erden Kosova

Mi You

Session 4 – 2 hours. Moderator: Andrey Misiano

Mia Jankowicz

Dimitri Venkov

**Day 2 – Place, Politics, Complexity**

In the second day’s activity, we consider the role of art and culture in society. Perhaps complexity is the fundamental condition of today’s world, certainly for cultural producers who are seeking to identify themselves and their practice within it. What is the role of culture today, to what extent is it key to the formation of society? How does the politics of cultural identity manifest itself, aesthetically speaking, in art and architecture?

Introduction: Nav Haq

Session 1 – 2 hours. Moderator: Andrey Misiano

Pascal Gielen

Alexander Evangely

Session 2 – 1 hour

Artist’s performance – Michèle Matyn

Session 3 – 2 hours. Moderator: Nav Haq

Igor Demchenko

Haseeb Ahmed

Session 4 – 2 hours

Sabina Shikhlinskaya

Nav Haq

**Day 3 – group visit to the Caucasus Mountains for conference participants**