

The Co-operative for Creative Research “Krasnaya Shpana”

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The Co-operative for Creative Research “Krasnaya Shpana” is a nomadic collective, which currently consists of three members: Alexey Markin, Olga Shirokostup and Illia Yakovenko, who are based in Hamburg, Moscow and Kyiv. They formed the co-operative in 2014 right after they graduated from Chote Delat’s School for Engaged Art.

All of them have different artistic backgrounds, but all are graduates of Chote Delat’s School for Engaged Art where they gathered

The cooperative is focused on variety of problematics, especially on the post(de)colonial one in relation to Russia and Ukraine. These problematics are approached through the creative research practice that profanates both art and research by encouraging people from various backgrounds - professionals and nonprofessionals, contemporary artists and research fellows, academic scholars and those who are doing their everyday jobs, to engage in the creative process together. This essentially performative process, which emerges in the intersection of creative-artistic and research practices, can open different perspectives on things as well as additional means for production and sharing of knowledge.

The creative research practice is driven by the notion of *creative* that is used in the way the notion of *tvorchesky* is understood in the post-soviet context. While the contemporary term *creative* is almost fully appropriated by capitalism and implies creativity as professional activity that is aimed mostly on promoting commodities for the market, in the soviet and post-soviet context *tvorchesky* is more about the process of creativity as part of the basic human need. The thing in common between *creative* and *tvorchesky* is that both of these notions are tabooed in contemporary art, former for its commercialization, latter for its egalitarianism. In its practice the cooperative attempts to reclaim *creative* and bring *tvorchesky* back as a crucial inseparable part of the people life, as a mean for interaction with the world, mutual coexistence and obtaining of knowledge, therefore resurrecting these notions as important political concepts.

Recent works

Mazeppa - King of Post(de)colonial Studies

street opera-performance

A half-year artistic research on the internet made by the artists, who now have become experts in post(de)colonial studies, will be presented through private and political, by acting, performance and performing.

In the core of the performance lies the real historical figure – Ukrainian hetman Ivan Mazepa, who's always been an ambivalent figure: A hero for Western Europeans and Ukrainians, a traitor for the Russians. In the period of European Romanticism he became part of a collective myth, a main character for many works of art, his figure is still used for political speculations by different politicians from various countries. The performance addresses Mazeppa once again in order to reveal through his figure complexities of the ongoing political processes.

In the times, when in Ukraine is ongoing war fed by the Russian imperialist resentment, Kurds are in full arms fighting against ISIS and Turkish government, Russia continues its airstrikes in Syria – we are doing performance about Mazeppa. Traditional political institutions are incapable to react on what is happening in the world, the academy is incapable to produce relevant knowledge, only art is capable on all of this.

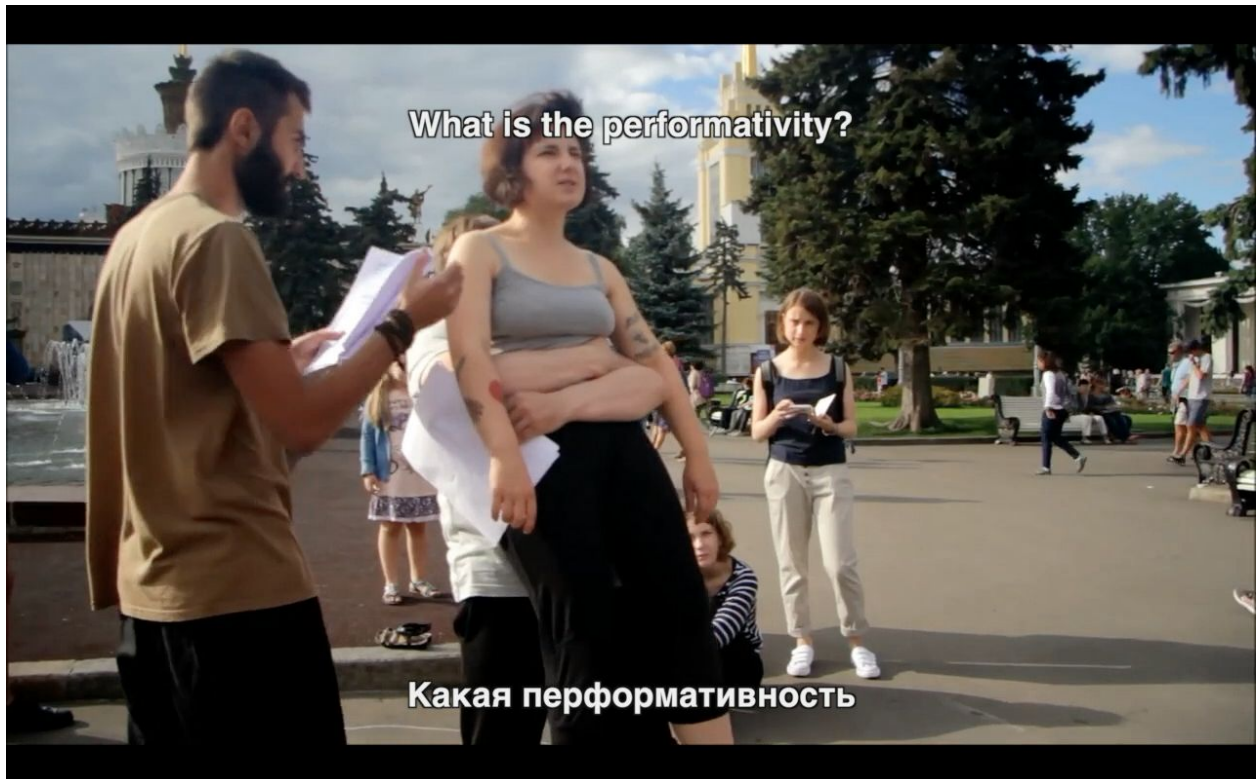
We had unauthorizedly shown this performance once on the Russian soil sprinkled by conservatism, near the former Ukrainian pavilion in the All-Russian Exhibition Centre (VDNKh) in Moscow, and now we are placing it into sterile venues created specially for contemporary art.

Do not miss it!

Originally and independently:

August 15, 2015 - The All-Russian Exhibition Center (VDNKh), Moscow.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjHTGCO_B4o | 13:17



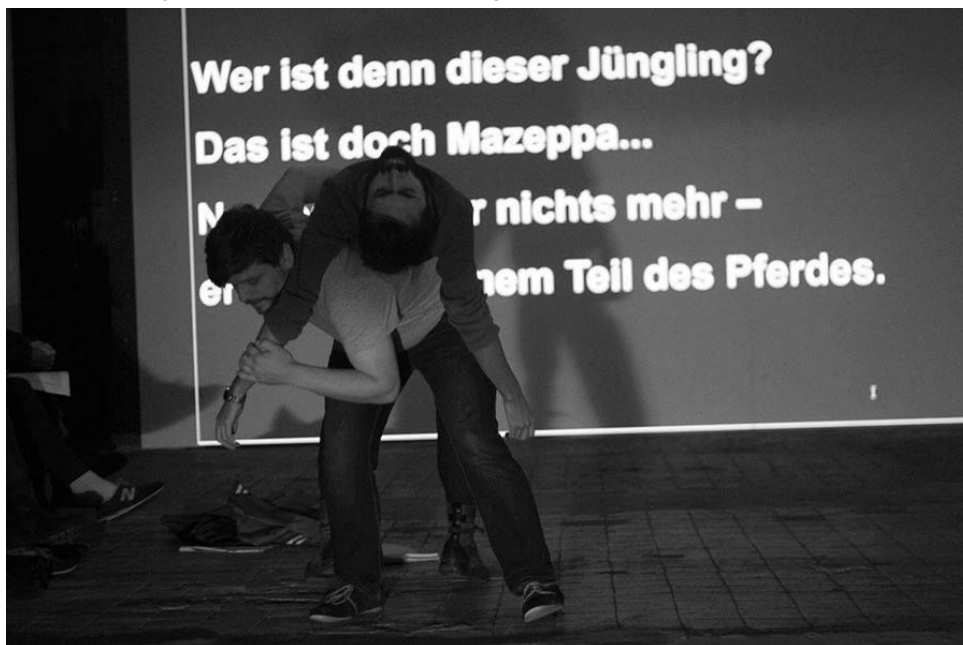
The video documentation was aired on "Odessa" TV channel as part of "TV has attacked us all our lives, now we fight back. Now we make our own TV/Nam June Paik" project.



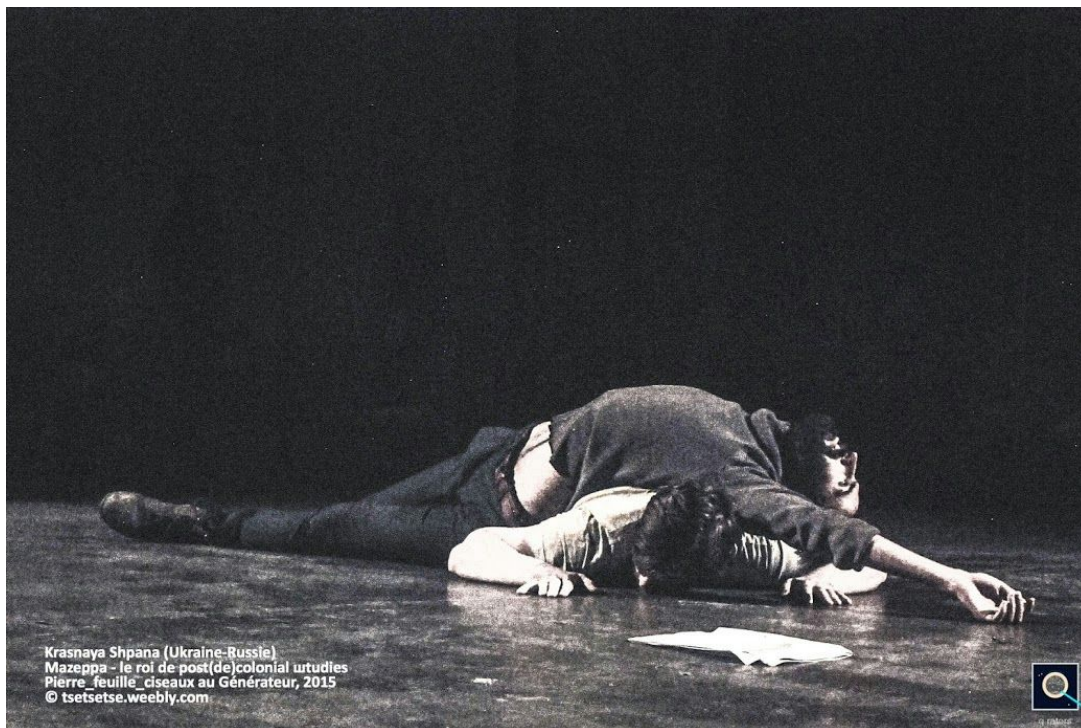
institutionalization:

November 15 - Nordwind Festiva/BalaganI, Kühlhaus, Berlin.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcjddAFLRrQ>



November 21 - Pierre-Feuille-Ciseaux, Le Générateur, Gentilly, France.



In the Shadow of the Big Tree
collective text

A critical text based on our experience of taking part in the production of the film “The Excluded. In the Moment of Danger” by the Chto Delat group and about the School for Engaged Art in general. The text is focused on some aspects of the working relations between the group and the participants. One of the main theses is that, whether intentionally or not, Chto Delat not always does what it claims to be doing, reproduces some capitalist maladies it's fighting against and generally tends to become a corporation alike. This text provoked strong public discussion.

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ОТКРЫТАЯ ЛЕВАЯ

Культура, Полити



Кто и зачем? Политика Право на труд Экономика Культура История Наука Действия Мнения

ПОИСК

В тени большого дерева

Редакция / 6 ноября 2014 /

«Открытая левая» предоставляет площадку для высказывания участникам Школы вовлеченного искусства «Что делать?»

