

The Co-operative for Creative Research “Krasnaya Shpana”:

The Creative Research of the Avant-Garde in Post-Soviet Space

Artists' Talk, Kunstgeschichtliches Seminar, Universität Hamburg, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, 20146 Hamburg, room 119, ESA West

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 Kiev. They formed the co-operative in 2014 after the graduation from Chto Delat’s School for Engaged Art.

The co-operative’s method is based on the practice of *creative research* that is driven by the notion of *creative*, which 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 this 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 people’s life, as a mean for interaction with the world, mutual coexistence and obtaining of knowledge, therefore resurrecting these notions as important political concepts.

Alexey Markin was born in 1979, Moscow. He has graduated from the Moscow Stroganov Academy and currently studies Art History at University of Hamburg. He is an international artist, sculptor and performer.

Olga Shirokostup was born in 1988 in the city of Severomorsk, lives and works in Moscow. She works as producer, performer, curator, manager, singer and writer.

Illia Yakovenko was born in 1989 in Mariupol, Ukraine. He studied economics in Donetsk, later moved to Moscow, there he graduated from the Institute of Contemporary Art Moscow.

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