

December 25, 2018



**OPEN CALL: ART RESIDENCE “CREATION OF THE MIR<sup>1</sup>”  
IN VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA**

**Deadline:** March 11, 2019, 23.59 (GMT + 4)

**From 14th to 19th of May, 2019 the art-residence “Creation of the Mir” will take place in Volgograd as part of the IV<sup>th</sup> festival “Excuse me, have you seen Mr. Losev?”**

**ABOUT**

Victor Losev (1926 – 1995) was a soviet plein air painter. Most of his paintings depict his hometown Volgograd (former Stalingrad) and its residents. Losev used to keep his finished drawings in the basement of the “Chemical reagents” shop. But in May 1969 r. the shop’s supervisor decided to clear the basement for other use and get rid of Losev’s collection works without notification. Thus about 300 canvases, painted by Losev since the beginning of his creative activity in Astrakhan, Tver, Volgograd, Saratov, Krasnodar, Moscow, Narva, Riga, Tallinn and St. Petersburg, had been burnt.

After this scandalous event Victor Losev got more than 5000 letter from all over the USSR in his support. The destroying of Losev’s paintings became turning point in his art. After that event he started drawing miniatures which according to local urban mythology he would give to city dwellers. The artist considered that his drawings depicting a chronicle of Volgograd region via landscapes, portraits, and sketches of everyday scenes, would be safe with people. He worked on the streets of Volgograd for another 26 years becoming a part of the city environment. Volgograd families keep over three thousand Losev’s paintings.

Once a year in May the Volgograd artists go to the city streets to commemorate the artistic rebirth of legendary painter and create objects of art in the urban environment thus adopting and developing model of work within the space of the city that was started by Victor Losev. Since 2016 the festival “Excuse me, have you seen Mr. Losev?” has started. The theme of the festival is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment the sworn brothers relations between Volgograd and Coventry which laid the foundation for the global movement of twin cities. This year’s festival will include the art residence "Creation of the Mir"

**THE THEME OF THE ART RESIDENCE**

Volgograd is a city for which the theme of the war has become self-representative: numerous monuments, sculptures, mosaics in the urban environment continuously remind of the 200 days of the Stalingrad battle.

---

<sup>1</sup> “Mir” in Russian language means “World” and “Peace”.

Constantly living in the context of the past, people of Volgograd struggle to build a vision and strategies for the future. Viktor Losev was one of the few artists of the city who refused to depict war or to romanticize it. To him war wasn't an appropriate tool to resolve conflicts between people. He was depicting a retrospective of the construction of a new City of Peace, the idea of which was gradually forgotten by Volgograd's residents.

Many cities around the globe were damaged by war, choosing its own iteration of the future, strategies for museification, commemoration and interpretation the military heritage. The ART RESIDENCE "CREATION OF THE MIR" sets the task to comprehend and convey the experience of different cities in the "post" condition, using artistic means: what are the ways to build models of the future based on traumatic historical experience? How does the urban environment represent collective and individual (post)traumatic experience? What formats of interpretation and rethinking of heritage can offer contemporary art? Is it possible to formulate solutions for post-war revival scenarios?

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

We invite artists, urbanists and curators working with different media - photography, sculpture, painting, graphics, photo and video installations, performance, choreography, public art. Participatory and community-based art projects are very welcomed.

We seek for applications from colleagues living in the twin cities of Volgograd:

**Vitebsk, Minsk** (Belarus), **Dijon** (France), **Yerevan** (Armenia), **Izmir** (Turkey), **Cologne, Chemnitz** (Germany), **Kemi** (Finland), **Cleveland** (USA), **Coventry** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), **Krusevac** (Serbia), **Liege** (Kingdom of Belgium), **Odessa** (Ukraine), **Olevano Romano, Ortona, Turin** (Italy), **Ostrava** (Czech Republic), **Plonsk** (Poland), **Port Said** (Arab Republic of Egypt), **Ruse** (Bulgaria), **Hiroshima** (Japan), **Chennai** (India), **Chengdu, Jilin** (China).

Russian Federation: **Astrakhan, Grozny, Kazan, Krasnodar, Makhachkala, Moscow, Nalchik, Novosibirsk, Rostov-on-Don, Samara, Saratov, Sevastopol, Tula, Ulyanovsk, Elista.**

## CONDITIONS

Duration of residence - 5 days.

### The participant is provided with:

- transfer;
- accommodation;
- meals;
- shared working space;
- production costs;
- city tour, cultural program;
- visa support.

### The participant is expected to:

- participate of painting on plein air or implement and present his own project;
- attend and participate in public discussions;
- hold an event for residents and guests of Volgograd (workshop, master class, seminar, lecture, etc.)

## APPLICATION PROCESS

2 options (choose the most convenient):

1. Fill in the application online: <http://bit.do/eGPRY> (to apply online you need a Google account);
2. Send the filled application with the attached files to the email address

[losev.art.residence@gmail.com](mailto:losev.art.residence@gmail.com) with the subject City \_ Surname First Name

You can find the application form here <http://bit.do/eGPRM>.

The application is accepted in Russian or English.

Contacts:

Contact persons:

Anton Valkovsky [antonvalkovsky@yandex.ru](mailto:antonvalkovsky@yandex.ru)

Marina Voronova [vmarinas683@mail.ru](mailto:vmarinas683@mail.ru)

Dmitry Grushevsky [ria21vek@bk.ru](mailto:ria21vek@bk.ru)

Tel. +7 (8442) 330 037

**Supported by:**

**Presidential Grants for Civil Society Development Foundation**

