

# ГАРАЖ

CENTER FOR  
CONTEMPORARY  
CULTURE

ЦЕНТР  
СОВРЕМЕННОЙ  
КУЛЬТУРЫ

**PHILIPPE PARRENO**  
**2 March – 4 April 2013**

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture presents the first solo exhibition in Russia by Philippe Parreno, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and with sound composed by Nicolas Becker. The artist will show his most recent work, *Marilyn* (2012) – guiding the visitor through the exhibition space using an orchestration of sounds and images.

For more than twenty years, Parreno has radically redefined the exhibition experience by conceiving his shows as a scripted space where a series of events unfolds. Like the ice skating rink and snow in Gorky Park, Parreno creates an elaborate stage-set for this choreography to take place. Upon entering the exhibition space, visitors encounter an artificial landscape: at opposite ends of the space, snow drifts are sculpted into symmetrical mounds to form a mirror image. Dominating this stark, white expanse is a large anamorphic screen on which the film *Marilyn* plays. The visitors produce 'a form as a crowd' just as skaters produce an ellipse on the ice rink.

*Marilyn* is the portrait of a ghost. The film conjures up Marilyn Monroe through a phantasmagoric séance in a suite at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York, where she lived in the 1950s. Here, the image is taken from the point of view of the deceased Marilyn. The film reproduces Marilyn Monroe's presence by means of three algorithms: the camera becomes her eyes, a computer reconstructs the prosody of her voice and a robot recreates her handwriting. The Hollywood icon is incarnated in an image that is in fact an automaton, something resembling a human, and yet not quite real. When the film is over the lights come on, and sounds from Marilyn Monroe's former suite at the Waldorf Astoria New York hotel are streamed live into the gallery. Then the lights go off, and Marilyn begins to play again.

The exhibition emphasizes Parreno's continued research into the mechanisms of time and space and the manner in which this structures the public's experience. The visitor is subject to the temporal layout of the exhibition, which unfolds like theater.

4th Floor  
21-22 Grosvenor Street  
London, UK W1K 4QJ  
+44 207 290 7610 tel  
+44 207 290 7611 fax  
welcome@garageccc.com  
www.garageccc.com

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## Artist Biography

Philippe Parreno rose to prominence in the 1990s, earning critical acclaim for his work, which employs a diversity of media including film, sculpture, performance, drawing and text. Parreno has sought to redefine the exhibition by exploring its possibilities as a coherent experience rather than as a collection of individual objects. He often scripts the exhibition using temporal and spatial sequencing to activate his works while guiding the visitor throughout the space. Currently at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the artist serves as “metteur en scène” (orchestrator) of *Dancing around the Bride* (on view until January 2013), a unique exhibition for which he has choreographed works by Cage, Cunningham, Johns, Rauschenberg and Duchamp.

In June 2006, Universal released a feature-length documentary directed by Parreno and Douglas Gordon entitled *Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait*, which premiered out of competition at the 2006 Cannes film Festival. Since this project, Parreno has worked with internationally acclaimed film and sound crews, including sound artist Nicolas Becker, sound mixer Cyril Holtz, cinematographer Darius Khondji and film editor Hervé Schneid.

His work is represented in the collections of Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Kanazawa Museum of the 21st Century, Japan; The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Musée d'art moderne de la Ville de Paris; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Modern, London and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

Recently, Parreno has presented solo exhibitions at Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel (2012); Serpentine Gallery, London (2010-11); Centre for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, New York (2009-10); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2009-10); Kunsthalle Zürich (2009) and Centre Pompidou, Paris (2009). Parreno lives and works in Paris.

## Curator Biography

Hans Ulrich Obrist is Co-Director of the Serpentine Gallery, London. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris. In 2012, he co-curated Jonas Mekas, Thomas Schütte: *Faces and Figures*, Yoko Ono: *TO THE LIGHT*, the Herzog & de Meuron and Ai Weiwei Pavilion and the Memory Marathon at the Serpentine Gallery, London; *To the Moon via the Beach*, LUMA Foundation, Arles; Lina Bo Bardi, Casa de Vidro, Sao Paulo and *A call for unrealized projects*, DAAD and e-flux, Berlin. Obrist's recent publications include: *A Brief History of Curating*, *Project Japan: Metabolism Talks* with Rem Koolhaas and *Ai Wei Wei Speaks*, along with new volumes of his *Conversation Series*.

*Garage would like to give special thanks to Marie Auvity, Pattara Chanruechachai and the team at Atelier Philippe Parreno, and sound engineer Cengiz Hartlap.*

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## EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Lectures

Multimedia artist Philippe Parreno's video works are absorbing, like the thrillers of Hitchcock or Lynch; the combination of operatic scale and ambition with a scientific attention to detail is inherent to their experience.

Join art critic Irina Kulik and media art historian Antonio Geusa on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March at 20:00 as they explore Parreno's cinematic influences and how Parreno has revolutionised video art.

Admission is free.

The full schedule can be found online at [www.garageccc.com](http://www.garageccc.com)

### Tours

Saturdays and Sundays, 15:00 - 15:30

As it is best to communicate with video art on a private and individual level, introductory talks will take place at the entrance to the exhibition. Within Russia, Parreno is an 'alien visitor'; this talk provides a brief introduction to the artist, for those unfamiliar with his work.

Admission is free. Early arrival is recommended as seats are limited. Participants should meet at the information desk.

Individual tours are also available at any time at weekends.

### Open Workshops

Saturdays and Sundays, 12:00 - 16:00

For children over 5 years and creative adults.

Admission is free. Booking is not required.

Inspired by the artist, children - individually or assisted by their parents - are invited to create their own fantastic film sets and choose characters to bring them to life!

### Garage Center for Contemporary Culture

Opened in 2008, Garage Center for Contemporary Culture is a major non-profit international project based in Moscow, dedicated to exploring and developing contemporary culture as a platform for new thinking. Garage brings important international modern and contemporary art and culture to Moscow, to raise the profile of Russian contemporary culture and to encourage a new generation of Russian artists. These aims are explored through a series of exhibitions ranging from major surveys of important collections to single-artist retrospectives and group exhibitions. Garage also hosts a strong program of special events, including talks, film screenings, workshops, performances and creative activities for children and young people. In addition, there is a publishing program that is being developed.

Garage is a project of The IRIS Foundation, founded by Dasha Zhukova.

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture

9/45 Krymsky Val

119049 Moscow, Russia

Tel: +7 (495) 645 05 20

[www.garageccc.com](http://www.garageccc.com)

International Press and Images:

Erica Bolton

Bolton & Quinn Ltd,

Tel: +44 20 7221 5000

Email: [erica@boltonquinn.com](mailto:erica@boltonquinn.com)

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