**GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS:**

**PAWEL ALTHAMER. *SILENCE***

*June 1–September 30, 2021*

*Garage Square*

The spatial installation *Silence* by Polish artist Paweł Althamer is a garden for meditation built in the square in front of Garage Museum of Contemporary Art.

To Althamer, each element of the garden—be it a fallen tree or a particular deciduous bush—is a hidden quote, while the composition as a whole is a unique environment where the restless city dweller of today can alter the regime of time, as if transported to a picturesque space in a past era, where the rhythm and pace of life were not by default accelerated to the limit. According to Althamer, *Silence* is a space where everything happens here and now. It is only in such a space that we can truly find time for ourselves.

Working with the community of people with disabilities, with whom he organizes regular sculpture and drawing workshops, has been an important part of Althamer’s practice since 1993. For the artist, this special kind of collaborative authorship represents the therapeutic power of art in action, as well as art’s ability to socialize individuals whose life is otherwise almost invisible to society. For *Silence*, Althamer collaborated with local specialists in working with people with disabilities to create a number of meditations and spiritual and physical practices accessible to everyone, which take place in the garden at specific times. The garden meditations are based on the principle of audio description (a type of narration used to convey visual information to the blind) and require objective and non-judgmental description of objects and the space, which allows us to experience a reality that seems obvious in a different way. Another featured practice, the yoga of vibrations, works with a kind of concentration aided not by music but by vibrations created using instruments such as singing bowls or tuning forks.

The project includes a series of performative events within the installation, which modulate its “silence” in various ways. Althamer’s long-standing interest in folk art and street musicians inspired his collaboration with the Russian band Doros, who continue the Russian singing tradition and specialize in compositions of the 18th and 19th centuries. He has also created a meditative performance in collaboration with Bolshoi Theater performers.

The installation has been created together with MOX landscape architecture and with the support of PANGAIA.

*Curator: Andrey Misiano*

**GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

Garage Museum of Contemporary Art is a place for people, art, and ideas to create history. Through an extensive program of exhibitions, events, education, research, and publishing, the institution reflects on current developments in Russian and international culture, creating opportunities for public dialogue, as well as the production of new work and ideas in Moscow. At the center of all these activities is the Museum’s collection, which is the first archive in the country related to the development of Russian contemporary art from the 1950s through the present. Founded in 2008 by Dasha Zhukova and Roman Abramovich, Garage is the first philanthropic organization in Russia to create a comprehensive public mandate for contemporary art and culture. Open seven days a week, it was initially housed in the renowned Bakhmetevsky Bus Garage in Moscow, designed by the Constructivist architect [Konstantin Melnikov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konstantin_Melnikov). In 2012 Garage relocated to a temporary pavilion in Gorky Park, specifically commissioned from award-winning architect Shigeru Ban. A year later, a purpose-built Education Center was opened next to the Pavilion. On June 12, 2015, Garage welcomed visitors to its first permanent home. Designed by Rem Koolhaas and his OMA studio, this groundbreaking preservation project transformed the famous Vremena Goda (Seasons of the Year) Soviet Modernist restaurant, built in 1968 in Gorky Park, into a contemporary museum.

Garage is a non-profit project of The IRIS Foundation.

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**ABOUT GAZPROMBANK**

Gazprombank is one of the top three banks in Russia and one of the biggest financial institutions in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Bank offers an extensive range of services to corporate and private customers, serving the key sectors of the Russian economy, including the gas, oil, chemicals and petrochemicals, metals, power generation, engineering, transport, construction, communications, agri-industrial, trade and other industries.

Gazprombank’s retail business is focused on providing modern high-tech products and services, including cards, deposits, loans and mortgages, currency exchange operations, brokerage service, insurance, etc. In Russia the total number of offices exceeds 400.

**ABOUT MOX**

MOX is a landscape architecture practice founded in 2008 in St. Petersburg. Yury Fomenko, who has led the practice since it was founded, is one of the most renowned Russian landscape architects working today. MOX works across Russia and abroad and its landscape projects are frequent recipients of professional awards.

**ABOUT PANGAIA**

PANGAIA is a materials science company on a mission to save our environment. The team is a global collective of one heart and many hands—scientists, technologists, designers—creating essential products from innovative tech and bio-engineered materials. Products are designed for living in, for any situation and for basic needs. They are created with smart technology and use as many sustainable and recyclable elements as possible. The partnership between PANGAIA and Garage Museum of Contemporary Art reflects the agenda of today’s world, in which conscious consumption, environmental issues, and the judicious use of our own resources are key.