**GARAGE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS:**

Natalia Turnova. *The Egg and the Rock*

June 1–August 22, 2021

The new Garage Atrium Commission presents large-scale sculptures by Natalia Turnova (b. 1957). Throughout her artistic career, Natalia Turnova has remained outside the focus of art professionals and the viewers, escaping narrow definitions and associations with particular contexts, groups, and collectives. Turnova’s practice is subordinate to her individual evolution, and the project for the modernist atrium space at Garage is an unexpected gesture that distracts the viewer from the “usual” Turnova, with her attention to color, large painterly surfaces, and sculptures made of a broad range of materials.

Within the Atrium, the viewer enters a space created by two large heads, the texture of which is reminiscent of natural surfaces. Interconnected fragments of bark, leaves, and rocks create a complex landscape that is a clear contrast to the regular geometry of the modernist space. The heads form what Turnova calls a “connection hub” that links different spaces within the museum. The visitor becomes a witness to (or participant in) the interaction between two anthropomorphic volumes, one seven meters high, the other noticeably smaller and with a seemingly livelier surface of recognisable organic fragments. The relationship between them cannot be limited to a simple definition: big/small, beginning/end, involvement/detachment. Turnova offers a kaleidoscope of interpretations for the visitor to choose from.

Like many other artists—from the American land artists to members of the Japanese-Korean group Mono-ha—Turnova treads the uncertain territory “after the end of art,” where the focus of attention shifts toward natural materials and archaic forms that seem intentionally simplified or reduced. However, being one of the most ironic Russian artists, she compares the cosmogony presented here to the “making of a snowman:” while rolling the spheres, their surface may accumulate the remains of last year’s leaves and soil.

*The Egg and the Rock* is a free inversion of the attraction to the archaic and the primordial, while also initiating a change in our vision and gravitational and body settings, thus healing both our perception and the museum space as such.

**Natalia Turnova** (b. 1957, Kabul) graduated in Industrial Art from Moscow Higher School of Arts and Industry (formerly Stroganov School; 1983). She has had solo exhibitions at the State Tretyakov Gallery (Moscow), Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Regina Gallery (Moscow), Krokin Gallery (Moscow), Stella Art Gallery (Moscow), Marina Zandman Gallery (Berlin), Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Berlin), and other venues. She participated in the 10th Fellbach Triennial of Contemporary Sculpture (Germany) and her work has been included in group exhibitions at the State Russian Museum (St. Petersburg), the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts (Moscow), the All-Russia Museum of Decorative, Applied, and Folk Art (Moscow), PERMM Museum of Contemporary Art (Perm), Museum AZ (Moscow), Tampere Art Museum (Finland), and other venues. She has been a member of the section of monumental painting of the Moscow Union of Artists since 1996. She lives and works in Moscow.

**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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