

PRESS RELEASE 12 Jul 2017



Image credits (from left to right): Ruslan Vashkevich, *Victory over the Sun*; Gluklya, *Clothes For Demonstration Against False Election Of Vladimir Putin 2011-2015*, detail, installation view '*All the World's Futures*,' 56th Venice Biennale, 2015, courtesy the artist and AKINCL5

HOME ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION *THE RETURN OF MEMORY, PART OF MAJOR RUSSIA SEASON A REVOLUTION BETRAYED?*, MARKING THE CENTENARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Sat 21 Oct 2017 – Sun 7 Jan 2018

New commissions by Declan Clarke & Sarah Perks, Callum Cooper, Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho, Irina Korina, Victoria Lomasko and Ruslan Vashkevich; alongside existing work by The Bureau of Melodramatic Research, Stephen Coates, Phil Collins, Gluklya, Vladislav Mamyshey-Monroe, Yevgen Nikiforov, Marta Popivoda and Aza Shadenova

- Exhibition forms part of *A Revolution Betrayed?*, HOME's major new season of theatre, visual art and film inspired by the centenary of the **Russian Revolution**
- Includes co-commission with **Frieze Projects 2017**, for which South-Korea based **Moon Kyungwon & Jeon Joonho** will tell the story of Taesung, the 'Freedom Village' – an isolated farming community in the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea
- Also features major new commission by **Callum Cooper**, presenting a multi-

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disciplinary project on the world's first and largest seed bank, for which the artist will transplant seeds from St Petersburg to Manchester where they will be grown in local allotments – culminating in a special dinner prepared by award-winning chef **Mary-Ellen McTague**

- *A Revolution Betrayed?* will also feature a new production of **Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*** in a new version by **Andrew Upton**, directed by HOME Artistic Director: Theatre, **Walter Meierjohann**; Theatre 2 shows ***Underground***, presented by **Babel Theatre**, ***The Suicide***, presented by **Manchester School of Theatre** and **Pen:Chant's *Protest & Revolution***; and a specially curated weekend of films from the early days of the Soviet Union when artists and filmmakers such as **Eisenstein**, **Pudovkin** and **Medvedkin** envisaged a bright new future

HOME is delighted to announce its new contemporary group exhibition *The Return of Memory*, forming part of its major Russia season *A Revolution Betrayed?*, inspired by the 100th anniversary of the October Revolution. From a short-lived surge of post-revolutionary optimism came tremendous intentions to change the world, an explosion of new aesthetics and a passion for artistic experimentation. *A Revolution Betrayed?* delves into the history, memory and powerful legacy of the Revolution - from bright new artistic futures, to disillusionment and political disturbance, to the thriving cultural scene that exists in the country today.

In *The Return of Memory*, curated by Sarah Perks, Artistic Director: Visual Art, HOME and Anya Harrison and Olya Borrissova, founders of The New Social, unofficial histories, suppressed memories and strategies of resistance all converge. The exhibition explores how contemporary artists are responding to the state of the 'New East' today. Rather than a nostalgic look at the past, new commissions and existing works re-activate and repurpose key historical and cultural emblems and stories, from the avant-garde and revolution to the collapse of the Communist system and ideology, addressing key questions around the legacy of the Russian Revolution.

Sarah Perks, Artistic Director: Visual Art, HOME, said: "As the world continues to demonstrate new forms of fascism (at worst) and teetering uncertainty around current politics (at best), the centenary of the world's first socialist revolution (with its direct relation to Manchester and Salford via Marx and Engels) has become perhaps the most defining yet neglected moment(s) of the 20th century. With a



contested relationship to all subsequent global politics, now is the time to think about the pre-history and formation of the Russian Revolution, its influences and origins, the events of 1917 and the civil war, the rise of Stalinism, world wars, freeze and thaw, the Cold War, decolonisation of the Soviet Union, the present state of Russia and Putin and perhaps most importantly, debate how the future will play out. *The Return of Memory* and our new publication *Subkultura*, plus our entire season of art, film and theatre, provides an innovative way to think about this centenary and formulate responses across artists and audiences together."

New commissions include Callum Cooper's large-scale multi-disciplinary project on St Petersburg's Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry, the world's first and largest seed bank. Based on the work and discoveries of soviet botanist Nikolai Vavilov, who travelled the world to collect as many crop and edible plant varieties as possible to end world hunger, but due to the shift in political values under Stalin was condemned to die of starvation in a Russian prison, Cooper – in collaboration with Hopwood Hall College and Greater Manchester Allotments - will transplant seeds to Manchester where they will be grown in local allotments. To mark the closing of the exhibition in January, award-winning Manchester chef Mary-Ellen McTague will use the produce to create her twist on a Russian soup for a special dinner at HOME to celebrate all of the projects' participants.

Anya Harrison and Olya Borissova, *The New Social*, said: "*The Return of Memory* spills beyond the borders of Russia and veers off in all directions, taking in Ukraine, Belarus, Romania, Serbia, Manchester and the DMZ, reflecting both the international origins and global repercussions and reverberations of the Revolution and what has since followed in its wake. Whether addressing the future of food security, the implosion of the socialist experiment in former Yugoslavia or how the divergent ideologies and tensions of the Cold War era continue to be propagated in the buffer zone between North and South Korea, the works and projects in this exhibition point to the messy tangle of histories that make up these last 100 years. The result is a consciously chaotic, multi-layered collision of voices and perspectives that deliberately complicate any attempt at a clean narrative and offer up rich opportunities to debate where we go from here."

Ruslan Vashkevich's video installation *Victory Over the Sun* will reassess the politics of the controversial Futuristic opera first organised by Kazimir Malevich and his fellow



avant-garde artists in 1913. Declan Clarke & Sarah Perks investigate who is betrayed by revolution, historical or fictive - a legacy of their 2013 Cornerhouse exhibition *Anguish and Enthusiasm: What Do You Do With Your Revolution Once You've Got It?*.

To coincide with *The Return of Memory*, HOME, in collaboration with The New Social, will launch its ninth publication, *Subkultura* by Artemy Troitsky, peeling away the veneer of approved art to reveal a subcultural history of underground movements from 1815 to 2017 – youth movements and subcultures, fashions, protest, and politics. It is in these subterranean cavities that new movements gestate, long before they are planed down, lacquered and packaged, and distributed through official channels.

The Return of Memory will also include a specially curated film season and live performance.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

HOME, Manchester's centre for international contemporary art, theatre, film and books, officially opened its doors in 2015. HOME is a place for curiosity seekers, for lovers of the dramatic, the digital and the deeply engaging; for radicals and reciprocators. HOME's international contemporary visual art programme is dedicated to presenting new commissions by emerging and established artists of regional, national and international significance. Our focus is bold, visual storytelling that probes and provokes. For 2017-18, HOME's visual art programme explores the challenges of democracy, political deceit and change. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, former National Theatre Artistic Director Nicholas Hytner, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay MBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE. www.homemcr.org | [@HOME_mcr](https://twitter.com/HOME_mcr)

The New Social is an independent London-based collective that stages public programmes - including film screenings, talks and special projects - as a way of rethinking the "New East" (the expansive territory that stretches across Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Baltic, Russia and Central Asia). The New Social was founded by Olya Borissova and Anya Harrison. www.thenewsocial.co.uk | [@TheNewSocial_UK](https://twitter.com/TheNewSocial_UK)

Sarah Perks, Professor of Visual Art at Manchester School of Art, is an international curator, film producer and writer. A specialist in artist film, performance and participatory art, Perks has worked extensively with international established artists including Phil Collins, Rachel Maclean, Rosa Barba, Rashid Rana, Yoshua Okon, Jamie Shovlin, and Stanya Khan. In 2011, Perks set up Cornerhouse Artist Film (now HOME Artist Film), the UK's only specialist producer and distributor of artist feature film, starting with Gillian Wearing's *Self Made* and co-founder of the *Feature Expanded* training initiative. Perks has curated over 25 major exhibitions, most recently *Imitation of Life* with Omar Kholeif including artists Sophia Al-Maria, Jacolby Satterwhite and Michael Armitage (Apr - Jun 2016) *AI and AI: Incidents of Travel in the Multiverse* (Feb - Mar 2016). Recent edited publications of creative meets critical writing include *Fear Eats the Soul*, *Transactions of Desire 2: Are you allergic to the 21st Century?* and *Dark Habits*. Perks is currently producing films with Noor Afshan Mirza & Brad Butler, Gabrielle Brady and Judith Barry; she is also writing her debut novel. Forthcoming major contemporary art exhibitions include *The Return of Memory* on post-Soviet politics and culture, and a major solo show with Louis Henderson as part of ¡Viva! Spanish and Latin American Festival 2018. [@sarahperks](https://twitter.com/sarahperks)

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