

***When The Sun Is Low – The Shadows Are Long*****Press conference: 10 June 2022, 11 am****Opening: 10 June 2022, 7 pm****Runs from 11 June to 25 September 2022**

With Alexander Adamov, Irina Anufrieva, Bazinato, Evelina Domnitch / Dmitry Gelfand, Jazep Drazdovič, Zhanna Gladko, Jan Helda, Zahar Kudin, Siarhiej Leskiec, Masha Maroz, Aliona Pazdniakova, Anton Sarokin, Ala Savashevich, Olga Sazykina, Sergey Shabohin, Jura Shust, Anna Sokolova, Władysław Strzemiński, Masha Svyatogor

Curated by Anna Karpenko

The exhibition *When the Sun Is Low – the Shadows Are Long*, curated by Anna Karpenko, was developed in collaboration with the **Arsenal Gallery, Białystok** and the **Goethe-Institut Warsaw**. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine gives the presentations in Białystok and Leipzig a special urgency. It also underlines the importance of the idea behind the exhibition, which the curator describes as follows:

“The realm encompassed by Belarusian culture does not directly correspond with the geographical or political borders of Belarus. Over the centuries, it has manifested itself in an “ethic of the borderland”, as described by the Belarusian philosopher and poet Ihar Babkou. It is confined by two disparate empires, characterised by diplomatic agency in the West and aggressive power in the East. This location has entailed liminal identities, fluctuating between the “alien in the self” and the “self as alien”. These are forms of existence that do not necessarily seek out direct confrontation with oppressive structures. Rather, they tend to break away from the prevailing order and subjugation, slipping into the gaps created by this state of constant transition, where their way of thinking becomes anchored liminality.

The exhibition *When The Sun Is Low – The Shadows Are Long* links contemporary positions of Belarusian art with two historical references. It highlights the interplay between an interest in tradition, the archaic and cosmology on the one hand, and a striving towards a pure form of modernist avant-garde on the other. The works of twenty Belarusian artists reflect various forms of resistance against repressive systems, whether they be the appropriation of ritual practices, artistic expression through amateur cosmology or the invention of a new language or a game.

When the sun is low, it is unclear whether it is rising or going down.”

Anna Karpenko has been working at the GfZK on a scholarship since February 2021. She studied philosophy at the Belarusian State University in Minsk and sociology at the EHU - European Humanities University in Vilnius. She is currently completing the course of studies "Kulturen des Kuratorischen" (Cultures of the Curatorial) at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig. Her projects as a curator include *Names* (Minsk, 2017), *The Beyonders: Other Histories of Belarusian Art* (together with Antonina Stebir, Minsk, 2019) and *Tam, gdzie teraz – Right, where now* (Lublin, 2020).

She also carries out research on the history of the avant-garde and publishes texts on contemporary art.

*When the Sun Is Low – the Shadows Are Long* was shown at the Arsenal Gallery, Białystok (Poland), from 01.04. to 13.05.2022.

A collaboration between the Arsenal Gallery Białystok, the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig and the Goethe-Institut Warsaw.

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Königreich der Niederlande

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