**15.06.2022**

**Press release**

**First Contemporary Art Fair 1703 has opened in St. Petersburg**

**On 15 June, 2022, the Manege Central Exhibition Hall in St. Petersburg hosted the opening ceremony of the first Contemporary Art Fair 1703. The fair is being organized by PJSC Gazprom with the support of St.Petersburg Cultural Committee. The Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee Alexey Miller, Governor of St. Petersburg Alexander Beglov, and Director of the Manege Central Exhibition Hall Pavel Prigara have attended the ceremony. All guests of honor were given a tour around the 1703 exposition. The fair will run until June 19, 2022 and is going to be an annual cultural event.**

**Alexey Miller, Chairman of the Gazprom Management Committee**: “We are implementing many joint projects with the city administration. These are the projects connected with education, culture and preservation of the historical legacy of our beloved city. The art fair is undoubtedly a continuation of this large-scale course. At the same time, this fair is a tribute to Peter the Great and the development and preservation of the rich cultural and historical heritage of Russia. I am confident that these passionate individuals who have organized this fair will continue to carry the best traditions of our Russian art into the future. Also, I am sure that the art fair is going to be annual and well-known, it plays a key role among the cultural events in Russia.”

**Alexander Beglov, Governor of St. Petersburg**: “It is not just a fair. It is a communication platform. Special conditions have been created here, which allow visitors and artists to have an open dialogue. Both collectors and artists have visited the fair. They are not only from St. Petersburg, but from different regions of our country. I wish this project longevity.”

The Governor also thanked Alexey Miller for the large-scale work on the comprehensive improvement of the city as well as for the provided support and development of culture and art, mass and professional sports, healthcare and science.

The fair will run between June 16 and June 19. On these days, the three sectors of the fair - Galleries, Collections and Digital Art - will show the whole variety of artistic practices: from painting and photography to sculpture, installations and NFT. In the Galleries sector, 17 galleries from St. Petersburg, Moscow and other Russian cities will exhibit contemporary artists’ works. The Collections sector will include three special large-scale curatorial projects by Marina Gisich Gallery, KGallery and the Béton Visual Culture Center. In the Digital Art sector, there will be works that combine art and new technologies, research methods and forms of creative expression.

cultural educational program will include art mediations, lectures and discussions, where leading experts of the art field will take an active part. Collecting, bio art and digital art are among the key topics.

Opening hours — 11:00 a.m. - 09:00 p.m.

Full art fair programme is available [here](https://1703af.ru/schedule).

Tickets for the fair can be purchased at the box office of The Manege.

**About 1703**

1703 Art Fair in St. Petersburg is a large-scale cultural project, which is designed to foster the institution of collecting in Russia as well as supporting national artists and art galleries. The fair is conceived as a new annual cultural event in the city, and its first season is timed to coincide with the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Peter I.

The organizer of the fair is PJSC Gazprom. The Gazprom Group is carrying out large-scale work on the comprehensive improvement of St. Petersburg. Moreover, the company is providing continuous support and assisting with the development of culture and art, mass and professional sports, healthcare, and science. By 2022, the Gazprom Group has taken part in more than 220 charity projects. By the beginning of 2022, as a result of Gazprom for Children program, 37 modern sports facilities have been built in the city, including sports complexes, swimming pools and skating rinks. As part of the program for the comprehensive improvement of St. Petersburg, more than 80 streets, parks, embankments, and squares have been reconstructed; furthermore, more than 16 thousand street lights have been installed. Large-scale restoration projects are underway in the largest museum complexes. Through the courtesy of Gazprom, the interiors of the Lyon Hall have been reconstructed, the Church of the Resurrection of Christ has undergone restoration, and the interiors of the Zubovsky wing of the Catherine Palace in the Tsarskoye Selo State Museum-Reserve are being re-created. Since 2009, Gazprom has been a permanent partner of the Peterhof State Museum-Reserve in restoring the Chinese Palace in Oranienbaum; to date, 12 out of 17 interiors of the palace have been restored. The Gazprom Group supports large-scale exhibition and restoration projects, in particular those taking place at the State Hermitage Museum, the State Russian Museum, and the Faberge Museum.

1703 Art Fair in St. Petersburg is taking place between 16-19 June, 2022 at The Manege Central Exhibition Hall with the support of St. Petersburg Committee for Culture. The event is included in the official cultural program of SPIEF-2022. Tickets for the fair can be purchased through the website of The Manege Central Exhibition Hall or at the box office of The Manege during the days of the fair. Age restriction - 12+

Official website of the project:

<https://www.1703af.ru/>

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