

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
27 February 2013

The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg selected as Host of Manifesta 10 in 2014



Manifesta is delighted to announce that the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation will be the Host of Manifesta 10. The collaboration between these institutions for the upcoming edition of Manifesta to be held in 2014 celebrates a meeting of anniversaries and shared historical relationships.

The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg was selected by the Board of Manifesta Foundation because of its critical intellectual and historical relationship with East and West Europe: a uniting principal that is also central to Manifesta, as the single roving European biennial of contemporary art. Manifesta 10 will consider the historical perspective of St. Petersburg's view to the West, and its extensive relationship with Europe at large. Other venues in the city will also participate and further details will be announced soon.

2014 will mark the 20th anniversary of Manifesta, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art, which was initiated in response to the new social, cultural and political reality that emerged in the aftermath of the Cold War. This Jubilee year event will analyse the 25 years of changing realities and experiences as they transformed within this new global world order.

One of the oldest and most prestigious museums in the world, the State Hermitage Museum was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great as her personal art collection and has been open to the public since 1852. In 2014 the museum celebrates 250 years of existence. The newly renovated General Staff Building, the new premises of the State Hermitage Museum dedicated to modern and contemporary art, will be fully open in 2014, and will be the main stage of Manifesta 10.



Hedwig Fijen

Founding Director of Manifesta comments:

We are excited that the Manifesta 10 jubilee edition will be hosted by the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. This partnership of Manifesta with its roving nature, its innovative curatorial methodology and experimental artistic practices with such an influential historical museum as the Hermitage is unprecedented. St Petersburg historically bridged the gap between East and West Europe for more than 300 years and through the spirit of the European enlightenment movement in the 18th Century, the notion of the Encyclopaedia edited by Diderot and D'Alembert and acquired by Catherine The Great for the State Hermitage Museum could become a moral and spiritual inspiration for Manifesta 10 in 2014.



Prof. Mikhail Piotrovsky

Director General of The State Hermitage comments:

The State Hermitage museum is glad to host Manifesta 2014, the year when the Hermitage will be celebrating its 250th anniversary. With the arrival of Manifesta, the Hermitage will highlight its traditions: its roots within the epoch of Catherine the Great and her passion for the contemporary art of her time, and the role that the museum's collections and exhibitions have always played in the artistic life of Russia. We see contemporary art is a natural, albeit intricate, development of these age-old traditions. Therefore, the key moment in Manifesta 10 for us will be the theme of the Hermitage in today's context.

Viktor Misiano

Chair of the Manifesta Foundation, Russian art critic and curator comments:

Manifesta was built up as a platform for dialogue in between the East and the West. Reaching St. Petersburg Manifesta will find itself in the country of an extreme European East and in the city that was conceived as its extreme Western outpost. Manifesta has always been seeking new places, their genius, their particularity and their historical, cultural and political complexity. St. Petersburg is a city of the complex cultural and political past and of the present. To do a Manifesta here is a challenge. And that is another strong reason to be present. Manifesta is approaching its 10th edition; its history is short, but it already exists. The Hermitage with its glorious heritage is a coherent place to reflect two "Manifesta decades".

Vassily Kizhedzhi

Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg comments:

St. Petersburg has been historically and stays till now the outstanding cultural centre of Russia. Supporting the leader of the Russian culture – the State Hermitage museum – in its aspiration for development of the interest of the society towards contemporary art and the understanding of art processes taking place in the world, the City Government will give it's support in the preparation and organization of Manifesta 10 in the cultural capital of Russia".

There is an extensive Q&A document available on the website of the Manifesta Foundation (www.manifesta.org) and the State Hermitage Museum (www.hermitagemuseum.org).

For further information including interviews and images please contact the Manifesta Foundation in Amsterdam or the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

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Editors' Notes:

Manifesta 9, The Deep of the Modern, took place from June 2 - September 30, 2012 in Genk, Limburg, Belgium and attracted over 100,000 visitors.
Manifesta is the roving European Biennial of Contemporary Art.

The chief curator for Manifesta 10 will be announced in March 2013.

Previous Host Cities of Manifesta:
Manifesta 1, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 1996
Manifesta 2, Luxemburg, Luxemburg 1998
Manifesta 3, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2000
Manifesta 4, Frankfurt, Germany, 2002
Manifesta 5, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain, 2004
Manifesta 6, Nicosia, Cyprus, 2006 (cancelled)
Manifesta 7, Trentino-Alto Adige/ South-Tyrol, Italy, 2008
Manifesta 8, Murcia and Cartagena, Spain, 2010
Manifesta 9, Genk, Limburg, Belgium, 2012

Manifesta Foundation is Ambassador for European Culture within the framework of the EACEA Culture Programme 2007 – 2013

