

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Manchester hosts New Russias – UK Festival of Contemporary Russian Culture

New Russias 2020 – the first UK festival dedicated to contemporary Russian culture – 7-9 February 2020, Manchester, UK.

New Russias is a brand-new initiative aimed at introducing contemporary Russian culture to the British public in all its diversity and richness. The festival takes place over three days and five different venues in Manchester, showcasing the newest and most exciting trends in Russian literature, music, cinema, and visual arts.

On Friday the 7th, the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (SALC) at **The University of Manchester** will host the symposium “Russian Culture after 2010”, in which leading scholars from across the world will discuss the state of contemporary Russian popular music, cinema, literature and visual arts. The symposium is open to the general public. In the evening, **Night and Day** will present the concert of Russia’s most renowned music export, Motorama, who will perform their hypnotic post-punk for the first time in Manchester.

On Saturday the 8th, **Manchester Art Gallery** will hold an exclusive in-conversation event with Russian Booker-finalist Elena Chizhova. The gallery will then act as the starting point of an art walk with GRAD resident Alisa Oleva, exploring the past, present, and future of Russian Manchester. The art walk takes us past **LEAF**, which plays host to an exhibition of contemporary art from Ann Rotaenko – a recent nominee for the ‘New Generation’ innovation prize – and Dimitri Venkov – a Kandinsky Prize-winning visual artist who has recently exhibited work at Documenta 14 and had his films featured on MUBI. In the afternoon, **Manchester Art Gallery** hosts a film screening (*Perm 36* (2016)) and Q&A with award-winning documentary filmmaker Sergei Kachkin. In the evening, **The Whiskey Jar** will present Russia’s finest indie band, Pompeya, sharing their positive vibes with a UK audience for the first time.

On Sunday the 9th, **Manchester Art Gallery** welcomes Irish-Russian writer Anatoly Kudryatvisky for an in-conversation event featuring a reading from his recent work. Later, New Russias joins the debate on contemporary documentary filmmaking as the creators of Russia’s independent film festival Doker join us at **Manchester Art Gallery**, showcasing the newest currents in Russian cinema. In the afternoon, join us back at **LEAF**, where Dimitri Venkov will deliver an immersive and interactive lecture in the exhibition space. We close our festival at **LEAF**, with the exhibition space playing host to the very best of Russian cinema once again. We screen *On The Way Home* (2011), a documentary film about a journey, a relationship, and returning home.

Holding New Russias in Manchester capitalises on the city’s own culture and diversity as a major hub outside of London. “By organising this three-day festival, we hope to bring together audiences coming from different parts of the UK, including areas that do not normally have the

chance to partake in London’s cultural atmosphere,” say the organisers. “This is the first event of its kind in Manchester, and we hope to make it a regular fixture in the city’s cultural calendar.”

All events are free to attend except for the music events (£10 for [Motorama](#) and £8 for [Pompeya](#)). A discounted ticket for both concerts can be bought at the price of £15 (excl. booking fees) at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/80270983673>. Free registration for the symposium and booking for the festival are essential and can be done via Eventbite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/russian-culture-after-2010-symposium-tickets-88697371225> (the symposium), <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-russias-2020-the-first-uk-festival-of-contemporary-russian-culture-tickets-88702986019> (the festival).

For full programme and further information, including timings, please visit our website: <https://www.newrussias.com/>

For editors

New Russias 2020 is organised by a team of doctoral researchers in the field of Russian cultural studies, undertaking their research at The University of Manchester and The University of Leeds. The project has been made possible by the generous support of CEELBAS, a Centre for Doctoral Training operating under the Arts & Humanities Research Council, by Creative Manchester and artsmethods@manchester at the University of Manchester.

For more information, please visit www.newrussias.com

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