

PRESS RELEASE

ŽILVINAS KEMPINAS: STILL (20 April - 24 May 2011)

The New York based Lithuanian artist Žilvinas Kempinas, who creates sculpture using strips of magnetic video tape, will present his specially commissioned new project *STILL* at Garage, beginning in April 2011. Kempinas' large-scale installations and dynamic sculptures use the lightness, reflectivity and delicacy of strips of magnetic tape to form ephemeral architectural elements, which may be static or dynamic, volumetric or planar, air or earth bound.

The project *STILL* is an installation consisting of countless strands of magnetic film suspended around the perimeter of Garage to form a large, moving abstract composition. The tape is so flexible and light that it can be set in motion using air circulation, and it can become a carrier for the sculpture. The artist's work attempts to alter our sense of space and reveal the hidden in our overly-familiar world. Placed in a particular environment, the magnetic tape strips create an unexpected visual, which moves and vibrates to create familiar shapes. They are often identifiable one moment and unrecognizable soon after.

Kempinas' work shares some parallels with Minimalism, Kineticism and Constructivism. *STILL* attempts to make a direct association with the legacy of Constructivism through the architecture of Garage's space. Like Kempinas, the Constructivists were interested in three areas - creating a perfect spatial structure, the possibilities of transforming an object and the dynamics of audience perception. But unlike the work of his predecessors, Kempinas' art is devoid of functionalism and practicality.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Žilvinas Kempinas was born in Plungė, Lithuania in 1969, but he has been living and working in New York for more than 10 years. He graduated from the Vilnius Art Academy and later studied at Hunter College, New York. In 2009, he represented Lithuania at the 53rd Venice Biennale. He received the prestigious Calder Prize in 2007, and he was the resident artist at the Atelier Calder in Saché, France in 2008. Kempinas has been widely exhibited in the United States and internationally, including solo shows at Galeria Leme (Sao Paulo), Yvon Lambert (New York), Spencer Brownstone Gallery (New York), Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art (Gateshead, UK), Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna), Contemporary Art Center (Vilnius), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), MoMA PS1 (New York). Selected group exhibitions include: MoMA (New York), 6th Liverpool Biennial (UK), Yvon Lambert (Paris, New York), Lunds Konsthall (Lund, Sweden), Nam June Paik Art Center (Yongin Citz, Korea), Manifesta 7 (Bolzano, Italy), SFMOMA (San Francisco, USA) and MUDAM (Luxembourg).

CURATOR BIOGRAPHY

Yulia Aksenova (Curator at Garage Center for Contemporary Culture)

Yulia read History of Art and Curating Contemporary Art at the Russian State University for the Humanities (1998-2002) and attended the Program of New Art Strategy for Artists and Art Critics at the Soros Center for Contemporary Arts (2000-2002). She later attended the International Curatorial Training Program at De Appel in Amsterdam. Aksenova has held curatorial positions at the Moscow State Tretyakov Gallery of Russian Art and the Moscow Center of Art, and she has curated over 12 exhibitions including *Russian Pop-art* (2005) and *Sots-Art. Political art in Russia* at the Moscow State Tretyakov Gallery of Russian Art (2007) as well as numerous exhibitions at the Moscow Center of Art, Red October Gallery and De Appel in Amsterdam. Aksenova has also written for a variety of exhibition publications.

In 2009, she began her career at Garage Center for Contemporary Culture as Head of the Education Department, and in 2010, she curated the exhibition *Russian Utopias*.

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture is a major non-profit international arts space based in Moscow, dedicated to exploring and developing contemporary culture which opened in 2008. There are two distinct areas of programming - 'to bring important international modern and contemporary art and culture to Moscow' and 'to raise the profile of Russian contemporary culture and encourage a new generation of Russian artists'. These are explored within a series of exhibitions ranging from major surveys of important collections to single artist retrospectives or group exhibitions. Garage also hosts a strong program of special on-site events including talks, film screenings, workshops, performances and creative activities for children.

Currently housed in a 20th century Constructivist masterpiece by Konstantin Melnikov, Garage's space includes galleries, open exhibition spaces, courtyard, cafe, kids space, purpose built auditorium and media room, all designed by award winning architect Jamie Fobert.

Garage is a project of the Iris Foundation, founded by Daria Zhukova.

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20 April — 24 May 2011

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture

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Center opening hours:

Mon – Thurs 11.00 - 21.00

Fri – Sun: 11.00 - 22.00

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