

**The State Institute for Art Studies**  
**invites you to attend the third *International Sarabianov Congress***  
***of Art Historians***

A whole epoch of art studies in Russia is associated with the name of Dmitry Vladimirovich Sarabianov (1923-2013), who elaborated key problems of modern art research. These include the national specifics of art and methods of studying them, “cultural memory” and analysis of latent “innermost” traditions, an interdisciplinary approach to the study of fine arts and architecture, interactions of Russian and European art, and the art studies, philosophy, philology, history and theology interface. Sarabianov had interest in art of diverse periods, which enabled him to see the interrelationship and kinship between seemingly opposite tendencies in Russian culture. In his research Sarabianov was always keen on and sensitive to new methods of art studies. By instituting the *International Sarabianov Congress of Art Historians* we want to carry on and develop the potential of this approach to the study of art history and art study methods.

The third congress will focus on

**Limits of the Norm: Transformation of Humanism in Russian  
and European Culture in Modern and Contemporary History**

Starting from the Renaissance period man was the main protagonist in the history of ideas, arts and science. The age of Enlightenment produced the concept of a thinking subject as the central figure of European culture. As a result of close interest in man there appeared the concept of the norm that became a dogma. The concept of the norm as regards man entailed scrupulous development of standards in every field of human activity and social life. However, soon the critically thinking subject started to doubt his own underpinnings. Struggle for revising the ideas of the norm flared up, with scientific discoveries in physics, psychology, medicine, etc. used as arguments.

With respect to man the limits of the norm became loose and penetrable. Man turned out to be “a dangerous individual” (Foucault) while art balanced between the norm and deviations. Interest in pathologies and the transhuman bred a range of recurrent themes in culture, such as genius and madness, Golem and Frankenstein, decadence and “degenerate art”, beauty and monstrosity, de Sade and pictorial martyrology, the anatomical theatre, perversity and sin, sexual deviations and crime. These tendencies became especially strong in the 20th and 21st centuries.

By focussing on the formation of the norm, its limits, dehumanization and the new contours of anthropological problems, we would like to stress the role of art in this process as a tool, intermediary and documental evidence.

**The following themes are proposed for discussion at the conference:**

/the history of the emergence of norms in modern and contemporary art

/art as a tool for evolving the norm and breaking it

/the subject as a concept and “the dismantling of the subject”

/human body as an object of metamorphosis and manipulation

/man’s transformation caused by new technologies

/from monsters to robots

/art and madness

/decline of the anthropomorphic picture of the world

An international conference will give scholars inside and outside Russia a chance to discuss a broad range of topical problems of culture of modern and latest times in an interdisciplinary context, and to assess anew the place and role of Russian culture in European history. The forum of domestic and foreign art historians will aim primarily to develop new approaches to the study of Russian art.

**The conference will take place at the State Institute of Art Studies in October 2018.**

Time limit for presentations - 20 minutes.

The conference languages will be Russian and English.

If you are interested in our invitation and wish to take part in the conference, please send confirmation by e-mail.

We also ask you to submit the proposed title and an abstract (10-15 lines, theses) of your presentation. Please send these to the following e-mail addresses:

ekaterina173@gmail.com, korndorf@mail.ru, anastanlos@mail.ru

The organisers will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the forthcoming conference.

We look forward to receiving your themes and theses,

Organisers of the conference:

Ekaterina Bobrinskaya, Anna Korndorf, Anastasia Loseva