

PRESS RELEASE

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MOVEMENT AS A DREAM.

Ilya und Emilia Kabakov, Heike Mutter und Ulrich Genth, Sergei Tchoban

Exhibition period: 13.10.-22.12.2019

M I E S
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MOVEMENT AS A DREAM: In the twentieth century the world was in movement. Cars replaced the horse carriages and sound took cinema by storm. The rhythm of the printing press (Karl Lemke) was brimming, railroad bridges were crossing over the pulsating cities and Free Dance stood for releasing of mind, body and soul. The modern man was seeking out the beat of his time. Architects, like Mies van der Rohe reacted to it with the invention of the open room layout – for light, air and movement. Moholy-Nagy designed an object out of the light movement called the Light-Space Modulator. What has happened since then? The great dream of movement has been fulfilled. Yet it appears more and more and differently as imagined, a virtual one.

In the exhibition, the New York artist couple **Ilya** and **Emilia Kabakov** (1933/1945) lead the free mind through abstract and mystical spaces. Kabakovs present movement as a form that is not automatically performed as a physical change of a body, but as a mental-aesthetic idea. While one can really experience the rooms of Haus Lemke, the artist couple invite the audience to an imaginary journey through their model "Cupola". The Russian-Jewish artist couple Ilya and Emilia Kabakov have been influencing the international art scene together for 30 years. With everyday motifs and conceptual elements, they create works that both reflect their own roots and have a universal meaning. Kabakovs deal with contemporary social utopias. Numerous exhibitions at national and international level, including participation in documenta IX, reflect the extraordinary success of the artist couple.

The Hamburg artist duo, **Heike Mutter** and **Ulrich Genth** (1969/1971), brings us closer to the contemporary body cult by using a gymnastic bar as a spatial element and choreographed body movements. The relationship between human being, space and movement is the theme of the presented work. Mutter and Genth take the pole dance, which has developed into a true trend sport, as an opportunity to criticize the self-optimization of contemporary people. In this way, the gymnastic bar becomes a symbol in the exhibition. Two video works complete the installation. The pole has become an integral part of luxurious interiors in real estate or on roof terraces. Heike Mutter and Ulrich Genth have been working together on art projects since 2003. Their works are site- and context-related and see themselves as interventions in public space. Mutter and Genth impress with their critical and humorous projects. The audience often becomes an actor itself. For 2011, the artists realized a large walk-in sculpture on the former Duisburg zinc smelter.

Sergei Tchoban (1962) thematizes flowing glass spaces in a wall-filling charcoal drawing, as in an utopian dream. Growing cities, increased traffic volume and shrinking open spaces - are all too familiar and also current problems in today's society. People seek and desire alternatives to explore their surroundings and to move within them. Tchoban dreams this dream in an extremely complex and modern way. On his panoramic drawing, glass tunnels float above the city. They create a connection between inside and outside and become an utopian space for movement. In 2018 Tchoban was awarded the European Prize for Architecture. Numerous building complexes in Germany and abroad have been realised according to the designs of the Russian architect living in Germany. In the context of the Mies van der Rohe Haus, the artistic side of Tchoban's work is highlighted. For the first time he has created a drawing especially for a special exhibition space in homage to Mies van der Rohe.

Curator for Ilya and Emilia Kabakov is Esenija Bannan.

Further information: 030/97000618 and info@miesvanderrohehaus.de

Open Tuesday-Sunday 11-17 hrs, including public holidays
free entrance

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