



## WHAT IS TO BE DONE – Now?

Discussions of Scholarship on So-called “Russian” Art and Culture  
10<sup>th</sup> Graduate Workshop of the Russian(?) Art & Culture Group

Constructor University Bremen, Campus Ring 1, 28759 Bremen | Lab 3  
**September 27-28, 2024**

Registration by **September 22, 2024**, at [workshop@russian-art.net](mailto:workshop@russian-art.net).  
Working language: English

The ongoing Russian war against Ukraine has caused a deep crisis of scholarship. Taking this as a point of departure, the goal of the tenth workshop of the Russian(?) Art & Culture Group is to find appropriate terms, approaches, and strategies that offer new insights into Imperial Russian and Soviet art and culture in order to contribute to the ongoing debates regarding the future of scholarship in this field of research.

### PROGRAM

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

13:30-14:00 *Registration*

14:00-14:30 **Opening: Introduction and Anniversary Review**  
Isabel Wünsche, Constructor University Bremen

14:30-15:00 **Keynote: The History of Art in the Shadow of War: On the Necessity of Revising the Narrative of Russian/Soviet Modernism**  
Konstantin Akinsha, independent scholar, Ferrara

15:00-15:30 *Coffee Break*

#### **Panel I: Imperial Imaginaries**

Chair: Julia Secklehner

15:30-16:00 **Intersections of Empires, Intersections of Cultures: On Traces of Occident and Orient in the Russian Empire’s Visual Culture**  
Kacper Radny, Justus Liebig University, Giessen

16:00-16:30 **Russian Empire = Russian Culture? A Transcultural Approach to Artists of a Multinational Empire**  
Mira Kozhanova, University of Bamberg

16:30-17:00 **Ruscism as Artistic Geo-Imagination and the Challenges to its Hegemony**  
Nikolay Smirnov, documenta Institut, Kassel

17:00-17:30 *Coffee Break*

#### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Moderation: Georg Sokolov

17:30-19:00 **What Is “Russian” Art and Culture?**

With Konstantin Akinsha, independent scholar, Ferrara,  
Louise Hardiman, Kingston University, London,  
and Maria Silina, Ruhr University Bochum

19:00-19:15 **Book Presentation: *What Is to Be Done? Art Practice, Theory, and Promotion in Late Imperial and Soviet Russia*** (Berlin: Logos, 2024)  
Ludmila Piters-Hofmann (editor), independent scholar, Bonn

19:15 *Dinner Reception*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

09:00-09:30 *Morning Coffee*

**Panel II: Challenging Imperial Histories**

Chair: Sebastian Borkhardt

09:30-10:00 **Russian Imperial History of the Nineteenth Century: The Territory of Others**  
Marat Ismagilov, Ruhr University Bochum

10:00-10:30 **What Is to Be Done at the Crossroads?**  
Ludmila Piters-Hofmann, independent scholar, Bonn

10:30-10:45 *Coffee Break*

**Panel III: Avant-Garde Artists in a Transcultural Context**

Chair: Irina Riznychok

10:45-11:15 **Navigating Boundaries: Varvara Bubnova's Artistic Journey through Russian Revolution, Constructivism, and Pre-War Japan**  
Olga Isaeva, University of Bonn

11:15-11:45 **What Is to Be Done with Kandinsky?**  
Sebastian Borkhardt, documenta archiv, Kassel

11:45-12:45 *Lunch Break*

**Panel IV: Decentralizing "Russian" Twentieth-Century Art**

Chair: Ludmila Piters-Hofmann

12:45-13:15 **The Denial of Artists' Self-Determination: Causes and Consequences**  
Olga Olkheft, University of Bielefeld

13:15-13:45 **On the Margins(?): Soviet Art Outside Moscow**  
Irina Riznychok, Constructor University

13:45-14:15 **Neither Center nor Periphery: How to Decolonize the Study of Leningrad Nonconformist Art**  
Georg Sokolov, Constructor University

14:15-14:30 *Coffee Break*

**Panel V: Artistic Politics and Russia's War on Ukraine**

Chair: Georg Sokolov

14:30-15:00 **Living Dead: Artistic Crafts in the Context of Soviet and Russian Necropolitics**  
Elizaveta Berezina, University of Leipzig

15:00-15:30 **Recontextualizing Unofficial Soviet Art in the Wake of Russia's War on Ukraine: The Case of Vadim Sidur's "Death by Bombs" in Dnipro**  
Charlotte Adèle Murphy, University of Freiburg

15:30-16:00 **Concluding Discussion**