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*Both White (after Valeria Mukhina), 2015, © Belvedere, Vienna*

Vienna, October 14, 2016

**21er Haus**  
Museum of  
Contemporary Art

Quartier Belvedere  
Arsenalstraße 1  
1030 Vienna, Austria

Museum Hours:  
Tu: 11 am – 6 pm  
Wed: 11 am – 9 pm  
Thu – Sun: 11 am – 6 pm  
open on holidays

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## Anna Jermolaewa

### Both White

October 14, 2016 to January 22, 2017

The 21er Haus is dedicating a focused solo show to Anna Jermolaewa from 14th October 2016 to 22nd January 2017. Entitled *Both White*, the exhibition includes not just the artist's preferred media of photography and video, but also works of painting, drawing, sculpture and installation spanning from the early 1990s to the present day.

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Born in St. Petersburg in 1970, the artist has lived and worked in Vienna since 1989. 'Anna Jermolaewa unquestionably ranks among the most ingenious artists of her generation, and presenting and supporting them is one of the most essential tasks of the 21er Haus. I am truly delighted that, in connection with the exhibition, we have been able to acquire some important works by the artist for our contemporary art collection,' says Director Agnes Husslein-Arco.

Anna Jermolaewa finds her images in the here and now; she pays particular attention to trivialities, things that we take for granted but in which the big picture of human existence is ultimately inscribed. 'Jermolaewa's motifs possess a captivating simplicity and bear witness to the artist's analytic interest in social structures. She highlights social, political as well as gender-specific inequalities. Neither smug nor pathetic, her gaze is rather revealingly ironic, sometimes bitingly humorous and always empathetic,' explains curator Luisa Ziaja. Among Anna Jermolaewa's best-known works are the ongoing long-term project *Five-Year Plan*, which she has carried out every five years since 1996 and describes as her lifework: with a video camera, she films the same shot of an escalator in a St. Petersburg metro station. Named after the means of centralized economic planning in the Soviet Union – which was already history by 1996 – the installation now comprises five parts and covers a period of 20 years. The succinct snapshots capture the movement of people who look curiously similar over the years, even though their environment has changed radically in that time.

*Flag / Reenactment*, one of the most recent works in the exhibition, is based on black-and-white frame photos from Sergei M. Eisenstein's famous silent film *Battleship Potemkin* from 1925, which dramatizes the mutiny on the eponymous ship in the Russian revolutionary year of 1905. The Soviet director intentionally filmed the hoisting of the red flag as a symbol of political system change using a white flag so that he could colourize it by hand, frame by frame, in red. Jermolaewa not only reproduces this film sequence, which symbolically heralds a new age, but also repeats the time-consuming act of colour editing in homage to this master of revolutionary film.

The subject of the oldest work in the exhibition, an untitled oil painting from 1992, is the female body. This self-portrait of the artist is testament to her classical academic training while simultaneously marking a moment of transition. It is certainly one of Jermolaewa's most rarely shown early works. In the years after her emigration to Vienna, she produced numerous figurative paintings, which she would later cut up into puzzle pieces – undoubtedly not merely due to a lack of storage space, but also as an act of disengagement. She subsequently started to experiment with still and video cameras. The untitled three-part photographic work from 2016 is the most recent piece in the exhibition. It shows typical telephone boxes in Rio de Janeiro, which are still frequent features of public spaces despite the advent of mobile phones. Often they are lined with countless stickers for erotic hotlines. Jermolaewa thus captures with succinct clarity the omnipresence of the female body as a commodity.

The artist's interest in the relationship between conflicting political ideologies is made plain in the works *Both White (after Valeria Mukhina)* and *Number Two (after Solomon Asch)*. They come from a complex of works about sociological experiments on behavioural conformity among individuals in a group, one in the USA and another in the Soviet Union. They explore how the Polish-American gestalt psychologist Solomon Eliot Asch designed simple experiments in the 1950s, which for example enquired about whether the lengths of vertical lines on a drawing were uniform. The results proved that individuals were so influenced by group pressure that they actually assessed an obviously false statement to be true. In the 1970s the Soviet psychologist Valeria Mukhina brought these experiments to the USSR; she was convinced that test subjects who had grown up under socialism would demonstrate higher resilience. Yet contrary to her expectations and the fact that there was one black and one white pyramid, when subjected to manipulation by the other members of their group the test subjects stated that both pyramids were in fact white.

Curated by Luisa Ziaja



## Biography of the Artist

Born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1970. Living in Vienna, Austria since 1989.

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| 1998      | graduated from University of Vienna (Faculty of Art History)                        |
| 2002      | graduated from Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna<br>(Painting & Graphic Art/New Media) |
| 2005-2011 | Professor for Media Art, University of Arts and Design, Karlsruhe, Germany          |

Her work is held in the collections of the Stedelijk Museum, Friedrich Christian Flick Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, MUMOK-Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, Volpinum Kunstsammlung, MUSA, Museum auf Abruf, Vienna, Tiroler Landesmuseums Ferdinandeum, Vehbi Koc Foundation, Kontakt-The Art Collection of Erste Group, Belvedere, Landesgalerie Linz, Wien Museum, Collection of Bank Austria, EVN Collection and Arbeiterkammer Wien.

**Awards and Grants:** 2014 Artist Residency and New York Studio Grant at ISCP by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture. 2011 Outstanding Artist Award. 2006 T-Mobile Art Award. 2004 Förderungspreis der Stadt Wien. 2002 Ursula Blickle Förderpreis. 2002 Pfann-Ohmann-Preis. 2000 SCA Kunstpreis. 2000 SCA Kunstpreis. Professor-Hilde-Goldschmidt-Anerkennungspreis. 1999 Römerquelle-Preis.

**Selected Solo Exhibitions:** 2016 *Anna Jermolaewa. A Noble Experiment*, Kunsthaus Nexus, Saalfelden. *Anna Jermolaewa*, Kerstin Engholm Galerie, Vienna, Austria. 2015 *Anna Jermolaewa. Good Times, Bad Times*, WRO Art Centre, Wroclaw and Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland. *Kiss, Motherhood, Untitled*, Function Room, London, Great Britain 2013 *Anna Jermolaewa and Audronė Vaupsiene, A SORT OF HOMECOMING*, CAC Vilnius. 2012 *Anna Jermolaewa*, Kunsthalle Krems, Austria. *Art is Concrete. And so is Truth?*, Camera Austria, Graz, Austria. *Das vierzigste Jahr*, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria. 2011 Kinoglaz, XL Gallery, Moscow. *Step Aside*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Sofia. 2009 Kunstverein Friedrichshafen, Germany. 2006 *ORCHESTRA RELOADED*, BA-CA KUNSTFORUM, Vienna, Austria. 2004 Museum Moderner Kunst, Passau, Germany. 2002 Galerie Johann König, Berlin, Germany. Ursula-Blickle-Stiftung, Kraichtal-Unteröwisheim, Germany. 2000 Institute of Visual Arts, Milwaukee, USA. Quartett, Pavillon, Wels, Austria.

**Complete biography of the artist on [www.jermolaewa.com](http://www.jermolaewa.com)**



## Regular Information

<b>Exhibition Title</b>	<i>Anna Jermolaewa</i> <i>Both White</i>
<b>Curator</b>	Luisa Ziaja
<b>Exhibition Dates</b>	October 14, 2016 to January 22, 2017
<b>Venue</b>	<b>21er Haus</b> Museum of Contemporary Art Quartier Belvedere, Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna, Austria
<b>Museum Hours</b>	Tuesday 11 am– 6 pm Wednesday 11 am– 9 pm Thursday through Sunday 11 am– 6 pm Open on Public Holidays
<b>Tickets</b>	General Admission   7 Euro 21er Haus Annual Ticket   21 Euro Reduced   5.50 Euro Under 18   free
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://21erhaus.at/21h_en">21erhaus.at/21h_en</a> <a href="https://facebook.com/21erHaus">facebook.com/21erHaus</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/21erHaus">twitter.com/21erHaus</a> <a href="https://instagram.com/21erHaus">instagram.com/21erHaus</a>