WITH PARTICIPANTS

Kate Baldwin (Northwestern University)
Aleksandar Bošković (Columbia University)
Yevgeniy Fiks (Artist)
Anton Ginzburg (Artist)
Maria Gough (Harvard University)
Dan Healey (University of Oxford)
Samuel Johnson (Syracuse University)
Christina Kiaer (Northwestern University)
Julia Mickenberg (University of Texas at Austin)
Kristin Romberg (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

ORGANIZERS

Masha Chlenova (The New School)
Maria Ratanova (Columbia University)
AGITATION FOR FREEDOM: REVOLUTION AND ITS AVANT-GARDE
A CONFERENCE IN CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:30AM
Opening remarks by Maria Ratanova

9:40AM – 10:30AM
Keynote by Christina Kiaer “Revolution and Liberation”

10:30AM – 12:15PM
Panel 1. Russian Modernism: Radical Memory and Recent Scholarship
Moderator: Masha Chlenova
Kate Baldwin “Black Marxism/Black Modernism”
Dan Healey “Sexual Revolution in Bolshevik Russia: Myths, Questions, and Scholarship”

12:15pm – 1:30PM
Lunch break

1:30PM – 3:00PM
Panel 2. Revolution in Action
Moderator: Aleksandar Bošković
Kristin Romberg “The Days of Soviet Propaganda”
Samuel Johnson “Children of the Revolution: Exit Routes and After-effects of the National Culture Paradigm”

3:00PM – 4:00PM
Keynote by Maria Gough “The Work of Art Remade: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Reconstruction”

4:00PM – 4:30PM
Coffee break

4:30PM – 6:00PM
Round Table. “Why celebrate the Revolution today?”
Maria Gough, Christina Kiaer, Kristin Romberg, Yevgeniy Fiks, Anton Ginzburg, Masha Chlenova

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference addresses little-discussed issues of individual freedoms and civil liberties brought about by the October Revolution and celebrated by the artists of the Russian avant-garde: the emancipation of women, advocacy of sexual and gay liberation, internationalism, racial equality, and rights of ethnic minorities. These gains in individual freedoms, rolled back in the Soviet Union by the mid-1930s, are on the agenda again today and are especially critical in Putin’s Russia and Trump’s America. This conference explores this radically transformative aspect of the Russian Revolution and the way it was reflected in the artistic project of the Russian avant-garde, and discusses how it resonates with the anti-authoritarian tendencies and Civil Rights movements in today’s world.