



APRIL 30 AND MAY 1, 2026
Zimmerli Art Museum
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ, USA

ART AND DISSENT

THE NORTON AND NANCY DODGE
COLLECTION OF NONCONFORMIST
ART FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND
ITS GLOBAL LEGACY



Zimmerli Art Museum | Rutgers

Cover:

Lev Kropivnitsky, *Outer Galactic Logic*, 1960
Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection of
Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union.

This two-day international academic conference celebrates the launch of the newly developed website dedicated to the Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union. The event highlights the global collaboration behind the project and explores the collection's historical, cultural, and pedagogical significance.

The Dodge Website and Conference are made possible by the generous support of the ADWT Endowment and Operating Fund, with additional support from the Avenir Foundation Endowment Fund and the Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Special thanks to the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) for their informational sponsorship of this program.

Visit the new website:
dodge.zimmerli.rutgers.edu



AGBU

AGENDA

PRESENTATIONS TAKE PLACE
IN THE LOWER DODGE GALLERIES,
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

DAY ONE THURSDAY, APRIL 30

9:30 AM CHECK-IN AND LIGHT BREAKFAST

10:00 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Maura Reilly, Director, Zimmerli Art Museum
Julia Tulovsky, Head of the Department of Nonconformist
Art from the Soviet Union and Arts of Eurasia,
Zimmerli Art Museum

**10:30 AM PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOLARS
OF BALTIC COUNTRIES**

Julija Fomina (Vilnius Academy of Arts)
“Reframing Late Soviet Art: Curatorial Perspectives
from Lithuania”

Liisa Kaljula (Art Museum of Estonia)
“Periphery as Privilege: Conceptual Art from
Soviet Estonia”

Maija Rudovska (Estonian Academy of Arts)
“She Wore Chanel No. 5: Positioning the Latvian Case
Within the Discourse of Nonconformism”
Moderator: Jane Sharp (Rutgers University)

12:00 PM LUNCH AND NETWORKING

**1:00 PM PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOLARS
OF BELARUS AND UKRAINE**

Tatsiana Zhurauliova (Université Paris 1
Panthéon-Sorbonne, France)
“Autonomy in Action: Unofficial Art, Counter-Exhibitions,
and the Production of Alternative Cultural Space in Late
Soviet Belarus”

Alisa Lozhkina (Leibniz Centre for
Contemporary History Potsdam, Germany)
“Art History in Times of War: Collaborative Research on
the Ukrainian Collection at the Zimmerli Art Museum”
Moderator: Sophio Kavtaradze (Rutgers University)

- 2:00 PM** **TEA/COFFEE BREAK**
- 2:30 PM** **ROUNDTABLE: TEACHING IN THE AGE OF THE DIGITAL MUSEUM**
Amy Bryzgel (Northeastern University)
Emily Van Buskirk (Rutgers University)
Yasha Klots (City University of New York)
Mark Lipovetsky (Columbia University)
*Moderator: **Jane Sharp*** (Rutgers University)
- 4:00 PM** **TEA/COFFEE BREAK**
- 4:30 PM** **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**
Madina Tlostanova (Linköping University)
- 5:30 PM** **OPENING RECEPTION (LOBBY)**

DAY TWO **FRIDAY, MAY 1**

- 10:00 AM** **CHECK-IN AND LIGHT BREAKFAST**
- 10:30 AM** **OPENING REMARKS**
Olena Martynyuk, Associate Curator, Zimmerli Art Museum
Vassili Schedrin, Archivist, Librarian, and Research Coordinator, Zimmerli Art Museum
- 11:00 AM** **PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOLARS OF ARMENIA AND GEORGIA**
Sopio Gagoshidze (Rutgers University) and **George Papashvili** (Rutgers University)
“Assemblage and Resistance in Georgian Nonconformist Art”
Lilit Sargsyan (Institute of Contemporary Art, Armenia)
“Armenian, National Modernism: Between Aesthetics and Politics”
*Moderator: **Armen Yesayants*** (Cafesjian Center for the Arts, Armenia)
- 12:00 PM** **LUNCH AND NETWORKING**

1:00 PM

PRESENTATIONS BY SCHOLARS OF CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIA

Boris Chukhovich (Independent Scholar)

“Constants and Variables in the Alternative Art Scene of Uzbekistan in the 1960s–1980s”

Valeria Ibraeva (Independent Scholar)

“Transavanguardia without the Avant-Garde: Artistic Processes in Kazakhstan in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century”

Nikolai Malinin (Independent Scholar)

“Issues in Studying Soviet Nonconformist Art from Russia”

*Moderator: **Christianna Bonnin*** (American University of Sharjah, UAE)

2:30 PM

TEA/COFFEE BREAK

3:00 PM

DEMONSTRATION OF THE WEBSITE

Elizaveta Yuzhakova, Website Coordinator, Zimmerli Art Museum

3:30 PM

ROUNDTABLE: PERSPECTIVES ON DECOLONIZATION

Christianna Bonnin (American University of Sharjah, UAE)

Liisa Kajula (Art Museum of Estonia)

Olena Martynyuk (Zimmerli Art Museum)

Armen Yesayants (Cafesjian Center for the Arts, Armenia)

*Moderator: **Julia Tulovsky*** (Zimmerli Art Museum)

5:30 PM

CLOSING RECEPTION (LOBBY)

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)

MAURA REILLY, PH.D.

Maura Reilly is director of the Zimmerli Art Museum and a professor at Rutgers University. She founded the Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum and previously led the National Academy of Design. She is the author of *Curatorial Activism* and *Museums and Social Justice*.

JULIA TULOVSKY, PH.D.

Julia Tulovsky heads the department of Soviet Nonconformist Art and Arts of Eurasia at the Zimmerli Art Museum. She previously worked at the Tretyakov Gallery and Malevich Society and has curated over twenty exhibitions since 2007.

JULIJA FOMINA, PH.D.

Juliya Fomina is a Lithuanian art critic and researcher who focuses on the history of exhibitions. She previously curated at CAC Vilnius and has published scholarly articles on late Soviet and post-independence exhibition practices. She currently heads the doctoral program in Art History and Theory at the Vilnius Academy of Arts.

LIISA KALJULA, PH.D.

Liisa Kaljula is an Estonian curator and art historian based in Tallinn. Her research focuses on late Soviet art and alternative networks. She has curated major Baltic exhibitions and currently serves as Head of the Painting Collection at the Art Museum of Estonia.

MAIJA RUDOVSKA

Maija Rudovska is a Latvian curator, art critic, and educator based in Riga and Kuldīga. Her work examines postwar and late socialist Baltic art history. She has curated numerous exhibitions internationally and runs *Studija*, a contemporary art platform in Kuldīga.

JANE ASHTON SHARP, PH.D.

Jane Ashton Sharp is a professor of art history at Rutgers University and the research curator of the Dodge Collection. She specializes in Eastern European modernism and Soviet unofficial art. She has curated more than twenty exhibitions and published award-winning scholarship.

TATSIANA ZHURAULIOVA, PH.D.

Tatsiana Zhurauliova is a postdoctoral research fellow at Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. Her work examines visual culture, identity, and power in the United States and Eastern Europe. She coedited *Global TV Series* and the *Political Imagination*.

ALISA LOZHKINA

Alisa Lozhkina is a Ukrainian art historian, curator, and artist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She formerly led *Art Ukraine* magazine and curated at Mystetskyi Arsenal. She authored *The Art of Ukraine* and creates textile-based artworks.

SOPHIO KAVTARADZE

Sophio Kavtaradze is a Ph.D. candidate in art history at Rutgers University and a Dodge Fellow at the Zimmerli Art Museum. Her research addresses modernity, visual culture, and cultural exchange in the Caucasus within Soviet and post-Soviet contexts.

AMY BRYZGEL, PH.D.

Amy Bryzgel is a teaching professor at Northeastern University and a specialist in Eastern European performance art. She has authored foundational books on the field, previously taught at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, and serves on the *ARTMargins Online* editorial collective.

EMILY VAN BUSKIRK, PH.D.

Emily Van Buskirk is Associate Professor of Russian and East European Literature and former director of Russian and East European Program at Rutgers. She specializes in Soviet-era prose and self-writing, having authored an award-winning monograph and co-edited multiple volumes on Lydia Ginzburg.

YASHA KLOTS, PH.D.

Yasha Klots is an associate professor of Russian and Comparative Literature at Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center. He studies émigré culture and Gulag narratives and cofounded the Tamizdat Project, a nonprofit press on banned literature.

MARK LIPOVETSKY, PH.D.

Mark Lipovetsky is a professor and the chair of Slavic Languages at Columbia University. His scholarship focuses on Russian postmodernism and Soviet underground culture. He has authored and edited numerous influential works and directs Columbia's Contemporary Culture Series.

MADINA TLOSTANOVA, PH.D.

Madina Tlostanova is a decolonial theorist, fiction writer, and professor at Linköping University. Her work addresses post-Soviet, post-colonial, and feminist thought. She has authored thirteen monographs and is among the most cited scholars in her field.

OLENA MARTYNYUK, PH.D.

Olena Martynyuk is an associate curator of Nonconformist Art at the Zimmerli Art Museum. She specializes in Ukrainian contemporary art and postcolonial theory and previously taught at NYU, Rutgers, Columbia, and Hunter College.

VASSILI SCHEDRIN, PH.D.

Vassili Schedrin is an archivist, librarian, and research Coordinator at the Zimmerli Art Museum. He studies Russian Jewish culture and is digitizing the Dodge Archive while researching a biography of Solomon Mikhoels.

SOPIO GAGOSHIDZE

Sopio Gagoshidze is a Ph.D. candidate in art history at Rutgers University, specializing in medieval Georgian art and its exchanges with Byzantium. A former Dodge Fellow, she curated *Locating Georgia*, the first major US museum exhibition devoted to Georgian art.

GIORGI (“GEORGE”) PAPASHVILI

Giorgi Papashvili is a Georgian art historian and Ph.D. student at Rutgers University. He is a Dodge Fellow at the Zimmerli Art Museum and specializes in early-twentieth-century Georgian photography as well as cross-cultural visual exchange.

LILIT SARGSYAN

Lilit Sargsyan is an Armenian art critic based in Yerevan who studies modern and contemporary Armenian art. She has published extensively, curated numerous exhibitions, co-founded AICA Armenia, and recently co-curated *Topographies of Dissent: Armenian Art from the Dodge Collection*.

ARMEN YESAYANTS, PH.D.

Armen Yesayants is the director of exhibitions at the Cafesjian Center for the Arts in Yerevan. He has curated nearly fifty exhibitions, represented Armenia at the Venice Biennale, and co-hosts Artwun՛ղը, a leading Armenian art podcast.

VALERIA IBRAEVA

Valeria Ibraeva is an art critic, curator, and former director of the Soros Center for Contemporary Art–Almaty. She is a leading voice in Central Asian contemporary art and has authored influential scholarship and curated major international exhibitions.

NIKOLAI MALININ

Nikolai Malinin is an architectural historian, critic, and curator based in New York. He specializes in Russian and Soviet modern architecture, curates the ArchiWOOD Prize, edits *Drugaya Moskva*, and writes extensively on urban culture.

ELIZAVETA YUZHAKOVA, PH.D.

Elizaveta Yuzhakova is the Dodge Collection website coordinator at the Zimmerli Art Museum. She specializes in digital preservation, with prior experience leading publications, curating the Ural Industrial Biennial archive, and working on time-based media conservation projects at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

CHRISTIANNA BONIN, PH.D.

Christianna Bonin is an assistant professor at the American University of Sharjah. Her research explores art, empire, and environmental history in Central Asia. She has received major fellowships and is completing a book on art and land in Kazakhstan.

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