

## *Illegal Kosmonavtika*

organized by **Magda Guruli**  
and **Mariam Natroshvili**

**June 24 - July 22, 2017**

**The Institute of Space Structures  
Saguramo, Tbilisi, Georgia  
11 am - 6 pm daily**

Opening Reception:  
**Saturday, June 24, 6-8 pm**

Featuring work by:

**Zura Jishkariani  
Mariam Natroshvili and  
Detu Jincharadze**

**Iliko Zautashvili  
Mamuka Japharidze  
Group Bouillon**

**Giorgi Maghradze  
Ana and Tamar Chaduneli**



Guram Tsibakhashvili, *Autobiography Before my Birth*, 2017,  
the Museum of Unidentified Files (detail)

In his article "Children of Postcommunism," Croatian philosopher Boris Buden wrote of the societies involved in democratic 1989-90s revolutions: "Only yesterday, those people got world history going again... Yet today, they themselves must learn their first steps." (*Radical Philosophy*, no. 159, 2010)

But the "first steps" to internalize democracy turned out to be highly complex. After the post-Soviet euphoria of the early 1990s, numerous territorial conflicts, economic crises, and struggles for survival turned this new beginning into a new crisis – particularly in Georgia. Today the euphoria is gone. Many new democracies find it a struggle to understand the ongoing wars, refugee crises, radical leaders, and potential geopolitical fragmentation beyond their borders. This is not helped by the recent ideological crisis currently evolving in the West.

*Illegal Kosmonavtika* reflects on the Soviet past and the post-Soviet present and poses an important question: what kinds of survival "skills" should be cultivated to survive if the current systems also fail? The exhibition features work from artists of several generations living and working in Georgia in order to show perspectives of artists who lived under the pressures of Socialist Realism as well as the younger generation that finds itself pinned between leftist ideas (both Stalinist and Western) and modern critiques of capitalism. Further, the exhibition will delve into the subject via a series of workshops aimed at cultivating a new "Illegal Kosmonavt" – an individual with rudimentary skills for "survival" and site-specific works showcased within the decommissioned building of the Institute of Space Structures.

*Illegal Kosmonavtika* is a 2016-17 apexart **Franchise Exhibition Program** exhibition.

**Magda Guruli** is a Tbilisi-based curator of contemporary art. Since 2008, she has organized Artisterium, an annual International Contemporary Art Exhibition in Tbilisi. Guruli has also curated exhibitions in Moscow, Istanbul, Nantes, and Bialystok. She has participated in a number of conferences, workshops, and symposiums around the world.

**Mariam Natroshvili** is a Tbilisi-based artist and curator. Working mainly in public and abandoned spaces in her artistic and curatorial projects, she brings art to unexpected places, questioning the possibility of a different future. She is interested in post-soviet mythology, disappearing knowledge, invisible people, forgotten places, and the recreation of vanished memories.

For more information please contact [Elizabeth.Larison@apexart.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Larison@apexart.org) or visit [apexart.org/exhibitions/guruli-natroshvili.php](http://apexart.org/exhibitions/guruli-natroshvili.php)

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**#IllegalKosmonavtika**

**291 church street, new york, ny 10013  
t +1 212 431 5270 www.apexart.org**