

IGOR TSUKANOV

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Igor Tsukanov was born in 1962 in Moscow, Russia. He graduated from Moscow University in 1984 with a degree in Mathematical Economics, before going on to attain a PhD in International Economics and Finance from the Institute of World Economy of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1992 he set up the CentreInvest Group, a financial services company headquartered in Moscow with offices in New York, London and Kiev, which he ran as the CEO and President for 15 years and sold to a consortium of commercial banks in 2007.

Currently Igor Tsukanov is Chairman of the Tsukanov Family Foundation (“TFF”), a UK-based charity supporting education, culture, and the arts in Russia and around the world.

As part of its mission, the TFF has for years worked with leading Russian museums. Igor Tsukanov was involved in drafting the first sponsorship programme for the Tretyakov Gallery (Moscow) that has now been running successfully for over 20 years. The TFF has also financed the Tretyakov Gallery’s acquisition of 15 pieces by Russian contemporary artists such as Pivovarov, Steinberg, Plavinsky, and Infante. In 2011, in partnership with the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (“MMOMA”) the TFF arranged a Retrospective (“Point of View”) of Leonid Sokov, a founding member of SotsArt movement. In 2015, the TFF and MMOMA held joint exhibitions of two pioneering Russian abstract artists: Vladimir Nemukhin (“Facets of Formalism”) and Lidya Masterkova (“Lyrical Abstraction”).

In partnership with the Saatchi Gallery (London), in 2013 the TFF orchestrated the largest ever exhibition of post-war Russian artists: “Breaking the Ice: Moscow Art, 1960-1980s”. The exhibition attracted almost 700,000 visitors and was ranked in the top three most popular art shows in London, Paris and New York in terms of visitors per day. The next TFF-Saatchi Gallery project in 2015 was “Post-Pop: East Meets West”, which brought together 250 artworks by 100 artists from the USA, UK, China and Russia. The Art Newspaper also ranked the exhibition within the top three Western art shows in 2015, with attendance in excess of 5,000 people per day. For 2017, the TFF and the Saatchi Gallery have planned “Art as Resistance: Post-Soviet Actionism, 1990-2010s”, a large new exhibition which will feature such artists as Oleg Kulik, Pussy Riot and Pyotr Pavlensky.

The TFF has also sponsored numerous other international exhibitions, including the recent “Russia and the Arts: The Age of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky” (2016) in the National Portrait Gallery (London).

In the field of art education, the TFF supports the Yale School of Art (USA), Goldsmiths (UK) and the Institute of Contemporary Art (Russia). At the Yale School of Art the TFF has financed the Oleg Vassiliev scholarship, which brings Russian artists and curators to Yale for seminars and workshops. For Goldsmiths the TFF has structured and financed a student exchange program with the Institute of Contemporary Art (Moscow) that has been running since 2010.

The TFF owns one of the world's largest collections of post-war Russian art, which can be found at www.TsukanovArtCollection.com.

In addition, Igor Tsukanov serves on the Development Committee of Eton College (UK), the Board of Trustees of the Moscow Multimedia Art Museum (Russia), and the Honorary Board of Directors of the Royal Opera House (UK). He also previously served as a member of the Russian and Eastern Europe Art Committee of the Tate Modern (UK) and the Board of Directors of the Hermitage Foundation (USA).