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"Signing Russia's default, I imagined the government would quit the next day. I was surprised it took a week." **Sergei Kiriyenko** in August 1998.

40%

Rosatom's share of global uranium enrichment.

11 years

spent by Kiriyenko as head of Rosatom, at the helm of Russia's nuclear industry.



Kiriyenko was 35 years old when he was appointed Russia's prime minister in April 1998. He resigned after four months.

Crisis Manager

By **Mikhail Fishman** m.fishman@imedia.ru

Ex-premier Kiriyenko poised to become Putin's right-hand man.

Boris Yeltsin reportedly first spotted Sergei Kiriyenko, then a young businessman from Nizhny Novgorod, during a boat trip on the Volga River in July 1994. Nearly four years later, Yeltsin would shock the political establishment by appointing him prime minister. Plucked from relative obscurity at the age of just 35, Kiriyenko was the youngest prime minister in Russia's history.

Unfortunately for Kiriyenko, the appointment had catastrophic timing. Within weeks, financial crisis had spread from Asia to Russia. The oil price plummeted from roughly \$20 to just \$8 a barrel. Just four months after appointment, Kiriyenko's Cabinet defaulted on government bonds, devaluing the Russian ruble, crashing the economy, wrecking the federal budget and collapsing the banking system. Five days later, Kiriyenko resigned.

Now, almost two decades later, Kiriyenko has no less abruptly emerged as top choice for another coveted Kremlin job — as the man to replace President Vladimir Putin's first deputy chief of staff Vyacheslav Volodin.

At the time of going to print on Sept. 28, Kiriyenko's appointment was not officially confirmed. According to a source close to the Kremlin, the appointment was still subject to an internal struggle.

Why Kiriyenko, and why would his appointment in the Kremlin matter so much?

The drama comes with the position, traditionally seen as that of "gray cardinal" of Russia's politics. Before Volodin moved to parliament as its speaker, he was considered one of Russia's most powerful officials. His position oversaw crucial portfolios of domestic politics and elections.



Sergei Kiriyenko has emerged as the top choice for the job of Putin's first deputy chief of staff.

With the 2018 presidential election, the job takes on additional significance. Even if Putin decides to run again, is unlikely to be an easy campaign to manage.

By 2018, Putin will be 66 years old, in power for either 14 or 18 years, depending on your calculation. Even by Soviet standards, it is a huge time in office.

If oil prices remain low, the economy will be in a terrible state, having stagnated for 11 consecutive years. And with each year of recession, the Kremlin will hold fewer cards. Crimea is no longer a pressure point for the Russian public, and apathy seems to be setting in. The Sept. 18 parliamentary elections showed the lowest turnout in Russia's history. Officially 47.9 percent, statistical analysis of election data suggested voter participation was, in fact, no more than 37 percent.

Putin needs overwhelming national sup-

port. The task of mobilizing this support is "the major puzzle for the authorities," says political journalist Konstantin Gaaze.

And the task of solving this puzzle will fall to Putin's new political manager.

Putin is well acquainted with Kiriyenko. In May 2000, the president named Kiriyenko special representative in the Volga district, a newly created position. In 2005, the former prime minister was made head of Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear agency.

According to industry analyst Vladimir Milov, Russia's nuclear industry enjoyed enormous levels state investment under Kiriyenko, who seemed to enjoy Putin's complete trust.

Despite favor in the Kremlin, Kiriyenko maintained a reputation as a reformer and a progressive. His appointment runs contrary the current Kremlin trend favoring conservative and isolationist officials.

Putin has not yet confirmed whether he will run for his next term. Psychologically, the "comfortable" option for both Putin and the country's elite is that he runs, says political analyst Yevgeny Minchenko. But the prospect of finally leaving office remains on the table, especially given the low probability of a triumphant reelection.

According to a source close to the Kremlin, no decision has been made, and, moreover, is unlikely to be decided in the next few months.

But were Putin to bow out of the 2018 election race, Kiriyenko would find himself in an interesting position: Not only in charge of domestic policy, but also managing the highly sensitive process of presidential transition. **TMT**



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Cover Illustration by Galina Gubchenko

SYRIAN WAR

Why the Fall of Aleppo Won't End This War, Only Change It

By **Francesca Borri**
Italian journalist and writer who has reported extensively from rebel-held Aleppo



SOFIA MIROYEDOVA

Not so long ago, when Aleppo was only the subject of ground attacks, things were simpler. Mortars were thrown. People died, but they died suddenly.

Not so today. In today's Aleppo, the only frontline is the sky. You have time to think, you have time to watch. After the first airstrike, there is always a second. A bomb with your name on it, waiting for you to rush out and try to dig your begging friends and family out of the rubble.

Those who survive in Aleppo can hardly be described as the lucky ones. They are the guilty ones. They are the walking dead.

When Russia began its Syrian campaign last September, forces against Syrian President Bashar Assad had the upper hand in Aleppo. One year on, and the latest assaults on the city leave little doubt as to the Russian-led strategy or the outcome.

Tacitus said it all: They make a wasteland, and call it peace.

As far as the mainstream view is concerned, the block to peace in Syria is disagreement between Russia and the United States. My work has always told me the opposite is true: It's their agreement. Both sides are essentially agreed that anything is better than Sharia law. Even barrel bombs. Even

gas attacks. Incendiary weapons. Starvation. Assad is the lesser evil.

In Syria, however, the lesser evil depends on where you are. Sunni or Shia, Muslim or Christian, if you come from Raqqa, from Islamic State (IS)*, the lesser evil, of course, is Assad. If you come from Aleppo, for you anything is better than Assad. Anything is better than waiting for death.

Given the complexity of the situation, perhaps the best hope for peace in the region are the UN-De Mistura proposals. They don't focus on a nationwide agreement, but instead look for local truces. It is a sensible, gradual strategy, perhaps the only workable one in a war where there are countless armed groups, gangs, spoilers.

The rebel side, as is well known, is fragmented. But fragmentation on the other side is no less deep. What we stubbornly refer to as "Assad's army" is, in reality, an unlikely array of Russian jets, Hezbollah fighters, Iranian fighters, mercenaries and Afghan refugees, forced into combat.

In other words, the "Syrian war" needs to be understood as many wars at the same time. It is Putin's war, it is Erdogan's war, it is the war of Hezbollah, it is the war of the Kurds, it is the war of IS and the war on IS. What it isn't is a war for Syria.

We know by now that no one — neither Assad nor the rebels

— can win. No one has the power, and most of all, the popular support, to rule the country. There is only one way out of this quagmire, and that is to convince Syrians to return and take their country back into their hands.

Neither Russia nor the United States seem interested in that. While Russia's priority is to be back on the world stage, the priority for the United States, and for Europeans as well, it is to keep Islamists away from power. While Islamists are almost universally portrayed as butchers, the reality is often quite different. For many of us, they probably provide the wrong solutions. But the problems they are trying to face — a struggle for justice, freedom, for dignity — are real.

Five years and 500,000 dead on, the lack of anti-air weapons means the fall of Aleppo is now only a matter of time. The jihadists also seem to be retreating from Aleppo. But they are not yet defeated. No jihadist says: It's over.

With one exception, the first battle, the battle for Kobane, IS has never truly been defeated. Tikrit. Ramadi. Palmyra. Fal-lujah. Manbij. In all these places, the jihadists have withdrawn. Ask yourself, where are they all now?

One battle is won, yes. But they haven't lost, yet. **TMT**

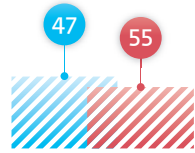
*Islamic State (IS) is a terrorist organization banned in Russia.



“The new Duma has to become the parliament of development.” **Alexei Kudrin**, deputy head of the president's economic council.

13%

Russia's flat income tax, one of the lowest in the world.



Over the last four years, Russia dropped from 47th to 55th place in the world ranking of GDP per capita.

1.5%

Average growth of economy until 2030, according to the Finance Ministry's forecast.

Tax to Stay Flat (Like the Economy)

By [Alexandra Prokopenko](#) and [Margarita Papchenkova](#)

Russia's budget hopes still pinned on rising oil prices.

Ever since the spring, Russian officials have been meeting behind closed doors to discuss a proposal by the Finance Ministry to raise taxes on businesses and individuals — specifically on VAT, payroll fees and personal income taxes. In the past month, the talks have been gaining momentum.

Finance Minister Anton Siluanov has offered assurances that his ministry has no plans to raise personal income taxes. However, others present at the meetings, which were attended by Putin and Siluanov, say they got a different impression, and that income tax increases were, in fact, on the agenda.

Minister Siluanov insisted the meetings instead focused upon the redistribution of taxes. His Finance Ministry recommended introducing a unified rate for insurance payments, then gradually reducing that amount, while simultaneously increasing VAT.

The Finance Ministry argues that businesses are suffering enormous losses due to excessive payroll withholding fees, and that the government could stimulate growth by reducing that burden. But that is not a question for 2017 or even 2018, Siluanov said.

Officials say they will submit a draft of the federal government's three-year budget to the State Duma without any major changes in taxation. With oil prices low, tax revenue is

down, too, and the Finance Ministry expects the deficit will total 3.2 percent of GDP, with plans for that figure to decrease by 1 percentage point annually in 2018 and 2019.

To stay within budget, government ministries and agencies will have to cut spending by 6 percent in 2017 and by as much as 11 percent in 2018-2019, Siluanov said. Defense spending also goes on the chopping block.

The government plans to finance part of the deficit with the help of reserve funds and by borrowing 1.2 trillion rubles (\$18.7 billion) on the domestic market and up to \$7 billion abroad. According to Siluanov, that would be enough money to last for three years.

The Finance Ministry has already asked wealthier regions to share with poorer regions in the form of a 1-percent profits tax payable to the federal budget for distribution as subsidies to the regions that are most in need.

Regions currently pay a 20-percent profits tax, of which 18 percent remains in the regional budget and 2 percent goes to the federal budget. The new measure would generate an additional 115 billion rubles (\$1.8 billion) in 2017.

“That is expropriation,” one regional official said.

It is difficult for regions to avoid running deficits, as nominal incomes rose by only 2.7 percent against a 5.7 per-

cent increase in expenses, according to Natalya Zubarevich, director of the regional program Independent Institute for Social Policy.

The overall surplus in regional budgets is a result of enormous surpluses in Moscow, St. Petersburg and several other regions — even while 52 other regions will run deficits in November-December 2016.

The financial situation in 15 regions is now critical, according to former Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin. He argues that it is necessary to shift Russia toward a production-based economy, but that the goal would remain out of reach unless there is a change to the country's governance practices and infrastructure.

A budget is a simple thing: to balance it, you must either increase revenues or reduce costs. If leaders have decided not to increase taxes, then they must increase debt. It seems they already have political consent for that, says analyst Vladimir Tikhomirov of BCS.

“It is not acknowledged publicly, but the Finance Ministry and the government are placing their hopes on the price of oil rising over \$40,” Tikhomirov said. TMT

Adapted from an article by Vedomosti.

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4 Looking Forward



"What Nossik said doesn't present any real danger to people."
Alexander Verkhovsky, head of the Sova center.

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No. 5774

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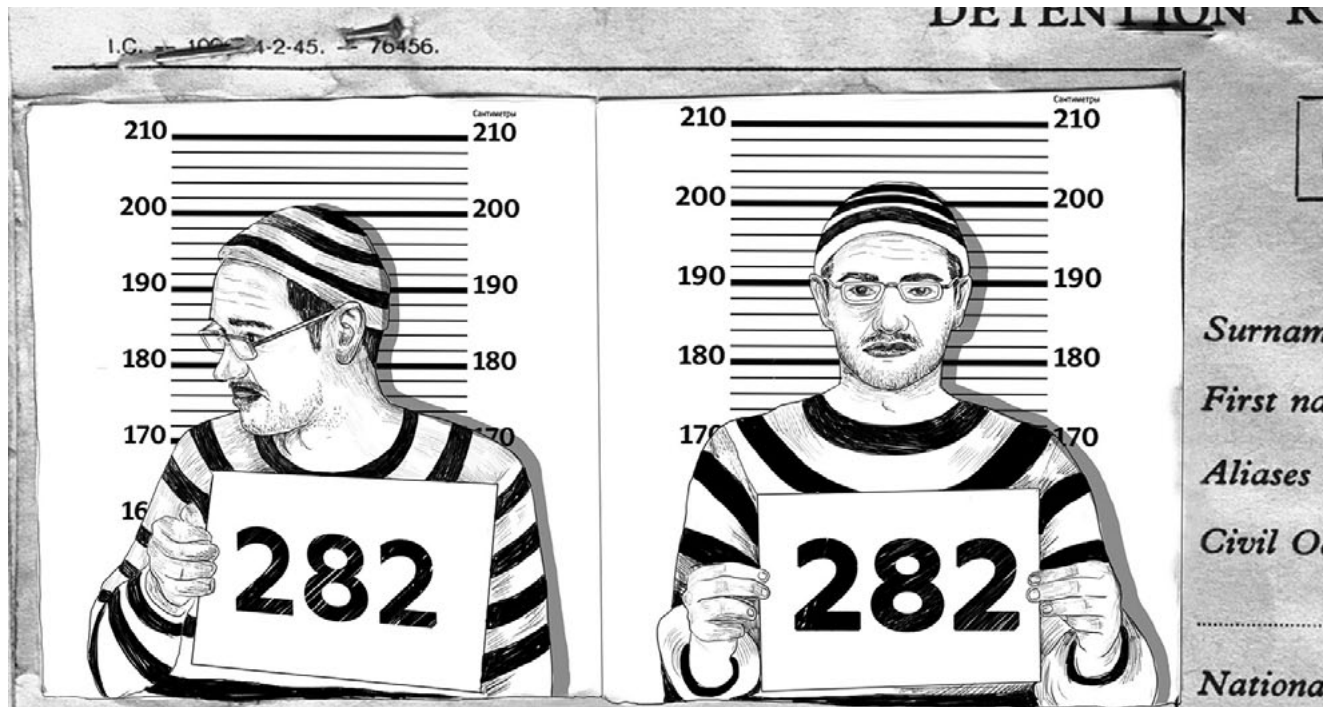
sentenced for hate speech in 2015.

1,000 rubles

fine for boy who "liked" a photo from American History X, a film about a neo-Nazi.



"Even with legitimate verdicts over hate speech, punishment is often disproportionate." **Sova report**



Penned In

By [Eva Hartog](#) e.hartog@imedia.ru, Twitter: @EvaHartog | Illustration by [Yelena Rasputina](#)

The 'father' of the RuNet is facing prison for a blog post supporting Russian airstrikes in Syria.

If it comes to it, Russian Internet pioneer Anton Nossik will accept his jailing, but he won't do so unprepared.

The day before meeting at a central Moscow café, he read three books cover to cover. The reading list, mixing fiction and non-fiction, is grim: "Hostage" by former Yukos manager Vladimir Pereverzin, Andrei Rubanov's "Do Time Get Time" and a memoir by Grigory Pasko, a military journalist once jailed on treason charges — all books on life in Russian prison.

"I'm expanding my horizons. The knowledge I've gained in the past months far exceeds anything I learned in the previous decade," Nossik says drily in a thoughtful baritone, while sipping his orange juice.

Nossik is famous as one of the founders of the RuNet. In 1997, he returned to Russia after several years in his second homeland Israel, and plunged headfirst into Russia's fledgling tech scene. Name the outlet — Lenta.ru, Gazeta.ru, Newsru.com, Rambler — and Nossik is likely to have had a hand in it as a founder, edi-

tor or manager. For decades, he has also been a prolific blogger of cutting commentaries that spare no one, least of all the Kremlin. But after hundreds of critical posts, a pro-government opinion piece could now land him in jail.

In a blog post written in October 2015 entitled "Erase Syria From the Face of the Earth," Nossik welcomed Russian airstrikes on Syria, which, according to the Kremlin, were exclusively targeting the Islamic State — a terror group banned in Russia. Nossik, who displays his heritage in the skullcap on his head, argued civilian deaths were an acceptable price to pay for the annihilation of a country he compared to Nazi Germany. He repeated that view on liberal radio station Ekho Moskvy later that day, saying he welcomed Russian raids on women, children and the elderly because "they are Syrians. They're a threat to Israel."

Many in Nossik's own circles condemned the post. But they didn't think it warranted time behind bars, which is what prosecutors are now demanding. With his statements, Nossik violated Article 282 of the Criminal Code, they argue.

The law, which has been a favorite target of Nossik's own writings, criminalizes public statements "inciting hatred or hostility, or humiliation based on membership of a social group." Penalties range from a fine to a four-year prison sentence.

The infamous Article 282 has served to prosecute a plethora of social groups: ranging from hard-core nationalists to jihadists. Increasingly, it is also used to target lone individuals expressing opinions seen as radical or showing support for such views. Often, the charge is paired with the equally infamous Article 280, against "separatism."

An electrician from Tver, Andrei Bubeyev, received a prison sentence for sharing an illustration on social media of a tricolor toothpaste tube with the text "Squeeze Russia out of yourself," following unrest in Ukraine. "This law shouldn't exist," says Sergei Badamshin, Nossik's lawyer. "It's used in a fight against those who think differently and it's abused by law enforcement."

Yet it's increasingly popular. According to the Sova human rights group, there has been an explosion in hate speech convictions — from 47 in 2007, to 165 in 2014 and 232 cases last year. For the past two years, 84 percent of cases concerned opinions expressed online, sometimes by just liking or sharing a post.

According to Alexander Verkhovsky, director of Sova, the legislation itself mirrors European laws against hate speech and would not be a problem if it weren't being misused by law en-

forcement to boost their crime quotas. "They're motivated by statistics," says Verkhovsky. "It's easier to fight 'terrorism' by browsing VKontakte than hunting down people on the streets."

Where lazy law enforcement officials fail, overzealous Russians are willing to lend a hand. Nossik's case landed on the prosecutor's desk after Ilya Remeslov, a state media journalist, filed a complaint. "Report thy neighbor to the authorities is a very well-known Russian sport," says Nossik, deadpan.

Remeslov says he is acting to preserve societal harmony. He also initiated a case against political analyst Andrei Piontkovsky, after he wrote an article commenting on the hypothetical secession of the North Caucasus republic of Chechnya. "It's part of my community work," says Remeslov, stressing he doesn't receive any state funding. He wouldn't want to see Nossik behind bars. "It would make a political prisoner out of someone who isn't," he says. "A hefty fine" will do.

Nossik, however, will not be muted and the threat of prison has not made him any more guarded in his views. "Either you go out and protect Syrian children from Russian bombs or you accept responsibility for their deaths," he says. "People delude themselves and if there is any value in what I do, it is to rid people of their delusions. I hate hypocrisy."

His supporters argue that his opinion on Syria didn't incite any action and can therefore not be considered a crime. "If Putin had started bombing Syria as a result of this statement it would have been a different case and we could call Nossik the country's most influential blogger!" his lawyer jokes.

Then again, Nossik himself admits that his outspoken commentary has long put him in the crosshairs. "I'm surprised it took this long," he says. "If you stick out, regardless of whether you praise or blame Putin, you're at risk."

He could easily flee Russia, as Piontkovsky did. But Nossik has a wife, a son and a mother in Russia. "As long as they're not ready to leave, I'm not leaving either," he says. Besides, he argues, the widely covered case has given him a new platform from which to spout his views on Syria and the despised Article 282.

On Oct. 3, a Moscow court will decide whether Nossik will walk free, do correctional work or be jailed. "A fine is the easiest, jail the loudest and acquittal the most just," says Nossik. He won't pick a favorite. "I've been warning about this law in my blogs for years. So if I'm jailed, then that just proves me right," he says, smiling. "There's nothing shameful in being right." **TMT**

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“CIT can access stuff that’s harder for us, and they employ some non-open source techniques in their research.”
Aric Toler, Bellingcat researcher.

298

died when the MH17 flight was shot down, July 17, 2014.



The new Dutch JIT report concluded that the **Buk** missile that downed MH17 was, in fact, fired from rebel-held territory, and that the launch platform was smuggled back into Russia after the act.

9M38M1

Type of Buk missile, used exclusively by Russia, fingered in the latest Dutch report.

Out in the Open

By **Matthew Bodner** m.bodner@imedia.ru, Twitter: @mattb0401

Russian open-source investigators confess little surprise at damning MH17 report.

It has been almost a year since the Dutch Safety Board (DSB) concluded a Russian-made Buk surface-to-air missile was responsible for the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014.

From day one, the Russian side has worked to undermine the Dutch findings. Taking the information war to qualitatively new levels, government officials and affiliated state media have offered conspiracy theories ranging from the vaguely plausible to the plain absurd. MH17 was shot down by a Ukrainian SU25 fighter plane, said one; the Buk missiles were Ukrainian, said others. One theory memorably blamed the CIA, saying the passenger jet had left Amsterdam with 298 corpses on board.

A new report by the Dutch-led Joint Investigation Team (JIT) has, however, definitively sided with the initial conclusion of the Dutch Safety Board. The investigation, which has been collecting evidence for a possible criminal trial, concluded the missile system originated in Russia, and was later returned there too.

The JIT investigation also pinpoints with greater clarity who fired the missile, and from where it was fired. In line with earlier reports, the launch location was identified in a field south of the east Ukrainian village of Snizhne, which was under control of Russian-backed separatist forces at the time. The investigation claims to have listed approximately 100 individuals implicated in transporting and launching the missile.

While the JIT report comes at the end of an extensive investigation into MH17, its conclusions hardly come as a surprise to Kirill Mikhailov and Ruslan Leviev, co-founders of a Russian investigative group known as the Conflict Intelligence Team (CIT).

Together with colleagues in the Bellingcat investigation group, Mikhailov and Leviev were pioneers of open-source research techniques. They pieced together apparently unconnected data — pictures, public information and web resources — into compelling documented histories.

Their open-source research provided crucial evidence, for ex-



RUSLAN LEVIEV / FACEBOOK

Ruslan Leviev was IT expert for opposition leader Alexei Navalny. His first open-source investigation was tracking private jets fleeing Kiev after the fall of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.



KIRILL MIKHAILOV / FACEBOOK

Kirill Mikhailov is a former Russian opposition activist. He made his name as one of the first live-streamers of the 2011-12 protest movement, sparked by evidence of fraud in the 2011 State Duma elections.

ample, that located a Russian Buk launcher in the region where MH17 was shot down. Their methods relied on photos of the suspected launch site and images of Russian Buk units sighted in the area by social media users, to eventually determine which specific Russian Buk was the likely culprit. The results of the investigations played a key role in the Dutch investigations into MH17.

In another investigation in May 2015, CIT used photos found on Russian social networks to demonstrate that Russian special forces troops were, in fact, fighting (and dying) in Ukraine. This was happening even after the imposition of the February 2015 Minsk cease-fire agreement, aimed at ending the conflict.

Over the course of the investigation, the pair learned open-source techniques like geolocation. Mikhailov, a linguist by trade, also became proficient at manipulating syntax in search queries

to mine Russian-language social media for leads in ways Bellingcat couldn’t match. This skill was particularly handy in tracking Russian soldiers as they flooded into eastern Ukraine.

In 2015, Mikhailov and Leviev expanded their skills with a new project, eventually focusing on Russia’s role in the Syrian conflict. The Kremlin’s official narrative remains that Russia is waging a purely aerial campaign in support of Syrian President Bashar Assad. As CIT’s open-source investigation established, however, Russian soldiers are also fighting on the front lines.

It is thankless work, and Russian public opinion continues to measure highly in support for Putin and his policies.

It is also dangerous work, forcing the majority of the group to work in complete anonymity. Mikhailov says CIT has up to five full-time members, with expertise in important fields such as weapon identification. The exact identities of these members are not known even to Mikhailov and Leviev. It is a security measure that allows them to capitalize on expertise within Russia, where the threat of arrest and prosecution for this kind of activity has been growing steadily.

CIT’s work has also put them in direct conflict with the Kremlin, which has staked significant domestic legitimacy on the narratives it has formed around these conflicts. The group has reported deaths of Russian soldiers before the government has gotten around to admitting them.

“You never know actually if any of this is having an impact,” says Mikhailov. “But the fact that we announce more Russian soldiers’ deaths than the Defense Ministry is not okay. We think we should hold them accountable about who gets killed in operations and why.” Mikhailov says the group does not intend to concentrate on Russia alone, however, and the plan is to expand their activities worldwide.

“We can switch to any other place, any other country, any other military conflict” he says. “We’ve acquired quite a skill, and it would be a shame to let it go to waste.” **TMT**

The Moscow Times
CONFERENCES

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PERSONAL DATA—NEW REALITIES

The Moscow Times is pleased to invite you to the “Personal Data – The New Reality” conference. In recent years, the protection of personal data has become an immensely topical issue, due to the latest changes in Russian legislation.

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PERIAMA

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A theory exists that the Soviets were willing to exchange Raoul Wallenberg for some of their defectors, but Sweden made it clear it wasn't interested.

July 23, 1947

date of possible interrogation of Wallenberg in Lubyanka prison

July 17, 1947

date of Wallenberg's death in an MGB prison, according to the Soviet government.

"People tell us to give up and live our lives. But we can't give up now, we need to know the answers." **Louise von Dardel**, Raoul Wallenberg's niece.



PRESENS BILD / AP

Swedish diplomat and World War II hero Raoul Wallenberg is shown in this undated photo. It is known that Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviets, taken from Budapest to the Lubyanka prison in Moscow.

Prisoner No. 7

By [Daria Litvinova](#) d.litvinova@imedia.ru, Twitter: @dashalitvinovv

Seventy years on, the mystery of the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat abducted by the Soviets in 1945, might be closer than ever to being resolved.

Swedish ambassador to the U.S.S.R. Staffan Söderblom met with Josef Stalin only once — in 1946. Something important must have been on the agenda: Stalin generously set aside an hour for this meeting in his schedule.

He would ask the ambassador during the meeting whether there was a particular issue he wanted to address. There was one, in fact: The young Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg had disappeared a year before in Budapest; the Soviets were suspected of capturing and imprisoning him.

But Söderblom would never confront the Soviet dictator about Wallenberg's disappearance; instead, he would say that, in his opinion, Wallenberg apparently died in an accident in Budapest, and Soviet authorities, most probably, didn't have any information about his fate. Stalin ended the meeting in five minutes rather than the allotted hour.

Only 11 years later, in 1957, Soviet authorities would officially admit to arresting Wallenberg in 1945 and placing him in prison. What happened to him after that has remained one of the biggest World War II mysteries up until today. Despite the considerable efforts of Wallenberg's family and both Russian and Western historians, who have been trying to find the answers for almost seven decades, the puzzle still misses numerous pieces. Russia's overall reluctance to open KGB archives and reveal secrets of the terror era to the public has significantly slowed down the investigation.

This year researchers might be closer than ever to obtaining answers. On Sept. 21, Wallenberg's nieces Marie Dupuy and Louise von Dardel traveled to Moscow with a group of researchers and lawyers to meet with Russian officials and submit the list of questions, important documents and testimonies required to fill in the gaps of what is now known as the Wallenberg case. They met with the Foreign Ministry and Federal Security Service (FSB, successor of the KGB) officials and were promised full cooperation

and all the archival data needed to solve the mystery.

If the promises are empty, researchers — after having joined forces with the Team 29 legal association that specializes in freedom of information issues — are ready to take necessary legal steps to obtain the information they need.

"We are still very much focused on a purely research approach. But we are now trying to take this discussion to another level. If they don't respond to our request this time, we will have to take legal steps to insist on getting the necessary information," Susanne Berger, historian and founder of the RWI-70 research initiative, told *The Moscow Times*.

Holocaust Hero Vanishes

Raoul Wallenberg, a 32-year-old secretary of the Swedish legation, arrived in Budapest in 1944. His mission was to help Hungarian Jews escape persecution by Nazi Germany, and the young diplomat was successful.

Wallenberg came from a prominent family of Swedish industrialists — their names were well-known both in Europe and in the Soviet Union. With a diplomatic passport in his hands, Wallenberg wasn't afraid to openly help Jews in the capital of Hungary, then occupied by the Nazis. "Raoul spoke fluent German and had a way with German officers in Budapest," says Louise von Dardel. "He could talk to them as if he was a top-rank official that they needed to obey, and they often did."

He issued Swedish passports and visas to Jews, employed them in a company he had set up, provided them with food, medical care and places to live. According to various estimates, he managed to save 20,000 to 100,000 Hungarian Jews during his posting.

On Jan. 14, 1945 he went to meet with the members of Hungary's interim government in the city of Debrecen. He

also planned to contact the Soviet army that had entered Hungary in 1944 — in order to discuss the security of the Jewish protected houses, says Berger. "As a diplomat of a neutral country, with his diplomatic passport, he felt safe enough to do it."

Both Wallenberg and his driver disappeared on that day.

For years after that, the family didn't know what to believe. "Different information about Raoul's fate came all the time," Louise von Dardel recalls. "Some told us that he died when Budapest was bombed, some said he was in a car accident."

Initial requests sent to the Soviet officials brought little clarity. A news brief published in *The New York Times* in November 1952 reads: "Russia informed Sweden at the time [in 1945] that the army had taken care of Mr. Wallenberg during the general confusion but that he had later gone away. In Sweden, the belief persisted that he was held prisoner in Russia. Former Soviet political prisoners have said they had talked with him in Russian labor camps. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said: 'We know he is alive.'"

Over the next five years, Soviet officials repeatedly said that Wallenberg was not on Russian soil and that they had no knowledge of his location. Swedish authorities, Wallenberg's nieces say, did little to get him back. "They didn't even try to exchange him," says von Dardel. "And then the Swedish ambassador met with Stalin and presumed Raoul dead. So Russia is not the only one to blame here."

In 1957, the Soviet government officially admitted that Wallenberg was arrested in 1945 and held in the custody of the Ministry of State Security (MGB). On July 17, 1947, Wallenberg, 35, died of a heart attack in the Lubyanka prison, they said, citing a report by Alexander Smoltsov, head of the prison's medical department.

This story, researchers believe, is most likely a lie.

Continued on Page 11 →

Out & About



Weekly round-up of all that's new, delicious and fun in Moscow.



Head chef Andrei Shelukhin prides himself on the restaurant's use of fresh seasonal produce and chalks up specials boards based on each day's delivery.

Siberian Specialities at Suguday Bar

By **Maria Michela d'Alessandro** artsreporter@imedia.ru

Plunge into the Arctic Ocean at this trendy fish restaurant on Petrovka

Suguday bar boasts a prime central location, a stone's throw from the Hermitage Garden. Windows flood the restaurant with autumnal light, setting the tone for this stylish eatery.

The new restaurant from the Bulldozer group has taken inspiration for its name from an eponymous delicacy hailing from Russia's Far East. Now popular in restaurants across Russia, suguday is a simple dish of whitefish cut into very thin slices and mixed with a little salt and oil. Suguday originated from the nomadic people of the Arctic, who often used broad whitefish, lake herring or white salmon as the principle ingredient.

The menu, which appears rather small at a first glance, includes an extensive starter menu, with dishes like suguday (with mackerel, whitefish, halibut, trout) and carpaccio (from 390 rubles). There is also stroganina, which is similar to suguday but served frozen.

The Siberian dishes are accompanied by ingredients such as mango, quinoa and avocado, creating fusion dishes with surprising flavor combinations (from 390 rubles). Those not in the mood for seafood — or who have booked a fish restaurant by mistake — can opt for the flavorsome steak tartare with Crimean truffles.

Head chef Andrei Shelukhin prides himself on the restaurant's use of fresh, seasonal produce. As such, he chalks up a specials board based on each day's delivery. Among the nine main dishes on offer, the salmon with spinach and the halibut with seasonal vegetables are particularly good (890 rubles).

Freshly-prepared salads, tasty soups — such as the Thai soup — and a small dessert selection complete the menu, which is complemented by a European wine list. The refined but informal bar is perfect for a post-dinner cocktail (all priced around 400 rubles).

Pale wooden tables, gentle music and an abundance of mirrors create the illusion of space and light. Waitstaff wear the classic white and blue horizontally striped t-shirt called the "Telnyashka," topped with a sailor's hat.

Suguday is well worth a visit if you're looking to try something a little different — or if you're yearning for a sea breeze and finding the capital rather landlocked. **TMT**

+7 (495) 419 0088
bulldozer-group.ru/Suguday
30/7 Ulitsa Petrovka
Metro Trubnaya, Chekhovskaya

NEWS & OPENINGS



354

A bird's eye view of Moscow

At 354 meters, this is the highest restaurant in Moscow and the highest open patio in Europe. Sebbie Kenyon masterminds the kitchen. Start with the marinated shrimp with grilled watermelon (870 rubles), then try one of the unorthodox cuts like chuck roll with cherry sauce (1370 rubles). Pair with a Florence spritz (470 rubles).

+7 (495) 777 7111
project354.ru
21/2 1st Krasnogvardeisky Proyezd (OKO skyscraper)
Metro Mezhdunarodnaya



Burger & Pizzetta

Shopping haul pit-stop

With Australian chef Glen Ballis of Glenuill masterminding the menu, Burger & Pizzetta offers an alternative to food court fare if you find yourself at the Yevropeisky shopping mall. Start with fried calamari with tzatziki sauce (390 rubles) and move onto the mango and four cheese pizzetta — a smaller, square pizza. The zucchini fries with yogurt and mint sauce are delicious (240 rubles).

+7 (495) 968 5373
burgerpizzetta.ru
2 Ploshchad Kievskogo Vokzala (2nd floor)
Metro Kievskaya



Royal

Authentic Chinese in the heart of the city

Enjoy authentic Chinese food just a couple minutes from Red Square, in the basement of the Gostiny Dvor (Merchant Court) complex. The staff barely speak Russian but you can't go wrong with sweet and sour soup (220 rubles) or the chicken with vegetables (720 rubles). Pair your meal with a tea and maybe a few of the addictive sticky rice balls with bean paste (480 rubles for six balls).

+7 (968) 810 8103
kitayskie-restorany-v-moskve.ru
4 Ulitsa Ilyinka
Metro Kitai-Gorod, Ploshchad Revolyutsii



Den Chudesny

Your caffeine fix on Petrovka

This cozy little coffee shop on Petrovka only seats a dozen or so people, making it ideal for a proper catch up over a decadent white or black chocolate mocha or one of their smooth espresso-based drinks (from 100 rubles). Exposed brick, a bicycle mural and hanging lamps make it a picture perfect spot to kickstart your day. Den Chudesny also sells sandwiches, salads and cake.

facebook.com/pages/День-Чудесный/795430600559156
4/1 Petrovka
Metro Kitai-Gorod

Take it and go!

Four pages packed with the best places in Moscow to eat, drink, walk, shop, listen, watch, dance and sightsee. A new walking route and listings every week! **Take it, use it, save it!**



2. Classical Manor House

Then note the high imperial-classical style of the imposing mauve-pink manor house, with its pilasters and medallions in the central section. Originally built in the 18th century, it was reconstructed in 1900. The house has had many owners over the years, including a Tolstoy family member and Princess Meshcherskaya. Now it houses a restaurant on the ground floor and offices above.

3/7 Ulitsa Pokrovka, Bldg. 1a



3. Clergy House

The next little house looks a bit out of place among its grand neighbors. It was built at the end of the 17th century to house the clergy from a church here. The Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God was built in 1696-99 and soared over the narrow street with 12 cupolas and an intricately ornamented, delicate bell tower. Francesco Rastrelli, architect of the Winter Palace, considered it a masterpiece. Vasily Bazhenov, who designed the Mikhailov Palace, thought it second only to St. Basil's in beauty. Napoleon was said to have admired it so much that he made sure his soldiers didn't destroy it. Fyodor Dostoevsky adored it, and the historian Dmitry Likhachyov said it inspired him to study Russian culture. Although the architect is unknown — thought to be a certain Pyotr Potapov, perhaps from Ukraine — there was an inscription on the entrance: "Ye, who come here, marvel that this was done by human hands." And then in 1936 it was torn down to widen the street. But curiously, nothing was built in its place. There is just the charming ancient clergy house and a small park square.

5 Ulitsa Pokrovka, Bldg. 5



1

2

3

4

1. Urban Manor House

This very short walk along a very beautiful street begins at the Kitai-Gorod metro station. Take the exit onto Ulitsa Maroseika and walk along the left side of the street. At the corner of Armyansky Pereulok you'll see the magnificent frothy blue and white building constructed in the 1780s for a rich merchant that is now the Embassy of Belarus. At this point Maroseika ends and Ulitsa Pokrovka begins. The street was named after a church that once stood across from the embassy called the Church of the Intercession of the Mother of God — from покров, which refers to both the veil and protection, and therefore protective intercession of Mary. Typically for Moscow, it was torn down in 1778 to make way for a private manor house, but the name remained. As you walk, just enjoy the low pastel houses. If you close your eyes and listen, you can almost hear the street peddlers who plied their trade here even in the Soviet period, shouting: "Knives and scissors to grind!" or "Oranges and lemons for sale!" Then, after being jostled and cursed by impatient pedestrians, come out of your reverie and look at the second building on the left — pale green with highly ornamented windows and façade. This is part of a manor house built in 1871 in the faux old Russian style. During recent reconstruction, workers found two painted signs for a bakery and preserved both of them. They also found a pre-Revolutionary advertisement for "decorative construction work" by Artur Perks and his four-digit telephone number on a white ceramic brick. See if you can find it.

1/13/6 Ulitsa Pokrovka, Bldg. 2

4. Sirotinins' House

On the other side of the street are comfortable-looking two- and three-story manor houses and apartment buildings, now all slightly tipped and crooked, like old armchairs that have settled under the weight of their owners. Be grateful to unknown city planners for keeping the low silhouette on the right side of the street to give the neighborhood some air and light. Take a look across the street at Number 4, owned once by the Sirotinin family, who bought the long, two-story building and then built up the third and partial fourth floor. The entire façade is rather strange, as if it were classicism striving to be something more exotic. In the days of the Sirotinins, there were shops on the ground floor and apartments rented out to middle-class merchants on the floors above. Today, even after another sweeping reconstruction, there are still apartments on the floors above the shops. If you can peek through the arch to the courtyard, you'll see a Moscow rarity: open galleries and stairs leading to the apartments.

4 Ulitsa Pokrovka





6. Church Apartment House

Right next to the church is a small building in the Russian art nouveau style that is now the Doll Museum. Stop in to see the tiny space packed with extraordinary dolls from past centuries. Next to that is another building that once belonged to the Church of the Holy Trinity, an apartment building that provided income to support the church and its clergy. First built in the 1880s, it was redesigned in 1908 with a highly ornamented façade and interior. Even though it was modified in the 1950s, it still has a bit of its former grandeur.

15/16 Ulitsa Pokrovka

7. Hotel at the Pokrovsky Gates

This apartment building is on the corner of Pokrovka and the boulevard ring — the road made when the White City walls, with their towers and gates, were torn down in 1764. Stop for a moment on the corner and look at the two low yellow buildings on either side of Pokrovka. These buildings were part of a hotel built in the early 1800s by order of Emperor Paul I, who somehow managed to concern himself with Moscow streets and the need for hostelries during his short reign. The hotel buildings were completed in 1825 and believed to be designed by the architect Vasily Stasov. Most of the hotel came down in later years, but these two sections still stand, a legacy of old Moscow. Here our walk ends near dozens of cafes and bars, perfect for contemplating times gone by.

16 and 17 Ulitsa Pokrovka



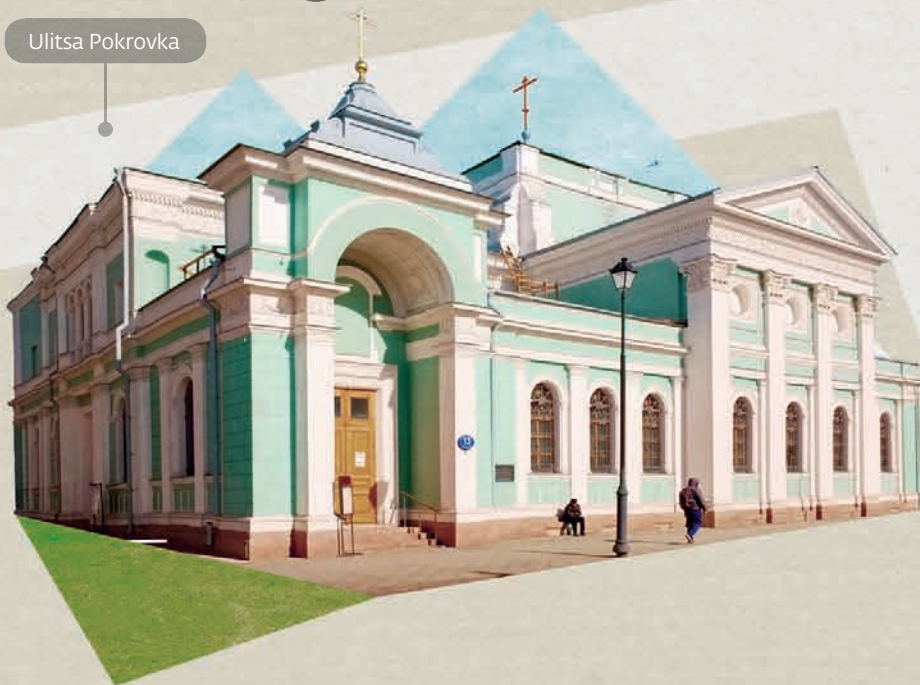
6



7

5

Ulitsa Pokrovka



5. Church of the Holy Trinity on Gryazi

Continue walking on the left side of the street, past the gray and cold façade of a 1928 apartment building, admiring the tidy little two-story houses on the other side of the street. Number 6 was built as shops with apartments above; the next yellow and white structure was part of a manor house. Soon on the left you'll see a pale green, columned temple that looks like it came from Athens. The history of this Church of the Holy Trinity is typical of the fate of Moscow churches: built as a wooden structure in 1547, it burned in 1612 and was rebuilt in stone in 1649. But there's a reason it is called на Грязех (on mud): A small stream called the Rachka flowed from the ponds at the end of Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, and in 1741 part of the church foundation was washed away and a section of the structure collapsed. In 1868 it was rebuilt on support piles in the same kind of imperial classical style as the house at Number 3. Before the Revolution many came here to venerate an icon called the Three Joys, which depicted Mary with the Christ child, Joseph, and John the Baptist. In 1928 the church was closed and the icon disappeared. During the Soviet period, the church was first used a grain silo and then a House of Culture, with a movie theater on the altar. When it was given back to the church in 1992, the parish got a hodgepodge of icons, including, to the clergy's delight, a different icon of Three Joys, which is now in the place of the old one.

13 Ulitsa Pokrovka, Bldg. 1



Cozy Moscow on Pokrovka

A Moscow Merchant Street Reborn

By Michele A. Berdy m.berdy@imedia.ru | Illustration by Oleg Borodin

Take a short stroll along Pokrovka, where charming pastel buildings continue the traditions of centuries gone by.

**Oliver Bilger**, journalist

"Want to go on vacation without leaving Moscow? **Chez Maman** on Bolshaya Nikitskaya is an ideal retreat for a gray autumn morning. The cosy French-style bistro serves a variety of delicious breakfast options. The croque madame comes highly recommended."



GOLDEN AUTUMN

How to Spend the Golden Autumn

The red and gold hues of autumn have arrived, which means a mad dash to enjoy frost-free pavements and squirrel-filled parks before the chill properly sets in. There are plenty of ways to warm up this season, be it enjoying an outdoor market, with a cup of something hot by a roaring fire or taking a brisk walk in the great outdoors. So go on, wrap up warm and embrace the season.



FERENCZYC / PIXABAY

Hot cocktails

Kick the frosty chill

A guaranteed spirit-raiser in the darkening days of the year, a warming cup of something just a little bit alcoholic has to be one of the few advantages of the chillier months ahead. Living in Moscow needn't mean having to sacrifice your standards when it comes to the perfect brew. An age-old favorite has to be the mulled wine and authentic grog — a heady mix of rum, cinnamon and lemon — at Scandinavia restaurant. Alternatively, head to Noor bar for more inventive offerings, from a steaming apple toddy to hot eggnog with a twist. Another picturesque option is Veranda 32.05 in the Hermitage Garden, which serves up no less than three mulled wine variants including

one with a fiery splash of ginger. Alternatively, buy a bottle of Italian red wine from your local supermarket, heat on the stove and add sugar (to taste), some grated nutmeg, a few whole cloves, a vanilla pod, cinnamon stick and your preferred citrus fruit.

scandinavia.ru
noorbar.com
veranda3205.ru



GOLDEN AUTUMN

Golden Autumn Festival

Harvest time

You may have noticed that over the past week, makeshift markets and indulgent pumpkin and wheat bedecked displays have been popping up in many of the city's squares. This is all part of the "Golden Autumn" festival, which will run

through Oct. 9 at 49 different sites across the city. Foodies can enjoy perusing fresh, seasonal produce from across the fertile motherland, including speciality cheese, meat and fish. Many of the areas will run quirky demonstrations, such as tea ceremonies, ship building master classes (running on the fishing theme) and open-air cooking schools for gourmards old and young. The aim of the festival is not only to celebrate the nation's bounty of delicious food products but to also get people thinking about from where the food on their plates comes. Whether that interests you or not, no one can refuse a steaming cup of medovukha — a traditional honey-based drink — or blini fresh from the hot plates.

mos.ru/city/festivals/autumn2016

Various locations

Through Oct. 9



MUSHROOMSMOSCOW.RU

Enjoy mushroom season

An ode to the humble fungi

Are your social media feeds clogged with pictures of your Russian pals and their bounty of scavenged toadstools? If you're longing to get in on the action, a few words of advice. Setting out on an amateur mushroom hunt in the city's parks is not the best idea. First, mushrooms are rather active biological organisms and easily absorb all kinds of nasties from the surrounding environment. Second, if you don't know what you're doing, you could easily mistake an edible puffball for a juvenile death cap (the clue is in the name). Your best bet is to find a knowledgeable native willing to invite you to their out-of-town dacha and give you a crash course in forest foraging. If that all seems like a bit too much effort why not head to the namesake restaurant by the White Rabbit group? Dried, salted, pickled or freshly picked, Mushrooms is out to prove to you that mushrooms needn't be an afterthought. Tuck into the porcini risotto (710 rubles) or enjoy the exotic enokitake ramen soup (480 rubles).

Mushrooms
mushroomsmoscow.ru
22 Bolshaya Yakimanka
Metro Polyanka



CAFE-PUSHKIN.RU

Cozy up by a fire

Enjoy the blaze of an open hearth

Let's face it, there's nothing better than the glow of a fire to warm the cockles of your heart, and your frozen fingers. With many of the city's residents living in apartment blocks, Muscovites often have to search further afield to find a toasty glow. Those feeling decadent, or celebrating a special occasion, could head to the beautiful 19th-century-inspired Cafe Pushkin, which boasts a grand fireplace room, a richly decorated interior and a Russian and French fusion menu. Keeping with the historical theme, lovers of neo-Gothic architecture will be dazzled by the fairy-tale interior of The Central House of Writers, known by its Russian name "Tsentralny Dom Literatorov" (TsDL). The

grand central hall features not only a stunning chandelier — gifted by Stalin to writer Maxim Gorky — but also a grand fireplace, providing the perfect setting for you to feast like a tsar. cafe-pushkin.ru
restcdl.ru



COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA

Stretch your legs

Feast your eyes on the season's colors

If you're on the hunt for colorful foliage and crisp fresh air, Moscow has a wealth of parks, estates and grounds to explore. Tsaritsyno, to the southeast of the city, is an obvious choice when it comes to getting lost in nature. The rural palace was commissioned by Catherine the Great in 1775, although the complex then lay in ruins for many years. After a series of renovations, the estate, nestled in acres of beautiful woodland, is looking grander than ever. Head for a wander around the large ponds, explore sun-dappled trails and warm up afterward by heading to the palace, which boasts a museum, a number of ever-changing exhibitions and a cafe. Alternatively, head to Kolomenskoye, situated high on a curve of the Moscow River. The former royal estate with its orchards, 1532 Ascension church and great wooden palace is a wonderful place to lose yourself for an afternoon. You'll see many locals feeding the squirrels — get involved if you dare. If you don't have the time to head out of the city center, there are plenty of tree-lined boulevards to enjoy in Gorky Park and around Tverskaya.

tsaritsyno-museum.ru
mgomz.com/kolomenskoe



KREMLIN-IZMAILOVO.COM

Izmailovo Kremlin Crafts Fair

Artisan crafts and seasonal fun

Channel your inner country bumpkin this weekend at the colorful Izmailovo Kremlin autumn crafts fair. The annual event, which attracts more than 200 artisans from across Russia, brings a little bit of the good ol' country life to the capital. For one weekend only, dozens of hay figures will populate the complex and a makeshift barn will appear where visitors can feast, frolic and perhaps even discover a little bit of that illusive "Russian soul." Meanwhile, there will be plenty to keep little countrymen and women occupied: from demonstrations by professional blacksmiths and potters to folk musicians performing fun-to-say instruments like the balalaika and gusli. As is instrumental on the day of the fair, the Izmailovo Kremlin's museums will all be open for free, so if you've been dying to learn about the history of Russian vodka, visit the Museum of Bread — yes, that's a thing — or visit the hut of Baba Yaga, this is a prime opportunity. Afterward, buy some natural honey, gingerbread or dried fish from Siberia to remember your grand day out.

Izmailovo Kremlin
kremlin-izmailovo.com
73 Izmailovskoye Shosse
Metro Partizanskaya
Oct. 1-2 from noon until 6 p.m.



The Moscow Times
CONFERENCES

SEPTEMBER 30

MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA

General partner 

FOR SAFER TRADE

**MANAGEMENT OF RECEIVABLES:
A COURSE ON RISK REDUCTION**

SPEAKER



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Regional Country Manager
in Russia and CIS, Coface



Elena Ilyushina,
Treasury manager for
Russia and CIS, Danone



Yekaterina Zvorykina,
Business Controller,
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Nikolai Ivanov,
Head of the committee for
the protection of the busi-
ness, "Business Russia"



Vladimir Kozinets,
Treasury and Risk
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Ilya Krasnov,
Deputy director of the
Department of Corporate
Finance, "Metalloinvest"

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Strategy to avoid formation of accounts receivable.
- Strengthening counterparty verification systems by taking into account all sources of information.
- Automation of processes for the collection of accounts receivables.
- Choosing the best method for determining credit limits for customers.
- Best practices for increasing customer loyalty through effective management of accounts receivables.
- Adaptation of the credit management system and collection of accounts receivable, in line with standing challenges.

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16+
Реклама



Raoul Wallenberg came from a wealthy and prominent family of Swedish industrialists and bankers.

1944

Raoul Wallenberg arrives in Budapest, Hungary

"We have to work under the assumption that the Russian government also wants clarity [about Wallenberg]." Peter Ericson, Swedish ambassador to Russia.



12 years

Soviet authorities denied involvement in Wallenberg's disappearance.

← Continued from Page 6

Alternative Truths

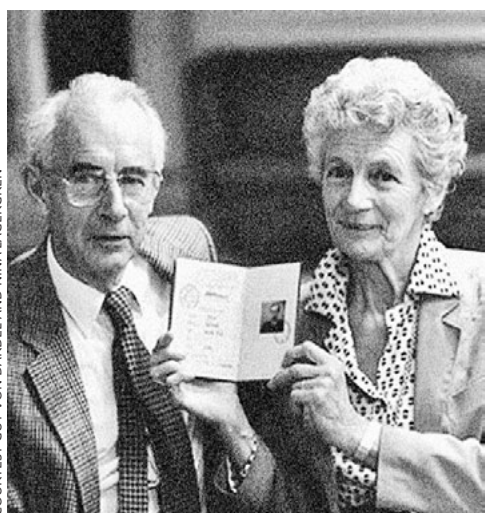
Many things about Wallenberg's alleged death just don't add up. Smoltsov's report states that heart attack "seems to be" the cause. It also says that no one performed an autopsy on the corpse. The MGB head at the time, Viktor Abakumov, ordered Smoltsov to skip the autopsy and cremate the body. The lack of an autopsy means that Abakumov knew the real cause of death. It means Stalin knew the real cause, as Nikita Petrov, a historian of the Memorial NGO who also studies the case, pointed out during a September conference devoted to the Wallenberg mystery.

"What would he have told Stalin about this death and what caused it? He should've conducted an autopsy to find out and explain the death to Stalin. Stalin knows about this case — a case he needs to hide from the West. So how should Abakumov report this death? [The fact that he didn't order an autopsy] means that Stalin knows what caused it, if Abakumov is not willing to find out," Petrov said.

In recently published memoirs, former KGB chief Ivan Serov supposedly assumed that Wallenberg was "liquidated" — in other words, killed by special services without standing trial and being convicted. "I have no doubts that Wallenberg was liquidated in 1947," Serov, who ran the KGB between 1954 and 1958, wrote in his diary. He quoted Abakumov, former state security minister, executed in 1954: The order to liquidate Wallenberg came directly from Stalin and then-Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov, Abakumov allegedly said during one of his interrogations.

There was a letter from Abakumov to Molotov on July 22, 1947 — and it is highly likely that Abakumov talks about Wallenberg's fate in that letter, researchers say. It is registered in the MGB mail journal, but the actual letter was never recovered in the archives. "However, documents like this one never existed in just one copy," argues Vadim Birstein, a biologist, historian and member of the first International Commission on Raoul Wallenberg (1990-1991) headed by Prof. Guy von Dardel, Wallenberg's half brother. "A similar released letter regarding the liquidation of another prisoner, the American Isaih Oggins, has a number — 'four.' It means there were at least four copies, and they should exist somewhere."

Another contradiction to the official version is the Lubyanka prison interrogation registry for July 22-23, 1947, which FSB archivists released to researchers in 2009. De-



Raoul Wallenberg's half brother Guy von Dardel and his sister Nina Lagergren. Von Dardel's daughters are seeking documents from the FSB — documents that will verify what happened to their uncle.

spite careful censoring, the document shows that all the prisoners somehow connected to Wallenberg — his driver that was arrested with him in Budapest, their cellmates — were interrogated on those days, then isolated for years.

Someone else, named "Prisoner No.7," was interrogated on July 23. FSB archivists say that this "Prisoner No.7" is, most likely, Wallenberg — which means he may have been alive after the alleged day of his death. "Was he 'Prisoner No.7'? We don't know. The FSB refused to provide us with more documents that could help us identify this mysterious prisoner," says Berger.

Other researchers suggest that Wallenberg could have survived the MGB imprisonment in the 1940s and been sent to a different prison. Marvin Makinen, a professor at the University of Chicago, was convicted of espionage in 1961 and spent two years in the notorious Vladimir pris-



Hungarian Jews arrival at the Nazi death camp Auschwitz in Poland in the summer of 1944. Raoul Wallenberg, who arrived in Budapest in 1944, helped tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews escape persecution by Nazi Germany.

on. During that time, he moved cells often, and some of his cellmates told him about a mysterious VIP inmate, a Swede, who was kept in solitary confinement. Some said his name was Wallenberg.

In the 1980s, Makinen interviewed a former employee of the Vladimir prison who dealt with the VIP Swedish inmate. She recognized Wallenberg in a photo lineup. "Even though I never mentioned that name in the conversation with her," Makinen said at a Wallenberg conference last week.

Gaps to Fill

Which of these theories is the most trustworthy? When it comes to this question, historians and relatives of Wallenberg are not ready to give a definitive answer.

Wallenberg's nieces Marie Dupuy and Louise von Dardel shrug and smile when asked about it. "Our father [Wallenberg's half brother Guy von Dardel] was a physicist — he operated with facts. Verifying things was of utmost importance for him. We were raised in a similar mindset, that's why we need documents, confirmations," says Dupuy.

Historian Susanne Berger agrees. "It's time we moved from speculating to confirming," she says. "It is difficult for me to say what I think of it. Sometimes I wake up and think that yeah, it is possible that Wallenberg lived longer, and the next morning I wake up and say: No, I really think he died in 1947 ... Getting as many facts as we can and then making a conclusion is our best bet."

So far the facts are these: Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviets, taken from Budapest to Moscow and locked in a cell in the Lubyanka prison. He was later transferred to another MGB prison — Lefortovo, but had been returned to Lubyanka by March 1947, where his trail ends.

Another question without an answer is why Wallenberg was arrested in the first place. The name, Wallenberg, was well-known to Stalin, says Birstein, because the Wallenberg family has been doing business with the Soviet Union since the beginning of the 20th century. Apparently, Stalin was the one to order the arrest. "SMERSH, Soviet military counterintelligence, acted upon Stalin's direct orders. Abakumov [head of SMERSH and later the MGB] took those orders and reported back to Stalin," says the historian.

After winning the war in 1945, the U.S.S.R. needed money, and one of the countries that could loan it was Sweden. "My personal belief is that Stalin wanted to use captive Wallenberg as a 'bargaining chip' in negotiating a loan or other economic issues," says Birstein. "But after meeting with ambassador Söderblom on June 15, 1946, when he realized that Sweden didn't want Wallenberg ... Well. What do you think he did with a prisoner that no one needed?"

Access Denied

The FSB is uncooperative these days — they intentionally censor and withhold some documents, say historians. "Sometimes we request documents and receive censored

copies of them, other times they just ignore us," says Birstein. "It often feels like, aside from a bunch of obsessed researchers, no one wants to find out the truth."

By the time this article went to press, the FSB hadn't answered the request sent by The Moscow Times for comment on their cooperation with the research initiative.

Archives of Russian state bodies, in theory, should be much more open, says Daria Sukhikh, lawyer from the Team 29 informal legal association that helps the Wallenberg research. Russia has quite progressive laws on access to information, but they often just don't work, and state organizations find excuses to deny access. Cases of state bodies denying access to their archives or documents should be considered by courts, but courts often take the side of powerful organizations like the FSB, Sukhikh said at a Wallenberg conference.

Unwillingness to open archives is often just an instinct for secretive bodies like the FSB, Ivan Pavlov, a lawyer and leader of Team 29, told The Moscow Times. "In addition, no one wants to set a precedent. Imagine: If they open one archive and reveal everything about one case, they would have to do it a lot more often," he says. "Secrecy about historical facts helps manipulate them."

Not Giving Up

On Sept. 23, members of the Wallenberg family, together with researchers, met with officials of Russia's Foreign Ministry and representatives of the FSB's Central Archive, Susanne Berger told The Moscow Times. "The meeting was very interesting and constructive," she said. "It went better than we expected."

Officials assured them that Raoul Wallenberg was an "exceptional" figure, and full resolution of his fate is very important, Berger added. Head of the FSB archive, Vasily Khristoforov, said that his department would "thoroughly review" the catalogue of open questions and pending research questions Wallenberg's family handed over during the meeting. "He also indicated that the FSB Central Archive was ready to continue to work with independent researchers in their common effort to answer the remaining questions in the Wallenberg case," says Berger.

Wallenberg's nieces admit that trying to hunt down the truth is exhausting on many levels. It eats up a great deal of time, effort and money, they say. It is always somewhere in the back of their minds; they can't stop thinking about it, even though they sometimes wish they could. "We do want to live our own lives at some point," says Dupuy. "But at the same time we know that we can't give up."

If there are no comprehensive answers to the questions from the catalogue presented to the FSB archives, further actions will include formal complaints and possibly a lawsuit, say Team 29 lawyers.

"We are very stubborn," von Dardel says with a laugh. "We are ready to go all the way up to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin if we have to." **TMT**



"Families expect that the governess will be able to encourage traditional British etiquette." **Glyn Taylor**, managing director at recruiting company Simply Angelic.

The Moscow Times
No. 5774

50-60

Average working hours of Moscow governesses.

£800-£1,200

Average weekly earnings of governors and governesses in Moscow.



Full-time English language tutors for the super-rich in Moscow are called by the 19th-century terms "governor" and "governess."

THE WORD'S WORTH

Catching Up With Caviar

Икра: calf muscle (really)



By **Michele A. Berdy**
Moscow-based translator and interpreter, author of "The Russian Word's Worth" (Glas), a collection of her columns.

All you language nuts know by now that the whole thing about Eskimos having 79 or 143 names for snow is a total myth from start to finish. Once that myth was busted, linguists moved on to discredit the larger theory that the language we speak both affects and reflects our perception of the world.

But today, ladies and gentlemen, I intend to unbust that myth. I give you: Russians and their caviar. Do Russians produce and eat lots of caviar? They do. How many words do they have for it? Ешь — не хочу (Loads of them.)

First of all, икра (caviar) comes in five colors. How's that for a surprise? Чёрная (black), which comes from the fish of the sturgeon family; красная (red) from the salmon family fish; розовая (pink) from whitefish and hake; жёлтая (yellow) from the Caspian roach; and — wait for it — белая икра (white caviar), which comes from виноградные улитки (grapevine or French snails). The snails produce a few eggs twice a year, weighing a total of 3 grams and barely filling a teaspoon.

Oh, but that's not all. There are four kinds of prepared caviar. The first is зернистая икра (fresh-grain caviar), made by taking the roe out of the sac, popping it into a sieve, and salting it just a bit. The second type is паюсная икра (pressed caviar), which is more complicated to produce. First the eggs are salted in the sac, then slightly dried, then cleaned and pressed. Slight fermentation blends with freshly pressed икринки (individual eggs) to make this the best, according to caviar connoisseurs, i.e., any Russian over the age of 50. The third kind is called троичная (troika caviar), which back in the day was the rarest kind, made by special order for gourmants in Moscow. The roe was first placed in a trough and covered with a dense brine, then sprinkled on filter pans and left to dry completely. This dry caviar was then packed, sealed and sent to Moscow from the Volga by the fastest почтовая тройка (postal service troikas), hence the name. And the final type is just the opposite — for poor folks. Called ястычная икра (unfiltered roe, roe in the sac), it was just salted in the sacs.

And each of these was further described by grade: высшая (highest), первая (first), and вторая (second) — all but ястычная икра, which was low-grade by definition.

Икра can also refer to vegetable spreads, like кабачковая (squash), баклажанная (eggplant) and грибная икра (mushroom caviar). It's not quite clear why these are called икра, but they're made of small pieces of vegetables and spread on bread, so they're sort of like caviar. My personal theory is that the only way Russian moms could get their kids to eat bread husks covered with mashed squash was a fancy name. It was a marketing ploy — like Fruit Loops, but for Russian peasant kids circa 1576.

But that's not all. In Siberia, икра was a thick local cabbage soup. In Tambov, икра was a chunk of floating ice. And everywhere in Russia, it was the word for a person's calf muscle. That is apparently a purely Russian usage, not found in the other Slavic languages. Etymologists have theories, but no certain sense of where all this originated.

But who cares where it came from? It's like Eskimos and their snow, only delicious. **TMT**



A Very British Education

By **Ola Cichowlas** o.cichowlas@imedia.ru, Twitter: @olacicho

Western nannies benefit from sky-high salaries and glimpses into the lives of the Russian elite.

When John (not his real name) first arrived in Moscow to begin work as a private English teacher for an oligarch's family, he did not speak a word of Russian. "The farthest east of Britain I had been was Italy."

John was, however, more familiar with the lifestyles of the post-Soviet super-rich. Back home in rural England, he attended an elite boarding school alongside a Ukrainian classmate, who was regularly flown in by helicopter and paid his enormous school fees in cash.

Those childhood memories were at the front of his mind when he was driven to his new workplace — a marble-covered mansion in Barvikha, the Russian capital's most extravagant suburb. There, John was greeted by an English-speaking personal assistant and introduced to the compound's team of 30 staff.

John, 22, had joined the small army of — mostly British — live-in English tutors educating the Russian elite in Moscow's luxury suburbs. Known by the 19th-century term "governor" or "governess," these young Westerners are given privileged, rare insights into the lives of Russian officials, businessmen and celebrities.

Despite deteriorating relations with the West and Russia's deepening financial crisis, the Russian elite has not abandoned its desire to educate its children abroad.

Before their offspring are old enough to be shipped off to private school in Britain, Switzerland or the United States, they must be prepared for life in the West by a full-time carer in Moscow.

English Please

Young Brits are highest in demand on Barvikha's estates. "They like the royalty about England," says Jason Farrell, a former governor who set up Gouverneur International, a recruitment agency placing native English speakers in elite Russian families. Wealthy Russians, he says, want to be associated with the British aristocracy.

Glyn Taylor, managing director of London-based recruitment company Simply Angelic, says his Russian clients want governors to "encourage traditional British etiquette."

Britain is also a less difficult proposition than the United States, both politically and geographically speaking. Unless Russians want to school their children in the United States, the default is to seek Brits to bring up their children.

"It's like importing a British person into your home," says one "governess," who insisted on speaking anonymously. Like many of her colleagues, she has signed a contract, which says she cannot reveal the details of the lives of her employers for seven years. She refuses to name who she works for but says Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is a regular guest at the Barvikha estate where she works.

Unthinkable Salaries

Governors only discuss the lives of their bosses among themselves. They form a sizable expat community in Moscow, and their hefty salaries mean they can afford to dine in the Russian capital's most expensive restaurants. There, they discuss the lives of their employers into the early hours

“They like the royalty about England.” **Jason Farrell**, co-director of Gouverneur International.



\$400,000

Reported cost of Barvikha family holidays.



Barvikha is one of Moscow's most luxurious suburbs, also home to a well-known Soviet-era sanatorium.

4

placements are made monthly by Moscow's luxury nanny recruitment services.

of the morning. These include witnessing dramatic FSB raids, house arrests and traveling the world in private jets.

Money draws the young Brits to Russia. A governor in Moscow can earn up to £1,200 (\$1,560) a week, an unthinkable amount of cash for recent university graduates. “The most I’ve seen advertised is £800 (\$1,040) a day,” says John.

This makes the job very hard to leave. “You get addicted to the money very quickly,” says Emma, a governess who refused to give her last name. If they have the patience, governors stay in Moscow long enough to be able to afford a small house back in London.

Some decide to stay in Moscow to recruit Brits for rich families. “It’s the classic governor scenario,” says former governor James Alger. After working five years for oligarch families, he now calls himself an “education consultant” and earns a living by persuading friends in Britain to work in Moscow. He runs a company called EED (“Elite Educational Development”) with another former governor. Alger stumbled on the business idea when his employer’s friend paid him \$5,000 to find a governor for his son.

The Russian financial crisis has barely affected the demand for foreign nannies in Moscow. The recession may be hitting the average pocket hard, but in Barvikha, life has largely stayed the same. If anything, the crash of the ruble has made the life of foreign tutors, usually paid in British pounds, even more luxurious.

‘It Hardens You’

But working for Russia’s rich and powerful can be tough. “They make the rules and you are always wrong,” says John, adding that anybody with a low tolerance for stress would not last long in the job.

Adjusting to the demands of Russia’s wealthiest is the hardest part of the job. Governors, who either live on the same territory as their employer or are given an apartment nearby, are on call round the clock. Some are unable to cope. One governess escaped from her family at an airport. “She simply grabbed her bags and ran into a taxi,” says Emma.

Katherine (not her real name) says that she found “a family away from home” in Barvikha. “I was close to my oligarchs and kept their confidence,” she says. “The day after the great ruble crash, the father made us watch a Soviet film in which a rich father pretended to have lost his fortune and set his children to work,” she recalls.

Like many childcare employees, the tutors grow close with the children and find separation emotionally difficult.



KIRILL CHAPUNSKY / TASS

The economic recession in Russia has barely affected the demand for foreign nannies in Moscow. In the elite Moscow suburb of Barvikha, life has largely stayed the same. If anything, the ruble exchange rate has made the allure of a salary in British pounds increasingly attractive.

In many instances, families cut ties abruptly. One governor, who had spent three years bringing up a child, was told he was not needed anymore via a telephone call from a personal assistant.

“One day you’re part of the family, the next day you’re nothing to them,” says Emma, adding that the experience had “hardened” her.

At times, the job can also feel dangerous. Governors grow used to their employers carrying guns and the high level of security that surrounds them. “If there are any problems, the recruitment companies order a car and take you to a safe house,” says Emma. Many governors are put off coming to Russia by the very existence of a “safe house.”

Working with the rest of the staff is another difficulty governors face. Often only governors are invited to family dinners, and this can cause tension with the rest of the staff in Barvikha’s mansions. “The worst thing that can happen is for the nannies to find out how much you earn,” says John.

Temporarily a Russian Oligarch

John was one of the lucky ones. He almost immediately befriended a security guard named Yury at the mansion in which he worked. “He would put down his guns to play football with me and the kid,” he says.

Searching through his phone, he shows photographs of super-yachts in the Caribbean, Saint-Tropez and the Maldives. “My employer could easily spend half a million dollars on a holiday,” he says. He goes on to tell boyish tales of driving expensive cars and snowmobiles in luxury French ski resorts. “When I first arrived in Moscow, they put me in a vintage car full of models and drove me around the Kremlin,” he says.

Unlike many of the governors, John is still in touch with the Russian boy he looked after for two years. “He’s in a boarding school in England, I’m really proud of him,” he says.

Asked if he would want the same for his children, John replies in the negative: “Absolutely not.” **TMT**

The Moscow Times
CONFERENCES

THE LEGAL ISSUES OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Session 1. The EEU market. The legal framework regulating drug circulation and its enforcement

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Which laws, or absence of laws, impede the launch of a single EEU market?
- Legal coverage of integration processes related to drug circulation.
- Drug registration mechanisms on the single EEU market.
- Issues of drug substitutability on the single market.
- The “odd man out” rule. Participation and conditions for the admission of drugs manufactured in EEU countries for state procurement.

Session 2. GMP audit of manufacturing sites. GMP harmonization

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Scope of verifications and their results. What are the main violations in the operations of Russian and foreign companies?

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SPEAKERS

Natalia Gulyaeva,
Partner, International law firm
Hogan Lovells

Victor Dmitriyev,
CEO, Association of the Russian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (ARPM)

Vikram Punia,
President,
Pharmasyntez

Vadim Kukava,
Executive Director,
Association of the innovative pharmaceutical companies InPharma

Lilia Titova,
Executive Director,
Union of professional pharmaceutical organizations

Session 3. Intellectual property. The advantages and disadvantages of compulsory licensing. Parallel imports

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What legislative amendments will increase the responsibility of pharmaceutical manufacturers?
- Risks related to the time limitations of receiving GMP certificates.
- GMP harmonization in Russia and abroad.
- Mechanisms for the application of compulsory licensing.
- In what situations will compulsory licensing be applied?
- What compensation will the patent holder receive?
- Legalization of the parallel import of pharmaceuticals at the EEU level.
- Panel discussion “On Permitting/Banning Clinical Trials and Generic Drug Registration before the Patent Expiration of the Reference Drug”.

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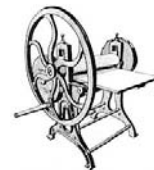
"I believe that if I were commissioned to design a new universe, I would be mad enough to undertake it."
Giovanni Battista Piranesi

16

etchings in the "Imaginary Prisons" series.

1969

The date the first Piranesi exhibition was held at the Pushkin Museum.



To create an etching, a metal plate is covered with a waxy ground which is resistant to acid. The artist then scratches off the ground with an etching needle, exposing the bare metal.



The Piranesi exhibition not only features etchings and drawings, but also coins, vases, models and other art objects from Piranesi's teachers and followers. This allows visitors to achieve a holistic understanding of Piranesi's creative formation, and the impact his work had on future generations.

Piranesi: A Panorama

By [Maria Michela D'Alessandro](#) artsreporter@imedia.ru

A sprawling new exhibition at the Pushkin Museum examines the artist's life and legacy

The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts has just dedicated over 1,000 square meters of exhibition space to Giovanni Battista Piranesi, the Italian engraver, architect and antiquarian best known for his exquisitely detailed etchings of Rome and fantastical prison designs. It's a grand gesture, but not an undeserved one given the indelible mark Piranesi left on modern culture and — as the exhibition encourages you to discover — on Russia.

The retrospective aims to give visitors an insight into the artist's work, from his life and work in Italy to his influence on the architects of Catherine the Great's court and the domineering Soviet-era buildings modeled on his designs.

Alongside over 100 of Piranesi's etchings, visitors can admire the artwork of his predecessors and followers. More than 400 artworks and art objects are on display, both from the Pushkin Museum and museums such as the Venetian Cini Foundation, the Shchusev State Museum of Architecture and the Russian Academy of Fine Arts.

"By anyone's consideration Piranesi was an extraordinary artist. This exhibition is an opportunity to show not just his famous works but also works that have not been exhibited before from the Pushkin Museum's own catalogues," said Marina Maiskaya, the curator of the exhibition, in an interview with The Moscow Times.

The 'Rembrandt of the Ruins'

Rome, the city where Piranesi lived and worked for much of his life, was also his biggest inspiration. Born in 1720, the artist had a fevered obsession with the power and immensity of the city's monuments, both ancient and modern. He studied and documented Rome's historic relics throughout his career, leading to him being termed the "Rembrandt of the ruins."

The son of a stone mason and master builder, Piranesi's practical understanding of structural engineering is tangible in his work. He ceaselessly documented Rome's grandeur from all perspectives and angles. One of his biggest projects, "The Roman Antiquities" — four volumes on the city and its ruins — forms part of the fascinating collection at the Pushkin Museum.

Piranesi's series were soon popular with travelers making the Grand Tour of Europe in the 18th century. The painstaking print-making process gave a striking splendor and reality to his scenes, while at the same time Piranesi could rearrange monuments and sights into interesting compositions which captured the essence an ancient empire.



Piranesi combined conventional topographical scenes with novel compositions in his work.

The current exhibition, which aims to examine the artist though his influence on the modern era, contrasts Piranesi's etchings with photographs of the same geographic locations taken three centuries later. The Italian photographer Gianluca Baronchelli was charged with reinterpreting Piranesi's scenes on the modern map of Rome. The resulting parallel project "Piranesi Today," demonstrates Piranesi's ability to capture grand architectural monuments, and add to them with the power of his imagination.

Fantastical Designs

But Piranesi's did not simply replicate and reinterpret the past. His print series "Imaginary Prisons," which captures fantastical labyrinthine prison interiors, shows how he pushed the boundaries of spatial illusion to their extreme and, in many ways, precipitated 20th century Surrealism.

The etchings of diabolical subterranean vaults show Piranesi fully indulging his artistic impulses: they are both menacing and mesmerizing. Piranesi combines a clearly ordered way of constructing the interiors with a chaotic, winding and rather dreamlike end result. Looking at them you feel a desire to enter and ascend the many twisting staircases and corridors, but also the fear and the claustrophobia of the institutions which seem to have no escape.

"With the 'Prisons' series Piranesi was able to create a new space that has influenced 20th century cinema as well as literature," said Federica Rossi, an architectural historian at the Kunsthistorisches Institut and another of the exhibition's curators. From the cinema of Sergei Eisenstein to the troubled protagonists of Dostoevsky, Rossi, a dedicated Piranesi scholar, sees him as an influential force in Russian culture. Dark and disturbing, his prison series are even said to have inspired modern video game artists in their design of maze and labyrinthine quests.

Between Antiquity and Modernity

To further immerse themselves in Piranesi's mysterious artwork, visitors can watch a 3D video created by French artist Grégoire Dupond. Originally created for a 2010 Piranesi exhibition at the Venetian Cini Foundation, the video zooms into Piranesi's artworks, revealing their dark vitality and intricate craftsmanship.

"The entire idea of the exhibition is to show the predecessors and the teachers of Piranesi as well as his followers, with a focus on Russia," said Rossi. "Going back to Catherine the Great's empire, the architects who worked on the designs for her court were influenced by Piranesi. In the mid 1700's every bourgeois family in St. Petersburg would have known of Piranesi — it was fashionable to collect his engravings at home."

And the artist's brooding, atmospheric scenes also had a striking impact on the 20th century. The design of the triumphal columns, obelisks, arches and mausoleums during the Soviet Union were inspired by Piranesi. Works by Soviet architects as Melnikov, Nanushyan, Iofan are displayed alongside Piranesi's works in the exhibition. So great was the Italian's impact on the era that his influence is sometimes termed Russian Piranesianism.

As you near the end of the exhibition, a striking ceiling-high work by Russian contemporary artist Valery Koshlyakov demands your attention. It might be have been painted on cardboard in the 21st century, but the domineering and highly textured building it portrays is an apt ode to Piranesi's oeuvre.

"Piranesi is not just a style or a genre, he is also the expression of an aspiration always present in the human being, the yearning of a constant creation and demolition," said Koshlyakov. **TMT**

"Giovanni Battista Piranesi: Artworks from Russian and Foreign Collections" runs through Nov. 13 at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, 12 Ulitsa Volkhonka, Metro Kropotkinskaya. artsmuseum.ru

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Balkenhol's Figurative Sculptures Populate MMOMA

By **Andrei Muchnik** artsreporter@imedia.ru

The Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA) has opened one of its best shows in recent years. "Stephan Balkenhol: Sculptures and Reliefs" is a retrospective of the renowned German artist best known for his figurative wooden sculptures.

Born in 1957, Balkenhol began producing artwork in the early 1980s. His favorite material has always been wood — particularly cedar and silver fir — honoring a tradition going back to medieval Europe. "The tree dies and then an artist comes and animates it again. That is the process of making a sculpture," says Matthias Winzen, the curator of the exhibition, about the artist's creative process.

Unlike his historic predecessors however, Balkenhol creates anonymous-looking, everyday human figures. He leaves his works unpolished, with rough surfaces and cuts, reflecting the imperfections of real life. "Stephan addresses traditional art and he is in a dialogue with it, but otherwise, his work is rooted in contemporary reality," says Winzen, referring to the Balkenhol as both "post-abstract and post-conceptual."

The central figure in many of Balkenhol's works is a man dressed in a white shirt and black pants. "It's not simply a funny puppet, like a Punch and Judy show. I wouldn't say these figures have soul, but they are somehow animated, there's something in them. But it's not portraiture, it's just a figure that is there," says Winzen. The figures often have bland, expressionless faces and with their plain clothing, they have a somewhat timeless air. As a viewer, you're drawn to the blank canvas and the meaning it proffers.

"What he really does is an almost conceptual reduction of the artwork to a question: 'What is human? What is human if you take away so called psychological individuality or social

status? The figure functions as a mirror," says Winzen. "You can't help but see a human figure and then on second glance you see that it's wood. It's a mirror made from wood asking you as a viewer 'What am I perceiving? Who am I?'" Some of Balkenhol's works represent religious figures as they might look today, including Christ and Madonna-like sculptures. Asked whether he feels concerned about recent outbursts from Orthodox activists who have targeted artworks depicting Christian themes in an untraditional way, the artist was unflustered.

"My works, of course, are related to religion and explore this theme in their own way. But there is no intention of any sort of blasphemy or any action against the church. Some of my works have been exhibited at a Catholic church in Kassel and for that we had a discussion with official church representatives," says Balkenhol. "The result was an understanding that although religion is treated in an unorthodox way in my works, I don't want to do religion any harm. For me this is also connected to the notion of freedom of art and artistic creation." Stephan sees his art and his life as one and the same. "A real artist stays an artist on a twenty-four-seven basis. For my creative vision everything matters, everything that I feel and experience in life. I believe the most exciting and beautiful thing in art is that you can create something that doesn't yet exist."

The exhibition at MMOMA has been adapted to the local context and the exhibition space. Some of the works were specifically created for the Moscow show, and connect with both iconography and iconoclasm.

One of them is a wooden "black square" in a golden frame, with a fingerprint on the back. The artwork is in obvious dialogue with Kazimir Malevich and the issue of authenticity in

the art world. There are also a couple of wooden reliefs, reminiscent of the Moscow cityscape. Featuring more than 50 of Balkenhol's works, including the artist's sketches, the retrospective continues MMOMA's series of exhibitions introducing contemporary German art to Moscow audiences, including "The Paths of German Art from 1949 to the Present Day" and the "Appeal for an Alternative" retrospective exhibition of Joseph Beuys in 2012.

Given the buzz surrounding Balkenhol and his latest show, it seems likely that this retrospective will be remembered as a highlight of the autumn cultural season.

"Stephan Balkenhol: Sculptures and Reliefs" runs through Nov. 13 at MMOMA, 10 Gogolevsky Bulvar. Metro Kropotkinskaya. mmoma.ru



Sept. 29 – Oct. 5

FESTIVAL Italy Week

Feasting, film and Russo-Italian friendship
Gray skies got you down? We might not be able to fly you to Italy, but we can bring a little bit of Italy to you. Designed to encourage the rapprochement of two nations who share a rich culture, if not a warm climate, Italy Week will involve film screenings and various activities showcasing the best of Italian music, fashion and, of course, food. This free Italian extravaganza will take place at the Manege all week.
Moscow Manege
italyweek.ru
Manege Square
Metro Alexandrovsky Sad, Okhotny Ryad
Oct. 2-8

FILM Bridget Jones's Baby

One little bump, one big question
Bridget's back, and this time she's pregnant. The third installment of this iconic series based on Helen Fielding's novels, "Bridget Jones's Baby" could be the perfect antidote to a tough week at work. Starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and Patrick Dempsey, it's the same witty formula for which the prior films are beloved. After a mishap involving some eco-friendly biodegradable condoms, Bridget finds herself pregnant by one of two possible baby daddies. Cue the unfolding hilarious fallout.
Pioneer Cinema
pioneer-cinema.ru
21 Kutuzovskiy Prospekt
Metro Kievskaya

EXHIBITION VegExpo

Go green
Oct. 1 is World Vegetarian Day, an opportunity to find out more about leading a meat-free lifestyle. The Sokolniki Conference Center is hosting a weekend-long VegExpo, where visitors can attend lectures on healthful eating, browse the vegetable-laden food court, take part in workshops and be inspired by vegetarian recipes. Entry costs 200 rubles and the parallel conference costs 1000 rubles.
Sokolniki Conference Center
vegconf.ru
5 Luchevoi Prosek, Bldg. 7c1
Metro Sokolniki
Oct. 1-2

SPORT Festival of Nordic Walking

A work-out for all ages
Ever wondered how Scandinavians look so, well, healthy? Nordic walking is a type of fitness walking involving poles, therefore encouraging the walker to use their biceps, shoulders and core muscles. Festival visitors can learn about the practice from experts, take part in competitions and meet up with other like-minded folk. There will also be a parallel children's program.
Kuzminki Park
park-kuzminki.ru
Ulitsa Kuzminskiy Park
Metro Kuzminki
Oct. 2

For more information about this and other cultural events, go to our website, www.themoscowtimes.com



GET
YOUR
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NOW!

Yulia Lezhnyova will perform at the Tchaikovsky Concert hall on Dec. 14. The soprano opera singer rarely performs in Moscow, and this is a perfect opportunity to hear her angelic tones in one of the city's leading concert venues.

Buy tickets via the website: meloman.ru/concert/yuliya-lezhnyova-14-12-2016/