

# Marina Pugina

18.12.1992 (29)

+ 7982 46 94 118 (telegram / what's app)

[odinultramarin@gmail.com](mailto:odinultramarin@gmail.com)

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An independent researcher and curator who explores various forms of artistic associations with a focus on the production and dissemination of specific knowledge, and how processes of (de)colonization and (de)centralization affect local art scenes.

She was born in Perm (central part of Russia) in 1992. The beginning of her career in Perm took place during the ambitious project called «Perm Cultural Revolution», the purpose of which was to decentralize cultural and financial resources. This greatly affected her professional optics as well as the fact that the processes of internal and external colonization exacerbate the processes of decentralization.

Now she is working on a series of publications that examines the current artistic process in Russia through the through social and political change. She explores how art communities in the late Soviet period in the Urals found access to knowledge about the current artistic process, how informal art education in Russia compensates for the rigidity of the academy, as well as how large Russian museums carry out colonial expansion into small cities through a system of branches. She is also interested in the forms of consolidation of artists and cultural workers in the post-covid era in Russia and Europe.

[RRR](#) member. RRR is an informal association of 30 cultural workers from different Russian regions appeared as a request for cultural decentralization. Members of the association take part in public discussions and publish open letters problematizing the cultural agenda in Russia.

Under the threat of persecution for cooperating with independent media, she left Russia in November 2022. Temporarily based in **Bielefeld** (Germany).



## **Education:**

**2020 — 2022 — MA student**

**/ European University at Saint Petersburg**

Courses taken: Sociology of Care, Sociology of Gender, Sociology of Gender in Russia, Problems of Modern Philosophy, Qualitative Research 1-2 (St. Petersburg, Russia)

**2015 – Bachelor degree in «Arts and Humanities»  
Perm State National Research University (Perm, Russia)**

## **Additional education:**

**2022 – Curatorial workshop by Chto delat (art collective) and Maria Lind (St. Petersburg, Russia)**

**2019 – Curatorial program «Schools for researchers and art managers» at CCA «Tipografia» (Krasnodar, Russia)**

– Curatorial school «Art of the document: the poetics of evidence» as part of «Nemoskva» project in Satka (Chelyabinsk region, Russia)

**2018 – EUNIC residency program for young curators, Tensta Konsthall with Maria Lind (Stockholm, Sweden)**

**2016 – Cultural Management Workshop, British Council (Ekaterinburg, Russia)**

**2014 – School for Art Journalism, PRO ARTE Foundation (St. Petersburg, Russia)**

**2013 – ArtPolitika School for Contemporary Art (Perm, Russia)**

## **Professional experience**

### **2015 — 2018: curator and researcher**

artist-run space «[Dom Gruzchika](#)» (Perm, Russia).

### **2015 — 2019: senior researcher**

studied local art history, collected an archive of local artists, worked with the museum's photographic collection, rediscovered the museum's collection through collaborations with contemporary artists at **Perm State Art Gallery** (Perm, Russia)

### **2019 — present: curator**

annual self-organized nomadic residences at the dachas of Perm artists\*

\*documentation is available on the collective and anonymous Instagram: [@nedacha](#).

### **2019 — 2020: researcher**

collected and processed archival documents about local art scene for the collection of Perm Museum of Contemporary Art «PERMM» as part of the Russian Art Archive Network [RAAN](#).

### **2019 — present: writer and editor**

co-editor of independent media about contemporary art and culture in Russia [aroundart.org](#).

### **2022 — present: writer and editor**

co-editor of independent media about contemporary art and activism in Russia [krapiva.org](#).

## **Selected exhibition projects:**

### **April-July 2020**

Online exhibition based on series of collective virtual «plein airs» / project «[room4us](#)».  
Curatorial residency program «A room of one's own» at White Room gallery, Moscow.

### **December 2018**

Shpagina factory, Perm / «[Transitional State](#)».

A group exhibition of local artists based on the results of short residence at the existing car-repair factory.

### **April 2018**

Z. Freud Museum of Dreams, St. Petersburg / «Phantom Pains».

A group exhibition of Perm and Petersburg artists. Co-curator: philosopher Yana Tsyrlina.

The concept is inspired by Maurice Merleau-Ponty's idea of «phantom pains» and its interpretation by Dylan Trigg.

### **December 2017-January 2018**

Center for Urban Culture, Perm / «[Invisible Horizon of the Observer](#)».

Personal, research-based exhibition by Perm artist Aleksey Shchigalev.

### **December 2015 - January 2016**

Perm State Art Gallery / «Towards the Light».

A group exhibition of Perm artists based on the research of museum collection of wooden sculpture.

As part of the «The Sea of Opportunities» project.

### **September-November 2015**

artist-run space «Dom Gruzchika», Perm / «The Map and The Territory»

Russian-Ukrainian group exhibition based on map-territory relation in the framework of the parallel program of the 3rd Ural Biennale of Contemporary Art.

## **Grants and awards (2017):**

- **Laureate of Perm State Region Award in the field of culture and art** as a Perm State Gallery project team for educational project for children with disabilities.
- **Laureate of The State Award in the field of contemporary art** «Innovation-2017» in the nomination «Regional Project» for the «The Sea of Opportunities» project (2015-2016). It is a long-term project of Perm State Art Gallery built on mobilization of local communities around the museum and its problems. The project implemented with grant support from V.Potanin Foundation.
- **Invited expert** of the first session of «Local Art Histories» at the Triennial of Russian Contemporary Art at the MCA «Garage» (Moscow).

## **Selected research projects:**

### **September-October 2022**

Radiance CCA, Apatity / [«Apatity: A Local History of Art at the Turn of the 1990s»](#).

Archive exhibition devoted to the opening of the first private gallery in the Arctic Circle and the reaction of local artists to the putsch of August 1991.

### **April 2020-July 2021**

[«Natural Circulation»](#) is a research project of independent curators Tatyana Kiryanova, Ekaterina Sokolovskaya, Natalia Tikhonova and Marina Pugina with the support of the NCCA in St. Petersburg. The project started in the first wave of the covid-19 pandemic and because of that based on online meetings with experts on various topics. Their goal is to become a place of free dialogue without regulations and outside the institutional approach for the exchange of experience and opinions. As a result of each meeting, the curators of the project collect and publish information about the issue raised in the Directory for general use, thus collecting up-to-date information about the current art process in Russia in one place.

**November 2020**

**[Recapturing the Initiative. Art Self-Organizations in Perm, 2014-2020](#)**

Text about the consequences of the «cultural revolution» in Perm. In collaboration with open online archive of Russian art [RAAN](#).

**August-October 2018**

Perm State Art Gallery, Perm / «Avant-garde, which didn't exist».

Archival exhibition presenting the result of a long-term study of local art history over the past 50 years.