

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Recycle Group, *Nature of Non-Existence*, 2018, Ground floor sketch.

Recycle Group *Nature of Non-Existence*

Private View: 29th November 2018, 6-8pm

Talk: 11th December 2018, 6-8pm

Exhibition: 29th November 2018 – 5th January 2019

Gazelli Art House presents *Nature of Non-Existence*, a new solo exhibition by Recycle Group, the award-winning artist duo known for their pioneering use of technologies from Virtual Reality (VR) to Augmented Reality (AR) throughout their practise. In their new exhibition, the artists unlock a hidden world via the use of an AR app available on the viewer's mobile devices.

In the words of Recycle Group, “The main idea behind *Nature of Non-Existence* is that the visitor can change their perspective to a machine's eyes and feel how the world is inside the brains of a machine. There are two points of view in the world: a human's and a machine's, a perspective that we do not see and doesn't exist for us. The experience gives the viewer a chance to feel like a machine; not just to see it, but to feel it.”

Recycle Group examines how technology changes society and the looming notion of singularity in these new works. Ray Kurzweil, who coined the term technological singularity, defines it as the time when humans and machines will merge together with AI to reach super-human levels of intelligence. The artists explore on-going questions such as can machines have their own feelings, will they learn to take control of our world and what will happen to the relationship between humans and machines in the future.

As the viewer walks around the exhibition and hovers the Recycle app over the sculptures, the experience unfolds. Without the use of the app, some parts of the exhibition remain restricted from view and these visual limits are confronted by the artists to highlight society's growing reliance on machines.

The ground floor presents five screens used as light boxes that give off an optical illusion as the viewer moves around them. Upstairs there are a series of black laser cut works on acrylic that mirror human cellular neurons referencing nodes of a Wi-Fi network and synaptic connections.

Recycle Group often merges opposing themes, a continuation of their practice, as in their 57th Venice Biennale installation entitled *Blocked Content*. This is the fourth solo exhibition in London with past shows including *Keep Me Updated your Holiness* 2015, *I, Cyborg* 2016 and *Last Space Remaining* 2013.

“This timely exhibition provides the viewer with real and augmented visions to behold. Responding to the growing use of big data and artificial intelligence, the artists present new works to question the role of machines and their perspective of our world,” said Mila Askarova, Founding Director of Gazelli Art House.

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About the Artists

Recycle Group is comprised of Andrey Blokhin (B. 1987, Krasnodar, Russia) & Georgy Kuznetsov (B. 1985, Stavropol, Russia) in 2006 and aim to explore the realm of Virtual Reality (VR) using both recycled imagery and materials. Their work aims to bridge incompatible subjects such as the classical with the contemporary, Western artistic traditions with Russian domestic realities. Since 2008 the artists have regularly participated in various group shows in Moscow, St Petersburg and other Russian cities. The year 2008 marked their first exhibition under the title Recycle Group. Two years later, the artist won the prestigious Kandinsky Prize in the Young Artist category for their *Reverse* project. Since 2010 works by the art group have been showcased on a regular basis in international galleries and various contemporary art spaces in France, Italy, Great Britain, USA and Belgium. In 2012 Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow hosted their grand personal show *Paradise Network*, which attracted a broad audience and was widely covered by the mass media. The artists participated in the programme of la Biennale di Venezia in 2011, 2013 and 2015. Their large-scale installations, made of plastic mesh, has decorated the facade of Grand Palais during the international art fair Art Paris 2013 and the facade of London School of Economics in 2014-2015. In 2017 Recycle Group represented Russia at La Biennale di Venezia 57th International Art Exhibition with their exhibition *Blocked Content*. Works by Recycle Group are part of the public collections of Glasstress, Royal Museum of Scotland, Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow among others. Both Andrey Blokhin and Georgy Kuznetsov live and work between the South of France and Krasnodar.

www.recycleartgroup.com

Notes to the Editors

- Recycle Group represented Russia in the 57th Venice biennale with their installation *Blocked Content*.
- Past selected exhibitions include *They Were Lying To You, Everything is Different* at the Centre Pompidou in 2018 and a solo exhibition at the Pushkin Museum of Art Moscow entitled *Homo Virtualis* in 2017.
- This is the fourth exhibition at the gallery by the artists with past shows including *Keep Me Updated your Holiness 2015, I, Cyborg 2016* and *Last Space Remaining 2013*.
- The Recycle Group mobile app is available through the Apple Store and Google Play.

About Gazelli Art House

Gazelli Art House represents a wide range of international artists through its London and Baku galleries and presents a broad and critically acclaimed programme through global public projects and exhibitions. The gallery was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it originally held exhibitions with local artists. Mila Askarova, Founding Director, opened a permanent space on Dover Street in 2012 following a series of conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London. During the same year, the Window Project was launched to offer recent art school graduates an innovative display platform three times a year. In 2015 the gallery launched Gazell.io, a monthly online residency for digital artworks and *Enter Through The Headset*, an annual VR show. The Window Project, Gazell.io and *Enter Through The Headset* highlight the gallery's on-going commitment to supporting artists across different mediums.

For further information please visit: www.gazelliarthouse.com