

Interactive Presentations (IP)  
Topic 12 - Interactive Presentations (12)

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DREAMS OF THE EARTH AND SKY

**Abstract**

In the presentation will be examined the issue of how artistic visions of the Outer Space shaped technological and societal aspiration in Russia. The title of the presentation came from Konstantin Tsiolkovsky book “Grezy o Zemle i Nebe” (Dreams of the Earth and Sky) which was published in 1895 and described mankind’s settlement at the Outer Space. Tsiolkovsky, who is known as “the father of Soviet cosmonautics”, also consulted the first Soviet sci-fi film Cosmic Voyage (1935, film director Vasilij Zhuravlev) and created Album of Cosmic Voyages in which he depicted details of future spaceflights. Tsiolkovsky has formulated space mission: it is to adapt the human being to extraterrestrial space, populate other worlds, harmonize men and Universe relationships. Russian Avant-garde artists were fascinated by Cosmos and its exploration. Kazimir Malevich has proposed to build a new Suprematist sputnik between Earth and Moon and defined weightlessness as a basic principle of Suprematism. Revolutionary dream about creating new social order was embodied in sci-fi films, novels and art dedicated to interplanetary voyages in the 1920th-30th. In the 1950th Cosmos become the ground for the birth of then new technical aesthetics. In the 1949 artist (and engineer) Nikolay Kolchitsky has illustrated Ary Sternfeld’s book “Flight into Outer Space”. In the 1960th and the 1970th artists illustrated popular science articles and fictions dedicated to Cosmos published in the journals “Technica Molodezhi” and others. An artist, a musician, and the founder of his “Prometheus” Special Construction Bureau, Bulat Galeev has created an automated audio-visual object for monitoring all systems and special apparatus for the Soviet space program to help cosmonauts to fight in long-duration flight sensory deprivation. Kinetic artist, architect and musician Vjačeslav Kolečuk, designed an original self-assembling Space Radio Telescope and a Hall of Outer Space Travelling at the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics in Moscow (1981). The issue of cosmonautics become important for the conceptual artists (IlyaEmilia Kabakov, Elena Elagina Igor Makarevich) as referential point to the failed Utopian dream. At the end of the Soviet Epoch young artists were inspired by Cosmos, created works dedicated to it and organized the first Space Rave Gagarin Party (1991) at Pavilion Cosmos at VDNH in Moscow with company as honorable guest cosmonauts Alexey Leonov, Georgy Grechko et al. Cosmos is still important subject in nowadays art. Once again artists have returned to the ideas of Russian Cosmism and its founder philosopher Nikolay Fyodorov.