

## **BUILDING THE REVOLUTION: SOVIET ART AND ARCHITECTURE 1915–1935 THE SACKLER WING OF GALLERIES**

29 October 2011 – 22 January 2012

The exhibition *Building the Revolution: Soviet Art and Architecture 1915–1935* examines Russian avant-garde architecture made during a brief but intense period of construction and design that took place from c.1922 to 1935. Fired by the Constructivist art that emerged in Russia from c.1915, architects transformed this radical artistic language into three dimensions, creating structures whose innovative style embodied the energy and optimism of the new Soviet Socialist state. The exhibition juxtaposes large-scale photographs of extant buildings with relevant Constructivist drawings and paintings and vintage photographs. It is the first time that many of the works have been shown in the UK.

The drive to forge a new Marxist - Socialist society in Russia gave scope to a dynamic synthesis between radical art and architecture. This creative reciprocity was reflected in the engagement in architectural ideas and projects by artists such as Kazimir Malevich, Vladimir Tatlin, Liubov Popova, El Lizzitsky, Ivan Kluin and Gustav Klucis, and in designs by architects such as Konstantin Melnikov, Moisei Ginsburg, Ilia Golosov and the Vesnin brothers. European architects including Le Corbusier and Erich Mendelsohn were also draughted in to shape the new utopia. Their novel buildings - streamlined, flat-roofed, white-walled and with horizontal banded fenestration - appeared alien among the surrounding traditional low-built wooden structures and densely developed nineteenth century commercial and residential blocks. They left a distinctive mark not only on the two most prominent cities in what was then the USSR, Moscow and St. Petersburg, but also on other urban centres such as Kiev, Ekaterinburg, Baku, Sochi and Nishni Novgorod.

The distinguished photographer Richard Pare has documented these iconic buildings in a series of sympathetic and timely images made over the past two decades. These provide an eloquent record of the often degraded condition into which the buildings have fallen.

The exhibition explores the interplay between art and architecture during these heroic years. The architecture, which is arranged by building type - residential buildings, industrial facilities, health, recreational and educational complexes, state headquarters and communications structures - is presented through a juxtaposition of Pare's work and carefully selected vintage photographs of

each building either under construction or shortly after completion. These vintage photographs have never been exhibited before. Together they demonstrate the formal innovations in design

that reflected the call for new, building types and new functions. These photographic groups are set in dialogue with paintings and works on paper from the Costakis Collection, which demonstrate the vital experimentation of Russian avant-garde artists from c.1915 to 1930, as well as the intense dialogue that developed between them and radical architects, contributing to a new, revolutionary language of architecture.

## **COURTYARD SCULPTURE**

In conjunction with the exhibition, a reconstruction of Vladimir Tatlin's *Monument to the Third International*, known as 'Tatlin's Tower', specially commissioned from Jeremy Dixon (Dixon Jones Architects) is installed in the Royal Academy's Annenberg Courtyard.

## **THE ARCHITECTURE SPACE**

### **Recreating Tatlin's Tower**

Until 29 January 2012

*Recreating Tatlin's Tower* explores the conception, vision and symbolism of Vladimir Tatlin's unrealised *Monument to the Third International*. It documents the intriguing process of making the new scaled recreation.

## **ORGANISATION**

*Building the Revolution: Soviet Art and Architecture 1915-1935* is organised by the Royal Academy of Arts in collaboration with the SMCA-Costakis Collection, Thessaloniki, and with the participation of the Schusev State Museum of Architecture, Moscow, and Richard Pare. The exhibition has been curated by MaryAnne Stevens, Royal Academy of Arts and Dr Maria Tsantsanoglou, with the collaboration of the photographer Richard Pare.

## **EXHIBITION TOUR**

Caixa Forum Barcelona, 3 February - 7 April 2011

Caixa Forum Madrid, 26 May – 18 September 2011

Royal Academy of Arts London, 29 October 2011 – 22 January 2012

Martin Gropius Bau Berlin, 5 April – 8 July 2012

## **MEDIA PARTNER**



## **CATALOGUE**

A fully illustrated catalogue has been published to accompany the tour of *Building the Revolution: Soviet Art and Architecture 1915-1935* with essays by architectural and art historians specialising in the period, including Professor Jean-Louis Cohen, Dr Christina Lodder and Dr Maria Tsantsanoglou.

## **DATES**

Open to public: Saturday 29 October 2011 – Sunday 22 January 2012  
10 am – 6 pm daily (last admission 5.30 pm)  
Late night opening: Fridays until 10 pm (last admission 9.30 pm)

## **ADMISSION**

£9 full price; £7 registered disabled and 60 + years; £5 NUS / ISIC cardholders; £3 12–18 years and Income Support; £3 8–11 years; 7 and under free. RA Friends go free.

## **TICKETS**

Tickets for *Building the Revolution: Soviet Art and Architecture 1915-1935* are available daily at the RA. To book tickets in advance please tel: 0844 209 0051 or visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk). Groups of 10 or more are asked to book in advance; please tel: 020 7300 8027, fax: 020 7300 8084 or email: [groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk)

## **IMAGES**

Publicity images for *Building the Revolution: Soviet Art and Architecture 1915-1935* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.picselect.com](http://www.picselect.com) and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

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