



**Sanya Kantarovsky in collaboration with Ieva Misevičiūtė**  
*Apricot Juice*

**Friday 17 April – Sunday 18 April 2015**

**Performances: Thursday 16 April 2015, 7.30pm & Saturday 18 April 2015, 7.30pm**

'Well what have you got?' asked Berlioz.

'Apricot juice, only it's warm' was the answer.

'All right, let's have some.'

The apricot juice produced a rich yellow froth, making the air smell like a hairdresser's.

Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita*

Sanya Kantarovsky (b.1982, Moscow, Russia) whose practice encompasses painting, drawing, sculpture and occasionally film, has brought together his own work with that of Lithuanian-born artist Ieva Misevičiūtė. Misevičiūtė's practice combines physical theatre, dance, stand-up, Butoh, perverted academic language and sculptural work.

*Apricot Juice* takes place around two distinct parts - a language and movement based performance by Misevičiūtė and a group of five large-scale paintings by Kantarovsky. The exhibition departs from Mikhail Bulgakov's enigmatic masterpiece novel *The Master and Margarita*, a narrative woven around a visit by the Devil to the aggressively atheist Soviet Union. Written between 1928 and the author's death in 1940, the novel has become one of the most potent and critical works of Russian literature of the 20th century.

During two live performances Misevičiūtė will interact with her environment on a cat shaped stage placed in the nave of the former chapel, and built to conjure the form of Bulgakov's demonic feline character Behemoth. Together with the paintings, scaled and lit in response to the original function of the chapel as a place of worship, the installation invokes the Christian metanarrative within *The Master and Margarita*.

The genesis of the collaboration between the two artists consisted of a series of gesture drawings and character studies of Misevičiūtė in Kantarovsky's studio. The final paintings, indexical to Misevičiūtė's body, mirrored chronological scenes from the novel. In turn, Misevičiūtė re-appropriated the paintings as a departure point for building a layered movement and language based performance, eventually closing the collaborative loop by engaging with the paintings hung in the gallery space. In effect, the process allowed both artists to consider the content of *The Master and Margarita* at length, coalescing and diverging their practices in the process.

The resulting event, ad absurdum, considers a possibility of a space between literature, painting and theatre, in which secular skepticism can momentarily dissolve into belief.

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### **About the artists:**

Kantarovsky (b.1982, Moscow, Russia) lives and works in New York. Recent solo and two person exhibitions include: *Gushers*, Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, 2015; *Allergies*, Casey Kaplan, New York, 2014; *Little Vera* with Ella Kruglyanskaya, KIM?, Riga, 2014 and *You Are not an Evening*, GAK, Bremen, 2013. Kantarovsky participated in the group exhibition *Notes on Neo Camp* at Studio Voltaire, London in 2013. Recent special projects include *Research and Reporting* at KW, Berlin 2014 and *LAX façade*, Los Angeles, 2013.

Kantarovsky is represented by Casey Kaplan, New York; Marc Foxx, Los Angeles; Tanya Leighton, Berlin; and Modern Art, London. Kantarovsky will collaborate with Stuart Bailey on an extensive monograph due to be released in autumn 2015. Published by Studio Voltaire and generously supported by Casey Kaplan, New York; Marc Foxx, Los Angeles; Tanya Leighton, Berlin; and Modern Art, London.

Ieva Misevičiūtė is a New-York based performance artist. Selected performances include: *The Kitchen*, New York; *Time-Based Art Festival*, Portland; *Beursschouwburg* theater, Brussels; *dOCUMENTA (13)*, Kassel; *de Appel* art center, Amsterdam; *Center Pompidou*, Paris; *Performa 09* at Swiss Institute, New York; *Swiss Sculpture Exhibition Biel-Bienne*, *Le Mouvement: Performing the City*.

### **About How to work together:**

This new commission forms part of *How to work together*, a shared programme of contemporary art commissioning and research devised by Studio Voltaire, The Showroom and Chisenhale Gallery and is supported by Arts Council England through Catalyst Arts: capacity building and match-funding, Bloomberg, Jerwood Charitable Foundation and the How to work together Artist Commissions Production Fund. This commission has received additional support from Yana and Stephen Peel. Visit the other commissions – Ahmet Ögüt at Chisenhale Gallery (29 April – 31 May) and Wendelien van Oldenborgh at The Showroom (29 April – 20 June). [howtoworktogether.org](http://howtoworktogether.org)