

hoast

artist run space

große sperlgasse 25
www.hoast.net

A Secret Museum of Workers Movement

A group exhibition with artists from Belarus

with
Gleb Amankulov
Uladzimir Hramovich
Marina Naprushkina
Olia Sosnovskaya
Curated by Aleksei Borisionok
With a special contribution by Valentin Duduk

Opening Day: February 26 2021
On view: February 27—March 21 2021
Opening hours: Fr 3—6 pm, Sa 12—4 pm
and by appointment

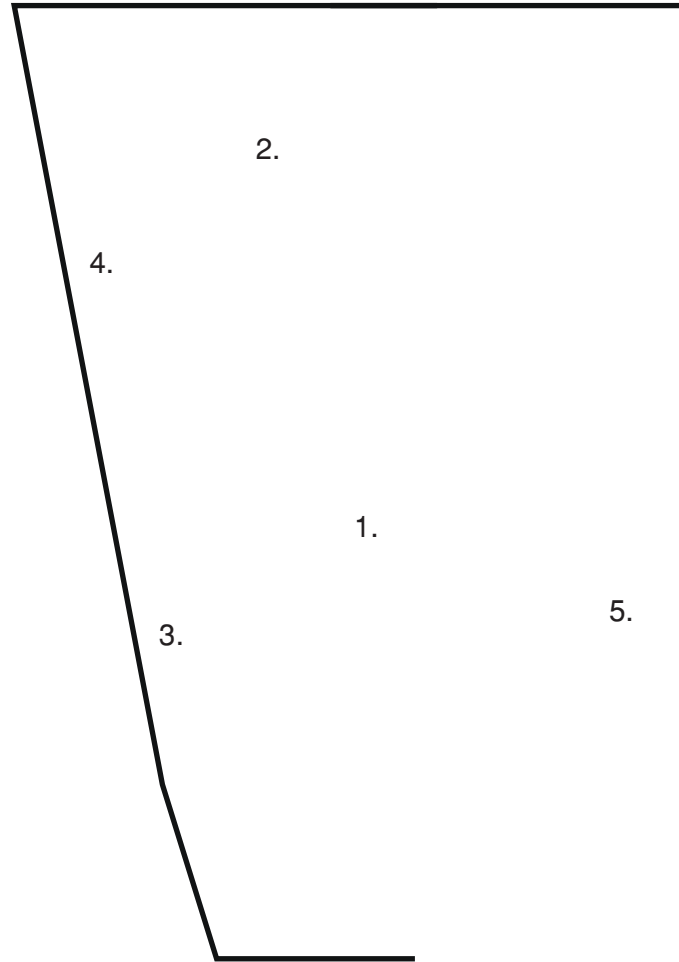
Since August 2020 people in Belarus have revolted against unfair elections, state and police violence. Besides many other forms of protest, strikes at major industries and cultural institutions were one of the most powerful tools of civic unrest. The exhibition “A Secret Museum of the Workers Movement” derives from the failed attempt to visit the real Museum of Trade Union and Workers Movement in Minsk during the ongoing protests and calls for a general strike. The museum, itself, belongs to the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, a conservative organization that supports the current political regime. At the same time, the independent workers’ movement is still active: workers are joining the strike every day. The committees that organize strikes at the main industrial sites – Belaruskalii, Grodno Azot and others – are strong.

The exhibition imagines the secret museum of the workers movement and presents a fragmented narrative, illustrating workers’ heritage, historical strikes and contemporary forms of labour unrest in Belarus and beyond. It questions how the strikes have been represented through history and how the notion of the strike as a gesture of disruption could be represented at all. Olia Sosnovskaya presents a digital collage based on her visit to the National Library of Belarus. The work speculates on the possibilities of readers striking. In his lithograph work, Uladzimir Hramovich questions how workers’ heritage is destroyed and “decommunised”. Marina Naprushkina collages text from current protest chants with the images of empty industrial spaces onto a sheet of paper from school exercise books. Gleb Amankulov explores spatial metaphors of refusal, blockading and suspension. “A Secret Museum of the Workers Movements” stands in solidarity with the workers’ movements and tries to highlight essential forms of care, labour militancy and histories of different workers’ struggles.

hoast

artist run space

große sperlgasse 25
www.hoast.net



1. Gleb Amankulov. "no 1". Metal, resin, plastic; dimensions variable, 2021
2. Gleb Amankulov. "no 2". Metal, wood, plastic, glass; dimensions variable, 2021
3. Uladzimir Hramovich. Untitled; "Green Bridge in Vilnius, Lithuania" (1952—2015). From the series "To the memory of the people to live for centuries"; Lithography; 2016
4. Marina Naprushkina. "Solidarity is Our Weapon"; Digital print, marker on paper; 2020—21
5. Olya Sosnovskaya. "Text"; Digital print; 2020