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Tired of winter in Minnesota? Try Siberia.
SIBERIA: Imagined and Reimagined
February 1 through May 18, 2014



Anastasia Rudenko, *Krasnoyarsk*, 2010.

MINNEAPOLIS – In a state where polar plunges are a popular recreational activity and winter can last six months of the year, Anastasia Rudenko’s photograph of bikini-clad women posing on a snow-covered riverbank *almost* looks like it was taken in Minnesota. After all, during the winter months, we see extreme displays of cold endurance on a regular basis.

Siberia: Imagined and Reimagined (February 1 through May 18, 2014) brings photographs of Siberia by Russian photographers to the American public for the first time. The

exhibition, presented by the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota and organized by the Foundation for International Arts and Education, provides both a historical and a current view of Siberia. Curated by Lea Bendavid-Val, the photographs both animate and challenge popular perceptions of an often forgotten place, via an enigmatic medium. The over one hundred works span more than 150 years, between the 1870s and 2011, and provide a glimpse into the varied geography and diversity of the region.

Parallels to Minnesota’s culture and landscape are undeniable. Most notably, both have continental climates, meaning both are subject to hot and mosquito-friendly summers, and cold and obdurate winters. But unlike Minnesota, Siberia is officially neither a territory nor a political entity.

In presenting *Siberia: Imagined and Reimagined*, WAM continues its traditions of hosting internationally based shows and of investigating the complexities of the photographic medium.



Sergey Prokhudin-Gorskii, *Bashkir Switchman on Trans-Siberian Railway. Near Town of Ust Katav on Yuryzan River*, 1912.



Sergei Maximishin, *Krasnokamensk*, 2006.

Related Programming

January 31 – Exhibition Preview Party

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Celebrate your inner Siberian with an indoor/outdoor preview party. Slip into the WAM Warmer (traditional dwelling of the Khanty people of Siberia) to defrost your feet or snuggle up to a real live reindeer. Music by DJ Jonathan Ackerman. Free admission.

March 5 – WAM Chatter: What is Siberia?

6:30 p.m. – Program 7:30 p.m. Social Hour

WAM Chatter is an evening of presentations in the pecha kucha style. Pecha kucha is Japanese for “chatter,” or the sound of many people talking. This Chatter will focus on Siberia from historical, sociological, and political perspectives. Participants include Piotr Szyhalski and James von Geldern.

April 23 – Student Design Showcase

WAM will host its third annual design competition in partnership with the University of Minnesota College of Design. Taking inspiration from the exhibition the competition will showcase ready-for-the-runway garments with an emphasis on sustainability.

ABOUT WAM

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum’s mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

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