

Arts, Briefly

Moscow Hosts Contemporary Art Show

Sophia Kishkovsky
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The Third Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art opened on Thursday evening at the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, an art gallery founded by Daria Zhukova, the companion of the Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich. The French curator Jean-Hubert Martin brought together 78 artists for the main project, titled “Against Exclusion,” from countries including Benin, China, Australia and Russia. Installations include live chickens by the Belgian artist Koen Vanmechelen and “Painting in Absurdistan,” above, by Gloria Friedmann. Contemporary art has been controversial in Russia in recent years, with criminal charges of “inciting hatred” filed against the former director of Moscow’s Sakharov Museum, Yuri Samodurov, and the curator Andrei Erofeev for a contemporary art exhibition titled “Forbidden Art” that was held there. It has also been profitable and embraced by wealthy Russians as a sign of social status and sophisticated tastes, although the art market has suffered from the financial crisis.