



## Vababai Vadadai!\*

Taus Makhacheva

14<sup>th</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Private view 14<sup>th</sup> April, 6 – 8pm

narrative projects is pleased to present *Vababai Vadadai!*, the first comprehensive solo exhibition by Taus Makhacheva in London. In her videos and performance works Makhacheva fuses artistic practice with the insightful research of a social anthropologist. Using the cultural context of her native Dagestan as source material, the artist addresses issues such as history, identity, and social relationships within communities. Subtle wit, a sense of humour, and an acute visual sensitivity have become distinct characteristics of Makhacheva's practice. She carefully selects the most dazzling and intriguing elements of everyday life that surround her, and uses them to compose a cultural patchwork of contemporary society in the Caucasus.

Although Makhacheva is originally from Dagestan, she spent her formative years elsewhere, and only recently returned to her origins in Makhachkala. She tests and ventures to understand this new social context through her work. She explores it, and tries out different roles that she might assume within it.

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\* An interjection used in the Northern Caucasus to express amazement, stupefaction and an ultimate excitement.

*Vababai Vadadai!*\* is an invitation to join the artist on this journey of curiosity. The exhibition was conceived to reflect the full spectrum of conceptual approaches and entry points that Makhacheva explores. The works on view comment on the individual's relationship with nature, and especially the mountain landscape that has immense symbolic significance for the people in the region. People are, arguably, the main focal point for Makhacheva in her research. She is fascinated by the transformations Caucasian archetypes have undergone in the last hundred and more years. She is ironic in her investigations of the contemporary meanings of national identity, and the significance this identity has for various social groups. She is intrigued by the rituals of gender performativity. They may appear absurd at first glance, but have consistent symbolic meaning in a wider historical context in Dagestan.

One of the main goals of Taus Makhacheva's practice is to create a non-verbal vocabulary for transcultural exchange; a vocabulary based on visual impressions and emotional undertones rather than linguistics. *Vababai Vadadai!* is, in fact, part of that possible new mode of exchange.

#### **About the Artist**

**Taus Makhacheva** (born 1983, Moscow). Her previous exhibitions and projects include: *(In)sidenotes*, Uppsala Konstmuseum, Uppsala (2015); *Too Early, Too Late. Middle East and Modernity*, Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna, Bologna (2015); *A Walk, A Dance, A Ritual*, GfZK Museum of Contemporary Art, Leipzig (2014); *Russian Performance: a Cartography of its History*, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2014); *Untitled... (Native Foreigners)*, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2014); *Close and Far: Russian Photography Now*, Calvert22, London (2014); *Story Demands to be Continued*, Republic of Dagestan Union of Artists Exhibition Hall, Makhachkala (2013); *Re: emerge – Towards a New Cultural Cartography*, 11 Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah (2013); *Love me, Love me not*, 55th Venice Biennial, collateral event, Venice (2013); *7th Liverpool Biennial: City States-Makhachkala, Topography of Masculinity*, LJM Copperas Hill Building, Liverpool (2012); *Rewriting Worlds*, Fourth Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Main Project, ArtPlay Centre, Moscow (2011).

Winner of: Future of Europe prize GfZK Museum of Contemporary Art, Leipzig (2014) and Innovation Prize, new generation category, National Centre for Contemporary Art, Moscow (2012).

For further information and high – resolution images please contact:

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