

Olga Shirokostup (b. Severomorsk, Kola Peninsula, based in Lyon) is a curator, researcher, and educator. Shirokostup's approach is cross-disciplinary, initiating independent research, performative and educational projects.

She graduated from the History program of the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (MSSES) (2025), the Chto Delat' School of Engaged Art (2014) and the Moscow City Pedagogical University (2011).

Shirokostup was a curator and coordinator at the independent art institution CCI Fabrika (until 2013). She handled organizational and research matters within the Field Research program when it first launched in 2013 – a cross-disciplinary research body whose aim is to produce new material on a wide range of overlooked or underrepresented social and cultural phenomena in Russia (Garage Museum, 2013-2017). She also curated The Art of Action course at the Cascade School for teens (2019-2021) and the SKVT program at Politech museum (experimental museum program for teenagers) (2014-2019).

Shirokostup was a permanent scholar at the educational program Actual Concepts and Practices of Contemporary Art (with Ekaterina Suverina) at the Faculty of Media Communications (Higher School of Economics (HSE University), BA, 2019-2022). She led a course on Research at the Practices of Contemporary Art and Curatorship program (Garage museum x HSE University), MA, 2021-2024).

As producer and performer, Shirokostup worked with Ketj Chukhrov (movies Love Machines (2013), Communion (2016), and Undead (2022)). As a performer, she was a participant of the Undead project (2022) by Ketj Chukhrov (A War in the Distance: Exhibition, steirischer herbst'22, Neue Galerie Graz, 2022).

She took part in the Festival Xchanges Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany, 2019), KRASS festival 2018 (Kampnagel, Hamburg, Germany), BALAGAN!!! Contemporary Art from the Former Soviet Union and Other Mythical Places (NORDWIND Festival 2015, Berlin, Germany), Bergen Assembly (Bergen, Norway, 2013) the Biennale for Young Art (2007, 2012), the 5th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary art (2013) and others.

Within the research cooperative Krasnaya Shpana (f. 2014), a nomadic collective of three members (Alexey Markin (Germany), Olga Shirokostup and Illia Yakovenko (Ukraine), Shirokostup has carried out a long term project "Wem gehört die Avantgarde? Malevich-Projekt." (2017-2019). They were awarded the "Change of Scene" grant from The Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Shirokostup was a chief curator of Radiance CCA (the first private contemporary art center in the north of Russia, Murmansk region) (2020-2023). She participated in the Frame exchange program for curators (Finland, 2022) and worked on research-based projects and texts within the residency of The Mirror Institution program (Sweden, 2023). In 2024, she received a grant from the IASPIS (together with Ingela Johansson and Ilmira Bolotyan).

She is currently working on a long-term research project *Women in the North* (curated by Maria Lind), based on the investigation of the history of art, and activism and personal archives by women who lived in the Kola Peninsula and the High North since the 1930s. With the *Women in the North* project Shirokostup was invited to be a participant (with Ingela

Johansson and Ilmira Bolotyan) of the exhibitions and public events at the Kin Museum, Kiruna (2023-2025) and Sodertalje Kunsthall, Sodertalje (2023) (Observatory: Art & Life in the Critical Zones project (curated by Maria Lind, 2023-2024)).

She also curates the archive collection of contemporary art in Apatity (Murmansk region) for the 1980-1990-2000s time periods (with grant support from the RAAN project by the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art) (2023-2025).

Selected curatorial projects:

— Sekretiki: Digging Up Soviet Underground Culture, 1966–1985 (curator and developer of public program events within the project, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, 2019-2020).

— Voice as a Strategy (Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, 2018).

— Field Research: Liberating Knowledge. Progress Report II and Weekend Faculty Program (together with Snejana Krasteva, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, 2017).

Selected publications:

Shirokostup O., Desyatnichenko A. A Heroine in the Time of Troubles: The Myth of the Many-Faced Alena of Arzamas, As Though We Hid the Sun in a Sea of Stories—Reader. Published by: Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW) and Archive Books (2023).

Shirokostup O., Between River Low and Mountain High. Artistic Research and What Characterizes It— Philosophical Literary Journal Logos 34(1):63-74 (2023).

Shirokostup O., A CULTURAL WORKER'S REFLECTIONS ON ALEXANDER CHAYANOV'S PEASANT META-UTOPIA— Russian Peasant Studies 7(4):133-147 (2021).