

# FULBRIGHT GRANT INFORMATION SESSION WITH MARIYA VLASOVA ART '12

## TUESDAY APRIL 1 | NOON

41 COOPER SQUARE ROOM 104 | LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED | PLEASE JOIN US



Mariya Vlasova will talk about her experience as a Fulbright Fellow in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where she worked on a film tentatively titled *Monuments and Other Things that Change: Several Attempts at Titling a Photograph*.

#### STATEMENT BY MARIYA VLASOVA

In 2012, I moved to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to work on a film about monuments in the city, or rather what I came to call “monument rotation.” At the National Archives in Bishkek, I found a beautiful image. It didn’t have a title, author or a definitive date. The catalogue card read: “Bishkek, ca. 1970.” The picture was of a monument during a celebration after rain. A man standing by a puddle looks and smiles in the direction of the camera, or the person holding the camera. The frame crops the monument above the pedestal, but the puddle catches Lenin in reflection. Because the photographer had pushed Lenin out of the frame, the image seemed to foreshadow other images and events: the collapse of the Soviet Union and dismantling of Lenin from his pedestals all over the former Soviet bloc.

Unlike many countries of the former Soviet bloc that have erased remnants of colonization, in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Soviet and post-independence monuments share the same street. Post-riot ruins and graffiti demarcating ethnic neighborhoods in Osh, the so-called southern capital of Kyrgyzstan, share a wall with graffiti of another kind—tags and declarations of love are layered over the faded, “authoritative” wall text of the city. These markers create a complex image of a city and country in transition. Like the image of Lenin edited out of the frame, these markers propose a view of history that is not vertical—in strata—but a horizontal web of interconnected events, a space in which Lenin can be both on and off the pedestal at the same time.

Peter Buckley, Associate Professor of the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences and The Cooper Union’s Fulbright Program Advisor, will join Ms. Vlasova to provide information and field questions about applying for a Fulbright Grant.

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