

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Conceptual artist Marko Remec installs site-specific work at the George F. Baker Mansion at 93<sup>rd</sup> and Park Avenue, NYC**



New York, NY (September 29, 2017) – **New Opera NYC** announces a site-specific installation by New York conceptual artist Marko Remec, currently on view at the George F. Baker Mansion. The work, titled “*NYET*”, will premiere on Sunday October 1 at a 4pm concert featuring ***Antiformalistic Heaven*** and ***Romances to the Texts from Crocodile Magazine*** (US Premiere) by Dimitri Shostakovich as performed by Grammy Award Nominee Mikhail Svetlov (bass) and Olga Gurevich (piano). The concert proceeds are for the benefit of the building restoration fund of the Baker Mansion.

The work, simply known as “Rayok” or “The Peep-show,” mocks and satirizes the anti-formalism campaign in the Soviet arts during the late-1940’s that sought to stifle any art that did not conform to the official Soviet cultural policy and resulted in a sustained campaign of persecution and criticism and toward many of the Soviet Union’s foremost composers including Shostakovich himself. It was never publicly performed during Shostakovich’s lifetime.

The installation features sixteen 33-inch dome mirrors arrayed in the pattern of a stylized eye. Each mirror reflects 180-degree views of the Baker Mansions courtyard and the viewer. In the spirit of Shostakovich, Remec addresses Stalin's repression of the arts with an enormous eye that looms over and looks down at the viewer. Asks Remec, "is *NYET* the official all-powerful bureaucracy staring down the performance and its viewers or are the myriad reflections the viewers see of themselves defiantly denouncing the authoritative attempt to stifle creativity? Who is saying nyet to whom?"

Marko Remec is a conceptual sculptor living and working in New York City with his wife and two children. Born in 1958, Remec graduated with degrees in Studio Art and Chemistry from Williams College and earned his MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

Remec's work has been recently shown at museums and sculpture parks including solo shows at Mass MoCA, LongHouse Reserve, Chesterwood, Kunsthaus Zug, Museo de Arte de Ponce, Salem Art Works and the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art. He has actively collaborated with Ilya and Emilia Kabakov and their Ship of Tolerance Project in Zug and Rome with his own contributions addressing the need for more tolerance in the world today. His most recent work uses wry yet playful wit to examine systems of power and how they affect our perceptions and realities.

#### About New Opera NYC

New Opera NYC is an entertainment company dedicated to presenting classical, cutting edge Opera Theater through the equal and integral values of dynamic theater and first-class music making. Engaging, clever and thought-provoking productions tethered to a supreme focus on virtuosic delivery, preserves, promotes, and advances the art form. For more information, visit

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