

SERGEY KISHCHENKO



Sergey Kishchenko
Duck Test. 2013 to present

Sergey Kishchenko,

Duck Test #5 (Displacement) (2025), Video performance, color, sound, 11:40

Courtesy of the MOMENTUM Collection

ARTIST STATEMENT:

The *Duck Test* is a long-term artistic project by Sergey Kishchenko, which is based on the well-known principle of abductive reasoning: 'If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it is probably a duck.' In Kishchenko's work, the duck is not a character, but a testing device – a hybrid figure through which historical roles, ideological positions, and personal biographies are explored and examined. For the artist, the Duck Test has become a fundamental approach to thinking about art and examining what it means to be an artist. Each iteration is a new configuration of this method, not a sequel. The numbering does not follow a linear chronology, but rather reflects a constellation of experiments unfolding across different temporal and geographical contexts.

Sergey Kishchenko is an artist of migration. In projects such as *Duck Test*, he explores the movement of bodies, images, seeds, and myths: everything that travels across time, wars, and borders, changing form without disappearing. His work focuses on the moment when identity

stops being fixed and becomes a process: both individuals and cultures are constantly “in transit.”

The Duck-Man, the central figure of *Duck Test*, wanders through the ruins of empires and utopias like a comic refugee of history. Like migratory birds, he searches for a place of belonging, trying on roles drawn from Chekhov and from the theatrical world of Goldoni, where the mask both conceals and reveals the self. The Duck is not a parody of a human being but a possible future version of one - a hybrid and uncertain figure, freed from the illusion of stable identity. Aristocrat, revolutionary, actor, madman, witness - the character continuously shifts between roles without settling into any of them.

Today the artist himself lives as an émigré in Venice, a city of perpetual arrival. His works transform migration from a political condition into a universal state of being: each of us is a temporary guest in history, carrying memories that continue to move.

Kishchenko shows that movement is not a loss but a possibility for transformation: seeds take root in new soil, myths find new languages, and the Duck continues its journey.

- Sergey Kishchenko

READ THE EXPANDED TEXT:

<https://www.momentumworldwide.org/collection/sergey-kishchenko/>

ARTIST BIO: <https://www.momentumworldwide.org/collection/sergey-kishchenko/>

SERGEY KISHCHENKO (born 1975 in Stavropol, USSR. Lives and works in Venice, Italy.)

Sergey Kishchenko is an interdisciplinary artist based in Venice, working across performance, video, installation and media art. His work explores themes such as memory, migration, ecology, and the transformation of cultural identities in situations of displacement. He is the creator of several long-term artistic projects, including *Duck Test*, *Observation Journal* and *Temple of Venus*, which investigate the boundaries between personal narrative, historical archives and speculative mythology.

Kishchenko studied acting and production at the Russian University of Theatre Arts (GITIS) in Moscow. He later completed programmes at the Institute of Contemporary Art and the Manege/MediaArtLab Open School in Moscow, as well as completing an internship at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also participated in residencies including residency.ch (Bern, Switzerland).

His recent solo exhibitions and performances include 'Hortus Conclusus' at the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice (Venice, 2023), 'Venetiae: Quintum Corpus' at ArtNight Venezia (2023), and 'Duck Test'. Who is Guilty? and What to Do? (ArtNight Venezia, 2023). Previous projects have

been presented at the following venues; The Moscow House of Dostoevsky Museum Centre, Moscow (Representation of the Heroes of F. M. Dostoevsky, 2021), The Russian State Library (Lenin Library), Moscow (Innovation Art Prize Nominees Exhibition, 2018), The N. I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (VIR), St. Petersburg (Observation Journal: The Borders of Memory, 2017), The Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (Temple of Venus, 2019), The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (Duck Test N4 (Cherry), 2020), The Universalmuseum Joanneum, Vienna (Observation Journal, 2016), Graz Museum, Graz, Austria. (Liberation continued, 2015).

He has participated in group exhibitions and festivals across Europe, including at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow (2021), ZOMIA Space in Vienna (2019), the Austrian Cultural Pavilion in Plovdiv (2019), and the Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennale (2017). He has been shortlisted for both the Innovation Art Prize (2018) and the Moscow Art Prize (2020), and won the Sergei Kuryokhin Award (2018).