

GES-2-----V

The World in a Single Nest: Following the Way of Tagore. A new Indo-Russian exhibition opens at GES-2

The exhibition offers an original perspective on the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941), an outstanding figure in Indian and world culture and the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The project is centred on Tagore's ideas about holistic education and collective creativity, openness to the traditions of East and West alike, and the unity of nature and man, craft and art. These ideas were most fully realised at Visva-Bharati University, which Tagore founded in 1921 in West Bengal as an alternative to British colonial schools. Many prominent Indian artists and visionaries who would shape the country's future worked here at Tagore's invitation. The University's teaching model and the layout of its campus, devised by the founder himself, largely determined the concept and architecture of the exhibition at GES-2. The title *The World in a Single Nest* refers to the informal motto of Visva-Bharati, borrowed from ancient Vedic texts.

The exhibition features paintings by Rabindranath Tagore himself, archival materials dedicated to a show of his works in Moscow in 1930, when Tagore visited the Soviet capital in person, as well as works by contemporary Indian and Russian artists, including recent graduates of Visva-Bharati University, who revisit Tagore's legacy and show the relevance of his ideas today. The ideas of Tagore about the multifaceted nature of creativity, about the accessibility of culture and collective knowledge have much in common with the values of GES-2 House of Culture.

The exhibition continues a series of GES-2 projects dedicated to cultural figures who have influenced the artistic and intellectual landscape of the modern world: *A Cup of Consonances*. *Approaching Rozanova*; *Alexander Konstantinov*. *House of Air and Lines*; *Polarisation: Ellina Gennadiyevna and Alighiero Boetti*; *Celestial Artefacts* (Francisco and Platon Infante); and *If These Walls Were Water*. *Lina Bo Bardi*.

Facts about Rabindranath Tagore and the exhibition

- Tagore took up painting at the age of sixty-seven and left behind more than two and a half thousand works of art when he died fifteen years later.
- Two of Tagore's poems were used for the national anthems of India and Bangladesh.
- Tagore's verses are featured in the song "The Last Poem" in the much-loved Soviet film *Love and Lies* (1981, directed by Ilya Fraz).
- Rabindranath Tagore visited Moscow in 1930 and lent a selection of his artworks for an exhibition at the Museum of New Western Art. The exhibition at GES-2 will be the first showing of Tagore's works in Russia since 1930.
- GES-2 House of Culture will present over fifty Tagore's creations, as well as works by eight contemporary artists and collectives from India, three works by Russian authors and a film about Visva-Bharati University by The Otolith Group.
- Three new works have been created especially for the exhibition.
- The project's public programme will include guided tours, classes for schoolchildren, over ten workshops, reading groups, meetings with Russian and Indian artists, and body practices.
- A catalogue will be published on the results of the exhibition.

Elena Yaichnikova, exhibition curator:

The title of the exhibition was inspired by the phrase "The world in a single nest," which is the unofficial motto of Visva-Bharati University. It encapsulates the idea of the unity of humanity and of civilisation, of international exchange and openness as the best basis for individual cultures and countries to prosper. Tagore's internationalism was the foundation for the educational programme at his University, with the ideal of a world where deep knowledge of one's own culture is combined with a desire for dialogue with other cultures.

The World in a Single Nest: Following the Way of Tagore

25 Jun–23 Aug 2026
→ Gallery C2
12+

Press kit
Curatorial text
Tickets
(600–1000 rubles)

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GES-2 House of Culture
15 Bolotnaya Embankment
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Entry to the House of Culture is free of charge, by prior registration.

Follow GES-2 on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv-a-c).

Press contact
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Artem Bondarevskiy, General Director of GES-2 House of Culture and V-A-C Foundation:

It is impossible to speak of Rabindranath Tagore solely through his artistic or literary legacy. Paintings, poems, and prose were for him merely ways to convey the integrity of the world and the need for us to interact with nature and with each other.

The exhibition focuses intentionally on one of Tagore's most important creations—Visva-Bharati University. Today, classes are still held on round benches under the trees, and the campus is adorned with artworks by graduates of the University's School of Fine Arts. The pedagogical traditions established by Tagore, combined with principles of interdisciplinarity, give people from all over the world the opportunity to find a home in a single nest.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with
Rabindra Bhavana Museum at Visva-Bharati University
and
Birla Academy of Art and Culture
Emami Art
Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts
Shrine Empire

In cooperation with
Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation
Ministry of Culture of India
National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi
Embassy of India in the Russian Federation
Embassy of the Russian Federation in India

Exhibition partner
Gazprombank (Joint Stock Company)

Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) was a multitalented Indian thinker, writer, composer, artist, and public figure. In 1913, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his collection of poems *Gitanjali*. Tagore's art became the embodiment of Indian modernism, which, as in Europe and Russia, began with rejection of canons (in the case of colonial India, it was about Western academicism). Tagore engaged in research and education in Europe, America and Japan, and his socially oriented work played an important role in the cultural and political revival of India as it moved towards independence.

Visva-Bharati is a university founded by Rabindranath Tagore in Santiniketan (West Bengal) in 1921 and conceived as an alternative to colonial educational establishments. Visva-Bharati offers courses in the arts, natural sciences and agriculture, philosophy and history, languages, and computer science. Classes are held outdoors. The campus also includes museums and archives.

Rabindra Bhavana Museum in Santiniketan houses Tagore's manuscripts, letters, paintings and personal belongings, as well as photographs and documentary materials related to the history of the University and of Tagore's circle.

GES-2 House of Culture is an international institution opened in 2021. Its primary mission is to create conditions for the development of contemporary culture and the artistic community within the context of the city, country, and world, drawing on the values of accessibility, interdisciplinarity, and engaging everyone in cultural production.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with
Visva-Bharati University



Exhibition partner



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press@v-a-c.org

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GES-2 is the main venue of V-A-C Foundation, which has been operating since 2009. The House of Culture includes the Vaults Centre for Artistic Production, where new works are created for the GES-2 programme.

The GES-2 programme encompasses exhibitions, cinema, theatre, music, dance, and publishing projects. The public programme combines academic formats with lectures, meetings, workshops, and other events for adults and children.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Visva-Bharati University



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