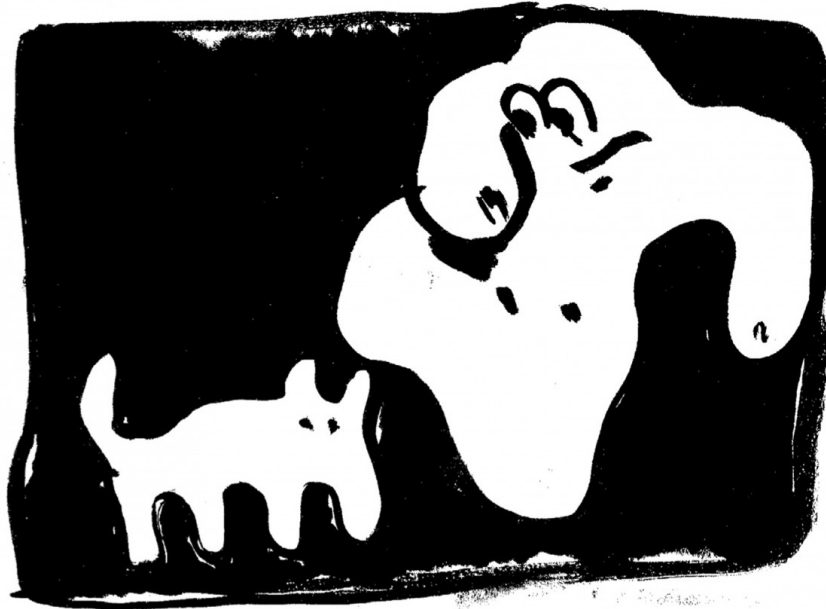


# Launching the podcast series Open Mic / Work & Social Distancing



Illustrations by Martin Groch

In response to the postponement of the Biennale Architettura 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Russian Federation Pavilion will launch the online podcast series “Open Mic”, with the aim to kick-start a dialogue on the functions and values of (cultural) institutions.

Open!, the Russian Federation’s contribution to this year’s Biennale, aims to function as a testing ground to question and re-think the public meaning of institutions, and to experiment with possible modes of coexistence.

Within this long-term trajectory, which the Pavilion is determined to pursue also in the upcoming years, the online podcast series “Open Mic” will be freely accessible to everyone on [pavilionrus.com](http://pavilionrus.com) starting from April. The first contributions, titled “Work & Social Distancing”, will focus on how this global pandemic has affected our understanding and expectations of governments, companies, institutions and individuals – their roles and actions, their network of relationships and the array of symbols and

aesthetics they draw on.

Inviting a diverse range of voices representing the multiple institutional facets of the Biennale — from commissioners to curators, from architects and designers to the interns and security personnel working in the Giardini — the Russian Pavilion’s website will become a platform to critically reflect on how the virus outbreak has shaped the meaning of this year’s Biennale central theme: “How will we live together?”.