



Russian Truck GAZon Next Becomes an Art Object at Venice Biennale

INFORMATION FOR MEDIA

GAZ Group, Russia's largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles, part of Russian Machines Corporation and Basic Element group, is the main partner of Austrian Pavilion at the 57th Art Biennale in Venice. Under this partnership one of the company's bestsellers, a new-generation truck GAZon Next, will become an art object in the installation by prominent Austrian artist Erwin Wurm, transforming into a watch tower for visitors to the Biennale.

Engineers of GAZ Plant embodied the daring brainchild of Austrian artist Erwin Wurm by supporting the artist with engineering and the actual production of the art installation.

The truck is positioned vertically standing on its cab with a step ladder built into its body along which visitors can climb to the observation platform at the top. The 3.12 square meters platform comfortably accommodates 10-12 people. Overall height of the structure is 9.7 meters.

GAZ engineers were successful in solving a nothing but trivial engineering task, integrating a stairway and observation platform in the vehicle structure while keeping intact the truck's exterior appearance. Another difficult task, successfully accomplished, was standing the vehicle on its front bumper without using any props or rigging wires. All that necessitated a search for non-standard bearing structure configuration, optimized overall layout solution and appropriate strength calculations.

Erwin Wurm personally supervised the process of installation's creation, coming to GAZ in Nizhny Novgorod to meet the project team and for delivery acceptance.

Siegfried Wolf, an Austrian businessman, investor and philanthropist, Chairman of GAZ Group and Russian Machines Corporation:

- Debut of GAZon NEXT before the global audience took place in the autumn of 2016 at the international commercial transport exhibition in Hannover, and today we are presenting the vehicle as now an object of contemporary art. Having developed the installation's concept, Erwin Wurm made the choice of our automobile, and it is doubtlessly a great honor for us. Art unites people, eliminates barriers, widens horizons. That is also the mission of GAZ as a manufacturer of commercial vehicles – GAZ delivers its products to more than 40 countries of the world and is planning to further expand its export footprint. The company is integrating in the international automotive industry through cooperation with global auto makers: we produce automobiles for VW and Daimler, realized a number of joint projects in the components supply sector. People of business, same as people of arts are interested in the strengthening of cultural, economic and historical links between Russia and the rest of the world despite the current political differences and economic sanctions. Erwin Wurm's concept is a vivid illustration of such pursuit of mutual understanding.

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