

Title: The Avant- garde and Late- Soviet Rock- n- roll Culture
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Abstract:

Bolstered by Mikhail Gorbachev's domestic policy of Glasnost, the Late Socialist period ushered in a series of innovations in mass-media production, which both challenged and engaged the rapidly Western-leaning Perestroika-era public. In addition to bringing in new Western genres into the sphere of public consumption, Late-Soviet entertainment culture also sought to maintain genealogical connections to national artistic and literary traditions. This paper will examine the extent to which the development of Late-Soviet rock music relied on the existing stylistic traditions of the Russian Avant-garde. Challenging the mainstream assertion that Soviet rock culture was a simple appropriation of Western popular music, this paper will argue that late-Soviet artists and musicians used the aesthetics of Constructivism, Futurism, Suprematism and the grotesque in order to critically engage with their rapidly shifting socio-cultural environment.