



KUTILSTVÍ

RUSSIAN DIY AND DIY IN RUSSIA: STEREOTYPE AND SOCIAL PRACTICE

How to think, study, and interpret DIY-like discourses and practices in the Russian/post-Soviet context

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Many foreign observers, just like many Russians themselves, agree that Russians do share a particular material culture characterized by the widespread practices of making, remaking and repairing objects. Starting from this common-sense opinion, I continue disentangling the “Russian/Soviet DIY” as a stereotype and demonstrate how many diverse social forms and contradictory discourses inform this phenomenon from inside and outside the Russian society. My analysis is guided by two general research questions:

- 1) how the Soviet modern project made DIY material culture its inherent characteristic and what kind of subject emerged as a result of this project?
- 2) how the context of rapid and radical transformations influenced the way individuals remember and speak about DIY objects and practices in the post-Soviet context.

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