



SOFIA

→ **Lyuben Zidarov / The fairy-tale world of Lyuben Zidarov / retrospective exhibition / Kvadrat 500, 4th floor, new wing of the building, 19th February St. / January 24 – March 26.** One of our brightest illustrators was Lyuben Zidarov (1923–2023), who most recently ascended to his imaginary worlds. He left behind a comprehensive gallery of images which make young and old alike smile and evoke warm memories of their favourite books. In the museum, the illustrations take on the life of independent easel artworks in their bright primary colouring. The ten selected images reveal to the viewer only a small part of the oeuvre of Lyuben Zidarov. <https://bit.ly/3JA2LWb>

→ **Georges Papazoff – The Illuminator / retrospective exhibition / curator Maria Vassileva / National Gallery, The Palace, 1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq. / December 16 – March 19.** The National Gallery presents artist Georges Papazoff, whose creative path led him from Yambol to Paris. This extensive exhibition marks the 50th anniversary of his death and is his first significant retrospective in Bulgaria since the 1988. Maria Vassileva notes: 'Georges Papazoff was a typical example of the universal movements of the first decades of the 20th century, when boundaries were provisional, and art was a powerful unifying instrument. His oeuvre, even today, connects several countries and continues the multilingual dialogue on true values.' <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/georges-papazoff-the-illuminatorcurator/>

→ **Lilyana Rousseva (1932 – 2009) / retrospective exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / October 18 – February 12.** Through landscapes, portraits, self-portraits, still lifes, figural compositions, and nudes, an attempt has been made to encompass the entire genre and thematic variety of Lilyana Rousseva's paintings. Included are paintings and drawings from the inventory of the National Gallery, the Sofia City Art Gallery, the art galleries in Pleven, Gabrovo, Kyustendil, Plovdiv, Ruse, Varna, Lovech, Sliven, and

Smolyan, from her heirs and from private collectors. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/lilyana-rousseva-1932-2009-retrospective-exhibition/>

↗ **Boryana Petkova, Kalin Serapionov, Kiril Prashkov, Krassimir Terziev, Leda Vaneva, Nadezhda Oleg Lyahova, Nina Kovacheva, Peter Mintchev, Svetlana Mircheva, Simeon Simeonov / The Drawing – Without Limitations / group exhibition / curated by Maria Vassileva / Structura, 9 Kuzman Shapkarev St. / February 8 – March 25.** The selected works show the changes that have occurred in today's idea of drawing under the influence of the internet, graffiti, animation or comics. The selection extends in terms of the different forms of use (finished work, preparatory drawing, sketch or project script), as well as commenting on the understanding of drawing solely as "pencil on a piece of paper". <https://bit.ly/3RBsXBJ>

↗ **Ivan Stefanov / Antizen / solo exhibition / ONE Gallery, 4 Ivan Vazov St./ January 18 – February 10.** The ten medium-format film photographs from the Antizen series reject this traditional notion of photography. The theme and title of the exhibition Antizen are aimed at the hidden essence of everyday life and material sophistication of modern man - his disharmony, disturbing desires and social arrangements, opposed to the harmony and balance of Zen-models in Eastern philosophy. – Genadi Gatev <https://bit.ly/3JH5OMd>

↗ **Albena Petkova, Angela Terzieva, Gergana Nikolova, Elena Velkova, Mariana Tancheva, Plamena Dimitrova, Yana Stoycheva / Sometimes the science / group exhibition / Concept Miroslav Hristov and Kaliya Kalacheva / Goethe-Institut Bulgarien, 1 Budapesta St. / January 19 – February 17.** The first exhibition of the year at the gallery of Goethe-Institut has a theme related to the position occupied by painting in today's mass, visual culture - the refusal of radical gestures, manifestos, new revolutions and theories, in other words - silence. It is not just an absence of sound, but also a prerequisite for insight, intuitive experience, as well as a longing for the unnameable, a rebellion against the noisy world, a struggle for intimacy. <https://bit.ly/3DvDwAt>

↗ **Alina Papazova / PRINCESS CASINO / site-specific exhibition / Depoo Gallery, 12 Vrabcha St./ January 27 - February 10.** The concept for the exhibition began from Alina Papazova's interest in ancient civilizations and peoples who largely based their culture around the cult of death. Alina's research concentrates on the funerary customs of the Etruscans, juxtaposing them with the way death is perceived in a great part of the contemporary world. By interpreting the theme of death and its perception in the past, the present and the future and connecting it with her questions about the technological progress of humanity and its consequences, Alina Papazova creates a "walk-in" artwork, transporting us to an unknown realm existing on the boundary between the real and the virtual. <https://bit.ly/3WRQjnN>

↗ **The child in the art of socialism / group exhibition / Museum of Art from the Socialist Period, 7, Luchezar Stanchev St. / December 8 – March 26.** The theme of the child in art did not fall outside the ideological instrumentarium and propaganda functions of totalitarian systems, whatever the sign mounted on their facades. The ideologeme was strong enough not to be used. Roles were assigned to the child, which it had to perform. The typology of the image was clearly revealed: 'the child-hero' and 'the child-victim' of wars and social injustice; the child both as an object and a subject of the new social reality. For a period of almost fifty years, a significant corpus of thematic works was created in painting, sculpture, graphics, and all other spheres of Bulgarian artistic culture. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/the-child-in-the-art-of-socialism/>

↗ **Leda Starcheva / Connected Corpora / solo exhibition / National Gallery, house museum Vera Nedkova, 2, 11 August St. / December 1 – March 31.** In this exhibition, Starcheva has included clean and expressive industrial shapes and constructions. She analyses and explores the boundaries and integrity of objects, her work being characterised by the structuring of small-scale models in which the individual elements transform into multiple, distinct fragments. The artist searches for the interrelationship between the volumes, parts and individual segments, which she connects and places at different angles and perspectives. <https://bit.ly/3G2Thj2>

↪ **Kalina Mavrodieva, Kamen Startchev, Yuliy Takov / we are and we are not / group show / Gallery "Little Bird Place", 7 "11-ti Avgust" Str. / January 19 – February 12.** Kamen Startchev shares that the exhibition showcases the same perspective on different realities or different perspectives on the same reality. Three artists gather in one exhibition their ideas about the essence of nature and continuous changes. <https://bit.ly/3RoPlyo>

↪ **Pablo Picasso through the eyes of Andre Villers and Edward Quinn / photography exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gen. Gurko st. / December 13 – February 12.** From the 1950s, Picasso establishes a genuine working relationship with certain photographers he has personally chosen, such as André Villers, and the last years of his life are eternalized by Edward Quinn. During the years in which they follow him, the two amazing photographers not only enter his everyday life and work, but also reveal the relationships with his family, relatives and friends. <https://bit.ly/3YX8L0t>

↪ **Rumen Gasharov / retrospective exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gen. Gurko st. / December 7 – February 12.** The exhibition presents the work of Rumen Gasharov following the changes in his painting through the years – from the early works in which reality is already questioned to the well-known large-scale canvases. Gasharov's work often sparks debates and contradictions – the author's interest in kitsch, his taste for the grotesque, his attitude toward mass culture and "urban folklore", the meaning of his works. The exhibition includes over 90 works. <https://bit.ly/3VOTQmH>

↪ **Put your finger in the soil and smell where you are / group exhibition / Toplocentrala art center, 5 Emil Bersinski St. / December 15 – February 15.** The exhibition contains individual works based on the starting point of a scaffolding installation. Artists Radostin Sedevchev, Beatrice Aleksanian, Audar Kantun and Ion Benjamin Taleros are invited by Lars Nordby, artist and curator to respond to what constitutes the scaffolding of tissue reality and incorporate photography and digital imagery as an extended look at the defects of humanity's anatomical features. What experiences unite us? And what separates us? How does our sense of self develop, both individually and as a society? What role do narrative, skill and manipulation play in photographic discourse? <https://bit.ly/3jleuHo>

↪ **Sevda Semer / Diary pages / solo exhibition / Charta Gallery, 12 Vrabcha St. / January 19 – February 19.** Five years ago, 359 Gallery and Sevda Semer showcased the exhibition One Perfect Day: eight visual diaries painted every day of 2017. From the diaries emerged a book of selected drawings and text by Stefan Ivanov, as well as a limited edition of prints - for these, Sevda learned the screen-printing technique at Cito Studio. Charta Gallery present these editions, as well as the eight author videos for the diaries. <https://bit.ly/3YgR7nr>

↪ **J. PANK / NO COMMENT / solo exhibition / Arosita Gallery, Vrabcha str. 12B / 1 – 10 February.** NO COMMENT is a project by the artist J. PANK, specially created for Arosita Gallery. It includes a digital double sided print on vinyl, as well as stickers with various sizes, freely distributed through the city. Although artistic, the project includes a lot more social circles – citizens, employees, tourists and passersbys in the area and it's positioning is corresponding to them. <https://bit.ly/3XVMWO6>

↪ **Emil Rashkovsky/ HELLO SUMMER! / solo exhibition / curated by Nadezhda Pavlova and Nikola Mihov / Synthesis Gallery, Vasil Levski Blvd. 55, / January 19 – February 28.** Over more than five winters the photographer has been documenting the traces of camping culture in the forests around the Shiroka Polyana, Beglik and Batak reservoirs in the Western Rhodopes. The artist shares that the theme of the interaction between a person and their environment, the presence of specific subcultures, kitsch and the eclectic has always attracted him. He chooses to shoot during the winter when there are no people, but human presence can be felt everywhere. <https://bit.ly/3jeiZtv>

↪ **Kristina Yosifova, Hermann Gschaider/ Must be Golden / group exhibition / Sofia Press gallery-bookstore, Slavyanska str. 29 / 2 - 28 February.** Gold has been a draw for man from the moment he saw its brilliance and discovered the value it acquired. The influence of the precious metal and its various aspects have fascinated authors Kristina Yosifova and Hermann Gschaider for several years. This exhibition of wood works is the result of their research. <https://bit.ly/3YiVrCF>

↗ **Petya Boyukova / Influence / solo exhibition / Gallery Gallery, Ploshtadka, "Elisaveta Bagriyana" str. / October 13 – February 28.** Influence is an AR sculpture of a cat made of body parts of Barbie dolls that can now be seen at Ploshtadka, and Container VOX POPULI as part of the Object programme. Petya Boyukova is best known for her extraordinarily daring stage and costume designs in independent and alternative theatre. <https://www.gallerygallery.space/en/petya-boyukova-influence>

PLOVDIV

↗ **Aaron Roth / Beige / solo exhibition / Sarieva Gallery, Otets Paisiy str. 40 / February 10 – March 31.** he exhibition continues the artist's quest to capture and expose in his work the contemporary domestic and political reality in Bulgaria and the Balkans in general. A reality marked by the national psychology, the thugs and the nouveau riche of the 90's and the Transition, the integration policies of the European Union, the corruption encoded in politics and the everyday life of the people. Beige is presented as the colour of the mature "thug elite" and its passage into the political. It is the colour of neutrality and muted tension, the "background colour". <https://gallery.sarieva.org/beige/>

↗ **Koljo Mishev / From the atelier/ City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Knyaz Alexander I str. 15 / January 24 – February 24.** After a pause, Koljo Mishev meets again with art lovers, presenting nearly 40 of his works, created in the privacy of his studio in recent years. This retreat into himself can be felt in the artist's works - in his figurative compositions and conventional landscapes, executed in mixed media with a distinct texture. <https://bit.ly/3Junpa8>

↗ **Group exhibition / Myths and Legends / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Gladstone str. 32 / 3 - 28 February.** City Art Gallery - Stara Zagora will visit the City Art Gallery - Plovdiv with works from its collection. The public will have the opportunity to view an exhibition of 50 paintings from all editions of the Balkan Quadrennial "Myths and Legends of My People" (2004 - 2020). <https://bit.ly/3YaWRyP>

VARNA

↗ **Maria Zafirkova and Dimitar Traychev / ZAFTRA / joint exhibition / Varna City Gallery, 1 Lyuben Karavelov St. / December 16 – February 28.** With this exhibition, the Varna artistic couple Maria Zafirkova and Dimitar Traichev, who are significant for the Bulgarian visual arts, are attempting a retrospective. Under the title ZAFTRA - a combination of the surnames of the two, they collect remarkable works from galleries and collectors - from the earliest canvases, through memorable festival appearances to sharply contemporary works from the last decade. <https://bit.ly/3ZgqgAz>

↗ **Group show / Varna City Gallery, Georgi Velchev Studio, 8 Radko Dimitriev St. / December 14 – February 28.** Varna artists of different generations, united by their participation in the museum's annual poster, present works in a collective exhibition. Albena Koeva, Boryana Simeonova, Boyan Boev, Vasil Nikolaev Vasilev, Veselin Nachev, Dean Darakchiev, Donika Kirova, Ivan Minchev, Maria Chakarova, Sasho Anastasov, Stefan Kulev and Tsvetan Krastev participated in painting and graphics. And Venelin Ivanov, Plamen Avramov and Hristo Hristov are involved with sculptures. <https://bit.ly/3CrxSit>

↗ **Chavdar Ghiuselev / Fragments / solo exhibition / Le Papillon, Dragoman str. 12 / January 26 – February 12.** Chavdar Ghiuselev's exposition artistically and playfully challenges us to analyse and take account of what has been taken from us and what is left after the shattering experiences of the recent years. His abstract exploration of the theme of the threat of taking away the freedom of the human individual can be traced as a thin line, straight or crooked, through all the works in the exhibition. - Georgi Lozanov. <https://bit.ly/3Hq41sa>

IN EUROPE

→ *Rudi Ninov / Writing Paintings / самостоятелна изложба/ Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy/ January 21 – May 7.* The exhibition showcases both sculpture and painting as a manifestation of the young bulgarian artist's current preoccupation with sound and shape, how they relate to one another and how sound can be translated into shape and colour in his works. Ninov , explores the formal and the personal, the abstract and the figurative. In preparation for this exhibition, the artist spoke out loud letters from the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets in an attempt to bring this basic monophonic concept into a shapes and colours. <https://bit.ly/3XTq7KR>

ART CAREER

→ *PETOFI200 MURAL ART : Open call / Submission deadline February 20.* "Liszt Institute - Hungarian Cultural Institute Sofia" and the team of "Sofia Graffiti Tour" invites professional and young artists (or artistic collectives) from Bulgaria, working in the field of the visual art, street art and graffiti to create a mural on an exterior wall with an area of 97 sq.m., of the "Shandor Petofi" Elementary School in Haskovo. <https://bit.ly/3GIvM0e>

Monthly edition by artnewscafe and Sarieva/Hub

→ news selection : Gergana Minkova

→ logo : Nedko Solakov

→ cover : Lyuben Zidarov, "The Vampire's Bride", illustration for 'Bulgarian Fairy Tales', by Nikolay Raynov, 1974, in the exhibition "The Fairy-Tale World of Lyuben Zidarov", Kvadart 500, 1, 19th February St., St Alexander Nevsky Sq., Sofia, January 24 – March 3 2023.