



SOFIA

→ **Magdaléna Roztočilová and Lyuben Petrov / Bodily mind / joint show / curated Yana Bratanova / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of Contemporary Art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / July 6 – August 27.** “The artworks of Magdaléna Roztočilová and Lyuben Petrov, unified by expressions of fire, relate above all to the vibration of the states and sensations the artists depict. These exhibits conceptualise the traces of the artists’ inner personal fires. A path reminiscent of a leap over chaos in pursuit of spiritual organisation and purification. The exhibition’s title comes from the book, ‘Images of Philosophy and Bodily Mind’, by the contemporary Czech artist Aleš Zapletal (AVU Publishing House, Prague, 2022).” – Yana Bratanova <https://bit.ly/44qim1K>

→ **20 years of association of conservators-restorers in BULGARIA / archive exhibition / National Gallery, The Palace, 1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq. / July 18 – August 27.** The exhibition introduces photographic details of the work of the members of ACRB on objects such as the Madara Rider rock relief, the facade frescoes of the Hreljo’s Tower in the Rila Monastery, the frescoes in the Boyana Church, the mosaics from the Episcopal Basilica of Philippopolis and others. The archival materials in the exhibition are testimony to the twenty-year history of ACRB, guided by the understanding that cultural heritage is a public resource with an essential role in our national identity, with its preservation inextricably linked to the application of modern professional principles and standards. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/20-years-of-acrb/>

→ **Mihaela Mihaylova – Misha Mar / Portrait of the moon in black / solo exhibition / National Gallery, The Palace, 1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq. / June 30 2023 – May 31 2024.** The fourth edition of ‘The Wall’, the National Gallery’s project launched in 2020, welcomes artist Mihaela Mihaylova – Misha Mar to the Kvadrat 500 Atrium. She presents ‘Portrait of the Moon in Black’, a composition representing the eight phases of the Moon in black and white, painted over more than a month. As a true selenophile, Mihaela examines the theme in detail and

conceives a particular affection for the subject of her studies—marks visible on the surface of the exquisite portrait she creates. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/misha-mar/>

↪ ***Nina Ruseva / Atlantis / solo exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / May 9 – August 20.*** Nina Ruseva created most of these paintings specifically for the occasion. The extreme, exciting emotional experience physically separates us from the reality surrounding us and conveys us to distant worlds. Peru, the Antarctic, Perperikon, or the lost lands of Atlantis—all unfold before the eyes of the viewer, refracted through the personal emotion and sensibility of the artist, through the rich imagination and curiosity towards the unknown that she materialises in her painting. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/nina-ruseva-atlantis/>

↪ ***Emilia Nikolova-Bayer / The art of synthesis / retrospective exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / July 27 – October 21.*** Emilia Nikolova-Bayer's oeuvre presented in the current exhibition brings to attention the under-researched synthesis of the monumental arts and architecture in Bulgaria in the period between 1956 and 1989. The decorative reliefs the artist sculpted for two iconic theatres – Sofia Theatre in the Bulgarian capital (1973 – 75) and the Friedrichstadt-Palast in Berlin (1982 – 84) – are featured. The exhibition seeks to cast a critical eye over the general perception of the female creator in Bulgaria during the second half of the twentieth century. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/the-art-of-synthesis/>

↪ ***Yana Lozeva / Anacrusis / solo show / curated by Diana Draganova-Stier / National Gallery, Vera Nedkova House Museum, 2, 11 August St. / June 8 – October 28.*** 'In the Home of Vera Nedkova', the programme launched in 2019, continues to present contemporary artists along with Nedkova's paintings. Six photographs by Yana Lozeva show images of women with a strong and memorable individuality. Taken over the past two years, the photographs have captured brief and elusive moments and states of the subjects portrayed. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/anacrusis/>

↪ ***Exhibition of the nominated artists for the BAZA 2023 Award for Contemporary Art / group exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gen. Gurko st. / May 23 – July 16.*** The nominees for this year's BAZA Award are Alina Papazova, Veronika Desova, Viktor Petrov, Ivelina Ivanova, Kalina Mavrodieva, Martian Tabakov and Nikola Grozdanov. The winner for 2023 is Viktor Petrov. In his work, he explores the relationship between the social, architectural and political bodies. His installations and sculptures reveal the dynamics of power inscribed in objects, structures and interpersonal relationships. <https://bit.ly/3DCfmb7>

↪ ***Genko Genkov / Beyond the visible / retrospective exhibition / curated by Adelina Fileva, Krasimir Iliev, Natasha Noeva / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gen. Gurko st. / June 14 – September 6.*** The current exhibition presents over a hundred works by Genko Genkov created in the period from 1949 to 2005. During this time, he creates a large number of oil paintings on canvas and phaser and works on paper in which he perfects his watercolor technique, supplemented with gouache, pastel, printing inks and pigments, using different approaches and techniques to give contrast and strength of color. He experiments with graphics and rarely with sculpture, but oil painting remains his main artistic goal. His painting from the early years constantly evolves and changes in colour, forms and strength. During the exhibition, one additional work will be presented each week in the halls of Sofia City Art Gallery. <https://bit.ly/3MRm39E>

↪ ***Genko Genkov / In the search of the image / retrospective exhibition / curated by Adelina Fileva, Krasimir Iliev, Natasha Noeva / Sofia City Art Gallery, gallery Dechko Uzunov, 24 Dragan Tsankov bul. / June 14 – September 6.*** The exhibition "In Search of the Image", a continuation of the exhibition "Beyond the Visible" at Sofia City Art Gallery, shows preserved academic sketches, early and later drawings in pencil, charcoal and chalk, as well as attempts in the field of graphics - lithography and etching. <https://dug.sghq.bg/>

↪ ***Homo Lignum/The Assembled Man / group exhibition / Vaska Emanuilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / June 20 – August 27.*** The exhibition focuses on wood sculpture and primarily showcases works from the collection of the Sofia City Art Gallery. It does not seek to categorize the works based on their materials. Instead,

it delves into the semantic and symbolic characteristics they imbue in the artwork. It explores their historical context and relevance through a belated avant-garde gesture of utopian projection, which bridges the gap between the wooden mechanisms of the Renaissance era and today's pressing concerns of climate and ecology. The exhibition showcases 15 works by 11 artists from various generations – Thomas Kochev, Bozhidar Kozarev, Alyosha Kafejiski, Boris Gondov, Galin Malakchiev, Lyuben Kostov, Pencho Dobrev, Sergey Yanakiev, Pavlin Radevsky, Nikolay Marinov, Vitali Halvadhiev, and Liliana Marinova. <https://fb.me/e/y5wfOPDk>

↪ **Iskra Blagoeva and Valentina Sciarra / 77 ½ / joint show / Toplocentrala – Regional center for contemporary arts, 5 Emil Bersinski Str. / July 11 – August 27.** Iskra Blagoeva and Valentina Sciarra's project begins as an exploration of women's rights and rituals in Bulgaria. Over the last two years, the artists have been visiting different places in the country to learn more about herb collecting. Their work is driven by an inner impulse to rethink the threads that connect us to the past and traditions in the present. 77 ½ are the herbs to be gathered for winter, with no name for the last half - it is a cure for a mysterious, unknown disease. For the authors, this illness is the sadness brought on by the anxiety and stress of living in the present day. <https://fb.me/e/1kXT0j6pE>

↪ **Luiza Margan / Red lines / solo show / curated by Marina Slavova / +359 Gallery, 13A Galitchitsa Str. / July 26 – August 27.** "In the exhibition "Red Lines," Luiza Margan pays respect to the gestures of resistance against dogma and delusion by taking them out of context and giving them the "central stage" in the exhibition space. She invites us on a speculative journey into a realm where Soviet monuments are removed and recontextualized, so that history can be learned, and community traumas healed. The exhibition invites us to imagine the hypothetical relocation of these monuments, albeit fragmentarily, and their placement away from public space. It provokes us to notice and appreciate acts of resistance and civil action, also reminding us of how important art, culture, and the urban environment are for the formation of cultural identities and how easily they could be instrumentalized." - Marina Slavova <https://bit.ly/3Yw8hPj>

↪ **Billy Mateeva, Elena Nazarova and Maria Nalbantova / in-situ installations part of the project "New Ecologies" Part III / curated by Viktoria Draganova / Swimming Pool, 10 Tsar Osvoboditel St. / July 4 – August 10.** "New Ecologies" is a three-part exhibition project that proposes a different approach to the concept of "environment". The third and final exhibition of the project presents works by Billy Mateeva, Elena Nazarova and Maria Nalbantova, which pay attention to the way we use nature, whether in a ritual or political context. Often instrumentalized, the nature is at the centre of utopian political ideas, used in the "innocent" rituals of diplomacy, or is inextricably linked to beliefs in which the culture–nature dichotomy does not exist. <https://bit.ly/3pr0K7g>

↪ **Olga Stéfátou / Chrysalis / solo exhibition / curated by Nadezhda Pavlova / Synthesis Gallery, 55 Vasil Levski Blvd / July 20 – September 16.** Chrysalis is the final stage through which the larva passes before it becomes an imago. Then comes the huge metamorphosis, and the future butterfly, still enclosed in its golden cocoon, is preparing to unfold its wings for the first time. In this exhibition, Greek visual artist Olga Stéfátou presents a series of portraits of women refugees and asylum seekers living in Greece. Hailing from countries such as Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cameroon and Congo, each of the women take the stage clad in golden costumes fashioned out of emergency blankets. Together, image and text give the women a platform to present themselves to the world as they wish to be seen: as individuals, each with her own reasons to leave home, and each with her own expectations and hopes for the future. <https://fb.me/e/31mYP5RID>

↪ **Afternoon of a year / summer group show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / August 10 – September 20.** This is an unusual summer exhibition. Parallel, polyphonic readings of the same intuitive sense of moment, state, time and place. In all works there is something similar, common, but passed through a different reading, a point of view often saturated with reflection, sadness and that sense of the importance of the moment that comes to us very, very rarely. <https://bit.ly/30JyoPi>

↪ **Brandon Hendrick / Transience / solo exhibition / curated by Stanimir Stoyanov / Charta Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / August 2 - 29.** "The exhibition "Transience" is based on photographs taken from train travelling

through Scotland, Greece and Bulgaria, which is the focus of Brandon Hendrick's more recent works. They are an extension of the artist's research about how quickly and ambiguously memories can be forgotten because they are based on photographs taken with a cell phone camera. These paintings are representations of real locations, however they don't include many landmarks or other identifiers of a single place because they exist everywhere and nowhere, which makes them trans-geographical or hyper-local." - Stanimir Stoyanov <https://bit.ly/3KoC6LQ>

↪ **Slava Savova / Ore / solo show / KO-OP, 17 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / July 27 – August 9.** At a time of frantic (and simultaneously faint) efforts to reach global agreements on strategies tackling the imminent environmental consequences of the past century's extractivist economic policies and preserve small remnants of pristine nature, "Ore" is trying to assemble a constellation of microhistories, narrating about the afterlife of progress. A site of extreme anthropo-geological alternations, emptied of the economic value it once held, the pit has now turned into unexpected infrastructure for a flourishing ecosystem, where memories of its industrial past, archival records and memorabilia transform into exotic objects, becoming extinct nature in their own right. <https://bit.ly/3KpjdID>

↪ **Andrei Barbu / The crying beam / solo exhibition / Gallery Gallery, Sculpture park Ploshtadka / April 4 – September 4.** The Crying Beam is a series of works that result from a research project in which Andrei Barbu examines these notions. The series centres around a metal beam, much like H-channels that are used in construction works. The metal beam is bent to resemble a human figure. For his exhibition at gallery Gallery, Andrei turned The Crying Beam into a gigantic sculpture in Augmented Reality (AR). The effort and technology needed to see the work make this figure disappear when we stop trying. <https://www.gallerygallery.space/en/andrei-barbu-crying-beam>

ART TALKS SOFIA

↪ **Slava Savova / Site visit to "Kremikovtsi" open-pit iron ore mine / August 6, 4.15 pm.** As part of the exhibition "Ore" you can join a site visit to the former open-pit iron ore mine "Kremikovtsi" - at the center of the Slava Savova's solo show. <https://bit.ly/3KpjdID>

↪ **Slava Savova / "Rocks and granite they carved": archaeology of the open-pit mine "Kremikovtsi" / artist talk / KO-OP, 17 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / August 9, 6.30 pm.** In the last day of Slava Savova's solo show "Ore", Slava will speak about her research methodology, about the unplanned new life of past progress and how the inhabitants of the village of Kremikovtsi (now Sofia's suburban neighborhood) lived through and with the excavation of the open-pit iron mine at their doorstep. The talk will conclude with a screening of the video work "Horizon". <https://bit.ly/3Ojmla2>

PLOVDIV

↪ **Urban Mythology / group show / Art Today Association, City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Hall for temporary exhibitions, 15 Knyaz Alexander I Str. / 2 – 30 August.** "Urban Mythology" is an exhibition which includes 9 young artists from Plovdiv and 9 from Timisoara, selected for the residency program of the Art Today Association - RE:CONNECT. Last year, the Bulgarian participants visited Timisoara for 7 days to get to know the cultural world in the city and establish creative contact with the other artists from the project. The theme of the exchange gives the opportunity to the artists to contextualize their impressions of one of the two cities by creating a "visual mythologism" with the methods of contemporary art. The shared focus of the artists will create a field for a direct encounter with the mythological topos of the city, which will illustrate the connection between the two capitals of culture beyond the obvious specifics. <https://fb.me/e/2KAJXE5b9>

↪ **Hall 1. Bank for contemporary art / group show / curated by Kostadin Otonov / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Exhibition Hall 2019, 32 Gladstone Str. / August 8 – September 3.** "For a long time I have a dream to build a museum of contemporary art in Plovdiv. I also dream about what Hall 1 would look like in it. But instead of imagining it, I suggest to the people of Plovdiv to experience it through the project "HALL 1", the first hall of the dream museum. The authors in it will be only Plovdiv citizens from different generations, participating through the selection (conditional purchase) of the work. They will not work specifically for the exhibition, but will exhibit the most significant work from the artist's studio, which will present to the highest extent the creative potential of the authors." - Kostadin Otonov <https://bit.ly/44XuPdZ>

↪ **Nikola Tanev / Touches from mines Pernik / retrospective exhibition / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, permanent collection, 14A Saborna Str. / July 4 – September 30.** The selection of paintings was prepared and provided by the National Polytechnic Museum in Sofia, which in 1976 bought the works from the late artist's wife – Dimitria Taneva. The exhibition is among the initiatives with which the museum celebrates its 65th anniversary. In 1947, fate took Nikola Tanev to "Mini Pernik", where he created a series of works, "ranging from a cursory sketch to a more comprehensive independent opus". Regardless of the fact that the theme is not according to the free choice of the author, the artist "finds his own way to create valuable works", emphasizes Prof. Chavdar Popov. <https://bit.ly/3XHxXl3>

↪ **Borislav Iliev / 88 sacred Japanese temples / solo show / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Kapana gallery, 29 Raiko Daskalov St. / July 11 – August 9.** For the second year, the traveler and photographer Borislav Iliev is visiting with his photo exhibition at the Kapana gallery. And once again his interest lies in sacred ancient places in distant Japan. This time, the exhibition presents the thousand-year-old spiritual pilgrimage route passing through 88 sacred Buddhist temples, created by the great monk, calligrapher and poet of Japan - Kukai (Kobo Daishi, 774 - 835) more than 1200 years ago on the island of Shikoku, the smallest of the four main islands of Japan. <https://bit.ly/44nWCnq>

VARNA

↪ **Dimo Milanov / Colorful / solo show / Art museum Georgi Veltchev, 8 Radko Dimitriev Str. / July 20 – August 12.** "I work with color for pleasure. I can't explain it any other way. All my life I worked mostly graphics, I have been experimenting with oil painting for some time, and I allow myself to show this different aspect of my work. Once, it was a long time ago, I was young, a colleague quite arrogantly asked me: What do you do?, and Milko Bozhkov joined then and said to him: Do not mock because he is from the aerobatics, he paints people. In the exhibition I have included a lot of still lifes, the figural compositions are less. I have been painted still lifes lately - their color challenges me, it is closer to me. It was fun, really." - Dimo Milanov <https://bit.ly/3QpIFkU>

VELIKO TARNOVO

↪ **Claudine Pisarek / Disappointed Ghosts / solo show / Heerz Tooya Gallery, 18 Ivan Vazov Str. / July 29 – August 17.** "Through my artistic practice, I research how we handle artifacts that express identity and collective memory in Central-Eastern Europe and the Balkans. I often deal with monuments removed from their original location or dilapidated because they symbolize something that no longer seems relevant. By painting them, I invite the viewer to reflect on their validity. When preparing this exhibition, phenomena of the occult from the region influenced my painting to a large extent. However, given the static nature of the residency, most of these come from non-fiction literature." - Claudine Pisarek <https://heerztooya.com/exhibitions/disappointed-ghosts>

↪ **Sabine Wedege / Pagan Geopolitics / solo show / Heerz Tooya Gallery, 18 Ivan Vazov Str. / July 29 – August 17.** “Pagan Geopolitics plays with the idea of a new term for an understanding of how countries produce and trade and how deep-rooted paganism is in relation to this, to everyday life, worldview, and capitalism – passed down from our ancestors to us, from generation to generation, from local production to mass production. The importance in peasant culture was to ensure a good harvest, and the animals were generally healthy- to protect from evil – with forbidden pagan rituals. An awareness of what materials nature offers, in relation to where you are, inside borders, inside the bureaucracy, inside totalitarianism...” - Sabine Wedege
<https://heerztooya.com/exhibitions/pagan-geopolitics>

IN EUROPE

↪ **All Images Will Disappear, One Day / 4th Autostrada Biennale / group show / Prizren, Kosovo / July 7 – September 9.** „All Images Will Disappear, One Day” is an exhibition about what makes and unmakes us, what entangles and disentangles us from ourselves, about freedoms beyond choices, imaginaries that flow despite and across borders. The biennale takes you on a journey around former NATO hangars, where the core of the exhibition sits, and then down into the streets of Prizren, and farther to Prishtina and Mitrovica.
<https://autostradabiennale.org>

ART CAREER

↪ **Open call for participation in the Mini Textile Triennial / Deadline September 30.** Authors can participate with 2 works related to the theme of “Connecting”. Full information at <https://bit.ly/3rq3C7q>

Monthly edition by Open Art Foundation

↪ news selection : Desislava Mileva

↪ logo : Nedko Solakov

↪ cover : Nikola Tanev, „Touches from mines Pernik”, retrospective exhibition, City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, permanent collection, 14A Saborna Str., July 4 – September 30.