



## SOFIA

▸ **Personal reality / group exhibition / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of contemporary art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / November 2 – January 14.** As part of its annual program, RADLAB has invited six artists - Vanessa Lu, Vladislav Lepoev, Ivelin Penchev – Ivicha, Liliana Karadzova, Nikola Dyulgyarov, Usha, to explore the topic of personal reality. The exhibition presents six photographic series, hand-printed at the studio's facilities in Gabrovo, featuring 23 alternative photographic techniques. Each artist has come up with their own media and methods to underline the importance of the creative process. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/personal-reality/>

▸ **Magda Abazova / Centenary of the Artist's Birth / retrospective exhibition / curated by Nadezhda Dzhakova, PhD / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / November 23 – March 10.** This exhibition recreates Magda Abazova's poeticized reality, where the artist is a lyrical character and creator; follows Magda's play of colour and style in all its manifoldness, but also describes distinct domains of genre and theme. Despite her prolific output, Magda Abazova held only a few solo exhibitions. By the 1980s, there had been only two, which explains why she was little known to the public apart from specialists and colleagues. Dimitar Grozdanov, founder of the Process Space Art Festival, an art historian and curator, defined her as the youngsters' favourite, one of the first Bulgarian avant-garde artists. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/magda-abazova-1923-2011-centenary-of-the-artists-birth/>

▸ **The Art of Drawing a Book / exhibition of book illustrations / curated by Dr Tanya Staneva / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / September 20 – December 31.** "Ivan Kyosev (1933–1994) was one of the emblematic artists who devoted their creative energy and talent to illustration, book design and typography. In his drawings, the artist frequently fits the entire literary text into the small compositional area. In a delicate and skilful way, he interweaves iconographic examples, details that draw us into the epoch described in the content, or teasing attributes characteristic of the time in which the illustrations were created. All this diversity

is presented to inquisitive readers in colour or in black and white in such a way that they can share the pleasure the illustrator felt in creating his works.” - Dr Tanya Staneva <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/the-art-of-drawing-a-book/>

↪ **Rada Yakova / Pink cloud / solo exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / October 24 – January 22.** The National Gallery once again stands for the cause of the Emprove Foundation. Rada Yakova presents 12 rounded objects of steel mesh in delicate shades of pink, which combine a sense of solidity with a soft airiness, corresponding to the feminine essence. The Foundation’s concept recognises the power—visible and invisible—that generates wind in the sails, unites and safeguards. The installation also embodies support in society and the ability to back each other up in the turbulent storms of life. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/pink-cloud/>

↪ **Japanese Ukiyo-e woodblock prints in Bulgarian collections / group exhibition / curated by Zlatka Dimitrova / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / October 18 – January 21.** Japanese ukiyo-e prints captured the urban culture of the Edo period (1603–1868), documenting Japan’s opening to the world during the Meiji era (1868–1912) and paving their way to European markets. They influenced the development of art and culture in Europe, especially among the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. These engravings also aroused interest in Bulgaria where, in several museum collections, which began to take shape around the mid-20th century, some of the most popular themes were represented. In this exhibition, the main themes of Japanese engravings in all the collections in Bulgaria are on display together for the first time. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/japanese-ukiyo-e-woodblock-prints-in-bulgarian-collections/>

↪ **From the newspaper to the museum. Bulgarian Cartoons, 1944–1989 / archive exhibition / Museum of Art from the Socialist Period, 7, Luchezar Stanchev St. / November 2 – March 31.** The exhibition presents some 150 Bulgarian cartoons from the collection of the National Gallery and presents an attempt to reconstruct the cartoon genre under the conditions of the totalitarian system of management of the political, social, and cultural life in Bulgaria between 1944 and 1989. The represented artists include Iliya Beshkov, Alexander Zhendov, Boris Angelushev, Stoyan Venev, Boris Dimovski, Donyo Donev, Asen Grozev, Georgi Anastasov, Tsvetan Tsekov – Karandash, Georgi Chaushov, and Stefan Despodov. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/from-the-newspaper-to-the-museum-bulgarian-cartoons-1944-1989/>

↪ **Yanaki Manasiev / Lonely and Standing Apart / retrospective exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gen. Gurko st. / November 21 – February 11.** Yanaki Manasiev is among the most prominent Bulgarian artists of the second half of the 20th century, yet he remains relatively unknown to the wider public, especially the younger generation. Lonely and Standing Apart is the most comprehensive exhibition of Yanaki Manasiev’s work. It commemorates the 90th anniversary of the artist’s birth by an exhaustive overview of his oeuvre presenting both his most notable and less familiar artworks. The exhibition seeks to present all themes and narratives developed by the artist, as well as the diverse techniques he used in his creative process. Yanaki Manasiev was known among his contemporaries as a bold experimenter and innovator who introduced new themes and visual devices in 1960’s and 1970’s art, an era characterized by the effort to shed the dogma of socialist realism. <https://bit.ly/3sYH10p>

↪ **Vaska Emanouilova / Images of time / retrospective exhibition / Vaska Emanouilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / November 9 – February 11.** The focus of the exhibition is on the work of Vaska Emanouilova from the period immediately following the 1950s. During this time, she established herself as one of the most successful female sculptors in Bulgaria. For her creative work, this period was particularly fruitful. She was inspired by themes from the intimate and personal sphere, such as motherhood, the presence and role of women, and the dreamy world of children’s fantasies. The exhibition includes iconic works by Vaska Emanouilova from this important and as-yet-critically-unexplored period in Bulgarian art, which define the artist’s place in the history of Bulgarian visual art and characterize the artistic aspirations of her entire generation. <https://bit.ly/3T84ZRk>

↪ **Ivan B. Ivanov / *Passing / solo exhibition / UBA, Rayko Alexiev Hall, 125 "Rakovski" Str. / December 7 - January 12.*** The current exhibition presents only part of the rich work of the author. In the recent years, Ivan B. Ivanov works in the field of abstraction, deploying his painterly power in large formats, bright colors and diverse structures; he achieves expressiveness, handling the geometric forms in the range of improvisation with a power characteristic of his style. The documentary part of the exhibition traces the artist's journey through the vicissitudes of time and space. <https://bit.ly/47UF3wG>

↪ **Triennale minitextile / group exhibition / "Sofia Press" bookstore and gallery space, 29 "Slavyanska" Str. / November 20 – December 11.** MINItextile is a genre in which techniques and materials related to textiles participate alongside the freest and most diverse other materials and technologies and turn this genre into a typical representative of contemporary art without limitations for the idea and the means of its transformation. <https://sbh.bg/bg/izlozben-kalendar-izlozbi-sbh/trienale-mini-tekstil-2023/8/1338>

↪ **Joachim Schmid / *The Library / solo show / curated by Nadzelda Pavlova / Gallery, Goethe-Institut Bulgaria, 1 Budapest Str. / November 8 – December 22.*** Joachim Schmid (1955, Balingen) is a visual artist, photographer and critic living and working in Berlin. The current exhibition consists of two parts - prints and books. In the presented selection of books created by the author over the past 20 years, there are many editions that are a continuation of his famous work "Other People's Photographs". Books dealing with pattern discovery in photography behavior will also be on view. In these, Schmid focuses on the repetition of the word rather than the repetition of the image. Especially for this exhibition, the artist also created the work "People's Library", which is based on found photos of various people's favorite books. "Their books and my books together form the 'Library,'" writes Schmid. <https://bit.ly/3FJQ4ox>

↪ **Boryana Petkova / *Burnt. Burn. Will Burn / solo show / Curated by Snejana Krasteva / +359 Gallery, 13A Galitchitsa Str. / October 31 – December 23.*** Boryana Petkova's performative practice is characterized by its durational nature, which cannot be separated from the craftsmanship of drawing in an expanded field. Her current new series of works is inspired by the rituals of Nestinarstvo, a dying Bulgarian culture from the region of Strandzha. For this exhibition, dozens of drawings on white paper are spread across the water tower floors. They are the result of Petkova's most recent performance, partly conducted and documented in the courtyard of the gallery without an audience and partly at the opening of the exhibition, performed live. <https://plus359gallery.com/en/2023/10/24/burnt-burn-will-burn-2/>

↪ **Valentina Sciarra / *Organic formula / solo show / Structura Gallery, 9 Kuzman Shapkarev St. / November 23 – January 10.*** The exhibition unfolds along two main lines: the creation of new organic formulas capable of explaining reality by using a creative approach towards knowledge and the exploration of symbolic sculptures, which introduce new symbols to express well-known concepts and phenomena that have already been part of our modern life for a while but lack a common symbolic representation that encapsulate their essence yet. Sciarra delves into the rich history of symbolism, drawing parallels between ancient philosophy, sacred geometry and contemporary artistic expressions and explores their role in understanding the harmony of the universe. <https://structura.gallery/en/exhibitions/valentina-sciarra-organic-formula/>

↪ **Valentina Traianova / *Danser chanter aimer / solo show / Swimming Pool, 10 Tsar Osvoboditel Str. / December 12 – February 29.*** Dance, sing and love – three words initially chosen by the artist Valentina Traianova in French (danser chanter aimer) after she wrote the poem "I am sinking" last summer, then at a residency at Emily Harvey Foundation in Venice. "Did I have to dive in and sink for an obvious answer to emerge on the surface of the sea – that I could do nothing but continue to dance, sing and love?" Thus, the title emerged from that encounter with the world, which is also a manifesto against the decadence of today's world that increasingly limits our freedoms. "Danser Chanter Aimer" brings together never before exhibited drawings, sound sculptures, a video performance as well as the performance "Lust", written especially for this exhibition. <https://bit.ly/3R9YpXW>

↪ ***You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows / group show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / November 16 – December 7.*** Credo Bonum Foundation and Gallery are launching a series of exhibitions and events dedicated to climate change that will introduce the public to possible solutions and build partnerships between businesses and artists, with the goal of a more sustainable future and changing attitudes. The series of events is called "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows". The current exhibition looks at the current state of affairs and the rapid consumption in the age of consumer fetishism. The artist Nevena Ekimova will partner with the company for collecting and recycling unneeded clothes – TexCycle. She will use recycled textiles from the company's production to create in the gallery space an installation environment of fabrics, a kind of cocoon and an agora for the events accompanying the exhibition. The Japanese Aiko Yamamoto will create an installation of fabrics dyed with herbs from the Vitosha Mountain and will draw attention to the feminized profession of silk production in a silk factory in Japan. Fashion photographer Koko Krastev will explore the tailor studios in Sofia, as a kind of counterpoint to fast fashion, with the repair of clothes and the extension of their life. <https://bit.ly/3QMaFza>

↪ ***Alexander Lazarkov / Volcanism and energetics / solo show / curated by Radoslav Mehandzhiyski / Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / November 22 – December 10.*** "Right from the title of his exhibition, Alexander Lazarkov hints at the main themes in his exposition. Volcanism and energetics are two manifestations of energy vitality. In his desire to communicate these relationships between the natural and the human, Alexander Lazarkov creates four series of works, entirely different in terms of materials and artistic approach. Typical of his work in recent years, each piece simultaneously stimulates the eye and the mind, forming metaphors for the grand processes in the natural and social environment." – Radoslav Mehandzhiyski <https://bit.ly/3N22IDz>

↪ ***Ara Güler / Istanbul / solo exhibition / Synthesis Gallery, 55 "Vasil Levski" Blvd / November 23 – January 25.*** The exhibition shows the timeless allure of Istanbul through the works of internationally renowned photographer Ara Güler, whose black and white photographs have become synonymous with the city itself. Having written short stories during his youth and deeply inspired by cinema as an art form, Ara Güler captures Istanbul through the lens of a master storyteller. <https://photosynthesis.bg/statia/Istanbul-izlozhba-na-Ara-Guler.html>

↪ ***Yana Lozeva / Audience / solo exhibition / Toplocentrala Gallery - Cube, 5 Emil Bersinski Str. / December 2 - 10.*** "Yana Lozeva is an author who often uses the language of classical photography to set themes and draw viewers into worlds of images with their own atmosphere and history. In her project "Audience" she works with one of the most traditional genres, the portrait, unfolding it from the point of view of experience and collaboration. "Audience" includes 15 portraits of people in a special moment of enlightenment. Yana is looking for a gap in the everyday, extraordinary vulnerability. Unlike her previous portrait project (Terminal, 2019), in which people are alone in the frame (and somehow alone in the world), here, in the "audience", they are together." - Vladiya Mihailova (curator). <https://toplocentrala.bg/en/program/visual/publika-lozeva>

↪ ***David Tadesse / Decay / solo show / curated by Bilyana Tokmakchieva and Boyana Raycheva / Bobbina Cultural Space, 5A Triaditsa Str. / December 5 – 12.*** The first solo exhibition of the young Bulgarian contemporary artist David Tadesse brings together over 20 works that deal with the themes of the inevitable disruption of integrity and order and the possible rearrangement of elements. The author experiments both with different mediums and formats, as well as with diverse sources of inspiration – from classical figurative techniques to African tribal decorations and symbols. <https://bit.ly/3Ra5PdI>

## ART TALKS SOFIA

↪ **Martin Atanasov / Photo end / photography workshop / KO-OP, 17 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / December 9, 11.00 am.** In this workshop the participants will work with an image or series of images that they want to bring to their end. This end can be literal or metaphorical, it can be generative or destructive. With the results of the process and visual reflections on the theme, they will create a collective zine. The first part of the workshop will consist of a short presentation of photobooks that reflect on the theme of the end. The second part will be dedicated to the collective photo ending. <https://bit.ly/3N9EFT2>

## PLOVDIV

↪ **Yanko Nenkov / Dolce far niente / solo show / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, temporary exhibitions hall, 15 Knyaz Alexander I Str. / November 29 – December 31.** With fascinating craftsmanship and jewelry technique, the artist tells fabulous stories in his exhibition of drawings. Through complex figural compositions, colors and contrasts, the paintings recreate the wonderful days of life, carefreeness, and ease in the communication of the characters, music, play and flying in space. These stories transport us to another world, to another dimension, where the joy of living is a way of being and where we often wish we were ourselves. The author uses the techniques of peggge, Japanese watercolor paints and pencils. The paintings are on handmade Fabriano Artistico paper. <https://bit.ly/3RjAAxd>

↪ **Annual exhibition of the Society of Plovdiv Artists / group show / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Exhibition Hall 2019, 32 Gladstone Str. / December 5 - 31.** The exhibition is open to the participation of any member of the society who works in the fields of painting, graphics, sculpture and N forms. Shortly before the official opening, a five-member jury will determine this year's winners of the Society of Plovdiv Artists awards in the respective section, as well as who will be honored with the young author prize. [www.galleryplovdiv.com](http://www.galleryplovdiv.com)

## VARNA

↪ **Ahimsa: non-violence / group exhibition / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" St / December 2 - 31.** The present exhibition was initiated by the artists Prof. Emil Popov and Prof. Stanislav Pamukchiev and the Indologist Yordanka Boyanova. Its thematic focus on ahimsa, non-violence - the fundamental life principle in the philosophy and works of Mahatma Gandhi, forms the broad conceptual basis for its construction. This project, supported by the East-West Indology Foundation presents works by numerous contemporary Bulgarian artists. <https://bit.ly/3uM9ejj>

↪ **The charm of the thread / group show / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" St / November 28 – December 17.** The exhibition includes experimental student developments in the field of textile art, distinguished by their innovation and individuality, based on the studied traditional techniques. The selection of works for the exhibition is entirely subordinated to traditional Bulgarian techniques, such as weaving, felting, embroidery and others, studied in the specialty "Textiles - Art and Design" at the National Academy of Arts. The selection demonstrates the teachers' desire to preserve the traditions of Bulgarian culture, refracted through the eyes of young artists and transformed into works with a completely new contemporary sound. <https://bit.ly/3Nbduhh>

## VELIKO TARNOVO

↪ **Antonin Bouchy / A Simple Transformation / solo show / Heerz Tooya Gallery, 18 Ivan Vazov Str. / November 25 – December 16.** Antonin, as a flâneur in the contemporary artistic landscape, explores through different mediums and a light aesthetic, various concepts such as absurd, paradox, laziness and contemplation, with the aim to deliver a body of work imbued with poetry. A Simple Transformation explores, through the chemical process of plaster's solidification, a form that has long been a subject of study for artists, the fold.  
<https://heerztooya.com/exhibitions/a-simple-transformation>

↪ **Christian Tony Norum / Diary of a mad man / solo show / Heerz Tooya Gallery, 18 Ivan Vazov Str. / November 25 – December 16.** Diary of a mad man can be anything, the truthful version, the copy cat, the dog that ate your identity, or the music of a hero, or simply the father of prose realism.  
<https://heerztooya.com/exhibitions/diary-of-a-mad-man>

## KAZANLAK

↪ **Sleep / group exhibition / Art Gallery, central building, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. and many other locations / October 21 - March 31.** The "Dream" project is an initiative in which past and present meet through a series of thematic exhibitions and installations deployed in multiple spaces, the majority of which are external to the Art Gallery - Kazanlak - private properties, other museums, and cultural institutions. "There are manifestations in our existence, peculiar divine whims, without which the survival of our biological body is impossible. Among them is sleep - the most mysterious thing we do and takes up a third of our life. But without it, everything in us would be subject to suffering, would destroy us. And that's why no more than 265 hours of sleeplessness are needed. The topic of sleep is inextricably linked to dreaming. Over the past 150 years, figures like Sigmund Freud, Carl Gustav Jung, Felix de Mendelssohn have devoted decades of their scientific pursuits to trying to understand dreaming - its connections with life beyond sleep, the mechanisms of birth, its relationship to dying."  
<https://www.artgallerykazanlak.com/exhibitions/sanyat/>

## Monthly edition by Open Art Foundation

↪ news selection : Desislava Mileva

↪ logo : Nedko Solakov

↪ cover: David Tadesse, *Process*, 2023, detail, in the solo show "Decay", curated by Bilyana Tokmakchieva and Boyana Raycheva, Bobbina Cultural Space, 5A Triaditsa Str., Sofia, December 5 – 12.