



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/>

→ **International Glass Biennale / group exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / October 6 – December 3.** The fourth edition of the Biennale presents under the title "Together" artists from 48 countries. The selected works will be located in Kvadrat 500, Sredets Gallery of the Ministry of Culture and UniArt Gallery of New Bulgarian University. Kvadrat 500 hosted the main exhibition with works by some of the most important masters of glass, such as the Czech duo Stanislav Libenský (1921-2002) and Jaroslava Brychtová (1924-2020) as well as their compatriot Václav Cigler. A compelling highlight will be the participation of a selection of distinguished Dutch artists, curated by Mr. Han de Kluijver, a member of the international jury. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/international-glass-biennale-2023/>

→ **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/>

↪ **Evgenia Vodenicharova / retrospective exhibition / curated by Krasimir Iliev / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gen. Gurko st. / November 2 – December 3.** "The exhibition of Evgenia Vodenicharova coincides with the retrospective exhibition of her friend Genko Genkov. Their two opposite destinies - that of unceasing wide popularity and the hidden creativity known to a minimal circle of admirers meet in the halls of the City Gallery. Evgenia Vodenicharova's style is unique and completely different - unexpected, expressive and powerful, at the same time strangely delicate, atypical for the 70s of the last century. This is the time during which most of her works were created. She mainly paints portraits, landscapes and still-lives. The most common opinion about her is that this is not a Bulgarian artist." - Krasimir Iliev. <https://fb.me/e/4Yz4ZdkMU>

↪ **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 – November 12.** 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>

↪ **Triennale minitextile / group exhibition / "Sofia Press" bookstore and gallery space, 29 "Slavyanska" Str. / October 17 - 30.** 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/izlojben-kalendar-izlojbi-sbh/trienale-mini-tekstil-2023/8/1338>

↪ **Stefan Nikolaev / Home / solo show / Sarieva @ DOT, Sofia, 46, Bratya Miladinovi str., Women's Market / September 30 – November 12.** The show was created especially for the collaboration of Sarieva/Gallery with the new building DOT Sofia and curated by the gallery. The title comes as a word game in Bulgarian linking dot to dom ('home') as DOT Sofia beyond gallery space offers housing. But it also connects that first idea to a game-changing phenomenon of modern times: art works become an integral part of homes. Themes, lines, colours, materials, everything changes to accommodate the new way of seeing art. Nikolaev reflects on that phenomenon by examining stylistically and symbolically some key subjects and by continuing his exploration of meeting points between sculpture and painting. www.sarieva.org

↪ **Joachim Schmid / The Library / solo show / curated by Nadzdezda 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/>

↪ **You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows / group show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / November 16 – December 27.** 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>

↪ **Sophia Grancharova / Pulse / solo exhibition / curated by Boyana Djikova / POSTA Gallery, 34 "Knyaz Alexander Dondukov" Bld. / October 21 - November 15.** Part of the Center for Social Vision's Constitutions public program. After a review of the collection in the Swimming Pool space, "Pulse" continues at the POSTA window. For the "Pulse" project, Sophia Grancharova creates a collection of practical clothes and accessories

intended for the communities of the protest groups. The choice of these communities was prompted by her interest in civic causes. <https://fb.me/e/3cdchPUkU>

↪ **Boris Kolev B.A.i.L.A / Ala Bala: Drawings from 2021 / solo show / Charta Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / October 19 – November 10.** "Boris Kolev, an author well known for his northern sensibility and absolutely uncompromising moral and political position, shows in the exhibition "Ala-bala" twelve denunciations of the two-dimensional man who mainly consumes, imitates icons from television and social networks, experiences his joys and suffering in the clichés developed by capitalist culture and above all lends himself to frivolity. In relation to his entire work, I believe that Kolev ranks frivolity among the main causes of intellectual decay, and I am convinced that this magnificent in its categorical, expressionist series is the result of the same momentum." - Ivan Stefanov <https://bit.ly/3QKILly>

↪ **The gifts of the Earth / group show / curated by Hristina Grozdanova / Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / November 3 - 17.** "The Gifts of The Earth" is the seventh annual exhibition of the Society of Animalists, Florists and Scientific Illustrators (SAFSI). Whereas most of the exhibitions so far were dedicated to certain types of plants and animals, habitats and generally to nature conservation, this time the focus is on the benefits we gain from various of Earth's plant species. The Society members, who took part of our annual show, once again proved that the beauty most often lies in the artists' interpretation, their sense and aesthetic pursuits, than in the quality of the depicted object itself. In the exhibition you will find some of the most preferred and popular plants used in the culinary and medical industry, some peculiar herbs, spices, as well as medicinal drugs made exclusively from natural sources." – Hristina Grozdanova <https://bit.ly/3u23hXg>

↪ **Nevena Georgieva / Crystal Plant / solo exhibition / Depoo Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / November 1 – 14.** The plant Crystal was established in the 1930s in the town of Pernik as a Bulgarian-Belgian company. Its main activity was aimed at the production of flat glass of various thicknesses through the specific "Furko" machines for vertical drawing of the glass layer. It has produced jars, tempered glass and fulfilled various special orders over the years of its existence. On April 27, 1998, Bulgargaz suddenly stopped supplying natural gas to the plant. The official version is that the company has accumulated numerous debts. What does this mean for this 24-hour work process where the glass vats were filled with molten mass ready for continuous production? <https://bit.ly/3QFZWGa>

↪ **Katia Getsova / A universe of glass / documentary / Arosita Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. B / November 3 – 15.** This film celebrates the 33rd anniversary of the longest-running private gallery, Arosita. The founders are Katia and Kolyu Getsovi. Katia Getsova is one of the most famous names in the field of art glass, and Kolyu Getsov is known for his decorative sculptures, mosaics, murals all over the country. The documentary film about the creative path of Katya Getsova is an idea of Galya Todorova, directed by Konstantin Karageorgiev. <https://bit.ly/3sbMm4a>

↪ **Krasimir Andonov / Telling tales / solo exhibition / Synthesis Gallery, 55 "Vasil Levski" Blvd / September 28 – November 11.** The exhibition presents a series of photographs that Krasimir Andonov – cameraman, photographer, and longtime lecturer at the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts took over twenty-five years. The photographs capture everyday encounters between people and animals. The author shares: "I think that the first photograph in the exhibition was taken in 1992, and the last one is from 2021. If it weren't for the dates beneath the images, it would be hard to notice how much time has passed. This is not deliberate – I realized that my work as a cinematographer has taught me to sustain a uniform visual style, and I unconsciously applied this principle to this photographic series, which was taken over a long period of time." <https://bit.ly/3rEfeBl>

ART TALKS SOFIA

↪ **Joachim Schmit / lecture (in English) / Goethe-Institut Bulgaria, 1 Budapest St. / November 9, 6.30 p.m.**

The lecture is dedicated to the specific approach of German artist Joachim Schmid's work in the field of photography and the publication of independent book publications. Joachim Schmid believes that photographs are present all around us, becoming a major part of our reality. Therefore, one must think about what the pictures that surround us and force themselves on us do. What is their presence and function in society?

<https://bit.ly/49ofPs8>

↪ **Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva / Seeing with understanding / tour in Kvadrat 500 / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1 "19th February" st, November 4, 3 p.m.** Art curator Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva will offer tours through the history of Bulgarian art on the theme "Idylls". About the subject, she shares: "By definition, the genre of idylls describes the peaceful and happy life of people and animals in nature. Idylls are a paradox in the history of Bulgarian art, but they still exist. They chart an alternative route through history as we know it, emphasizing those short stretches of it that we like to think of as the "White Age." Idylls are a refuge in which quite a few Bulgarian artists find refuge even today." The lectures are free, but there is an entrance fee to the museum.

<https://www.gledanesrazbirane.com/>

↪ **Martina Novakova / The framer's daughter / audio performance / Watching with understanding / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1 "19th February" / November 11 and 12, 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.** With the participation of Dimitar Nikolov, Evgenia Angelova and Valeria Georgieva. The performance is simultaneously an audio guide, a tour of the museum, live theater and a reflection on art. It takes place in small groups of a maximum of 25 people who listen on headphones as they walk through the gallery's halls. There will be a total of 4 performances that require a museum ticket and pre-registration here:

<https://www.gledanesrazbirane.com/performance-novakova>

↪ **Aiko Yamamoto / workshop / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 "Slavyanska" Street / November 18, 11:00 a.m.**

Within the cycle of events "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows". The Japanese Aiko Yamamoto, who will visit Bulgaria for the first time with the support of the Nomura Foundation, will create an installation of fabrics dyed with the use of herbs from the Vitosha mountain and will draw attention to the feminized profession of silk production in a silk factory in Japan. <https://bit.ly/3QMaFza>

PLOVDIV

↪ **Artan Hajrullahu / A House Without Walls / solo show / Sarieva Gallery, 40 Otets Paisyi Str. / September 1 – November 30.** Sarieva Gallery presents the first solo show in Bulgaria of Kosovar artist Artan Hajrullahu. His artworks are deeply humanistic, representing idyllic scenes of local life in Kosovo augmented by the thoughts and fantasies of the author. They are at once documentary, nostalgic, naive, ironic, provocative, simple, kitsch, traditional and contemporary. In his drawings, Artan Hajrullahu quite often crosses the boundaries of certain traditional taboos, in order to contest conservative conceptions of beauty, nudity, lovemaking, the conventions of marriage, the division between the sexes, masculinity, human uncertainty and the right to choose in general.

<https://fb.me/e/1syt5EpgK>

↪ **Neli Gavrilova / Bubbles, exhalation / solo exhibition / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Permanent Exhibition "Mexican Art", 11 "Artin Gidikov" St / November 10 – 29.** "The artistic experiment 'Bubbles Exhale' follows the reactions of people submerged in water, documenting the moment of their sudden exhalation of air. The fusion of air and water creates strange fairy tales, a surreal bubbling extravaganza of colorful bubbles where everything is unpredictable. It is here, in this atypical and limited by me space, that the action reaches its climax in seconds. Reactions are unexpected and unpredictable. Some of the participants react stoically with irony and

derision, as if frozen in the whirlwind of children's illusions.... Others, exhaling, struggle with the limits of their own consciousness, throwing away their fears with relief into the infinity of water, and it is everything we are and what we are not." - Neli Gavrilova <https://bit.ly/49nXBa8>

▸ **Nikolay Nyagolov / On the road / retrospective exhibition / City Gallery of Fine Arts Plovdiv, Exhibition Hall 2019, 32 Gladstone Str. / November 7 - 26.** The exhibition has a retrospective nature and includes works - painting and drawing, created in different years during the last three decades. Both linear and decorative compositions and expressive pictorial solutions will be on display, with the earliest work dating from 1992. <https://bit.ly/40oOWAn>

VARNA

▸ **Transcending East. Romanian painting / group exhibition / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" St / October 25 - November 11.** The exhibition presents the work of established authors, teachers at the National University of Arts in Bucharest. On closer inspection, the name of the exhibition "Transcending East. Romanian painting" reveals a multifaceted narrative, rich in meaning and nuances. One reads the suggestion of a dualistic perspective that invites us to see the clear division between the cultures of East and West and the unique civilizations they represent. Rooted in the realm of postmodernity, the images within this exhibition delicately oscillate between the two permanent poles of visual culture: the figurative and the abstract. <https://fb.me/e/14DQtBNda>

VELIKO TARNOVO

▸ **Beatrice Alexanian & Aia Sofia Coverley Turan / Not in sight / joint show / Heerz Tooya Gallery, 18 Ivan Vazov Str. / October 27 – November 11.** "The exhibition engages with information from lived life and history while belonging to that which may not necessarily have a language but exists in its absence. With emotions of immobility and material conditions of its potential contrary, Alexanian and Coverley Turan invite us to an exhibition of belonging and the complex breath of navigation. The notion of having something to hold on to, be it identity or an ideology, and then having the feeling of losing it, is potentially a reverse of fortune while facing an eternal abyss of what is presented as a warm hug." – Lars Nordby <https://heerztooya.com/exhibitions/not-in-sight>

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/>

ART CAREER

▸ **Call for applications / Akademie Schloss Solitude / Application deadline November 30.** International artists are invited to apply from the following spheres of practice: Visual (visual arts and media), Aural & Physical (music and performing arts), Digital (digital art, gaming, digital journalism, digital publishing), Spatial (architecture and design), Textual (literature and language), Societal (education, mediation, theory), Scientific (humanities, social, natural and economic sciences). Akademie Schloss Solitude's wide-ranging fellowship program promotes the interrelationship of art and science across all disciplines and fields of practice. <https://bit.ly/3R7QUCy>

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▸ news selection : Desislava Mileva

▸ logo : Nedko Solakov

▸ cover: Stefan Nikolaev, *God save the hobby horse*, 2019, in the solo exhibition "Home", Sarieva @ DOT, Sofia, 46, Bratya Miladinovi str., Women's Market, September 30 – November 12.