



NORA AMPOVA **TOTAL**
INTERNAL
REFLECTION

TOTAL INTERNAL REFLECTION, Nora Ampova
Catalog

The project was realized with financial support from the National
Fund "Culture"- programme "Visual Arts" 2021.



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CATALOG

This book takes its physical form after conversations with Rossen Uvunov, the gallery owner of Little Bird Place. His enthusiasm and belief in me as an artist led to this significant and long-coveted step, to publish an artworks catalogue which faithfully presents my artistic journey to the public.

The contents retrospectively moves through pages of four distinct chapters. Three of the chapters present individual projects from 2021.

THE PINK DIARY is an album of drawings, part of 20x20 TRANS FORMAT at Little Bird Place gallery in Sofia with curator Antoaneta Quick, January 2021.

STORIES FROM THE CLOUD is a series of paintings exhibited at Nuance gallery in Sofia in April 2021. An evolving theme for a second solo exhibition, part of National Autumn Exhibitions, Plovdiv by invitation of Prof. Dr. Galina Lardeva, in September 2021.

Uniting the project is **TOTAL INTERNAL REFLECTION**, a solo exhibition of paintings, drawings, and sculptures presented at Little Bird Place gallery in December 2021.

The introductory text is courtesy of curator and art critic Yovo Panchev, who accepted my invitation and with his support the catalogue has acquired its professional aspirations.

Guided by my yearning to create, after years on a rolling journey, I am pleased this catalogue is now a reality. Thank you to everyone who supported this project, including the National Fund "Culture"- programme "Visual Arts" 2021.

Nora Ampova

ABOUT NORA AMPOVA

Nora Ampova will convince you with the artworks included here, in this catalogue that she has quite a range. She also has a rather distinct evolution as an artist who demonstrates an articulated dynamic in her quest for discovery. Over the years, Ampova's curiosity for artistic revelation has been her creative engine. She has been accumulating a visual vocabulary which invariably becomes clearer and more definitive. Beyond the distinctive sketchlike composition or more precisely the way she frames her works, one can isolate the expressive style in which they evolve through time. By expressive, I mean emotional or temperamental sketching, which attempts to capture and recreate an innate condition in the object, exported and isolated from its environment and conventional application, free from context.

With the passage of time, Nora Ampova has achieved a balance between a simple but dramatic and tactile drawing with a synthesized, concise palate. Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva describes Nora Ampova's works at "Autumn Exhibitions" Plovdiv 2021, as a blend between a clean narrative and a complex artistic fabric, over an even and plain background with an extremely active texture. She adds the following summary which can be invariably applied to Ampova's work: The artist has managed to capture with surprising tension and accuracy, and a geometrically accurate incision the elusive, unimaginable and total alienation in which we were living and still continue to live today. (The article "How to explain the Autumn Exhibitions" <http://kultura.bg> , from 10 September 2021).

Nora Ampova follows a special course in her development as an author, which largely defines her. She starts with highly emotional expressive work, schools herself, then overcomes the schooling with various attempts in "easy" directions. With influences from decoration, pop art, illustrative drawing, poster (as a painting problem), even props, constantly on the verge of good taste, these attempts or stages of development allow her to get rid of the academy (not the national one), the academy in general, and outline one's own limits of decency, one's own criteria. This border is very individual and authentic, which makes it even more radical, it allows the delineation of the terrain, so to speak, in an artistic territory where the author's research mood is located and begins to work cleanly with the wreckage of her school. All those pieces left from her experiments, the lessons from the experiments, from toying with the "easy" Ampova manages to curate into a surprisingly mature and stylish inner museum located on the terrain among these layers and lumps of waste. It derives, summarizes, synthesizes, purifies, refines, begins to give sincere expression to its "Total Internal Reflection".

Yovo Panchev

SELECTED WORKS



Selfportrait, 2014
acrylic, asphalt, oil pastel on canvas 70 x 50 cm

Enjoy the silence, 2014
acrylic and oil on canvas 65 x60 cm





Psyho killer, 2015
acrylic and oil on canvas 110 x 90 cm



Hide and seek, 2016
acrylic on canvas 90 x 80 cm





Runaway, 2014
acrylic on canvas 90 x 80 cm



Fake news 1 and 2, 2020
digital drawings



Girl in front an iapples, 2018
digital painting



Selfportraits, 2020
digital drawings



Selfportaits, 2020
digital drawings

Sing a song /to my mother/, 2018
digital painting





Armor /to my mother/, 2018
digital painting

THE PINK DIARY

The Pink Diary is a new channel for my artistic expression. This visual album is a hand-crafted collection of drawings dedicated to the year 2020. It contains fragments of daily events, dreams, longing. I call them counterpoint pieces, because they oppose the overwhelmingly negative emotions brought us by this year.

Provoked by our unusual circumstances, I started to notice everyday details which were bringing me joy. Like the rhythm of days passing, the drawings in the diary have a varied quality. Watercolours, collage, or paint over photography – the pieces are true to my authenticity. At the same time, collected within the pink covers, they form a complete body which glorifies light.

Nora Ampova

/The diary was created for the exhibition "20x20 TRANS FORMAT" in January 2021 at gallery Little Bird Place, Sofia – curator Antoaneta Quick/

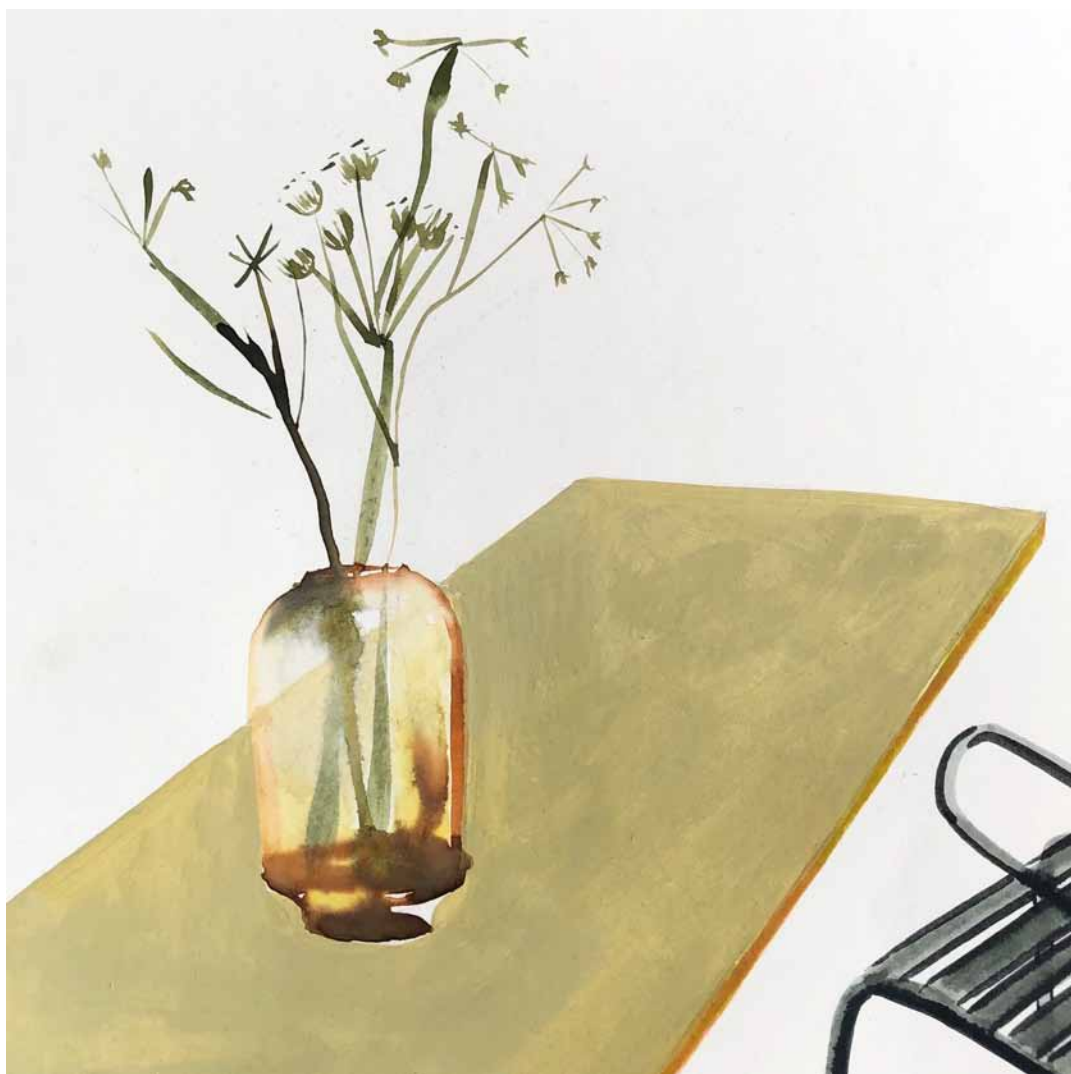




Sunday, 2020
watercolour on paper, 20 x 20 cm

The secret garden, 2020
collage - watercolour and
acrylic on photo paper 20 x 20 cm

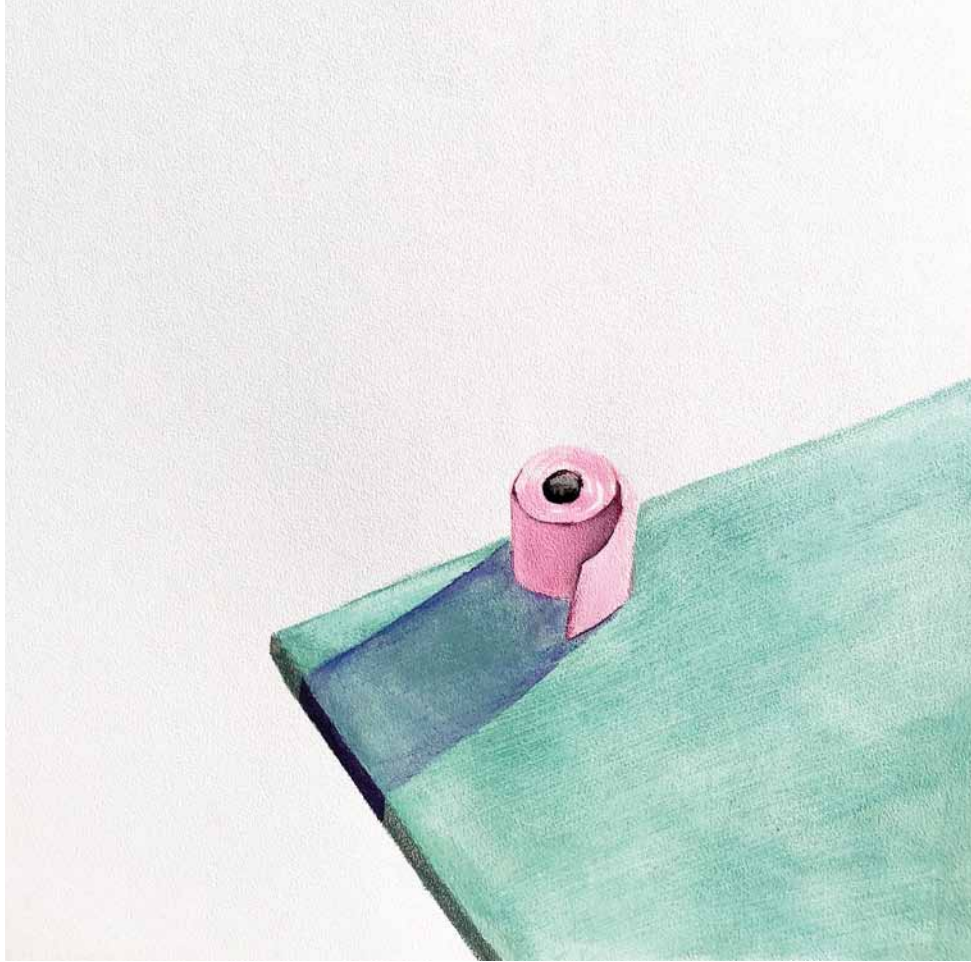
Colours from France, 2020
collage - watercolour on paper, 20 x 20 cm



Breakfast at "Hlebar", 2020
watercolour on paper, 20 x 20 cm

Lost in the virtuality, 2020
watercolour and ink on paper, 20 x 20 cm





Pure morning, 2020
watercolour on paper, 20 x 20 cm



Pieces of an outing, 2020
watercolour collage on paper 20 x 20cm

Digging up the bone, 2020
watercolour collage on paper 20 x 20 cm



Alpine kitsch, 2020
collage - acrylic on photo paper 20 x20 cm

STORIES FROM THE CLOUD

A voyeur. Silent and unattached to gravitational surfaces. It impartially protects “files” of the human experience. Ethereally, it views stories of intimacy, presence, distance, journeys and yearning, from when we were crumbling or soaring. Under a particular light its archives “open.” I attempted to transform fragments of these into artistic pieces. Through them, I retrace the lived days and create a new folder.

Nora Ampova

/Stories from the cloud is a series of paintings exhibited at Nuance gallery in Sofia in April 2021. An evolving theme for a second solo exhibition, part of National Autumn Exhibitions, Plovdiv by invitation of Prof. Dr. Galina Lardeva, in September 2021/



Archive of secrets, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 100 x 80 cm





Swimming pool, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 81 x 65 cm



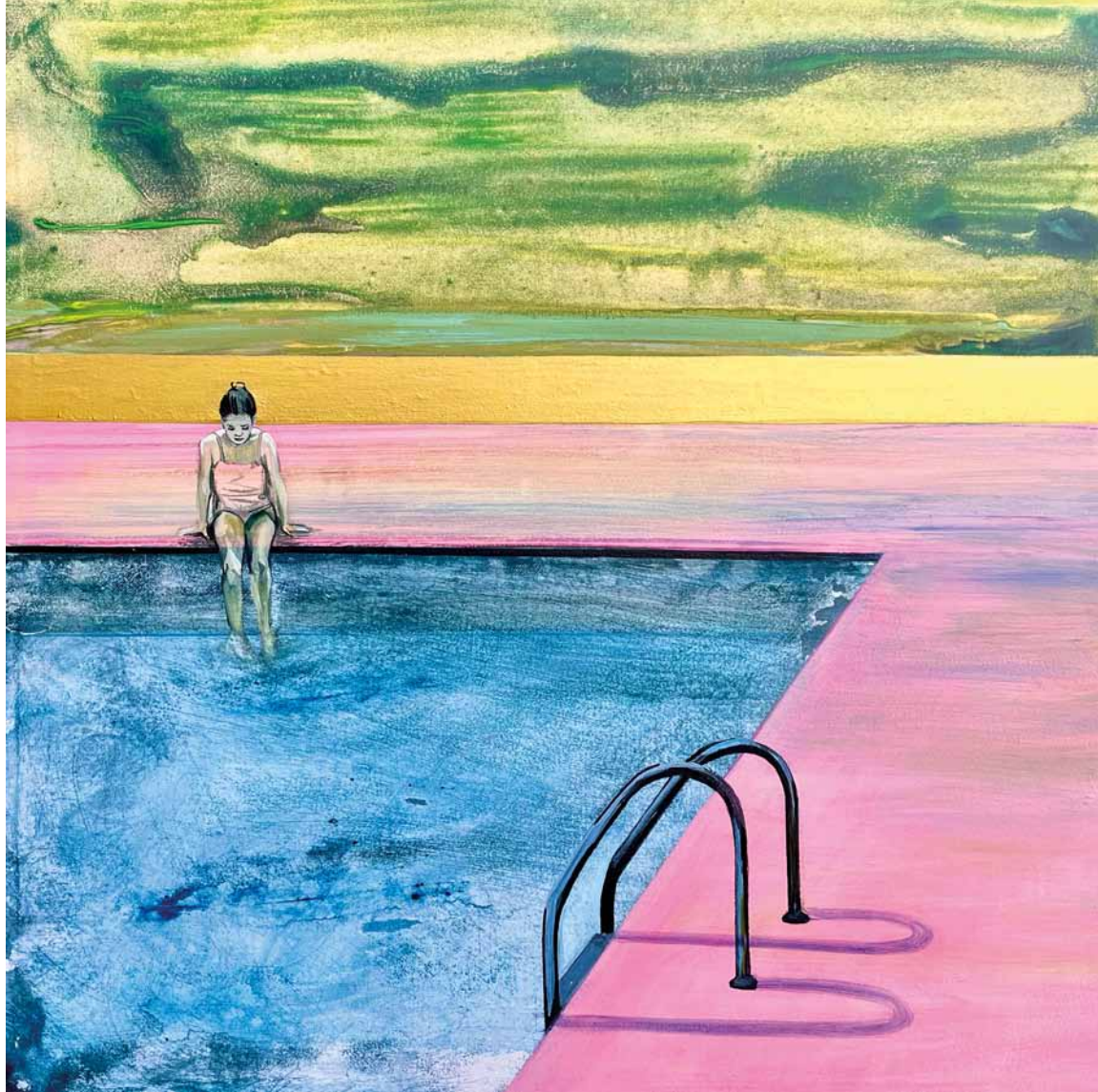
Cache - cache, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 cm



Thessaloniki between days, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 40 x 40 cm

Let it happen, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 80 x 60 cm





Mineral touch, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 cm

Behind the ice cream pavillion, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 60 x 50 cm





Never been here before, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm



Voveurs, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 90 x 80 cm



Warm air, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm

TOTAL INTERNAL REFLECTION

I chose Total Internal Reflection as the title of my latest artistic cycle because it contains a duality, and it embodies my messages and explorations. In the scientific sense, this is an optical phenomenon of reflection and refraction of light between two surfaces. At the same time, its figurative meaning reveals new imagined horizons. As an artist, I am fascinated by the process of examination and study of light. I feel that it holds all answers, even to questions without a perceptible form.

I have expressed Total Internal Reflection through paintings and sculptures, where light and reflection compete and tell stories. The stories' protagonist can be disputed because the reflection is often a mirror or an added filter, in which we see ourselves in a "better" light, even if this is just an illusion.

Nora Ampova

Total Internal Reflection is a solo exhibition at Little Bird Place, presented in Sofia in December 2021. This catalogue accompanies the project which sums up and completes Nora's artistically active year. /



Reflectors, 2021

series of sculptures - diameter 20 cm
/wood, mirror paper, papier-mache/





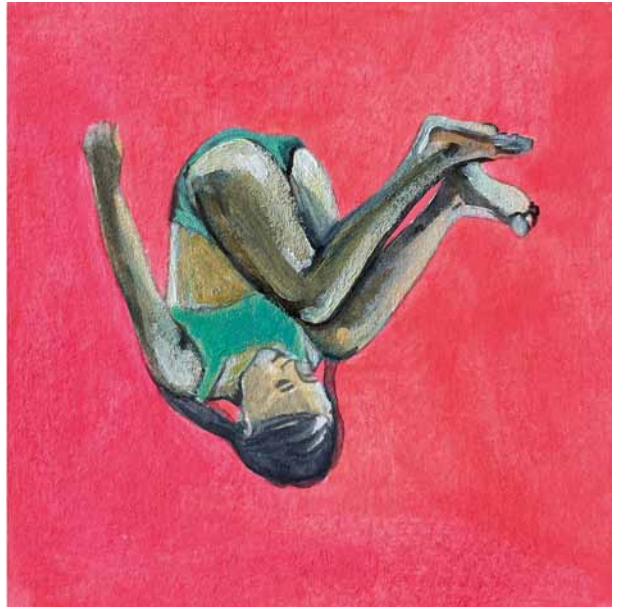








Total internal reflection 1 and 2, 2021
acrylic on paper , 7 x 7 cm



Total internal reflection 3 and 4, 2021
acrylic on paper, 7 x 7 cm

Unexpected intervention, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 80 x 80 cm





Trigger, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 30 x 30 cm

A hug, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 60 x 80 cm



Monuments, 2021
acrylic on canvas board, 30 x 40 cm



Hibernation, 2021
acrylic on canvas board, 30 x 40 cm



Golden path, 2021
acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm





Transfer, 2021
acrylic on canvas board, 40 x 40 cm

Final destination, 2021
acrylic on canvas board, 40 x 40 cm





Nora Ampova is a contemporary artist from Bulgaria. Born in Sofia in 1989 she is presently living and creating in Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2014, she is a Master of Fine Arts from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia and in 2011 she specialized Fine Arts at the University of Hertfordshire, UK. Nora has over ten solo exhibitions, including *Stories from the Cloud* 2021, Nuance Art Gallery, Sofia; *One Billion Seconds* 2020, Doza Gallery, Sofia; *Cosmos* 2018, Unicredit Studio, Sofia; *Hide and Seek* 2016 Lesvos, Greece and Sofia, and others. Selected collective exhibitions include *Thresholds & Scars – National Autumn Exhibition*, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; *The Next Step Generation* exhibition 2015, European Commission, Brussels; *Image and Likeness* 2015, National Gallery, Sofia; *Caution: Fresh Paint* 2015, Sofia City Gallery, Sofia; *My Name is Artist* 2014, Hugo Voeten Art Center, Herentals, Belgium, and others

In her art, Nora experiments with various approaches, as she develops an authentic visual vocabulary. Through her artworks, she tells stories that are often personal but commonly deal with universal themes.

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