



SOFIA

▸ **Masters of photography 16th edition. Jessica Lange. Photographs / solo show / National Gallery, The Palace, 1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq. / July 4 - September 29.** Two Academy Awards winner, renowned cinema and theater actress Jessica Lange has been building a career as a fine-art photographer for almost two decades. Her first-ever retrospective in Bulgaria presents private, virtually intimate works, created during her travels around the world. <https://tinyurl.com/ysm7sbkn>

▸ **Nedko Solakov / A Cornered (Future) Solo Show #4 / solo show / National Gallery, The Palace, 1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq. / May 31 - September 1.** "The project "A Cornered Solo Show" began back in 2021, when the artist approached directors and chief curators of well-known museums with the request to provide him with an "insignificant" corner in their buildings – a corner that has never been used for exhibitions, but which the public has access to. So far, three "corners" have been realized in major European museums. All three exhibitions, united by an unusual, strange, previously unused corner space, tell completely different stories created specifically for their context." - Iaroslava Boubnova, curator of the exhibition <https://tinyurl.com/375akuy3>

▸ **Iv Toshain / Trousseau for Mars / solo show / curated by Snejana Krasteva / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / June 27 - September 8.** The large-scale installation, 'Trousseau', is at the center of artist Iv Toshain's solo exhibition at the National Gallery. It will be displayed for the first time in Bulgaria—in Gallery 19 of Kvadrat 500, where an ancient tomb from the 4th century is housed. The title, 'Trousseau for Mars', where Mars is the God of War, reflects the Neoplatonic idea of conquering war through faith and love. The 5 x 4 metre work resembles a carpet 'woven' from 2,000 pieces of steel shaken. The installation combines elements opposite in meaning—cold steel, traditionally associated with war and violence, and the cross as a symbol of faith. The artwork, with each star made entirely by hand, is a symbolic gift from the artist to Mars, the God of War,

drawing attention to the raging armed conflicts around the world.

<https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/iv-toshain-trousseau-for-mars/>

↪ ***Bistra Lechevalier / retrospective exhibition / curated by Yana Bratanova / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / July 16 - October 20.*** The National Gallery continues its mission and policy of introducing the public to artists of Bulgarian origin who have won professional recognition beyond the country's borders. Bistra Lechevalier is one of a few contemporary conceptual artists who have risen to international prominence. This retrospective exhibition presents her art in Bulgaria for the first time. Iconic sculptures, objects, drawings and installations from Bistra Lechevalier's studio and the Enseigne des Oudin Endowment Fund collection in Paris will be showcased. The emblematic series include 'After' (2024), a large-scale installation, never shown before, and fully adapted to the spatial characteristics of the exhibition gallery. <https://tinyurl.com/2xf3v5rk>

↪ ***The Wall Vol. 5: Filipina Stamenkova / Reflections / site-specific installation / curated by Martin Kostashki / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, Entrance at 95, Vasil Levski Blvd. / June 6 2024 - May 31 2025.*** The fifth edition of the National Gallery project, 'The Wall', presents 'Reflections', a site-specific installation by artist Filipina Stamenkova. The artist explains: 'When visitors reach this wall, they see themselves reflected in the mirror and thus occupy a central place in the installation. In the context of architecture and exteriors, mirrors retain the magical ability to bend, distort, expand and transform images and, through them, our perception of those images and our relationship with the living space.' <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/the-wall-vol-5-filipina-stamenkova-reflections/>

↪ ***J. Pank / The Games / solo exhibition / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of contemporary art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / June 7 - July 21.*** The exhibition hall is transformed into a kind of arena—an Olympic Games venue, where the player is one and the same. Surprisingly, it is a woman with large eyes, lit-up gaze, full juicy lips, a small, comely face—stereotypes constantly imposed by the advertising industry. This comic character frequently appears in J. Pank's art; however, in the context of the current exhibition, it takes on new meaning regarding the place of women in sports. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/j-pank-the-games/>

↪ ***Labour : When the Foundations Were Laid / group exhibition / Museum of Art from the Socialist Period, 7, Luchezar Stanchev St. / June 20 - November 24.*** The exhibition focuses on one of the most significant themes in the art of Socialism—labour. Among the artists behind the paintings, sculptures, graphics and applied art works, names such as Iliya Petrov, Dechko Uzunov, Stoyan Sotirov, Nikola Tanev, Stoyan Venev, Ekaterina Savova-Nenova, and Alexander Poplilov, stand out. Both classic examples of Socialist Realism and unknown or previously unexhibited works are on display. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/labour-when-the-foundations-were-laid/>

↪ ***Nadezhda Oleg Lyahova / Preservation / solo show / The Vera Nedkova House Museum, 2, 11 August St. / February 15 - September 13.*** 'In the Home of Vera Nedkova', the programme launched in 2019, continues to present contemporary artists in an atmosphere filled with a myriad of memories and marked by the artist's intellectual and creative presence. Nadezhda Oleg Lyahova's exhibition re-evaluates the significance and meaning of time and memory, events and facts and opens a personal perusal of, and extensive research into, the issue of preserving the museum as an institution and, simultaneously, transferring memory. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/nadezhda-oleg-lyahova-preservation/>

↪ ***Exhibition of the nominated artists for the BAZA 2024 Award for Contemporary Art / group exhibition / curated by Marina Slavova / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko Str / July 23 - September 8.*** This year's edition of the BAZA contemporary art award presents projects by Alexander Lazarkov, Diana Bunkin, Kristina Nenova, Nevelin Ivanov, rawlab (Radina Yotova and Roslana Yotova) and Tsvetomira Borisova. The Young Artist Award was first established in 1990 in the Czech Republic by the founder of the Civil Society Foundation (USA), Wendy Luers, on the initiative of Vaclav Havel. Today, it exists in twelve Central and Eastern European countries, united in the YVAA International Young Visual Artist Awards Network. The award consists of a two-month artist

residency at Residency Unlimited, New York, and a solo exhibition at the ICA-Sofia Gallery.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxwstheb>

↪ **Shame and guilt / group show / Vaska Emanuilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / June 25 -**

September 6. The exhibition presents new works of art of five young artists: Maria Nalbantova, Martin Penev, Martina Vacheva, Nevena Ekimova, Radostin Sedevchev, created especially for the project. This is the second part of a trilogy by the curator Galina Dimitrova-Dimova (Fear and Love, 2023 and Care and Healing, 2025) that examines modern understandings and reflections on these primal human feelings and relationships. The interest in the topic of shame and guilt comes from the ripe moment in which Bulgarian society is torn between stereotypes and patterns of behaviour that reflect the untold stories and traumas of socialism and the transition in the country. <https://fb.me/e/5Jmc7Njuu>

↪ **Self-definitions of sculpture / group show / UBA, 6 Shipka Str. / July 4 - 31.** "On the occasion of his 70th anniversary, the famous Bulgarian sculptor Ivan Rusev initiated a project focused on the basic conditions of sculpture. Ivan Rusev chooses to invite a small group of authors from different generations who share a detached observation of themselves and explore art as a form of thought action, emphasizing the process of self-determination of the creative act. The Self-Definitions of Sculpture project seeks and describes a new kind of spaces in the art of sculpture. The authors in the exhibition present artistic strategies with an emphasis on the processes of self-determination at the level of autonomous motivation and internal regulation of the boundaries of art." - Peter Tsanev, curator <https://tinyurl.com/ajdrth8k>

↪ **Juan Pablo Macías and Kamen Stoyanov / Machines, Texts, Voices / joint show / ICA - Sofia, 134 Vasil Levski Blvd. / June 25 – July 22.** The exhibition titled Machines, Texts, Voices brings together works by Juan Pablo Macías and Kamen Stoyanov. Both artists deal with the anarchist philosophy and its legacy nowadays. The show includes a new work by Macías: a new issue of his editorial project TIEMPO MUERTO, a free-press journal printed in 1000 copies. Kamen Stoyanov's installation deals with his research dedicated to Bulgarian anarchist Georgi Konstantinov, who blew up the Stalin monument in Sofia's Borisov Park in 1953, and was subsequently imprisoned for ten years. The exhibition is part of "Living Together", an artistic research and production program curated by Katia Anguelova and Lucrezia Cippitelli. <https://tinyurl.com/2f3vr8tr>

↪ **Dog Days / group show / curated by Marina Slavova / Structura Gallery, 9 Kuzman Shapkarev St. / June 6 - July 31.** "This exhibition is neither about summer nor about dogs. It aims to examine the complex and often confusing relationship between language and meaning, to explore the complexities and nuances of verbal expression, and to observe the profound influence of linguistic structures on human thought. The title is no accident, for it is the impossibility of absolute translation that most clearly highlights the inability of language to convey the entirety of human experience." - Marina Slavova. With works by Dimitar Solakov, Kalin Serapionov, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Rudi Ninov, Samuil Stoyanov, Sophia Grancharova, Viktor Petrov.

<https://tinyurl.com/u9phmn57>

↪ **Lisa Marie Schmitt & Alexandru Mihai Budeş / 30 Years of Optimism / joint show / Goethe-Institut, 1 Budapest Str. / June 20 - August 20.** Goethe-Institut Bulgaria presents the guest exhibition "30 years of optimism" by Lisa Marie Schmidt (Germany) and Alexandru Mihai Budes (Romania). In it, the artists reflect on the fall of communism in Romania, Michael Jackson's product image and two-faced capitalism. The title of the project (originally: 30 de ani de Optimism) comes from a Coca-Cola advertising campaign in Romania from 2021, which commemorates the fall of communism and the introduction of Coca-Cola products. In a way, Michael Jackson is a symbolic figure - a Western product with the radiant aura of a saint who seemingly brings with him the long-awaited freedom. <https://tinyurl.com/mwaftrnz>

↪ **Nine Elephants / summer art-in-the-city program / Swimming Pool, 10 Tsar Osvoboditel Str. and other locations / July 11 - 21.** Devet Slona (Nine Elephants) is a summer art-in-the-city program that will take place for the first time in Sofia. Together with artists, authors, researchers, experts and residents, the Swimming Pool team

will tell and share the city in a new and extraordinary way, using the calm of the summer weeks and transporting the public to different neighborhoods of Sofia. Full program on <https://devetslona.art/programme/>

↪ **ULTRAFUTURO (Boryana Rossa, Oleg Mavromatti) / The mirror of faith 2004 - 2019 / solo show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / July 10 - 28.** "To reflect the central issue of embodiment, and the harsh juxtaposition within the nature/nurture argument, presented in media around the "God Gene" we decided to create a literal illustration of these controversies and produce a genetically modified Transcendental Yeast of Faith. Involvement with this "absurd scenario" is a re-thinking of the notion of "genetically predisposed faith," but also "faith" or "belief" in the media representation of science and religion." - Boryana Rossa, Oleg Mavromatti
<https://tinyurl.com/2s3ssys7>

↪ **Stela Vasileva / Verticality (and other spatial orientations) / solo show / curated by Boyana Dzhikova / +359 Gallery, 13A Galitchitsa Str. / June 18 - July 27.** "Stela Vasileva's work is both a response to the form of the gallery, absorbed into her body and then transferred into a work of art, but also one that refers back to the tower. The work is a kind of invitation to deeply consider the way we perceive the architectural space - using all our senses, but also dynamically - depending on the audience's position on the floors and the change of perspective, the works acquire a new meaning. Their action is two-sided - through the works of glass, metal and industrial materials, the +359 gallery building interferes and changes, thus leveling (reconciling?) gallery and work, here in an organic relationship." - Boryana Dzhikova <https://fb.me/e/4EMRA7ThK>

↪ **Harita Asumani / Good boys / solo show / curated by Simeon Vasilev Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / July 1 - 21.** "In feminist theory, the "male gaze" refers to depicting women in visual arts and literature from a male perspective, presenting women as sexual objects for the pleasure of the heterosexual male viewer. The male gaze on the female body is instinctive and compelling: the man watches, and the woman is watched. Harita Asumani's new exhibition, "Good Boys," reverses these roles. The female artist observes and paints from her memories the men who have left an imprint on her life. These works are based on real individuals, portraying men who have romantically, enchantingly, and erotically impacted the artist. Alongside the five paintings in the exhibition, audio recordings of Haritha's personal stories and experiences invite viewers to immerse themselves in her romantic memories. Together, we watch the "good boys." - Simeon Vasilev
<https://fb.me/e/6AxSQeDZ9>

↪ **Rumyana Karastamova / Neon Flowers / solo show / Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha Str. / July 19 - 31.** "The images in this exhibition are banal – flowers and an apartment block. But isn't banality one of life's greatest obstacles? How easily does one get used to monotony and everyday life? Can we find enjoyment on the way from work to home? I tried to find the answer to these questions in my own dynamic but monotonous everyday life. I drew the same object repeatedly – the block I see through the kitchen window. I watch it in the morning while I make my coffee, at noon, in the afternoon, in the evening, at night. I tried to capture on paper not only how its colors change in different parts of the day, but also how it affects my emotional state. In the 30 images, shades of my everyday life shine through - from joy and inspiration to despair and boredom." - Rumyana Karastamova
<https://tinyurl.com/5dmj8t4p>

↪ **Yiannis Pantelidis / Invisible Boundaries / solo exhibition / Curated by Hercules Papaioannou / Synthesis Gallery, 55 "Vasil Levski" Blvd / June 25 - July 23.** The exhibition by photographer Yiannis Pantelidis features three series united by the common theme of invisible boundaries. "What kind of landscapes exist in places where national sovereignty ends? Can someone feel the transition while walking through the, rarely obvious, boundary? Pantelidis' landscape photographs seem quiet although they carry a vital weight. Always selecting for his shooting sessions cloudy skies, which eliminate harsh shadows and allow for a more even reading of the finer details, he offers the spectator artful documents to start exploring conceptually, socially, politically the broader idea of a boundary and its palpable or impalpable consequences. His original approach examines in a sequence of series a border within another border, allowing one to reflect on all sorts of invisible

boundaries, especially at this historical moment in which we have dived deeply into an obscurely globalized, fully digital era." Hercules Papaioannou <https://tinyurl.com/3mdk8c4r>

↪ **Rosie Eisor / Beast / solo show / KO-OP, 5 Triaditsa Str. / July 4 - 28.** Using the tufting technique of rug making, Rosie Eisor presents multi-coloured textile works. The characters remind of scarecrows, evoke images of legendary and sometimes folklore creatures, and are a continuation of her existing body of work. Through these images, she makes the audience part of a journey, passing through biblical and mythical realities interwoven with femme fatale pop horror stylings. Real or products of the imagination, eerie, feminized, yet familiar and close, they remind us of the world and its absent harmony in a soft and fluffy way. <https://tinyurl.com/ys4zs5wr>

↪ **Lazar Vazduharev and Lexi Fleurs / Zagroza Balistiki (Ballistic Threat) / joint show / Punta Gallery, 13 Dunav Str. / July 11 - August 3.** Lexi and Lazar, friends for eternity, friends since childhood, friends forever, go to Ukraine. They were advised to tell the Ukrainian border police that they are tourists as it's easier to cross the border that way. They thought its weird - tourism in a war zone. And off they went. Two weeks of filming civilian life during war times. Days of love, nights of ballistics. They call it experimental journalism. In addition to the video installation there will be a sale of prints and postcards for charity in support of Ukraine. <https://fb.me/e/fviz861F0>

↪ **Elena Kaludova / I love you very much / augmented reality solo show / Gallery Gallery, Sculpture park Ploshadka, children's playground across the Registry Agency, 20 Elisaveta Bagryana Str. / March 8 - September 1.** The sentence "I love you very much" is among the most used by perpetrators of domestic violence against women to excuse their behavior. It is the magic spell that is supposed to make everything alright and make all problems go away. Except it doesn't. The figure in I Love You Very Much dances a celebratory wedding dance in augmented reality, yet in the midst of us, pointing to this other reality that we keep out of our thoughts as we go about our daily lives. I Love You Very Much is an indictment of societal failure. <https://www.gallerygallery.space/en/elena-kaludova-i-love-you-very-much>

PLOVDIV

↪ **Labyrinth / group show / Kapana Gallery, 29 "Raiko Daskalov" Str. / July 6 - 24.** The exposition presents the diploma projects of sixteen bachelors and masters from the specialty "Graphic Design and Photography" of the Plovdiv Academy of Music, Dance and Visual Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev". Works by Anastasia Polyakova, Antonina Komendarova, Atanas Dimitrov, Bozhidar Kostadinov, Velin Nalbantov, Georgi Andonov, Daniela Georgieva, Denitsa Ivanova, Dimana Galin, Elina Yordanova, Zlatina Djambazova, Iliana Kiryakova, Christiana Srebrevna, Stoyan Stoyanov, Tikhomira Takucheva, Tsvetelina Georgieva, Tsvetislava Slavova and Hristo Bonev. <https://galleryplovdiv.com/en/exhibitions/labirint>

↪ **Lyuben Zidarov (1923 - 2023) / retrospective exhibition / City Art Gallery Plovdiv, Temporary Exhibition Hall, 15 "Knyaz Alexander I" Str. / June 27 - September 30.** The current exhibition is composed of illustrations for nine different books from the collection of the National Gallery, recently shown as part of the retrospective exhibition of the author "One Hundred Years" in the UBA gallery in Sofia. Lyuben Zidarov's work spans eight decades. A large part of the illustrated classics come out in several editions over the years, each time with new, developed versions of the illustrations - a sort of preserved creative practice of the artist - to "age" and grow wiser together with the works he illustrated. <https://galleryplovdiv.com/bg/izlozbi/liuben-zidarov-1923-2023>

VARNA

↪ ***The modernists of the 20th century / group exhibition / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" Str. / June 27 - July 27.*** The exhibition presents graphic works of artists who marked the culture of the 20th century, such as Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall and Juan Miró. The organizer of the event is the "Vivacom Art Hall Oborishte 5" gallery, which for the first time since its creation presents its emblematic exhibition from its private collection "The Modernists of the 20th Century" outside the Bulgarian capital. Many of the works included in the exhibition are part of the permanent collections of world museums and galleries. Some of the paintings come from the prestigious Atelier Murlo in New York, which has worked with the most famous artists of the last century. It is also the world's largest publisher of original graphic art. <https://tinyurl.com/59my96rx>

↪ ***Nikolay Nikolov (1950 - 2004) / retrospective exhibition / curated by Rumen Serafimov / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 Lyuben Karavelov St. / July 9 - 29.*** Nikolay Nikolov is one of the artists who shaped the development of Bulgarian graphic art in the 1980s and 1990s. "These artists brought a much more modern spirit of expression, defying the aesthetic norms of the totalitarian culture of the time. After completing his art education in the field of graphic arts, Nikolov fell into the best possible creative community - the artists from the legendary atelier center "Vulkan" in the beautiful seaside city of Varna. They created innovative art with high taste, bright ideas and exceptional professionalism" shares curator Rumen Serafimov. . <https://tinyurl.com/yt9w7mj9>

VELIKO TARNOVO

↪ ***48 hours Varusha South Festival '24 / August 16 - 18.*** The third consecutive edition of the 48 hours Varusha South Festival will take place on the third weekend of August. Until then the organizers will have numerous meetings, conversations, volunteer actions, city interventions happening in the Varusha South neighborhood and will be finding more like-minded people to join the cause of preserving and developing the neighborhood. More about the projects and the program on <https://tinyurl.com/2tw4dstt>

ART CAREER

↪ ***Open call AICA International Incentive Prize for Young Art Critics / Deadline for applications August 18.*** Eligibility: Critics (commentators, curators, educators) early to mid-career, writing from anywhere, for newspapers, magazines, television, radio, internet. The open call is related to this year's theme of the Annual AICA Congress "Becoming machine, resisting the artificial. Art in the present tense". More about the open call on <https://aicainternational.news/agora/call-incentive-prize-for-young-art-critics>

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