



SOFIA

→ ***How I like you / group exhibition / curated by Nadezhda Dzhakova / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of contemporary art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / November 7 - February 16.*** 'How I Like You' presents the poetically ironic view of their surroundings by six contemporary artists. They reveal the way they perceive themselves, how others perceive them, and in what times they are living. Using the autobiographical approach as a means of self-expression and the search for a personal identity, the artists examine cultural, religious, political and social themes, focusing on self-reflection and criticising the notion of private and public space. The exhibition is part of the long-term Autobiography Project of curator Nadezhda Dzhakova. Works by Bojidar Bonchev, Georgi Ruzhev, Iva Yaranova, Mariana Vassileva, Momchil Georgiev, Yuliy Takov.

<https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/how-i-like-you/>

→ ***Andrey Molodkin and Santiago Sierra / East/West / joint exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / November 26 - February 16.*** In the exhibition "East / West," Andrey Molodkin and Santiago Sierra are brought together by their strong political stances and the pressing questions they raise about contemporary democracy. Both artists are renowned for their provocative responses to the current social and political climate, often facing personal risks. <https://tinyurl.com/5n7cjspb>

→ ***Lyuben Dimitrov (1904 - 2000) / retrospective exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / December 12 - May 15.*** Lyuben Dimitrov is not only a figure notable for his rich oeuvre in Bulgarian decoratively monumental sculpture of the 20th century, but also a kind of school for the synthesis between that sculpture and architecture. The exhibition features seven easel works owned by the National Gallery, the Sofia City Art Gallery, the Kazanlak Art Gallery, and the artist's heirs. Several of the hi monumental sculptures will be displayed as photographs. <https://tinyurl.com/2uzzxh26>

↪ **Wars / group exhibition / curated by Iaroslava Boubnova and Nikolay Ushtavaliiski / National Gallery, The Palace, 1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq. / January 2 - March 16.** For this exhibition, the National Gallery has selected works from its collection that reflect the suffering experienced by everyone: by direct participants in those wars, and by their 'collateral victims'. In this visual narrative, there is no place for scenes of triumph, heroisation or praise of valour. Nor are there the features of a 'just war' or a collective will for victory. 'The Disasters of War', Francisco Goya's great and unbiased cycle, produced more than 200 years ago, is the invisible reference point for the selection now on exhibition. <https://tinyurl.com/mr3254hm>

↪ **Europe in Bulgaria. Reflections of European artistic trends in Bulgarian art from the Liberation to the mid-20th century / retrospective exhibition / curated by Lyuben Domozetski / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko St. / October 17 - February 16.** This exhibition traces the reflections of European artistic movements on Bulgarian post-liberation art. The dialogue between Bulgaria and Europe in the period under review is extremely dynamic, multifaceted, continuous. A complex and highly intertwined network of connections between personalities, events, art centers, trends, works, and phenomena is revealed. An indisputable fact is the aspiration to include Bulgarian artists in European art, with the clear awareness and self-confidence that Bulgaria is part of Europe, that the European path is the path of young Bulgarian art. <https://fb.me/e/5v4tycCxK>

↪ **Possible Connections: Images from the Studio of Nikolay Shmiregela / group exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko St. / February 11 - April 6.** The exhibition traces the known and unknown contacts over time between Shmiregela and the people who left their mark in his studio. The focus of the exhibition is on the works carefully kept for many years in his studio, which allow us to take a brief look into the intimate world of the artist. In 2023, the Sofia City Art Gallery received a large donation from Yulia Bankova and the heirs of Nikolay Shmiregela. It contains works by Bulgarian and foreign authors, which are the basis of the current exhibition. The collection has an eclectic character. It contains much more than works that came to Shmiregela in unknown ways. It is rather a personal collection that testifies to biases, sympathies, inspiration, friendship, but probably also untold stories of personal relationships between many talented artists. <https://tinyurl.com/3u5fffy6>

↪ **Nikolay Shmiregela / The Nude – Exploring the Form / retrospective exhibition / Vaska Emanuilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / November 19 - February 16.** The exhibition traces the plastic searches of the author in the late 1960s and early 1970s of the XX century. Bathing, dressing, reflection and timidity - the naked sculptural bodies in various states directly correspond to his drawings from this period. It also includes several earlier works that give a more complete picture of the work of the artist, who studied decorative arts and sculpture at the Art Academy in the 1930s. The basis of the exhibition is the donation of sculptures and drawings made by the heirs and family of Nikolay Vladov - Shmiregela. <https://fb.me/e/CJgee7B2p>

↪ **Maria Stolarova / Defended aesthetics / retrospective exhibition / Dechko Uzunov Gallery, 24 Dragan Tsankov Bld. / November 28 - February 16.** 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Maria Stolarova (1925 – 2016) – one of Dechko Uzunov's students. On this occasion, the Sofia City Art Gallery and the Dechko Uzunov Gallery present an exhibition of paintings, encompassing both her early works and emblematic works from later periods. Maria Stolarova is from the generation of authors who entered the art scene in the 1960s. This was a decade characterized by an upsurge in Bulgarian art, associated with a number of socio-cultural factors that affected the establishment of new themes, genres and techniques. <https://fb.me/e/boAJsYTAG>

↪ **Alexander Kaprichev (1945 - 2008) / 80 years since the artist's birth / retrospective exhibition / curated by Prof. Chavdar Popov and arch. Enil Enchev / UBA, 6 Shipka Str. / February 6 - 27.** "By coincidence, the work of Alexander Kaprichev was presented in the artistic space more after his death than during his lifetime. In this retrospective exhibition, for the first time, the development of the artist in its entirety is traced, from the 70s, 80s, 90s of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. The painter's pictorial credo is strongly oriented towards the non-figurative beginning. Where there are figures, as a rule, they are "closed" in themselves,

they affect mostly as single encapsulated "monads", often impenetrable in their deeply enigmatic nature." - Prof. Chavdar Popov <https://tinyurl.com/44b7bd7n>

↪ **Anna Tsolovska and Bisera Valeva / Me, Venus / joint exhibition / UBA, Sofia Press Gallery-Bookstore, 29 Slavyanska Str. / February 3 - 14.** About the project, Anna Tsolovska shares : "Bisera and I often exhibit together. The results are interesting, usually extremely different and thus cover more aspects of the topic or problem. We both pursued the image and this determined our entire attitude towards the works. Between us, we never know what we will show. We trust each other enough to rely on the surprise of the last moment and let it presuppose the dialogue in the exhibition. In the current exhibition, the techniques of execution do not matter, not even the plasticity. The image is important almost in a conceptual way. "Venus" is a female essence, an archetype, self-perception, self-awareness, possibility, options. Venus is the invariably present romanticism. Venus is the potential for relationships. Venus is the opportunity for the other." <https://tinyurl.com/bdfy69c6>

↪ **Valery Poshtarov / Father and son / solo show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / January 16 - February 14.** „As a father of two growing boys, I've come to realise how quickly the day will arrive when they will no longer need me to hold their hands on the way to school. Inspired by this thought, I initially set out to photograph my 95-year-old grandfather and my father holding hands. The project soon evolved into something much larger than I had anticipated.“ says the photographer Valery Poshtarov about the project. <https://tinyurl.com/ytjmb8cr>

↪ **ART START Young Artists to Follow in 2025 / Centrifugal forces / group show / curated by Vessela Nozharova / Goethe-Institut, 1 Budapest Str. and Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / February 18 – March 16.** For 9 years now, the exhibition "Art Start: Young Artists to Follow" has set the goal of highlighting new names in Bulgarian contemporary art. In this edition, the gaze is largely turned inward, towards the dynamics of the local scene. Caught in the whirlwind of local centrifugal forces, their art performs a movement along a certain trajectory, which logically revolves here, on site. In 2025, "Art Start" points out the young artists who have studied, live and work in Bulgaria – the authors who build their artistic practice here and, despite local deficits, give us reason to believe that the future of Bulgarian art belongs to them. <https://tinyurl.com/5n8m5yx5>

↪ **Todor Rabadzhiyski / Raw Perspectives / solo show / +359 Gallery, 13A Galitchitsa Str. / November 28 - February 28.** The exhibition poses the question of the essence of art in an era in which the line between creation and consumption is blurred. Is art a mirror that reflects our fears and longings? Or is it an escape – a sweet treat to distract us from the weight of existence? The artist's works invite us to grapple with these questions through materials that shine and rust, arouse trust and suspicion, and challenge us to see poetry in contradictions. <https://fb.me/e/8KOZThwvn>

↪ **Winter showroom 2024 - 2025 / group show / Sarieva Gallery @ DOT, Sofia, 46, Bratya Miladinovi str., Women's Market / December 9 - March 1.** This exhibition brings together three Bulgarian born contemporary artists with international career — Denitsa Todorova, Dimitar Genchev, and Stefan Nikolaev — whose works explore themes of transformation, materiality, and the dynamic interplay of light, texture, and meaning. The showroom features a compelling range of works, including large-scale canvases, intricate drawings, and sculptures. <https://tinyurl.com/5eft9y25>

↪ **Angelika Radeva / A Sense of Baroque / solo show / Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha Str. / February 4 - 18.** "In the space of this exhibition, where modern man encounters the spirit of Baroque – not as aesthetics or reproduction, but as a feeling, idea and reflex. This collection is a study of the relationship between the senses, the purity of form and the sublimity of experience, conveyed through the symbolism of the material and the spatial atmosphere. Provoked by the Baroque – an era of emotional charge, of dramatic interaction between light and shadow, of deep sensuality and reverence for the human ability to feel and experience. Here, however, Baroque is read through the contemporary gaze, as an idea of a meeting between the inner world of man and his external

environment, as an invitation for a dialogue between the material and the immaterial..”- Angelika Radeva
<https://fb.me/e/7EnBP5jjg>

↪ **Bureau of Melodramatic Research / The Perfect Heel / joint show / Punta Gallery, 37 Stefan Stambolov Bld / February 7 - March 9.** “The Perfect Heel” tackles one of the most popular stereotypes of femininity - the high heel. In the exhibition at PUNTA Gallery, this item of clothing is reexamined beyond its role in pressuring women to conform to standards of beauty and attractiveness - but as a tool for credible statistics and achieving equality. The Bureau of Melodramatic Research is a dependent institution founded by Irina Gheorghe and Alina Popa (1982-2019) in Bucharest, Romania in 2009. Its main strategic goal is to raise the veil laid over melodrama in different social contexts and to ensure public free access to the results of the research.
<https://tinyurl.com/3mzy2dnx>

↪ **Garo Keshishian / Labour Troops / solo exhibition / curated by Nadzhezda Pavlova / Synthesis Gallery, 55 “Vasil Levski” Blvd / December 5 – February 15.** Produced in collaboration with the artist specifically for Synthesis Gallery, the exhibition comprises 92 photographs made between 1983 and 1995. It represents one of the most significant documentary series in Bulgarian photography. The subject is forced labor in Bulgaria, a government policy rarely discussed publicly even today. The project creates a figurative space of empathy and personal connection between the artist and the conscripted laborers with ever-present attention to the human side of their daily ups and downs. <https://tinyurl.com/3vc4h8ce>

↪ **Double double - 5 artistic couples in Bulgarian art / group show / curated by Ivaylo Hristov and Yordanka Hristova / HOSTGALLERY, 102 “Akad. Ivan Geshov” Bld. / February 5 - March 30.** In the second part of the project, works by the couples Krasimir Terziev and Kalina Dimitrova, Zara Alexandrova and Zoran Georgiev, Angelika Radeva and Zlatin Orlov, Spartak Yordanov and Ralitsa Toneva, Petya Deneva and Teodora Doncheva – Tech will be presented. Each of the artistic tandems presents works that are also their artistic message – their exceptional feeling for the contemporary world and the time we live in, for the upcoming and the past. <https://fb.me/e/8em3fSTy7>

↪ **Nina Ruseva / Moments / solo exhibition / Nuance Gallery, 42 Ivan Denkoglou Str / February 11 - March 2.** The title is a key to the idea behind the artist's paintings - moments of a life in which beauty and inspiration are found everywhere, in both the banal and the delightful. The manner in which Nina Ruseva creates her paintings always starts from a moment, a memory, which she later develops into a sketch, a drawing and finally materializes into a painting - rich and colorful, sometimes concrete, and sometimes seemingly abstract.
<https://tinyurl.com/uza9vub8>

ART TALKS SOFIA

↪ **WIDE ART Forum for Contemporary Art and Culture / CCA Toplocentrala, 5 Emil Bersinski Str. / February 22, 2.00 pm - 6.30 pm.** This year's third edition of the forum explores many topical issues for the local and international art scene. How does contemporary art master and interpret the paradoxes of society and our living environment? What can be the connections between creativity, ritual and psychotherapy? How does contemporary art handle the body as a tool for creative experiments and transformation of the art scene? What is the role of improvisation, independence, the freedom to change and move between genres, and in this regard – what are the intersections between jazz and contemporary art? What are the properties of human art that artificial intelligence is unable to master? In addition to being held on site in Sofia, the event will also be available online.
<https://tinyurl.com/29vyz4t7>

PLOVDIV

↪ **Music to the Eyes / group show / Sarieva/Gallery, 40 Otets Paisiy Str. / December 13 - March 1.** "Music to the Eyes" presents works inspired by songs, musicians or objects related to sound, none of them being audio-visual works. The exhibition expands the visual experience, stimulating personal interpretations and exploring how our associations are formed. It includes mostly previously unseen works by artists from the 1990s to the present. Diverse in nature, these works are key to stereotypes or behaviours. With works by Luchezar Boyadjiev, Tsvetomira Borisova, Sophia Grancharova, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Stefan Nikolaev.
<https://tinyurl.com/45nyhrwr>

↪ **Acqua alta. History of Bulgarian national participation in the Venice Biennale 1910 – 2024 / retrospective exhibition / curated by Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva and Plamen Petrov / Kapana Gallery, 29 "Raiko Daskalov" Str. / December 13 - February 20.** The exhibition presents works, archives and documentary material from all eleven participations with which Bulgaria has appeared in the oldest and most prestigious international art forum in the world since its founding at the end of the 19th century. The exhibition includes nearly 60 works from various public and private collections. Among the exhibits are some of the most iconic works of the classics of Bulgarian art, as well as representative works of the most famous contemporary Bulgarian artists.
<https://tinyurl.com/44cd2e9x>

↪ **Среца + Bulusma + Meeting / group show / City Art Gallery Plovdiv, Temporary Exhibition Hall, 15 "Knyaz Alexander I" Str. / February 7 - 27.** The exhibition presents works by students and professors from the faculties of fine arts of the Plovdiv Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev" and of Namik Kemal University - Tekirdag, Turkey. <https://tinyurl.com/4nszh4d>

VARNA

↪ **The artists and the gallery / retrospective anniversary exhibition / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" Str. / February 6 - March 2.** 2025 is a jubilee year for the City Art Gallery - Varna, celebrating the 75th anniversary of its opening. On this occasion, the gallery presents works by 75 Varna artists and two solo exhibitions - by Yanko Marinov - founder and first director of the gallery, and by Vanko Urumov, who managed the gallery for 25 years. The group exhibition presents five creative generations. At the beginning are Georgi Velchev, Georgi Urumov and Hristo Kavarnaliev, who worked in the period from the 1920s to the 1950s. The next generations are authors who established themselves in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. And the youngest artists in the exhibition entered the art world in the 1990s and after. <https://tinyurl.com/39nwmsy2>

KAZANLAK

↪ **Hunger / group show / Art Gallery Kazanlak, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. and many other locations / October 19 - March 31.** The exhibition takes us through a long narrative in which 23 contemporary artists, together with art critics and museum specialists, confront us with their reflections on the subject, revealing to us unexpected, sometimes sad, sometimes smiling, other times frightening aspects of it. "...One could too easily replace the word *hunger* with the word *terror* or with the word *slavery*, or *lawlessness*, or *dictatorship*" - Georgi Markov. <https://www.artgallerykazanlak.com/exhibitions/glad/>

↪ **Levent More / Let's color / solo show / Art Gallery Kazanlak, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. / October 26 - March 23.** Levent More is one of those artists whose art can hardly be framed - not only figuratively, but also literally. This is, as the art critic Aksinia Dzurova defines it, "A wild sense of color. A world of layered sensations, enticing worlds from the natural cycle to apocalyptic insights, obsessive parallelism – expressive, approaching Fauvist ecstasy". But Levent Sea painting is always something more. <https://tinyurl.com/2h8r2xyd>

ART CAREER

↪ **Open call Made in Leshten Vol. 4 / Residency program for young contemporary artists / Application deadline March 3.** Following the established tradition of three successful editions of the Made in Leshten residency project, the Little Bird Place gallery team continues the initiative by providing an opportunity for 5 young contemporary artists to create in two sessions at the Little Bird art residence, located in an authentic old house in the village of Leshten. Each session lasts two weeks in the period April 22 - May 22. The residency exhibitions will take place in July 2025. <https://tinyurl.com/4ampwkn5>

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↪ news selection : Desislava Mileva

↪ logo : Nedko Solakov

↪ cover: The Bureau of Melodramatic Research, *High Heel Communism*, video frame, 2023 in the show *The Perfect Heel*, Punta Gallery, Sofia, 37 Stefan Stambolov Bld, February 7 - March 9.