



SOFIA

▸ **Kamen Startchev / Weather deterioration / solo exhibition / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of contemporary art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / February 27 - April 13.** The exhibition includes the artist's latest works, created in recent years in his idiosyncratic style: large-format compositions of geometric, graphic elements building momentary states of time and place. It does not offer an apocalyptic existence of humanity today; it does not stigmatise, or condemn, but builds almost invisible states of the here and now in our everyday lives. The artist extracts those details from reality that are devoid of concreteness, functionality or heavy symbolism. Their additional purification in terms of form and colour, and their inclusion in a common compositional rhythm, deprive them of any possibility of subject matter and didactic narrative. <https://tinyurl.com/3h8t24wc>

▸ **Guerrilla Girls: The Art of Being Badly / retrospective exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / March 6 - June 8.** Bulgarian Fund for Women, in partnership with the National Gallery, presents the first-ever exhibition of the renowned artist collective Guerrilla Girls in Bulgaria. The retrospective "The Art of Behaving Badly" features the group's most significant works, including the legendary poster "Do Women Have to Be Naked to Get into the Metropolitan Museum?"—a piece that made waves in 1989 by highlighting that while less than 5% of artists in modern art museums were women, 85% of the nude figures depicted were female. The exhibition is part of BFW's multi-year Fund for Art Projects by Women Artists. <https://tinyurl.com/4n5u4h8v>

▸ **13th International Photo Festival – FODAR Biennial. Photographic Reality / group exhibition / curated by Nadezhda Pavlova and Antoan Bozhinov / National Gallery, The Palace, 1 Knyaz Alexander I Square / March 4 - April 6.** The Thirteenth International Photo Biennial "FODAR" for Contemporary Photography – celebrates 25 years since its first edition in 1999. With each successive edition, it continues to affirm its importance as a platform for the exchange of ideas and creative dialogue between photographers, curators and

researchers. This year, there were 801 candidates from 81 countries, and the international jury selected the collections of 37 authors from 17 countries for presentation in the exhibition. <https://tinyurl.com/4nccwa4w>

↪ **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>

↪ **Angela Terzieva / solo show / The Vera Nedkova House Museum, 2, 11 August St. / February 28 - May 23.** The programme titled 'In the Home of Vera Nedkova' continues to present contemporary Bulgarian artists in the apartment filled with myriad memories and testimonies of the spirit of the time in which Vera Nedkova lived and created. Alongside Nedkova's paintings, five canvases by Angela Terzieva are arranged. At first glance incompatible in their pictorial and compositional technique, they seek a dialogical bond concentrated on the female figure and sensitivity. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/angela-terzieva/>

↪ **Emil Stoychev / Imagination is my bloodstream / retrospective exhibition / curated by Ivo Milev / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko St. / February 27 - May 6.** "Emil Stoychev (b. 1935) is one of the most significant figures in Bulgarian fine arts from the second half of the 20th century. This typical urban man and artist began as a landscape artist. From the mid-1970s onwards, the figural characters that had sporadically populated his landscapes and interiors up to now would become dominant, with a radically altered role—they would become the main organizing centre around which the "plot" of his compositional decisions would develop. Emil Stoychev would transform into a narrative, allegorical artist, a quality he has retained to this day. The painting begins to turn into a rebus, a semantic field, with the psychology of human figures being of decisive interest." - Ivo Milev <https://tinyurl.com/4e3v7hk4>

↪ **Possible Connections: Images from the Studio of Nikolay Shmirgela / group exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko St. / February 11 - April 6.** The exhibition traces the known and unknown contacts over time between Shmirgela 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 Shmirgela. 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 Shmirgela 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>

↪ **Vaska Emanuilova and Paris / retrospective exhibition / Vaska Emanuilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / February 25 - April 20.** This exhibition presents Vaska Emanouilova's story of her trip to the "city of art" and the impact that her six-month stay in Paris had on her entire body of work. The starting point of this exhibition is the text that Vaska created about this city and about her only trip outside the country, in 1939. She describes in it the interesting story of how she received a scholarship for specialized study in Paris, connected with sculpting of a portrait bust of Madame Baelen – the wife of the first secretary of the French legation in Sofia, Jean Baelen. An essential part of the exhibition is the installation with video, sound, and objects by Ralitsa Georgieva, which attempts to present Vaska Emanouilova's impressions and enrich the story of this important journey of the artist by immersing the audience in her personal memories and the spirit of Paris of the late 1930s. <https://tinyurl.com/ytcbwu4t>

↪ **Katrin Tomova / Impossible shelters / solo exhibition / UBA, 6 Shipka Str. / March 4 - 25.** Katrin Tomova is one of the established names among the not very numerous artists in Bulgaria, consciously and purposefully

developing creatively in the field of large-scale non-figurative oil painting. The current exhibition, in a sense, represents a chronology of the author's work over the past 10 years - from the exhibition "150 X 210" at the "Yuzina" gallery to the present. It is also the realized need for dozens of large-format compositions to live in a common space adequate to their size. <https://tinyurl.com/yr3t45ah>

↪ **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>

↪ **Pravdoliub Ivanov / The truth about the truth / solo show / Sarieva Gallery @ DOT, Sofia, 46, Bratya Miladinovi str., Women's Market / March 13 - May 10.** The exhibition provides a key to understanding the artist's work and presents important but unseen works created in Bulgaria in different periods between 1998 and 2024. Although they have so far remained aloof from public debate, these artworks carry messages that resonate particularly strongly in the moment in which we live. The exhibition is named after the work *Truth About the Truth* - a mirrored verbal absurdism pointing to the commonality between such disparate works, whose connection is the inversion of our notions of the obvious and a provocation to the stereotypes through which we often view the world and everyday life. <https://tinyurl.com/mmc527v8>

↪ **Romil Kalinov / Green onion - Gizmo / solo show / Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha Str. / March 7 - 19.** "Romil Kalinov's gizmos are random units of ready-made objects, from which arise "specific objects" in the sense of Donald Judd. These new artistic objects do not have a composition. They only provoke the viewer's visual consciousness to judge "what" this is, without being sure that this form is exactly this and this, or "that". The viewer must complete the "work", and in this respect the object is an "open work". - K. R. Delchev <https://tinyurl.com/dsrv6589>

↪ **Sebastian Quick & Antoaneta Quick and Sasho Stoitsov & Rositsa Getsova / Antimetrica / joint show / Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / February 27 - March 16.** In Antimetrica, two artistic duos—Sasho Stoitsov & Rositsa Getsova and Sebastian Quick & Antoaneta Quick—present collaborative works that explore the tension between nature and human intervention, resilience and decay. Antimetric stands in contrast to symmetric—a system of elements that are neither identical nor mirrored but deliberately divergent, asymmetrical, sometimes chaotic. The two art duos incorporate antimetrics into their very collaboration. At times, their works merge into cohesive ensembles; at others, they sharply diverge, emphasizing the individuality of their artistic pursuits. In this exhibition, balance is both harmony and tension. <https://fb.me/e/i19CNQGvb>

↪ **Vasko Slavkov / Rhythm & Color / solo show / Depoo Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / February 21 - March 15.** How can the landscape be transformed into rhythm, and rhythm transform space? In his visual installation Rhythm & Color, the author uses reality as a starting point to transform the gallery. It, in the form of a natural landscape, is deconstructed into an ornament, and the ornament begins to pulsate with the rhythm of colored light and transform the gallery. The project is a continuation of the exhibition Rhythm & Space from Arosita Gallery, 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/yms2fp6n>

↪ **Marin Marinov / Body and Power / solo show / Depoo Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / March 17 - 31.** "From the position of a long-time swimmer and even a national competitor, Marin Marinov knows power as a category related to sports physics, but it is precisely through his pictorial interpretation that he wants to show a new perspective on power as a phenomenon that is not measured by direct physical strength, but functions as a symbiosis between intellectual, spiritual and physical balance and psychological stability. The depiction of this

complex state is recreated precisely through the strict, almost cult statics of the bodies, which compress a whole series of movements and psychological experiences into seemingly fixed poses.” - Ivan Stefanov

<https://tinyurl.com/2taes9a4>

↪ **Bureau of Melodramatic Research / The Perfect Heel / joint show / Punta Gallery, 37 Stefan Stambolov Blvd / 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>

↪ **Boryana Pandova / Filth / solo exhibition / curated by Nadzhezda Pavlova / Synthesis Gallery, 55 “Vasil Levski” Blvd / March 11 - May 6.** The current exhibition presents the latest project of Boryana Pandova’s Objects of Inattention series, which she has been developing for the past twenty years. In Filth, Boryana maps the randomly-formed compositions created by objects rolling around the streets of Sofia. Taking on the role of a forensic criminologist (minus the crime), she uses sticky foil to take ‘prints’ from the city’s streets along the routes her everyday takes her on. Filth orbits around the notion of objets trouvés (‘found objects’), where everyday objects, marked by their natural surroundings, turn into art through their subjective placement within the frame.

<https://tinyurl.com/36e24dx7>

↪ **Shahriar Mazandi / Altered Realms / solo show / curated by Desislava Zafirova / One Gallery, 1 Diakon Ignatij Str. / February 24 - March 24.** Shahriar Mazandi shows for the first time to a Bulgarian audience his art, inspired by the multicultural influence that has inspired his creative and life path. As a product of Anglo-Iranian multiculturalism, his searches that accompany his work are influenced by Jalal al-Din Rumi from the East and A E Housman from the West. Shahriar Mazandi’s work concerns the visible and the invisible - that which lies beyond the limits of three-dimensional perception. His photographic work, which resembles what was known as solarization in the days of analog film, hints at the 4th, 5th dimensions and beyond what can be imagined but not perceived. <https://tinyurl.com/2u4r9ukn>

↪ **Double double - 5 artistic couples in Bulgarian art / group show / curated by Ivaylo Hristov and Yordanka Hristova / HOSTGALLERY, 102 “Akad. Ivan Geshov” Blvd. / 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>

↪ **Symbiosis / group exhibition / National Museum of Natural History, 1 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. / March 13 - May 13.** “Symbiosis” is an interdisciplinary project that unites the work of students from the Department of Fashion Design at the National Academy of Arts and the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski”, with the aim of exploring and creating a bridge between art and nature. The main message of the exhibition is tied to one of the leading aspects of sustainable fashion, namely biodiversity. Fashion students also focus on the development of clothing with minimal waste. The project includes the creation of fashion garments inspired by exhibits of the National Museum of Natural History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, which will be exhibited at several locations in the museum, with installations of mannequins and information boards.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9r546r>

ART TALKS SOFIA

▸ **Theoretical seminar on the topic "Photographic Reality" / National Gallery, Palace, Knyaz Alexander I Square 1 / March 11, 6:00 p.m.** The seminar is part of this year's edition of the international photo festival - FODAR biennial. The seminar will be attended by experts in the field of humanities and visual arts from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", National Academy of Theatre and Film, New Bulgarian University and other universities, representatives of galleries and NGOs with a subject of activity - visual arts, students, amateur photographers and established visual artists. <https://tinyurl.com/4nccwa4w>

▸ **Tour of the exhibition "Photographic Reality", XIII International Photo Festival - FODAR biennial / National Gallery, Palace, Knyaz Alexander I Square 1 / March 16, 1:00 p.m.** The tour will present the selected participants, the concept behind the theme "Photographic Reality" and the goals of the Biennial. <https://tinyurl.com/4nccwa4w>

▸ **Talk with Boryana Pandova / Synthesis Gallery, 55 "Vasil Levski" Blvd / March 18, 6:30 p.m.** The talk is taking place within the exhibition "Filth" by Boryana Pandova at the "Synthesis" gallery. Boryana will present her work, the project behind "Filth" and the series "Objects of Inattention" centered around those fragments of life we pretend don't exist or treat as passing inconveniences.. <https://tinyurl.com/36e24dx7>

PLOVDIV

▸ **Angel Kitipov / Walk / solo exhibition / City Art Gallery - Plovdiv, Kapana Gallery, 29 "Rayko Daskalov" Str. / March 5 - 25.** The exhibition presents oil and acrylic paintings, watercolors and drawings from major cycles such as "Fragments", "Visions", "Northern Shore", "Undiscovered Landscapes", "Element", painted over the last two decades. <https://fb.me/e/2PPEGeB53>

▸ **Angel Pachamanov / solo exhibition / City Art Gallery - Plovdiv, Hall 2019, 32 "Gladstone" Str. / March 6 - 25.** An anniversary exhibition of the painter, with various cycles of works, in which the theme of nature and landscape is developed in many ways. <https://fb.me/e/8eZelKpOX>

▸ **Matey Mateev / Life / solo exhibition / City Art Gallery - Plovdiv, Temporary Exhibition Hall, 15 Knyaz Alexander I Str. / March 11 - 30.** Anniversary exhibition of the artist and writer Matey Mateev, who works in Plovdiv. <https://tinyurl.com/y9ncy9n>

VARNA

▸ **Mira Kosta / Metamorphosis / solo show / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" Str. / March 5 - 24.** Krasimira Kostadinova, with the artistic pseudonym Mira Kosta, presents her first solo exhibition in her hometown. The exhibition includes abstract painting and ceramics - works created over seven years with inspiration from Normandy and the Black Sea. Krasimira Kostadinova grew up in an artistic family, graduated in fine arts and architecture in Rouen, France, where she studied and worked for 15 years. Her origins, her loved ones, her love for the Black Sea and its light make her return to her hometown of Varna, where she continues her career as an artist and architect. "Metamorphosis is the word that defines my searches in painting - shares the author. - For me, abstract painting is a game of metamorphosis, re-creation, re-formation, which includes various ingredients. Colors, matter, composition are the foundations of my canvases." <https://tinyurl.com/4mckn6r2>

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>

Monthly edition by Open Art Foundation

▸ news selection : Desislava Mileva

▸ logo : Nedko Solakov

▸ cover: Sebastian Quick & Antoaneta Quick, *Whispers of the Fragmented Mind*, detail, 2025 in the show *Antimetrica*, joint with Sasho Stoitsov & Rositsa Getsova, Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str., Sofia, February 27 - March 16.