



SOFIA

→ **Milko Pavlov / *Chance encounters in added time* / solo exhibition / curated by Nadezhda Dzhakova, PhD / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of contemporary art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / September 3 - October 12.** “In the infinite multifariousness of images, Milko Pavlov discovers fragments: colourful segments, which he sticks together creating novel, different spaces. They do not belong to the present, nor do they tell the past. Pictorial dimensions have their own, singular time, added by the artist, unnamed, but certainly in the future. This exhibition developed from several years of conversations between the artist and the curator from Sofia Arsenal. Milko Pavlov has lived and worked in Berlin for many years. He also travels frequently to Sofia. The artworks on display were produced especially for the museum, upon each of his returns to Bulgaria.” - Nadezhda Dzhakova.

<https://tinyurl.com/hnx5muw>

→ **International Biennale of Glass 2025 / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 19th February Str. and other locations / September 18 - November 30.** The International Biennale of Glass celebrates its fifth edition. Under the slogan "Together", the biennale presents some 200 works by artists from 50 countries. Highlights of the exhibition include works by Václav Cigler (Czech Republic), one of the most influential figures in the development of optical glass and conceptual sculpture; a blown glass artwork by the world-famous Dale Chihuly (USA); a vase with applied elements of mythological symbolism by the Murano master Lucio Bubacco (Italy), and a spatial analytical work by artist and architect Han de Kluijver (Netherlands). The full program with accompanying events:

<https://glassbiennale.nbu.bg/events-2025/>

→ **Lachezar Boyadjiev / *On vacation... Corpus Equorum* / solo exhibition / curated by Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu and Joanna Warsza / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / July 10 - September 28.**

“Traditionally, equestrian statues are monuments representing a rider mounted on a horse. The term derives from the Latin eques, meaning ‘knight’, from equus, meaning ‘horse’. They typically portrayed kings or emperors and,

from the Renaissance era, military commanders. The removal of those subjects, or the so-called heroes, leaving empty or unfinished pedestals, illustrates how dealing with memory remains infinitely open-ended. The artist explores the way contemporary art can propose counter-monuments while testing the limits of what memorials and monuments in general may achieve.” - Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu and Joanna Warsza <https://tinyurl.com/yp2yecpi>

↪ **The art of collecting time. Gaudenz B. Ruf's donation / group show / National Gallery, The Palace, 1 Knyaz Alexander I Square / July 24 - October 5.** “The exhibition from Gaudenz B. Ruf's donation includes contemporary works of art from Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro – painting, photography, objects and video — created between 1987 and 2019. As the Ambassador of Switzerland to the country, and founder of the Gaudenz B. Ruf Award for New Bulgarian Art (2007–2019), Ruf has a long-standing bond with the Bulgarian art scene. The collection reflects his abiding interest in artists from different generations, selected for their sensitiveness to the social and political context in which they worked—from Kosta Bogdanović, Luchezar Boyadjiev, Mihael Milunović and Sasho Stoitsov to Leda Ekimova, Kosta Tonev and Nestor Kovachev.” - Martina Yordanova <https://tinyurl.com/yenbf8ft>

↪ **Vladimir Goev (1925 - 2013) / retrospective exhibition / curated by Aneliya Nikolaeva and Ivan Milev / National Gallery, The Palace, 1 Knyaz Alexander I Square / June 27 - September 21.** The National Gallery marks the centenary of the birth of Vladimir Goev (1925–2013), an illustrious representative of the generation of Bulgarian painters that won recognition in the second half of the 20th century. His name is closely linked to the history of the National Art Gallery in Sofia, where he is remembered as one of its successful directors of undisputed merit in establishing the institution and developing its collections. <https://tinyurl.com/mvy2x7h7>

↪ **Denitsa Todorova / Metaphor for memory / solo show / curated by Diana Draganova - Stier / The Vera Nedkova House Museum, 2, 11 August St. / June 17 - November 21.** “Denitsa Todorova was born in Plovdiv but has lived and worked in Antwerp for many years. Impressed by the museum in the centre of Sofia, she has prepared an exhibition titled ‘Metaphor for Memory’, an emotional return to and reflectiveness on memories and the past. The works offer a nuanced and symbolic exploration of the imaginary space where the sensitivity of women and their fragility and transformation are mirrored. The project fills the Vera Nedkova House Museum with a fine, delicate energy that blends into the artist's creative imagery. Her interpretive vision propounds the issue of underrepresented ‘stories’ of women in the history of art.” - Diana Draganova - Stier <https://tinyurl.com/z2mwr2nd>

↪ **Hunger 2.0 / group show / National museum of military history, 11 Kamenodelska Str. / July 3 - October 5.** The exhibition interprets the fundamental theme of hunger in five different aspects – physical hunger, hunger for self-preservation, hunger for security, hunger for truth and hunger for the future. Provoking the foundations of our humanity, these five thematic circles intertwine past and present, giving us the opportunity to follow the path of hunger to the present day – a time of wars, conflicts, climate disasters and economic instability, when hunger is no longer just a crisis, but a political and ideological weapon. Created as a space for experience, the exhibition combines original museum artifacts and works by contemporary artists, drawing parallels between past and present and seeking an answer to the question “Have we changed?” <https://tinyurl.com/ymdw2n2k>

↪ **Andrey Yanev / The Council / solo exhibition / curated by Plamen V. Petrov / Art Gallery - Kazanlak, National Archaeological Institute with Museum - BAS, 2 Saborna St. / June 11 - September 29.** “Having crossed the threshold of his sixth decade of life, Andrey Yanev today presents us with his latest exhibition. It is a kind of precedent in the established practice in our country, and not only, of the artist arranging his own large-scale exhibition on each of his anniversary. It is in the space between the well-considered gesture and the spontaneous decision that the exhibition “The Council” should be placed, at the center of which is a single work – a painting of the same name, which Andrey Yanev himself defines as a “revelation.” - Plamen V. Petrov <https://tinyurl.com/293hkcb>

↪ **Ivan Vukadinov / Picture outside the picture / retrospective exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko St. / September 16 - November 23.** This is the first major retrospective exhibition dedicated to Ivan Vukadinov

(1932–2024) – the only Bulgarian artist accepted into the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art of the Vatican Museums. Over 130 works in the exhibition unfold the evolution of Vukadinov's work: from traditional academic painting, mastered in the "Painting" studio under Prof. Nenko Balkanski, and his early manifestations of impressionistic plein air and visual naturalism; through his path of discoveries in the technique of encaustic and the symbolism of color, which led him to transcendent aesthetics and his characteristic style; to the deconstruction of forms and volumes in his late cycles, where color dominates over form and plot. <https://tinyurl.com/2neaf8mn>

↪ **Zoya Lekova and Monika Igarenska / Stark Differences and Similarities / joint show / Vaska Emanuilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / September 10 - October 19.** The exhibition seeks to present contrasting approaches to form in contemporary Bulgarian sculpture, while also revealing certain similarities between the artists' creative endeavors. They both rely on tradition, experience and craftsmanship as the leading principles of their work as artists on the one hand, not shying away from experimenting and challenging established norms and conceptions on the other. Zoya Lekova creates abstract compositions devoid of any attempt at likeness and decorativeness. Over the past 25 years, she has been working on the Points of Intersection cycle combining stone, wood, metal and glass. Monika Igarenska is known on the art scene as a monumental sculptor. Over the last few years, she has been developing a cycle of works inspired by natural materials, recycling and rural lifestyle. <https://tinyurl.com/yc4e5etn>

↪ **Dimitar Yaranov (1964-2024) / retrospective exhibition / Academy Gallery, 1 Shipka Str. / September 10 - 22.** The current exhibition mainly presents paintings and drawings. The exposition is developed chronologically - from high school drawings to his last, probably unfinished canvases. Dimitar Yaranov is known to the public mainly for his paintings. His canvases are filled with utopian machines, oil or space platforms, monkeys and dogs in spacesuits. The plots look futuristic-technological, but filled with melancholy and a sense of doom. The author defines this approach as conceptual-documentary, being based on photographs from print media. It is precisely because of this clear strategy that his role in laying the foundations of conceptual painting in Bulgaria can be indicated. <https://tinyurl.com/4rchvyh9>

↪ **Viktor Petrov / The Floor is Lava / solo show / curated by Marina Slavova / ICA-Sofia Gallery, 134 Vasil Levski Blvd. / September 10 - October 11.** "In the game "the floor is lava", both danger and safety are turned into topography of the imagination. Viktor Petrov's installation is built upon the inherent principles of this game, which apply only within the drawn boundary of the four walls: naïve and violent impulses unfold at full force, physics is suspended, reality and reason are torn from their bounds. Beyond it – the floor is lava. The exhibition evokes primal fears and thus also our existential longing for shelter. This shelter, however, is not a physical place – it is rooted beyond the world of the tangible and remains reserved only for oneself, similar to the soft architecture of a blanket that serves as a fort, a tent, or a shield pulled over the head. Protection is improvised, always provisional." - Marina Slavova <https://tinyurl.com/3vm6p8e4>

↪ **Terry Vreeburg / some messages don't make it / solo exhibition / Goethe-Institut, 1 Budapest Str. / September 16 - October 17.** Terry Vreeburg was born in the Netherlands and has been living in the abandoned village of Tsarino in the eastern Rhodope Mountains for six years. There he looks after the artist residency with the Tsarino Foundation and curates the Razklon Gallery, which is tucked away in the mountains. For his exhibition, he presents a series of new works alongside selected completed pieces. Together, the exhibited works offer an overview of the various media and techniques used by the artist and explore personal themes such as autonomy, isolation and egocentrism. Some of the new works presented in the exhibition are inspired by the village and the surrounding nature where the artist lives. <https://tinyurl.com/bddn3mzd>

↪ **Cédric Van Parys / Stone, Steel & Sky / solo show / National Palace of Culture, Marble Foyer / September 19 - October 5.** Belgian artist and architect Cédric Van Parys draws inspiration from the legacy of the National Palace of Culture for his first solo exhibition in Bulgaria, conceived especially for the iconic Marble Foyer. The space, with its monumental structures, cool marble, clean geometric lines, and interplay of light, inspires Van

Parys to unfold his aesthetic in a dialogue with the architectural spirit of the building. In Stone, Steel & Sky, Cédric Van Parys transforms familiar forms and symbols, creating sculptures and installations born from travels and observations yet woven into the context of the site. The clean surfaces and solid architecture of the NDK resonate with his works, which explore weight, gravity, and materiality. For Van Parys, matter is not simply a choice — it is a message, a symbol, and a story. <https://tinyurl.com/yynd8b9t>

↪ **Kalina Mavrodieva / Small Notes to Nature / solo show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / September 4 - 27.** In a series of paintings created over the past months, artist Kalina Mavrodieva depicts nature. This is not a novelty, but rather a natural continuation of her artistic practice to date. “I create my own worlds using elements from existing forest landscapes—places I have visited. In these paintings, I search for truth, essence, that which will endure. The wind—with its sense of change and movement—and the green—the bold and fresh color of life,” the artist says about this body of work. The large-scale canvases capture fragments of landscapes. The brushwork is bold, with broad strokes and large patches of color. The sweeping gestures with which the paintings are made speak of boundless freedom—a freedom that only nature can inspire. <https://fb.me/e/515DM2a15>

↪ **Jump! Don't jump! / 10 years Swimming Pool / group exhibition / Swimming Pool, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. 10 / July 10 - September 18.** The exhibition, dedicated to the full and empty pools of the imagination, presents works by Krasimir Terziev, Andrea Popjordanova, Mihail Novakov, Yana Lozeva, Nora Ampova, Altsek Mishev, Savina Topurska and Sasho Violetov. It also opens the second edition of the Nine Elephants festival. <https://tinyurl.com/yjhcdwny>

↪ **Asti Art Residency – Sinemorets 2024 / group show / +359 Gallery, 13A Galitchitsa Str. / June 24 - September 14.** Gallery +359 presents a selection of works created during the international contemporary art residency Asti Art Residency – Sinemorets 2024. In three separate periods, twenty-three artists worked in different directions – painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography and video art. The exhibition opens new perspectives on how contemporary art interacts with place, nature and community. <https://fb.me/e/3nAolee6G>

↪ **Silvana Ilieva / Regeneration / solo show / curated by Teodora Konstantinova and Radoslav Mehandzhiyski / Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / September 4 - 21.** “With her exhibition “Regeneration”, Silvana Ilieva immerses us in a striking exploration of the artistic potential of industrial hemp – a material layered with sensitive historical context, ecological sustainability, and diverse aesthetics. A project that combines the visual experience with the “archaeology” of hemp, marked through time by alternating periods of widespread practical use and neglect. It is precisely in this broader context that Silvana Ilieva’s works come to life. Sculptural objects made from treated hemp fibers appear to have emerged into the present as if from another semi-fantastical botanical epoch. In her works, on the border between sculpture, architecture, and textile, the artist does not attempt to imitate nature; rather, she creates the sensation of a new branch of nature, carried into another degree of consciousness.” - Teodora Konstantinova and Radoslav Mehandzhiyski, Art and Culture Today <https://fb.me/e/3eH1Z0WgI>

↪ **Nadezhda Georgieva / The Ocean of Life. Voices / solo show / curated by Vessela Nozharova / CCA Toplocentrala Gallery - Cube, 5 Emil Bersinski Str. / September 11 - 21.** “In her new exhibition, Berlin-based Bulgarian artist Nadezhda Georgieva presents a large-scale multimedia installation. “Voices” is the first part of a larger body of work entitled The Ocean of Life. In it, the artist explores themes such as identity, memory, fantasy, and the interaction between personal and collective experience. In her artistic practice, Nadezhda Georgieva moves towards an ever deeper understanding of her own artistic voice. Her personality occupies an increasingly central place in her artistic narratives. They are turned inward — toward the search for traces of past experience and future fantasies on which to build.” - Vessela Nozharova <https://tinyurl.com/3bwz4z35>

↪ **John Demos / Panigiria / solo exhibition / curated by John and Bernardine Demos / Synthesis Gallery, 55 “Vasil Levski” Blvd / July 31 - October 11.** “Since the dawn of humanity, a community’s identity and the

place to which it belongs have been intrinsically linked with ritual acts. The Greek panigiri, feasting and dancing in honour of a holy figure, usually taking place on various saints' days of the Orthodox church, is the direct descendant of such rituals. The subject of Demos' photographs in this series is specifically the panigiria of Zagori, a cluster of small mountain villages in Epirus, north-west Greece. Sometimes, Demos' long exposures make the dances disappear in a haze of abstraction, sublimating the slow-moving group into a bright halo encircling the musicians beneath the churchyard tree. Other times, Demos' fast-shutter shots focus on individual dancers and musicians, whose moments of festive rapture are translated into compositions of such intensity, they become Mannerist paintings of agony and ecstasy" - Alexandra Stara <https://tinyurl.com/mvub85t6>

↪ **Marina Alexandrova / Sowing / solo show / Depoo Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / September 16 - 30.** Marina Alexandrova is a visual artist whose practice encompasses various fields of visual arts, with painting taking a central place. Her works are focused on the surrounding environment and nature - she explores phenomena and the way they affect humans. "Sowing" is an exhibition that stems from this feeling of death as a tangible fusion with the earth and light. Decay is a state that gives rise to life, and mortality is the soil for a new beginning. Flowers are born from decomposition, and light, humidity and heat are assisting participants in this transformation. <https://tinyurl.com/5eccmyjm>

PLOVDIV

↪ **A piece of river. National autumn exhibitions Plovdiv 2025 / curated by Vessela Nozharova / Old Town - Balabanova House, Hindliyan House, Mexican Art House / September 1 – 30.** The exhibition examines the connections between art and place through the dialogue between the work of Georgi Bozhilov-Slona, the Old Town of Plovdiv and the works of 14 contemporary Bulgarian artists. The concept is based on a fantasy that places the legendary group of Plovdiv artists, with their colorful, bohemian lifestyle, against the backdrop of black and white socialist existence. With the participation of Antoni Raizhekov, Borislava Berbenko, Boryana Rossa, Velizar Dimchev, Kalin Serapionov, Kalina Dimitrova, Miryana Todorova, Nadezhda Oleg Lyahova, Nevena Ekimova, Niya Tsenkova, Pravdolyub Ivanov, Siyana Shishkova, Stella Vasileva and Stoyan Dechev. <https://fb.me/e/arpzZ1qve>

↪ **Background: Young Artists 2025 / Radoslav Angelov / bliss / solo show / Sarieva/Gallery, 40 Otets Paisiy Str. / September 1 - November 28.** Sarieva/Gallery, Plovdiv presents a new edition of the long-standing platform Background: Young Artists with the first solo exhibition of the young self-taught painter Radoslav Angelov. His works reflect a conservative classical aesthetic—realistic composition and technique, mainly seascapes and still lifes, some painted en plein air and traditionally framed. Contemporary elements appear subtly—bottles of popular drinks, surfboards, iPads—while the themes explore social engagement and societal issues such as loneliness, ecological crises, and overconsumption. The paintings convey intimacy with the subject, lightness, tactility, and joy in simple pleasures. <https://tinyurl.com/3p8usjb3>

↪ **Contemporary Art Week / Licht, mehr licht / group show / curated by Emil Mirazchiev / Art Today Association, City Art Gallery - Plovdiv, Temporary Exhibition Hall, 15 Knyaz Alexander I Str. / September 4 - 30.** The theme of the thirty-first edition of "The Week" is that of light. The artists in this exhibition either follow the light that models the forms, or use light sources to create new spaces, placing the viewer in a different and unexpected environment that provokes not only the senses, but also brings thoughts back to specific ideas and questions that do not find a place in everyday life. With the participation of Aksiniya Peycheva, Valentin Stefanoff, Velizar Dimchev, Jorrras / Georgi Georgiev, Dorian Bolka, Emil Mirazchiev, Krasimir Dobrev, Mischa Kuball, Nadya Genova, Savina Topurska, Sevdalina Kochevska, Tsvetan Krastev. <https://www.arttoday.org/site/news.php>

↪ **Lyuben Zidarov, 100 years / retrospective exhibition / City Art Gallery - Plovdiv, Hall 2019, 32 "Gladstone" Str. / September 4 - 26.** After its exhibition in 2024 at the UBA Gallery in Sofia, Lyuben Zidarov's retrospective visits Plovdiv with works from collections that have rarely or never been shown. The exhibition presents many aspects of Lyuben Zidarov's wide creative scope in areas such as oil painting, watercolor, printmaking, drawing, and textiles. <https://fb.me/e/8gfDRbz5m>

VARNA

↪ **Waves Before the Quake / group show / Gallery Gallery, Buna 3, Pop Up New Ventura, 22 Sofia Str. / September 3 - 15.** An unusually large number of sharp, political works were submitted for the Buna 3 open call. These works are very specific in the woes they criticize, and their demand for accountability. From the proposals received, we selected works for Waves Before The Quake in which we recognise the deafening murmur of our times. With works by Alben Baeva, Avela Admon, Dessislava Terzieva, Elena Kaludova, Eva Davidova, Kalin Serapionov, Martin Atanasov, Melih Nehat, Meredith Drum, Neno Belchev, Nikita Shokhov, Rene Beekman, Rositsa Getsova, Slava Savova. <https://www.gallerygallery.space/en/waves-before-the-quake>

KAZANLAK

↪ **Lotte Michailova / Shy intimacy / solo exhibition / Art Gallery - Kazanlak, Nenko Balkanski House Museum, 17 General Radetski Str/ August 21 - October 12.** A few years ago, the FotoFabrika team dove into the archive of one of the most significant figures in Bulgarian photography—Lotte Michailova. Out of this came the exhibition *Shy intimacy*. Lotte Michailova's work has the power to make “ordinary” things appear extraordinary. In her images, she demonstrates a feminine sensitivity toward human intervention in the natural world, tracing the imprints we leave behind. Each piece seems to hold a wise summary of a world beyond national boundaries—and therein lies its true strength, as emphasised by FotoFabrika director Emmy Barouh. <https://tinyurl.com/5475mt6d>

↪ **Sylvia Popova / Sites of special interest / solo show / curated by Vessela Nozharova / Art Gallery Kazanlak, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. / July 19 - October 12.** “By using images generated by satellites and drones, I draw attention to a conflict I hope will provoke deeper reflection: the wild, the organic, the chaotic, the untamed – set against the artificial, the human-made, the orderly, the protected.” - Sylvia Popova <https://tinyurl.com/2k2xekw9>

↪ **Ivo Bistrichki / Metamorphoses / solo show / Art Gallery Kazanlak, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. / August 23 - November 30.** Ivo Bistrichki is a contemporary Bulgarian artist who excavates mythological layers to create visual narratives of the present. His work focuses on the influence of the modern world on the individual, expressed through the historical and psychological strata embedded in mythological imagery. His compositions often incorporate everyday objects and elements of nature, transforming them into ritual implements or compositional devices. A hallmark of his art is the combination of painting with photography and collage, deconstructing images and “wounding” the canvas surface. <https://tinyurl.com/2vwf37bv>

↪ **Ivan Milev / You didn't get who I am / retrospective exhibition / curated by Plamen V. Petrov / Art Gallery Kazanlak, Ahinora Museum, 2 Otets Paisiy Hilendarski Str. / May 3 - November 30.** “The current exhibition, 100 years after Ivan Milev graduated, is an occasion for a journey through the artist's short, meandering, and plastically sought-after creative world – from the first surviving attempts to his maturation in the studios of the State Academy of Arts. An opportunity for each viewer to correlate the facts we know today about the author's life path with the images that have come down to us, which came out from under his brush between 1915 and 1925,

most of which are today preserved in the collection of the Kazanlak Art Gallery.” - Plamen V. Petrov
<https://tinyurl.com/4yfwwrt6>

ART CAREER

▮ ***Boiling point / Open call for visual projects in the Goethe-Institut Bulgaria gallery / Application deadline October 15.*** Goethe-Institut Bulgaria is looking for artistic and curatorial projects that, through contemporary art, explore important social, civic and public themes – from anti-democratic trends, the ecological crisis and mental health, LGBTQI+/queer perspectives to local challenges such as violence, gambling or youth culture. Full information at <https://tinyurl.com/4ywapf9e>

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