



## 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/>

↪ **Anton Vidokle / *Irradiation* / solo show / curated by Martina Yordanova and Vasil Vladimirov / National Gallery, The Palace, 1 Knyaz Alexander I Square / October 23 - January 25.** “The exhibition brings together six of Vidokle’s films made over the past decade in dialogue with a special installation of twenty-four Himalayan landscapes by Nicholas Roerich, created between the early and mid-20th century. Filmed across Kazakhstan,

Siberia, Japan, Italy, and Mesopotamia, Vidokle's works weave together documentary, performance, and essay, inviting reflection on death and immortality, ecology and spirituality, and the possibility of art as a vehicle for collective transformation." - Martina Yordanova <https://tinyurl.com/bddu3339>

↪ **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>

↪ **Vasil Zahariev. 130th Anniversary of the Artist's Birth / retrospective exhibition / curated by Lyuben Domozetski / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko St. / September 24 - November 23.** "The study of Zahariev's life and work seeks to present a balanced view of his artistic development, bringing attention not only to the well-known graphic works of the 1920s and 1930s, but also to his less explored paintings, watercolors, drawings, decorative projects, and early works. Zahariev's contribution to the development of printmaking in Bulgaria has long been well recognized. Yet if we look beyond the graphic image, we see a body of work that is diverse yet steadily evolving, built from start to finish with remarkable persistence and consistency, with the depth of a researcher studying antiquities and seeking the immediacy of pre-academic artistic language, with a distinct sense of purpose, and above all with the clear awareness that he carries within himself the spirit of an entire era of Bulgarian art." - Lyuben Domozetski <https://tinyurl.com/besdmbv3>

↪ **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>

↪ **2-0-2-5. National Sculpture Exhibition / group exhibition / UBA, 6 Shipka Str. / October 3 - 28.** The National Sculpture Exhibition is periodically organized by the Sculpture Section of the UBA. As in the previous edition, in 2023, along with the artists who are members of the UBA, young authors under the age of 35, who may not be members of the union, are invited to participate. The invitation provides an opportunity to present works by sculptors from different generations in one space, to outline trends in contemporary sculpture, and to spotlight young artists entering the art world. <https://tinyurl.com/3ezacm89>

↪ **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>

↪ **DA Fest / International Digital Art Festival / curated by Venelin Shurelov and Galina Dimitrova-Dimova / multiple locations / October 21 - 25.** Anxiety is the theme of this year's edition of the festival. “Anxiety is the pulse of contemporaneity – an omnipresent undercurrent that shapes the way we perceive, connect, and create. We are witnessing heightened uncertainty – wars unfolding across continents, economies teetering on collapse, political systems destabilized and the digital sphere amplifies every tremor of crisis. Anxiety is no longer just a personal experience; it is a shared, global condition, a signal transmitted across borders, screens and thoughts.” - Venelin Shurelov. Full program on <https://da-fest.bg/>

↪ **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>

↪ **Marta Djourina / *Fluid Light* / solo show / Sarieva Gallery @ DOT, Sofia, 46, Bratya Miladinovi str., Women's Market / October 1 - November 16.** “Djourina’s process deliberately establishes a radical dependence on light as both subject and medium. The works are not merely abstract images; they are events—records of energy, of collision, of flow. The exhibition title, Fluid Light, encapsulates the essence of this practice. Fluid is both a state of matter and a metaphor—shifting, unstable, impossible to confine in one place. Under the artist’s orchestration, light behaves like liquid: it spills across surfaces, seeps into folds, gathers in chromatic gradients. Yet fluidity is also corporeal. These images pulse like blood vessels; their chromatic tides echo abrupt breathing or the shimmer of a tear.” - Boris Kostadinov <https://fb.me/e/aVgo8w74a>

↪ **Dragana Pavlovska / *Brute facts* / solo show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / September 29 – October 18.** Dragana Pavlovska was born in 1996 in Vinica, North Macedonia. Her artistic practice is mainly focused on narrative figurative painting, at the intersection of the real and the fantastical, where the image becomes a foundation for exploring the human condition. “I create art not to ask, nor to offer solutions, but simply to show. The visual language, built of symbolism, magical realism, references to situations and phenomena, as well as the very act of working with paint, helps me materialize this pursuit. For now.” - Dragana Pavlovska <https://fb.me/e/5dyFdOXh7>

↪ **Maria Nalbantova / *Swamping* / solo show / curated by Lyuben Domozetski / Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / September 25 - October 11.** “Over the last three years, as part of a WaterLANDS Artistic Engagement Residency at the Dragoman Marsh, visual artist Maria Nalbantova has focused her attention on this ecosystem—on its history, its biodiversity, and its current state. In her practice, ecology and art interweave, opening many interesting and important avenues for reflection. Thus Maria became an artist of the marsh; interpreting various ecological themes and concerns through her gaze and artistic position, she realized a series

of compelling projects—“Paradise Marsh” and “Shameless Ashes.” The present exhibition continues her work as an artist researching and interpreting the issues, condition, and the theme of the restoration of the Dragoman Marsh.” - Lyuben Domozetski <https://fb.me/e/38oRmMkEB>

↪ **Ivailo Avramov / Possibilities of Empathy / solo show / CCA Toplocentrala Gallery - Cube, 5 Emil Bersinski Str. / September 26 - October 16.** Possibilities of Empathy takes functionalism as a starting point. The architecture of Cube Gallery has been carefully examined, and its inherent features — scale, proportions, geometry, gravity — dictate the conceptual solutions. The objects in the project are kinetic and appear almost “embedded” in the structure, yet their function does not follow the pragmatics of the building. Instead, they use the architecture as a stage for irrational ideas and parallel meanings. This raises the question of the value of ideas that develop beyond functional necessity, while still remaining connected to the strength of the architectural structure. <https://tinyurl.com/59bbd5f6>

↪ **Nikola Grozdanov / Out in the open / solo show / curated by Vikenti Komitski / Punta Gallery, 37 Stefan Stambolov Blvd. / September 16 - October 30.** “In cosmology, the Big Bang is described not as a sudden explosion, but as a gradual expansion of space itself – a process through which nothingness is transformed and acquires form and structure. Grozdanov's works create a similar sense of expansion: these glass bodies seem to be caught in the process of transformation – forms reminiscent of cell division or star formation. Universal in their simplicity, they speak to themes that are fundamental in nature: the beginning, the emergence of things, the formation of the world. Grozdanov's works explore the borderline moment when the invisible acquires structure and the idea takes shape.” - Vikenti Komitski <https://fb.me/e/6b1QT3IEG>

↪ **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/mvub85f6>

↪ **Tzotcho Boyadjiev / Once I was / solo exhibition / Synthesis Gallery, 55 “Vasil Levski” Blvd / October 16 – November 22.** The exhibition takes as its starting point “Once I Was”, one of the latest poetry books of the renowned Bulgarian philosopher and poet Tzotcho Boyadjiev, and presents forty poetic études. The life and creative path of Tzotcho Boyadjiev are marked by a unique synthesis of world-class academic research, a devotion to translation, original poetic work, and a deep love for photography. With his contribution in the field of humanities and literature, he stands among the most significant names in contemporary Bulgarian culture. <https://tinyurl.com/3kcc4z7p>

↪ **Zlatka Yarumova / Chabot Koans / solo show / Charta Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / October 6 - 14.** The exhibition is held within the framework of the project “LOOK - Ecology and Technology”. Zlatka Yarumova is a visual artist whose work process is based on texts. The main focus is language as a theoretical paradigm - viewed both through its logical-linguistic structure and in comparison with other linguistic theories. The genesis of the inexhaustible contradiction with the metaphysical, with the meaning of silence or nothingness, the place of the human, the personal and the conscious. This also sets the multimedia character of her visual expression. <https://chartagallery.com/>

↪ **Philip Popoff / Diyarbakir / solo show / Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha Str. / September 18 - October 10.** “Diyarbakir is a place that lies very far away. A place made deliberately so unreachable that one may arrive there,

but returning becomes nearly impossible. Perhaps it doesn't even exist—it may be nothing more than a double mirage. Philip Popov's drawings strive to uncover this place: first as a concept, then as a physical space, and finally as a deconstruction of the whole into separate elements resembling sculptural objects." - Anton Staykov <https://fb.me/e/5nSCGvF2n>

↪ **Fuerer Nielsen & Ivelina Ivanova / Entities / joint show / curated by Stanimir Stoyanov / Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha Str. / October 14 - 27.** Is there a clear demarcation line between the digital and the real, between the human and the machinic? ENTITIES brings together three artists — the Swiss duo Fuerer Nielsen (Sonjoi Nielsen and Andreas Furer) and the Bulgarian artist Ivelina Ivanova in an exploration of the post-human. The exhibition plays with shifting perspectives: a moment in which one can sense what it means not to be at the center, not to be the measure, not to be the privileged quasi-divine subject of the world, but simply one of the many entities that inhabit it. Part of 'LOOK - Ecology and Technology 2025'. <https://tinyurl.com/mx7cpe27>

↪ **Kelly Anna / Repeat / solo show / L44, 44 Neofit Rilski Str. / September 23 - October 20.** 'Repeat' is an exhibition that looks at repetition as a creative tool and Kelly Anna's way of perceiving the world. Through repetition, new rhythms emerge, opening the space for discovery. Shaped by her background in dance, her process of create, repeat, refine; reflects how single movements evolve into choreography. Kelly Anna is a London-based artist, illustrator, and designer. Known for her powerful, silhouetted figures with a strong focus on movement, sport and wellness. <https://fb.me/e/6RsIQALwR>

↪ **Estafeta / group exhibition / curator Boyana Raycheva / Bobbina Cultural Space, 5A Triaditsa Str. / September 29 - October 9.** "Estafeta" brings together five authors - Bilyana Tokmakchieva, Yoanna Laskova, Liliyana Alexandrova, Samuil Velev and Tsvetina Zdravkova, in a creative relay around five concepts - hole, reflection, network, stain and prison - and traces how an idea is transmitted, translated and transformed through a visual dialogue between the artists. The exhibition shows how autonomy and reciprocity are combined: some works quote, others displace or delicately resist the previous ones, and peculiar "mediating" gestures extract foreign details and translate them into new compositions.

## PLOVDIV

↪ **International Photographic Meetings. A 40-Year Odyssey / retrospective exhibition / curated by Assoc. Prof. Nikola Lautliev / Plovdiv City Art Gallery, Hall "2019", 32 Gladston Str. / October 7 - 31.** The retrospective exhibition presents photographers from all over the world and takes stock of 40 years of festival history. About this latest edition of the curator Assoc. Prof. Nikola Lautliev, he shared "One thing I will allow myself to emphasize - the document is present to the maximum extent here. I am a big supporter of the document, of the reportage, of the social, of the humane. And in this hall you will not see unambiguous photographs. I am most pleased that the festival has endured over the years. That is why the exhibition is called "A 40-Year Odyssey". This long journey of Odysseus and his return to Ithaca somehow brought me back to the difficulties, expectations, joys and sorrows that accompanied the festival."

↪ **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>

## 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/4yfwprt6>

## VELIKO TARNOVO

↪ **Hedvig Greiffenberg / *Breaches* / solo show / Heerz Tooya Gallery, 18 “Ivan Vazov” Str. / September 25 - October 18.** “Hedvig Greiffenberg's exhibition unfolds as an exploration of thresholds, framings, and the fragile expansions of meaning. There is a bubble that we want to burst. A main how we encounter the world—through reflection and through interruption. I too was intolerant once.” - Lars Nordby

<https://heerztooya.com/exhibitions/breaches>

## 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/4ywaf9e>

### **Monthly edition by Open Art Foundation**

▯ news selection : Desislava Mileva

▯ logo : Nedko Solakov

▯ cover: Maria Nalbantova working on the project "Swamping" at the Dragoman Marsh, solo show curated by Lyuben Domozetski at Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str., Sofia, September 25 - October 11. Photo by Miroslava Popova