



SOFIA

↪ **Georgi Donov and Kosyo Minchev / *The Island of Sculpture* / joint exhibition / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of contemporary art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / December 12 - February 15.** “Georgi Donov and Kosyo Minchev return to the figurative, yet approach it through the lens of conceptual image-making, engaging the full breadth of art history. For them, form remains central—not as formalism, but as a field of lived experience shaped by spiritual, moral, and philosophical principles. Their work challenges prevailing assumptions about sculpture, while resisting the clichéd “topicality” of contemporary doctrine. Their artistic position is not tied to any specific geographical site but unfolds as an inner, mental space—a rethinking of tradition and its contemporary resonance.” - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Genadi Gatev. <https://tinyurl.com/58wym8zd>

↪ **Guillermo Lorca / *Beyond the Wonder* / solo show / curated by Dr. Eliana Urbano Raimondi, Prof. Dominique Lora, and Dr. Micol di Veroli / National Gallery, The Palace, 1 Knyaz Alexander I Square / December 17 - February 14.** The exhibition heralds the entry of the Chilean artist Guillermo Lorca (b.1984) into the European institutional art system, presenting for the first time in a European public museum a body of work that explores his surreal, seductive, and at times disturbing psycho-pictorial universe. A series of large-scale paintings projects the visitors into a dimension “other”, by exploring themes such as faith, death, tradition, identity, and family, drawing inspiration from the world of dreams, fairy tales, and folklore. <https://tinyurl.com/m4jfb7p>

↪ **Christo and Jeanne-Claude / *Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971-95* / anniversary exhibition / curated by Gergana Mihova / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1 19th February Str. / November 4 - March 22.** The National Gallery (Sofia, Bulgaria) is opening its first exhibition dedicated to the legacy of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, marking the 90th anniversary of the artists’ birth. The museum’s first acquisition of Christo’s iconic work *Wrapped Reichstag* (Project for Berlin) from 1986, along other original collages, will be officially presented to the public. With this exhibition, the National Gallery also commemorates three major anniversaries of the artists’ visionary

projects celebrated in 2025: 20 years since The Gates in New York City, 30 years since Wrapped Reichstag in Berlin and 40 years since The Pont Neuf Wrapped in Paris. These milestones represent not only significant moments in the artistic journey of Christo and Jeanne-Claude but also landmark events that transformed the cultural history of Europe. <https://tinyurl.com/bdeyueh6>

↪ **Driant Zeneli / *If I Don't Know What Will Happen Tomorrow, It Could Be Wonderful* / solo show / curated by Martina Yordanova and Vasil Vladimirov / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1 19th February Str. / February 5 - March 29.** The solo exhibition by Driant Zeneli presents a video installation that approaches uncertainty not as a lack or failure, but as an active position and a space for imagination. The exhibition brings together four video works produced between 2011 and 2023, each originating from a different trilogy in the artist's practice. Rather than forming a retrospective, the selection traces a consistent artistic method in which attempts are undertaken with full awareness of their likely failure. <https://tinyurl.com/y7rfzbd7>

↪ **Mirena Zlateva / *Shift in focus* / solo show / The Vera Nedkova House Museum, 2, 11 August St. / January 21 - June 12.** Mirena Zlateva presents a selected collection of bijoux and carvings, where the boundary between sculpture and jewellery gradually blurs and melts away. In her works, the artist explores, analyses and makes parts and volumes cohere through the prism of her personal lens and sensitivity. In the exhibition, we discover more of a narrative about the impact of construction and form fashioned as an original sculpture on the human body. Displayed in this way, the works are not simply bijoux or visual accents, but sculptural forms, deliberately and outstandingly voluminous (rings, necklaces, brooches), which, from a functional point of view, arouse a sense of discomfort, but at the same time, a desire to feel and touch them. <https://tinyurl.com/bdhkpze6>

↪ ***More than one photo. The history of Bulgarian photography in the 20th century / retrospective exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko St. / December 9 - March 9.*** The goal of the exhibition is not only to present the development of Bulgarian photography from 1900 to 2000, but also to take us from the early studio portraits and chronicles of modernity to artistic photography of the end of the century. Included in it are over 300 photographs by more than 100 Bulgarian photographers, which construct the living history of photography as art, testimony, and personal narrative. It is structured chronologically in three sections that trace the development of Bulgarian photography—from the first studios and studio portraits at the beginning of the century, through socialist Bulgaria and photography as a document and testimony, to the last decades of the 20th century, marked by the freedom of the artist's gaze and the saturation of the world with images. <https://tinyurl.com/4p3rpyyu>

↪ ***Images and Reflections. Vaska Emanouilova – Between Model and Sculptor. 120th anniversary of the sculptor's birth / anniversary exhibition / Vaska Emanouilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / December 16 - February 22.*** Vaska Emanouilova went down in the history of Bulgarian art not only as one of the first prominent women sculptors, but also as an inspiration for generations of artists. Her work is characterized by great attention to form, to the human face and body, where the external and the internal, the visible and the invisible, the realistic and the symbolic are constantly intertwining. The exhibition presents the sculptor from a couple of perspectives, namely as the subject of portraits who was an inspiration for numerous Bulgarian artists and also as a portraitist. <https://tinyurl.com/5n8fy4ez>

↪ ***Petra Dimitrova / Eschaton and the Depot of Matter / solo show / curated by Vessela Nozharova / Union of Bulgarian Artists, 6 Shipka Str. / February 4 - 25.*** “The exhibition presents a series of works in which a comprehensive artistic concept is built, based on a combination of symbolic images, philosophical narratives and personal moral motives. The time in which we live, engulfed by unhinged consumption, is represented by the images of piles of unnecessary things thrown into the trash. Humanity has lost direction, purpose and measure. These things, mixed with ordinary trash, occupy a central place in the series “Apocalyptic Reality”. The other series of paintings was created under the impressions of Petra Dimitrova's stay at the Cité internationale des arts in Paris in 2025. And in them the main emphasis is on establishing a common ground between two completely different realities...” - Vessela Nozharova <https://tinyurl.com/4echb5wc>

↪ **Plamen Dejanoff / Heritage Project / solo show / curated by Vessela Nozharova and Stephan Stoyanov / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / February 10 - March 29.** At the center of 'Heritage Project' stands a specific object: a large wrought-iron entrance gate produced by an Austro-Hungarian company in 1830, installed at the entrance of the Tarnovo Synod in the mid-19th century, and damaged during the earthquake of 1913. The gate becomes an image of the cultural movements and influences that inevitably accompany human development. For the artist, his hometown of Veliko Tarnovo and the nearby village of Arbanasi, from which his family originates, become a field for in-depth research. Dejanoff employs the means of classical sculpture, knowledge of craft traditions, and restoration processes, while also researching, collecting, exhibiting, and promoting cultural artifacts around which he builds a sustainable cultural context. <https://tinyurl.com/2ac9ven3>

↪ **Peter Vulchev, Elitsa Velikova / Vulnerability.Body / joint show / CCA Toplocentrala Gallery - Cube, 5 Emil Bersinski Str. / February 12 - 15.** Vulnerability is a process-based exhibition that explores intimacy as a bodily and collective condition. Rather than telling a story or offering symbols to decode, the project creates a situation in which bodies exist together — without roles, without protection, and without predefined meaning. The exhibition unfolds over time and includes a video installation, a live performance, and parallel formats engaging with the theme. It is not a fixed object, but an accumulating process — of presence, traces, and voices. <https://toplocentrala.bg/en/program/visual/uyazvimost-tyalo>

↪ **Lignes de désir / group show / curated by Boyana Dzhikova / Punta Gallery, 37 Stefan Stambolov Blvd. and Cable Depot, 39 Stefan Stambolov Blvd., 15 Stefan Stambolov Blvd. (bookstore and café), 31 Stefan Stambolov Blvd. (next to the sewing supplies shop) / February 6 - March 7.** The Lignes de désir project was realised in 2025 inside the empty shops in the historical city centre of Digne-les-Bains, France. Within the walls of seven shops, eight Bulgarian artists (and one French), invited by the Cairn Art Centre, displayed their site-specific works – a result of three years of artistic research. The show in Sofia aims to discover points of contact between the contexts of the Women's Market and the mountain town of Digne, while addressing the broader subject of the construction of our inner worlds through the market of desire, the pleasures of its consumption, but also the dangers this entails. With works by Aaron Roth, Veronika Desova, Yana Abrasheva, Tsvetomira Borisova, Rada Boukova, Valko Chobanov, Lazar Lyutakov, Vikenti Komitski and Stéphen Loye. <https://tinyurl.com/274rb35n>

↪ **Stéphen Loye / Au fond, on ne parle que d'amour. C'est pour ça qu'on n'y comprend rien / solo show / Posta Space, 34 Dondukov Bld. / November 27 - February 28.** Stéphen Loye's travels between Sofia and Digne-les-Bains, France, began in 2007, when Sofia was very, very different. In 2024 and 2025, he made several visits to our capital, where he worked in the studio of Vikenti Komitski. The layers of his collage-vitrage weave the fabric of his impressions during those years, of the connection between Sofia and his hometown. The exhibition closes the circle of his experience here, which began 18 years ago through the prism of a love story - this time, introducing the city as a character. <https://fb.me/e/5yKGEerFY>

↪ **Anton Roland Laub / A Bucharest Trilogy / solo exhibition / curated by Sonia Voss / Synthesis Gallery, 55 "Vasil Levski" Blvd / December 4 - February 14.** "Drawing on historical artefacts – city maps, engineering drawings, archival photographs – as well as family documents and photographs taken during regular visits to Romania, Laub travels back in time to unfold three series that blend personal memories, traces gathered from the urban space, and critical inventories. "Mobile Churches", "Last Christmas (of Ceaușescu)", and "Mineriada" thus form a trilogy at the crossroads of satire, analysis, and melancholic introspection, driven as much by sarcasm as by the hope for a reconciled society that would finally face its past head-on." - Sonia Voss <https://tinyurl.com/mtkrxn68>

↪ **Valentina Sciarra / Post-Industrial Butchery / solo show / Charta Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / February 15 - March 28.** "Every cuisine, from the simplest to the most complex, from east to west of the world, it's a system of cultural combinations. And this is the theme of this exhibition project. Accepting that we are what we eat (food is one of the constituent elements of our multifaceted identity) is already very complicated in itself; but even more

complicated is to imagine that in theory – and sometimes also in practice – the reverse would be possible: eat what we are.” - Valentina Sciarra <https://tinyurl.com/3hz2eymn>

↪ **Boyan Montero / Recycled innocence / solo show / Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / February 5 - 27.** "Recycled Innocence brings together a series of works that revisit and reinterpret my early creative gestures. These include digital drawings made in Microsoft Paint, collage impressions, photos of my surroundings, and newly created works inspired by those first marks. These works are not about nostalgia but about connecting. I am not trying to go back exactly. I am trying to be here with all the versions of myself that still flicker inside: the one who drew jellyfish and elephants, the one who was scared, the one who felt free, the one who did not yet know how to perform." - Boyan Montero <https://fb.me/e/6oQhJTtVN>

↪ **Eurovizion. Crossing stories and spaces / group show / curated by Sabina Klemm and Sanja Kojić Mladenov / Doza Gallery, 52 Tsar Samuil Str. / February 3 - 28.** The exhibition examines contemporary artistic practices and the idea of European identity. Eurovizion is a lexical construct built from similar and different languages and denotes a fusion of potential unities. The exhibition reflects different histories and spaces through interdisciplinary, classical and cross-media works. After presentations in Sarajevo, Novi Sad, Athens, Nicosia, Tbilisi and Varna, selected works will be shown in Sofia. The project is complemented by works by Geri Georgieva, as well as new works by Adnan Softić and Ivana Ivković, which will be presented for the first time in Sofia. <https://fb.me/e/3vyilwJJ5>

↪ **Romil Kalinov / Revealing the Hidden and Choreography of the Gaze / solo show / Depoo Gallery, 12 Vrabcha Str. / January 29 - February 15.** "Classical composition is absent in these works. There is no center, no hierarchy, no leading motif. Instead, the paintings function as autonomous fields in which geometric vibrations, rhythmic overlays and subtle deviations create visual instability. The forms do not obey a preliminary order, but arise as a trace of movement, pressure and interaction between matrix, color and surface." - Prof. Krasimir Delchev <https://tinyurl.com/83k9yxdf>

↪ **Boyanka Roshleva / Capanici / solo show / Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha Str. / February 16 - March 2.** "This is the first solo exhibition of Boyanka Roshleva. It appeared as if suddenly, assembled in a matter of days, but in fact it has been aging for a long time - like a collection of cards that you find by chance on the street for years, put in your pocket, forget... and one day arrange into a castle." - Tsvetelina Atanasova <https://tinyurl.com/77ukwm9r>

↪ **Olympia Simopoulou / Sofia | Venice fragments of belonging / solo show / One Gallery, 1A "Dyakon Ignatij" Str. / January 15 - February 15.** The exhibition brings together two cities that the artist calls home – Sofia and Venice – and explores themes of identity, memory and belonging through visual fragments, textures and layerings of time. The works are constructed as spatial collages, in which architectural details, urban surfaces and traces of human presence intertwine into new, multi-layered images. <https://www.onegallery.eu/>

↪ **Trace / group show / Academy Gallery, National Academy of Arts, 1 Shipka Str. / February 4 - 23.** The exhibition presents various aspects of contemporary graphic art, current trends, techniques, creative concepts and experimental approaches of students and teachers, developed in three art academies: the National Academy of Arts, Bulgaria, the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Katowice, Poland and the Academy of Fine Arts "Brera" in Milan, Italy. <https://fb.me/e/aIYfxLVWM>

↪ **Images and prints / group show / UniArt Gallery, New Bulgarian University, 21 Montevideo Str. / January 26 - February 27.** The exhibition presents a collection of works by professors and students from the Studio of Graphics, Illustration and Visual Communication at the Center for Arts of the New Bulgarian University. The exhibition traces the evolution of illustration - from classical to digital techniques, and includes works in the fields of calligraphy, poster, label and packaging, comics and graphic novels and many more. <https://tinyurl.com/3cr4ncpw>

↪ **Anna Vasof / Peeks from Behind the Wall / live animated installation / Automatic Gallery, 11 Dunav Str. / January 19 - February 15.** In a world that keeps filling itself with walls, even a brief look behind them becomes an act of disobedience. 'Peeks from Behind the Wall' is a live animated installation in which a face intermittently appears from behind a wall. The image is generated analogue in real time, creating a subtle tension between presence and concealment. Automatic Gallery is a new space dedicated to the presentation of digital art with fully automated access and operation. The organizer and curator is the team of the DA LAB Foundation.

<https://automatic.gallery/>

PLOVDIV

↪ **snowball / group show / Sarieva/Gallery, 40 Otets Paisiy Str. / December 13 - March 5.** "snowball" is more a snowball fight than a traditional exhibition – each artwork aims at another, sometimes hitting, sometimes missing, with the rules of the game never fully clear. Sarieva / Gallery invites visitors to step into the center of this skirmish and observe as if they themselves are taking part in it. Connections between the works are visual, conceptual or associative, sometimes seemingly absent, leaving empty spaces for the viewer to fill with allegories alternative to any grand narrative. These may be fleeting or disintegrating, and precisely through that they stimulate over-interpretation and reflection. With works by Tekla Aleksieva, Luchezar Boyadjiev, Artan Hajrullahu, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Mina Minov, Viktor Petrov, Dimitar Solakov, Samuil Stoyanov, Valio Tchenkov, Jelko Terziev, Krassimir Terziev, Sasho Violetov. <https://sarieva.org/>

↪ **TradART - painting before and now / group show / curated by Plamena Dimitrova – Racheva and Monika Romenska / Association "Art Grafos Society", Plovdiv Art Gallery, Kapana Gallery, 29 Rayko Daskalov Str. / February 3 - March 22.** "TradART" is a large-scale project exploring the connection between the legendary masters and the contemporary successors of the Plovdiv School. The exhibition presents works by artists from the 1960s such as Dimitar Kirov-DiKiro, Georgi Bozhilov-Slona, Yoan Leviev, Kolyo Vitkovski and Georgi Boyadzhiev-Boyadjana, as well as the contemporary generation - Atanas Hranov, Vasil Stoev, Stanimir Videv, Nikolay Kuchkov, Rumen Zhekov and Nedko Itinov. <https://fb.me/e/6tZxBRG8t>

↪ **Petar Pironkov and Svilen Stefanov / Thesis/Antithesis/Synthesis / joint exhibition / curated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suzana Nikolova / Plovdiv Art Gallery, Temporary Exhibition Halls, 15 "Knyaz Alexander I" Str. / February 19 - .** "A curatorial challenge brings together Petar Pironkov and Svilen Stefanov in this extravagant project, in which two quite different authors collaborate in a paradoxical way in the field of painting. But why is there a need to show them together? It can be immediately said that they are united by the large format, fundamentally implied in the expressive manner of work. But the differences come from the first glance - from the quickly recognizable individuality of the conceptual structure and its subsequent pictorial approach. Because the curatorial idea is to show two contemporary and popular painters, and this would not be a challenge at all, in principle, if they did not come from different visual and conceptual traditions." - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suzana Nikolova <https://tinyurl.com/bp6xc43k>

VARNA

↪ **The portrait in painting / museum exhibition / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" Str. / January 30 - February 23.** The exhibition presents the development of portrait painting in Bulgaria from the very beginning to the end of the 20th century and offers a meeting with rarely shown and even unknown to the public works from the funds of the Varna City Gallery. The first part starts in the beginning of the century, with works by Ivan

Mrkvichka, Alexander Mutafov, Stefan Ivanov, Boris Georgiev, of the "Native Art" association, of the so-called "New Artists". The exhibition continues with authors from the 60s and 70s, and the largest group in the exhibition are the artists of the generation that began their creative path in the 80s. <https://tinyurl.com/4azx7e7v>

KAZANLAK

↪ **Iskra Blagoeva. Valentina Sciarra / 77 ½ / joint show / Art Gallery Kazanlak, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. / November 15 - March 29.** The project 77 ½ began as a study of women's rites & rituals in Bulgaria, affirming the dignity and power of the female world and energy beyond the conservatism of patriarchal society through a series of photographs, sound and video works, and performance documentation. 77 ½ are the herbs that must be gathered for winter, with the last half remaining nameless – a cure for a mysterious, unknown illness. For the artists, this illness is the sadness born from the anxiety and stress of living in today's world. Whether there is a cure for sadness becomes a question whose answer Iskra Blagoeva and Valentina Sciarra seek in the bodily and spiritual restoration of broken ties with nature and community. <https://tinyurl.com/yr488num>

↪ **Resurfacing / group exhibition / curated by Maria Vassileva / Art Gallery - Kazanlak, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. and other locations / October 18 - March 29.** Resurfacing is the third edition of the Art Everywhere project by Art Gallery Kazanlak. In an era marked by upheaval, *Resurfacing* becomes an urgent conversation about what we must leave behind us in order to move ahead. The exhibition reflects the conflicts, pain and injustices of our present. <https://www.artgallerykazanlak.com/en/exhibitions/resurfacing/>

↪ **The End of a Year. Munich 1923 / archive exhibition / curated by Anton Staykov and Svoboda Tsekova / Art Gallery - Kazanlak, Dechko Uzunov House Museum, 24 Knyaz Mirski Str. / October 14 - May 14.** Exhibition curators immerse themselves in the challenge of creating an installation that inhabits the borderland between an intimate exhibition and a library reading room. The narrative is concentrated in one of the rooms of the Dechko Uzunov House Museum; not just in a room, in fact, but in and around a single chest of drawers. That's where the exhibition begins: with the rescued, unknown, and previously unstudied drawing by Rayko Alexiev from 1923. Through text and images—photographs, archival documents, reproductions of paintings—visitors are enveloped in the atmosphere and context of that "crazy" year, when disaster for some became an opportunity for others. <https://tinyurl.com/ycyy2eww>

ART CAREER

↪ **Art criticism and eco-socially engaged practices: new writing, new challenges? / Call for papers / 58th Congress of the International Association of Art Critics / Submission deadline February 16.** Entitled "Art criticism and eco-socially engaged practices: new writing, new challenges?", this congress seeks to explore the social, cultural and political functions of contemporary art criticism in light of the evolving relationships between art, society, and politics since the 2000s. It is intended for researchers in the arts, art history, philosophy, the humanities and social sciences, as well as for artists, critics, curators, and all those in the contemporary art world who, over the past three decades, have been engaged in reflecting on the forms of engagement and the social responsibilities of criticism. <https://tinyurl.com/mv9e2se4>

↪ **Revisionist Turn in Post-Socialist Feminist Art History / Call for papers / Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw / Submission deadline March 1.** International workshop focused on Emerging Methodologies, Agendas, and Knowledges. The workshop aims to bring together feminist researchers working with these new agendas and methodologies, and those who are exploring forms of knowledge production beyond established paradigms. Full call for papers available here: <https://arthist.net/archive/51529>

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¬ news selection : Desislava Mileva

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¬ cover: Boyan Montero, "The Way to You", detail, in the solo show "Recycled innocence", Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str., Sofia, February 5 - 27.