



SOFIA

▫ **Personal reality / group exhibition / Sofia Arsenal – Museum of contemporary art, 2, Cherni Vrah Blvd. / November 2 – January 14.** As part of its annual program, RADLAB has invited six artists - Vanessa Lu, Vladislav Lepoev, Ivelin Penchev – Ivicha, Liliana Karadzova, Nikola Dyulgyarov, Usha, to explore the topic of personal reality. The exhibition presents six photographic series, hand-printed at the studio's facilities in Gabrovo, featuring 23 alternative photographic techniques. Each artist has come up with their own media and methods to underline the importance of the creative process. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/personal-reality/>

▫ **Maria Nalbantova / Paradise Marsh / solo exhibition / curated by Martina Yordanova / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / December 14 – February 11.** “The exhibition draws us into the territory of the marshland as an artistic metaphor, but also as an ecosystem where all its inhabitants are continuously connected. Maria Nalbantova was inspired by the artistic residency program at the Dragoman Marsh, with the WaterLands project, for which she had been selected in 2023. She explored the intertwined existence of the variety of biological species inhabiting this protected area and questions our established perception of the concept of wetlands, introducing us literally and figuratively to an unexpected and unfamiliar matter.” – Martina Yordanova. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/maria-nalbantova-paradise-marsh/>

▫ **Magda Abazova / Centenary of the Artist's Birth / retrospective exhibition / curated by Nadezhda Dzhakova, PhD / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / November 23 – March 10.** This exhibition recreates Magda Abazova's poeticized reality, where the artist is a lyrical character and creator; follows Magda's play of colour and style in all its manifoldness, but also describes distinct domains of genre and theme. Despite her prolific output, Magda Abazova held only a few solo exhibitions. By the 1980s, there had been only two, which explains why she was little known to the public apart from specialists and colleagues. Dimitar Grozdanov, founder of the Process Space Art Festival, an art historian and curator, defined her as the

youngsters' favourite, one of the first Bulgarian avant-garde artists. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/magda-abazova-1923-2011-centenary-of-the-artists-birth/>

↪ **Rada Yakova / *Pink cloud* / solo exhibition / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / October 24 – January 22.** The National Gallery once again stands for the cause of the Emprove Foundation. Rada Yakova presents 12 rounded objects of steel mesh in delicate shades of pink, which combine a sense of solidity with a soft airiness, corresponding to the feminine essence. The Foundation's concept recognises the power—visible and invisible—that generates wind in the sails, unites and safeguards. The installation also embodies support in society and the ability to back each other up in the turbulent storms of life. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/pink-cloud/>

↪ **Japanese Ukiyo-e woodblock prints in Bulgarian collections / group exhibition / curated by Zlatka Dimitrova / National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, 1, 19th February St. / October 18 – January 21.** Japanese ukiyo-e prints captured the urban culture of the Edo period (1603–1868), documenting Japan's opening to the world during the Meiji era (1868–1912) and paving their way to European markets. They influenced the development of art and culture in Europe, especially among the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. These engravings also aroused interest in Bulgaria where, in several museum collections, which began to take shape around the mid-20th century, some of the most popular themes were represented. In this exhibition, the main themes of Japanese engravings in all the collections in Bulgaria are on display together for the first time. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/japanese-ukiyo-e-woodblock-prints-in-bulgarian-collections/>

↪ **From the newspaper to the museum. Bulgarian Cartoons, 1944–1989 / archive exhibition / Museum of Art from the Socialist Period, 7, Luchezar Stanchev St. / November 2 – March 31.** The exhibition presents some 150 Bulgarian cartoons from the collection of the National Gallery and presents an attempt to reconstruct the cartoon genre under the conditions of the totalitarian system of management of the political, social, and cultural life in Bulgaria between 1944 and 1989. The represented artists include Iliya Beshkov, Alexander Zhendov, Boris Angelushev, Stoyan Venev, Boris Dimovski, Donyo Donev, Asen Grozev, Georgi Anastasov, Tsvetan Tsekov – Karandash, Georgi Chaushov, and Stefan Despodov. <https://nationalgallery.bg/exhibitions/from-the-newspaper-to-the-museum-bulgarian-cartoons-1944-1989/>

↪ **Stanka Tsonkova – Usha / Call me Usha / retrospective exhibition / curator Vera Mlechevska / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gurko Str / December 12 - February 11.** The exhibition presents the public for the first time with the complete work of Stanka Tsonkova - Usha and her various creative stages of the last 50 years. The artist starts with classic black-and-white photography in 1974 only to push all possible boundaries of the medium. Her creativity is a reflection of emotional flights and painful falls, wanderings, searching for herself and "staring at the faces behind which friends hide". <https://sqhg.bg/en/exhibitions/call-me-usha-a-retrospective-exhibition-by-stanka-tsonkova-usha/>

↪ **Yanaki Manasiev / Lonely and Standing Apart / retrospective exhibition / Sofia City Art Gallery, 1 Gen. Gurko st. / November 21 – February 11.** Yanaki Manasiev is among the most prominent Bulgarian artists of the second half of the 20th century, yet he remains relatively unknown to the wider public, especially the younger generation. Lonely and Standing Apart is the most comprehensive exhibition of Yanaki Manasiev's work. It commemorates the 90th anniversary of the artist's birth by an exhaustive overview of his oeuvre presenting both his most notable and less familiar artworks. The exhibition seeks to present all themes and narratives developed by the artist, as well as the diverse techniques he used in his creative process. Yanaki Manasiev was known among his contemporaries as a bold experimenter and innovator who introduced new themes and visual devices in 1960's and 1970's art, an era characterized by the effort to shed the dogma of socialist realism. <https://bit.ly/3sYH10p>

↪ **Vaska Emanouilova / Images of time / retrospective exhibition / Vaska Emanouilova Gallery, 15 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. / November 9 – February 11.** The focus of the exhibition is on the work of Vaska Emanouilova from the period immediately following the 1950s. During this time, she established herself as one of the most successful female sculptors in Bulgaria. For her creative work, this period was particularly fruitful. She was inspired by themes from the intimate and personal sphere, such as motherhood, the presence and role of women, and the dreamy world of children's fantasies. The exhibition includes iconic works by Vaska Emanouilova from this important and as-yet-critically-unexplored period in Bulgarian art, which define the artist's place in the history of Bulgarian visual art and characterize the artistic aspirations of her entire generation. <https://bit.ly/3T84ZRk>

↪ **Ninth International Triennial of Graphics - Sofia 2023 / series of exhibitions / UBA, 6 Shipka St. / December 5 - January 31.** The current ninth edition of the Triennial not only presents 200 authors from 26 countries, but also positions contemporary Bulgarian visual culture in an international context, places Sofia among the influential graphic centers, and contributes to the confirmation of new names and current directions in classical and experimental graphic forms. <https://bit.ly/48k7Nzv>

↪ **Ivan B. Ivanov / Passing / solo exhibition / UBA, Rayko Alexiev Hall, 125 "Rakovski" Str. / December 7 - January 12.** The current exhibition presents only part of the rich work of the author. In the recent years, Ivan B. Ivanov works in the field of abstraction, deploying his painterly power in large formats, bright colors and diverse structures; he achieves expressiveness, handling the geometric forms in the range of improvisation with a power characteristic of his style. The documentary part of the exhibition traces the artist's journey through the vicissitudes of time and space. <https://bit.ly/47UF3wG>

↪ **Valentina Sciarra / Organic formula / solo show / Structura Gallery, 9 Kuzman Shapkarev St. / November 23 – January 10.** The exhibition unfolds along two main lines: the creation of new organic formulas capable of explaining reality by using a creative approach towards knowledge and the exploration of symbolic sculptures, which introduce new symbols to express well-known concepts and phenomena that have already been part of our modern life for a while but lack a common symbolic representation that encapsulate their essence yet. Sciarra delves into the rich history of symbolism, drawing parallels between ancient philosophy, sacred geometry and contemporary artistic expressions and explores their role in understanding the harmony of the universe. <https://structura.gallery/en/exhibitions/valentina-sciarra-organic-formula/>

↪ **W(e) A(re) R(ebellious) / group exhibition / Structura Gallery, 9 Kuzman Shapkarev St. / January 23 – February 17.** The exhibition "W(e) A(re) R(ebellious)" presents 15 established and young Bulgarian artists with a "rebellious" artistic practice and selected works created in the 21st century. The works are displayed in an unusual multimedia interactive object, performing the function of a "portable museum of rebellious art", accompanied by 15 stop shots/photographs of video art and video documentation of performances. Project by Antoni Raizhekov with the participation of: Alla Georgieva, Anton Terziev, Boryana Rossa & ULTRAFUTURO, Venelin Shurelov, Veneta Androva, Dimitar Solakov, Ivan Mudov, Kalin Serapionov, Krasimira Butseva, Krasimir Terziev, Lachezar Boyadzhiev, Maria Nalbantova, Pravdolyub Ivanov, Stanislav Belovsky and Destructive Creation. <https://bit.ly/3TTSaKS>

↪ **Svilen Stefanov / solo exhibition / curated by Suzana Nikolova / ONE Gallery, 1 "Diakon Ignatij" Str / December 5 - January 10.** In the current exhibition, Svilen Stefanov shows paintings made in the last two years as well as a series of twelve drawings, thus creating a kind of topical synthesis of his themes and visual handwriting. In his approach, Stefanov places a text in the image, which does not have a literal meaning, but rather aims at a semantic break, implying mental confusion. The bright inscriptions are related to cinema, art history, music, literature, even politics, as there is a synthesis between word and image with an alternating dominant, and in this ironic production it is difficult to find a shortcut to an unambiguous reading. <https://fb.me/e/3oN2Mh8M8>

↯ **Valentina Traianova / Danser chanter aimer / solo show / Swimming Pool, 10 Tsar Osvoboditel Str. / December 12 – February 29.** Dance, sing and love – three words initially chosen by the artist Valentina Traianova in French (danser chanter aimer) after she wrote the poem “I am sinking” last summer, then at a residency at Emily Harvey Foundation in Venice. “Did I have to dive in and sink for an obvious answer to emerge on the surface of the sea – that I could do nothing but continue to dance, sing and love?” Thus, the title emerged from that encounter with the world, which is also a manifesto against the decadence of today’s world that increasingly limits our freedoms. “Danser Chanter Aimer” brings together never before exhibited drawings, sound sculptures, a video performance as well as the performance “Lust”, written especially for this exhibition. <https://bit.ly/3R9YpXW>

↯ **Ivo Bistrichki / Colossus / solo show / Credo Bonum Gallery, 2 Slavyanska str. / December 13 – January 18.** Ivo Bistrichki's exhibition is an expression of nostalgia for the size of former greatness. To the mythological times when gods and men roamed the earth together. In four large-scale paintings, the figure of the Colossus is disassembled and scattered. It is both fragmentary and titanic. As the ancient Greek historian Strabo wrote of the earthquake-destroyed Colossus of Rhodes, “The statue lies on the ground, brought down by the earthquake and broken at the knees”. But even, then the Colossus amazed with its size. Its fragments continue to lie scattered for more than eight centuries, reminding of the tragic finale of this eternal confrontation. <https://bit.ly/3TRe0yC>

↯ **Kaliya Kalacheva / Mixed reality / solo show / curated by Teodora Konstantinova / Little Bird Place Gallery, 7 "11th August" str. / December 15 – January 14.** “The current exhibition with abstract painting discusses precisely the problems of the hypertime in a state of “mixed reality”. Kaliya Kalacheva steps on this environment characteristic of our time and embarks on dynamic painting experiments with the aesthetic impact. Each painting is intersected by lines creating a sense of layered reality/s. As artificial intelligence enters art, the question of “how” is a work created emerges extensively – does it involve virtual, augmented reality, or is this mixed reality entirely the work of the artist’s imagination and hand? Kaliya Kalacheva’s abstract landscapes oscillate between the real and the imaginary, resemble something, but also nothing concrete.” – Teodora Konstantinova. <https://littlebirdplace.com/en/exhibition/smesena-realnost-izlozhba-na-kaliya-kalacheva/>

↯ **Svetlan Simov / ARTisNUDE / solo exhibition / Charta Gallery, 12 "Vrabcha" Str. / January 7 - 21.** ARTisNUDE is Svetlan Simov's first solo exhibition. It took him more than ten years to dare to expose his nude works to the public, as his attention to detail and dedication in the conceptual realization of his photographic projects are extremely precise. However, for him, photography is a team sport: "My job is light, perspective and composition, everything else is in the hands of the model." <https://bit.ly/3TODOva>

↯ **Ivaylo Avramov / Linked balance / solo show / Arosita Gallery, 12 B "Vrabcha" Str. / January 8 – 16.** “The work “Linked balance” seeks truth through a simulated permanently connected spatial system. It is static as a construction but dynamic as a material transformativity. Material inert qualities are evoked in this transformativity. It is a laboratory, interscalar process in the gallery space of gravitational dislocation of the inert material in kinetics hidden to the viewer's eye. Post-facto, walking through all levels of gallery space the viewer discovers the causal actions of this process spanning the levels of its cavity. The resource is the space itself and its possibilities. The whole space is involved to participate. It is a value that the work attempts to discover. The break between all the levels in the gallery's hollow body is used to develop the idea.” <https://bit.ly/47rTVIL>

↯ **Ara Güler / Istanbul / solo exhibition / Synthesis Gallery, 55 “Vasil Levski” Blvd / November 23 – January 25.** The exhibition shows the timeless allure of Istanbul through the works of internationally renowned photographer Ara Güler, whose black and white photographs have become synonymous with the city itself. Having written short stories during his youth and deeply inspired by cinema as an art form, Ara Güler captures Istanbul through the lens of a master storyteller. <https://photosynthesis.bg/statia/Istanbul-izlozhba-na-Ara-Guler.html>

↪ **POV Architects / Education Is the Movement from Darkness to Light / group exhibition / curated by Boris Tikvarski / Toplocentrala Gallery - Cube, 5 Emil Bersinski Str. / December 20 – February 15.** The exhibition presents the project of the Bulgarian pavilion from the 18th edition of the Venice Architecture Biennale held in 2023. In the last 30 years, the population of Bulgaria has been decreasing rapidly. Due to depopulation, fewer and fewer children attend classes. Dozens of schools close their doors every year. Some of the buildings have been renovated and converted into residences or hotels. Most of them remain empty. The exhibition explores a different future, in the context of small town decline and rural flight. Presenting the work of photographer Alexander Dumarey, the pavilion provides a platform for debates and possible scenarios for the future. <https://bit.ly/3RQlkGS>

ART TALKS SOFIA

↪ **Rembrandt Fest / series of events / Theater Hall, Sofia University, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Bld. / January 9, 12.30 pm – 7.00 pm.** Rembrandt Fest is part of the project "In the mirror of Rembrandt", which started with the exhibition of the same name in the Gallery "UniArt" of the New Bulgarian University (until February 15). A series of conferences and meetings with Bulgarian and international specialists, critics and curators are planned within the fest. The event can also be followed online, through the Zoom platform. <https://culturecenter-su.org/rembrandt-fest/>

VARNA

↪ **25 years Var/t/na club and friends / group exhibition / Varna City Art Gallery, 1 "Lyuben Karavelov" St / December 8 – January 31.** The exhibition is dedicated to the famous art group founded by Vladimir Ivanov, Veselin Dimov and Tsvetan Krastev - one of the pioneers of new artistic forms in Bulgarian art. It presents works by the members and friends of the "Var/t/na" club, conceived above all as a place for discussions about contemporary art and culture. The first to join the club after it was founded in the studio of Veselin Dimov in 1996 were the Varna artists Angel Angelov and Branimir Antonov. After them came Yavor Tsanev, Rosen Radoev, Ivan Rusev, Stefka Georgieva, Petar Kostadinov and others. Over time, the association began to actively participate in the artistic life of the maritime capital and the country with exhibitions. <https://bit.ly/4aNDnY3>

↪ **Annual exhibition / Art Museum "Georgi Velchev", 8 Radko Dimitriev St. / December 14 - February 24.** The exposition presents works from 14 established authors from Varna in the fields of painting and sculpture. All the authors are connected to the art museum - they had solo exhibitions or their works were part of group exhibitions, and in fact they are the core of the artistic circle around the museum. With painting, Boryana Simeonova, Boyan Boev, Boyan Yanev, Veselin Nachev, Dean Darakchiev, Dimo Milanov, Ivan Minchev, Maria Zafirkova, Maria Chakarova, Sasho Anastasov, Stefan Kulev, Tsvetan Krastev participated. Venelin Ivanov and Hristo Hristov present themselves with sculptural works. <https://bit.ly/48O4UXP>

VELIKO TARNOVO

↪ **Iliana Peneva / The man who took the aquarium / solo show / Heerz Tooya Gallery, 18 Ivan Vazov Str. / January 20 – February 11.** "A flux of unexpected events unfolds itself before me. An aquarium missing, divested of its public presence. The steady flow of the focused process bursts into a multiverse of hypothesis. Entanglement of life interfering and an act of creation. Who is the catalyst? He's an 80-year-old concept of the

streets, having his own overt interventions. Apart from playing music and selling books, he widens perception of existential surrounding processes. What a man, what a life, what an artistic act to involuntarily involve yourself in connected creative experience. A not so invisible anymore string links every moment in the happening timeframe. An investigation of extant participation.” – Iliana Peneva <https://heerztooya.com/exhibitions/the-man-who-took-the-aquarium>

KAZANLAK

↪ ***Sleep / group exhibition / Art Gallery, central building, 9 Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii Str. and many other locations / October 21 - March 31.*** The "Dream" project is an initiative in which past and present meet through a series of thematic exhibitions and installations deployed in multiple spaces, the majority of which are external to the Art Gallery - Kazanlak - private properties, other museums, and cultural institutions. "There are manifestations in our existence, peculiar divine whims, without which the survival of our biological body is impossible. Among them is sleep - the most mysterious thing we do and takes up a third of our life. But without it, everything in us would be subject to suffering, would destroy us. And that's why no more than 265 hours of sleeplessness are needed. The topic of sleep is inextricably linked to dreaming. Over the past 150 years, figures like Sigmund Freud, Carl Gustav Jung, Felix de Mendelssohn have devoted decades of their scientific pursuits to trying to understand dreaming - its connections with life beyond sleep, the mechanisms of birth, its relationship to dying." <https://www.artgallerykazanlak.com/exhibitions/sanyat/>

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