

SARIEV Contemporary to be first Bulgarian gallery at Art Cologne

Exclusively for SARIEV Contemporary's participation in the 50th anniversary edition of the fair the famous Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov will present an artwork from 1987 which has never been exhibited before

Contemporary art from Bulgaria may still sound exotic for the art market and rare to see at international art fairs, but a gallery from Plovdiv (country's second largest city) has been trying to change this and to make Bulgarian contemporary art more visible for the last five years. SARIEV Contemporary has participated in various art fairs such as Art International, Art Brussels and Shanghai Contemporary. It is always the first and only Bulgarian exhibitor, which is a lonely, but also a very inspiring mission. Last year SARIEV Contemporary organized Focus Bulgaria at Vienna Contemporary which was the first large-scale presentation of Bulgarian contemporary art at an international fair.

In 2016 it is time for a new challenge - the oldest modern and contemporary art fair Art Cologne. The gallery is included in the New Contemporaries section and will present artworks by its artists **Pravdoliub Ivanov, Stefan Nikolaev, Nedko Solakov and Valio Tchenkov.**

Exclusively for the fair SARIEV Contemporary will exhibit a work by Nedko Solakov from 1987 which has never been shown before, nor reproduced and published. Since the end of the 80s Nedko Solakov has become one of the most famous and established contemporary artists in Europe. And now the audience at Art Cologne will have the unique opportunity to see a work from his early period which despite the time is still relevant and up-to-date with its political satire. Furthermore, Solakov will show a series of new drawings and the artwork 'The Water Pyramid' from 2008.

Bulgarian artist **Pravdoliub Ivanov** will be presented with drawings, paintings and diverse artworks from his famous series 'What You See Is Not What You Get'. His artworks are full of irony and humor, but at the same time they reflect his political and moral views and critique against the political system.

Stefan Nikolaev's work 'I Hate America and America Hates Me' will be exhibited to the first time in Germany and the fact that it will be at Art Cologne is not a coincidence – **it refers to German artist Joseph Beuys and to the very roots of the oldest art fair for contemporary and modern art.** The artwork is a clear reference to Beuys' legendary piece created for the opening of René Block's gallery in New York. But in Nikolaev's work the coyote has undergone a transformation which can be seen as a comment to the change of values, art and pop culture in the last decades.

Valio Tchenkov is a masterful painter who captures in his work insignificant movements in the world around him creating on this was a specific tension and suspense in the viewer. His paintings are dark, funny, ironic, diverse and sublime. He is already known to the professional audience in Germany where he has lived for the past 20 years.

Art Cologne
14 – 17 April
Cologne, Germany
www.artcologne.com