

SARIEV CONTEMPORARY

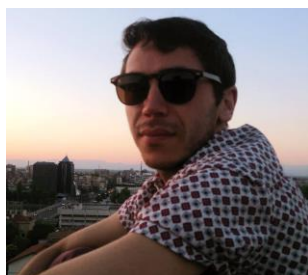
BACKGROUND: Young Artists from Plovdiv

group show

Mitch Brezounek, Valko Chobanov, Velizar Dimchev, Dimitar Genchev, Yavor Kostadinov, Lyubomir Krastev, Dimitar Shopov, Trifon Tashev, Martina Vacheva

5 July – 30 August 2019

Artists' biographies



Mitch Brezounek was born in France in 1989 and is based in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. In 2015 he graduated the National Academy of Art in Brittany – Lorient, France. He uses various techniques in the working process such as ceramic, drawing, painting, video installation, animation. From 2013 - 2014 he was working as a gallerist assistant in Gallery contemporary photography "Le Lieu" in Lorient. He is member of the art collective Ouest Fisting from Lorient (2013-2016). The collective is part of the underground graphic culture with fanzine, silkscreen print, DYE, video and other media. The collective has been invited to participate in graphic art festivals such as Crack festival, Rome, Italy, 2013, 2014; International Fanzine Festival, Istanbul, Turkey, 2014; Hip-hip Zine Fair, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2015; Vendetta, Marseille, France, 2016. In 2014 Ouest Fisting won first prize for best fanzine in "Itineraire Graphique", Lorient, France with jury Bernhard Willem Holtrop and Muzo.

In recent years, Mitch Brezounek is working in various techniques such as ceramic, drawing, painting, video installation, animation. In 2016, Point Blank gallery presented his solo show "We love Russia". In 2017 Aether Art Space, Sofia, presented his second solo show "Incubus" with curator Voin de Voin. In 2018 Gallery L'Union, Plovdiv, presented his solo show "Venus Ritual". He was part of the group show "Shock und Schrecken", 2018, in Goethe-Institut Bulgarien, Sofia, curated by Stefka Tsaneva. In 2019 he was part of the group show "Art Start" at Credo Bonum gallery, curated by Vessela Nozharova and Stefka Tsaneva. In 2019 Artnewscafe, Plovdiv, presented his solo show "Life in Plastic", organized in partnership with gallery Sariev Contemporary.



Sofia Underground.

Valko Chobanov was born in 1991 in Plovdiv. He graduated in Scenography at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv and Digital Arts at the National Academy of Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria. He works in the media of painting, video art and performance. In 2017 he had his first solo exhibition "Inorganic / Organic" at Coffee&Gallery Cu29, Plovdiv, with the support of the Gaudenz B. Ruf Award. He has participated in various group exhibitions and projects in Bulgaria, some of which are "My dear provincialist" in 2017 in Swimming Pool, Sofia, "Places of Pleasure" part of the "Multipolis" project organized by The Fridge, Sofia City Art Gallery, Sofia in 2017 and others.

His video art works are shown in the Bad Video Art Festival, Moscow, 2018 and in "Niglo", 2017 as well as #VERYSHORTFILMFEST @ Vine, 2013.

His original performances such as "Pizza slut" are part of the DA Fest, 2015 and EXAF art gallery, while "I have a pale cultural dissonance, yeah like whatever fuck it and feelings and stuff", 2017 and "LOL", 2018 were part of the program of the performance art festival



Velizar Dimchev was born in 1983 in Plovdiv. In 2007 he graduated from the National Art Academy in Sofia, MA Degree in Painting in the class of Professor Andrei Daniel. Over the years, Velizar has been active in various areas of contemporary art such as painting, installation, objects, photography, and more. In 2016 he founded Coffee&Gallery Cu29, a space for culture and art in Kapana, Plovdiv.



Dimitar Genchev (born 1985 in Bulgaria) lives and works in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. He studied at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia, Utrecht School of the Arts (HKU) and was a resident at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. His works have been exhibited at Sofia City Art Gallery, Kaskadenkondensator, Liste Art fair, Basel, and Gerhard Hofland gallery, Amsterdam, among many other spaces. In 2016, Genchev's works were selected by curator Noor Mertens for the "Prospects & Concepts" section of Art Rotterdam.



Yavor Kostadinov was born in 1993 in Plovdiv, where he currently lives and works. In 2018 he graduated in MA in Painting at the National Academy of Arts, Sofia, in the studio of Prof. Ivaylo Mirchev. In 2015 he studied at Accademia di belle arti di Brera, Milan, Italy. He had three solo exhibitions – "Some fears", Vaska Emanouilova Gallery – branch of Sofia City Art Gallery, Sofia (2019); "Sickened but curious", Geshov Gallery, Sofia (2018) and "Temporeal", Serdika Gallery, Sofia (2018).

Some group exhibitions in which he participated were: "Beyond the Surface" – National Autumn Exhibitions in Plovdiv (2018); "Schock und Schrecken", Goethe-Institut Bulgarien, Sofia (2018); "The Conflict of Reality Part II - the youngest in Bulgarian painting and sculpture", gallery "Rayko Alexiev", Sofia (2018); Exhibition of graduates from the National Art Academy at the Bulgarian Cultural Institute – Haus Wittgenstein, Vienna, Austria (2016); Exhibition "Ancora nuovi segni" – students from the course of Professor Omar

Galiani, Spazio Espositivo Antonello da Messina, Lenjano, Italy (2015).

He has received awards for young artist from national exhibitions – Gabrovo (2017), Sliven (2018), Montana (2018) and an award for painting from the Allianz Bulgaria competition in 2018; a nomination for the "Sirak Skitnik" Art Prize and an award for painting "Dimitar Dobrovich" Art Gallery, Sliven (2018); Award "Anastas Staykov" as a graduate from the National Art School "Tsanko Lavrenov" (2012).

His works are part of the collections of "Hristo Tsokev" Art Gallery, Gabrovo; "Dimitar Dobrovich" Art Gallery, Sliven; "Kiril Petrov" Art Gallery, Montana; Corporate Collection of Allianz Bulgaria, Sofia.



Lyubomir Krastev was born in 1983 in Ruse, lives and works in Plovdiv. In 2008 she graduated in Graphics at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv. Some of his solo exhibitions include "The Industrial Temple", NIGHT / Plovdiv (2016); "Forcing Up the Choice", National Autumn Exhibitions in Plovdiv (2013), Art Alley Gallery, Sofia (2011); Autograph Gallery, Plovdiv (2008) and others. Among his participations in group exhibitions, competitions and curatorial projects can be mentioned: "Generation between Enthusiasm and Destruction", curatorial project by Albena Mihaylova-Benji, presented by AM Contemporary as special guest of LISTE, Art Fair Basel (2019); "Tractatus Locus - Space in Contemporary Art", curatorial project by Christina Schrei at the Bulgarian Cultural Institute – Haus Wittgenstein, Vienna, Austria (2017); "New Acquisitions 2010 - 2011", Sofia City Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (2012); The Fifth Beijing International Art Biennale. Fusion - International Contemporary Intaglio Print Inviation Exhibition, China

(2012). In 2016 Krastev is a Beneficiary of the Gaudenz B. Ruf Award Support Programme. In 2010 and 2015, he is a visiting artist in the resident program of International Artist Village, Guangzhou, China; in 2012 he received a prize for the National Allianz Competition, Plovdiv; in 2009 was awarded at the National Competition for Young Artists, Critics and Curators, Sofia, Bulgaria.



Dimitar Shopov was born in 1980 in Kurdzhaly, Bulgaria. He graduated in Stage design in 2007 at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. His solo shows include: "People, Years, Life", Sariev Contemporary (2017), as well as three solo shows in L'union de Paris Gallery, Plovdiv (2013, 2014, 2015). Selected group shows are: "Immersion - Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv", curated by Vera Mlechevska, Bulgarian Embassy in Helsinki, Finland (2018); "10 years Open Arts: HERE EVERYWHERE", curated by Vladiya Mihaylova (2017); "My Dear Provincialist", curated by Victoria Draganova, Swimming Pool, Sofia (2017); "Let Them Draw", SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv (2016); "Collection of 77 self-portraits by Bulgarian artists", National Art Gallery, Sofia (2015); "All I Can Do is Art", Prague (2013); "Gavazov and His Time", Sofia Contemporary Art - "Near, Closer, Together", Sofia, curator Ovul Durmusoglu, (2013); "Shortlist 2011", exhibitions of the nominated artists for the Gaudenz B. Ruf Award, Rayko Aleksiev, Sofia (2011). Part of his projects are "Auction of avant-garde Bulgarian

Art", "Gavazov and his school" performances by Vera Mlechevska and Dimitar Shopov, part of the Night of Museums and Galleries, Plovdiv (2014), "Gavazov" performances, part of the Festival "Otets Paisiy Street - Text", Plovdiv (2012), "Our Business", part of Night of museums and galleries, Nebet tepe, Plovdiv (2011), "At the Djumaya", project of Night of Museums and Galleries, Plovdiv (2010). Over the past 10 years, he has been researching the life and work of the artist Gavazov and searching for artifacts related to him. In 2012 he also released his book-album dedicated to the artist, with which he won the literary prize "South Spring". Residences include: RU, New York, 2016; KulturKontakt Austria, 2013, Specialization in Cite international des Arts, Paris, 2007. Dimitar Shopov is the 2017 BAZA / Young Visual Artists Awards winner - a prize attributed by the Sofia City Art Gallery and Institute of Contemporary Art – Sofia.



Trifon Tashev was born in Kurdzhaly, graduated in Ethnology at Plovdiv University, lives and works in Plovdiv. He has participated in many exhibitions and festivals, some of which include: "Onomatopoeia", "Analogue Presence", "Art Positive", Sofia Underground, "My Dear Provincialist" and others.



Martina Vacheva was born 1988 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. She lives and works in Plovdiv and Brittany, West France. Martina graduated from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia, majoring in Illustration and Book and Print Graphics, in 2012 she specialized in the illustrator's class of Georg Barber (ATAK) at the Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle, Germany.

In 2016, SARIEV Contemporary with the curator Vera Mlechevska presented her first solo show "Sereality" as part of the gallery's BACKGROUND: Young Artists 2016 exhibition. After the success of the show her works have been exhibited in many curatorial exhibitions and projects such as: "Lifestyles and Still Life" curated by Vera Mlechevska, Lubomirov/Angus-Hughes, London, (2016); Exhibition of nominees for the BAZA Award for contemporary art, Sofia City Art Gallery (2017); "The Image is no Longer Available" curated by Vesela Nozharova, Credo Bonum Gallery, Sofia (2017); "My Dear Provincialist" curated by Victoria Draganova, Swimming Pool, Sofia (2017); "Let Them Draw II (Drawing and Withdrawing)" group show - drawings, curated by Pravdoliub Ivanov at SARIEV Contemporary (2017); "Art start: Young artists to Follow in 2017" curated by Vessela Nozharova, Stefka Tsaneva, Daniela Radeva, Credo Bonum Gallery, Sofia (2017); "Baywatch" curated by Nathalie Hoyos and Rainald Schumacher, KVOST, Berlin (2018); "Dias de Romance" curated by Carmen Ferreyra, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2018); "Schock und Schrecken" curated by Stefka Tsaneva, Goethe-Institut Bulgarien, Sofia (2018), "Listen to Us – Artistic Intelligence (exhibition of Deutsche Telekom – Art Collection Telekom)" curated by Nathalie Hoyos and Rainald Schumacher, Plovdiv (2019) and others.

In 2019 Martina Vacheva will participate in Art Brussels (25-28 April 2019), where she will be presented by Sariev

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Contemporary. As well as that, in the summer of 2019 she will participate at the 33rd Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts (7 June - 29 September 2019), curated by Slavs and Tatars, and will have her first museum exhibition in Museum Folkwang in Essen, Germany within the exhibition format "6 1/2 Weeks" (11 July - 25 August 2019).

Martina Vacheva is the 2017 BAZA / Young Visual Artists Awards winner - a prize attributed by the Sofia City Art Gallery and Institute of Contemporary Art – Sofia. She was awarded with two-month participation in Residency Unlimited, NY.

Martina Vacheva has works at Art Collection Telekom, Metropolitan museum library collection, New York and Gaudenz B. Ruf collection, Zurich, Vienna.

Martina Vacheva is represented by Sariev Contemporary since 2018.