

STEFAN NIKOLAEV

Born in 1970 in Sofia
Lives and works in Paris & Sofia
Founder of Glassbox in 1997

Education

1989 – 1994

Ecole Supérieure Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Paris, France

1992

Winchester School of Art, Winchester University, UK

Solo Exhibitions

2026

The Price of Love, Sarieva/Gallery @ DOT Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria
The Innocent Eye, Michel Rein, Paris

2025

Works at the White House, 51A Washington Street, Michel Rein, Brussels

2023

HOME, Sarieva @ DOT Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria
Still Life Series and Marbles, Michel Rein Display, Michel Rein, Paris, France

2022

Here You Come Again, Emergent, Veurne, Belgium
Still Life, Michel Rein, Paris, France

2021

Minouk, Le poisson peintre, 1994/2003 video installation, Galerie Vellutini, France

2020

I dream I work I dream work, Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium

2019

Be Yourself No Matter What They Say, SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2018

Rien ne va plus, Michel Rein, Paris, France
Sculpture Project, Art Brussels, Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium

2017

I Walk a Labyrinth Which is a Straight Line, SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2016

Bronze, sweat and tears, Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium

2015

Business, Model, Sculpture, SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2013

If Things Are Not As You Wish, Wish Them As They Are, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France
Half-Life, SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2010

Holy Spirit Rain Down, Les Eglises Centre d'Art Contemporain, Chelles, France
Stefan Nikolaev, I hate America and America hates me, Galerie Traversee, Munchen, Germany

2009

NEW WORKS OLD DREAMS, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France

2007

Prestige, ARC Projects, Sofia, Bulgaria
Minouk Le Poisson Peintre, (1994–2005), The Crouch(klek)-art Basement Project, Sofia, Bulgaria

2006

Powerful Tips, Centre de Creation Contemporaine, Tours, France
Sickkiss, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France
More, Galerie Traversee, Munich, Germany

2005

Bad Lux, Zoo Galerie, Nantes, France
Come to where the Flavour is, CCA, Glasgow, Scotland

2004

My Room, Centre de Creation Contemporaine, Tours, France (C)
Balkanton, Galerie ATA (cur. Hou Hanru), Sofia, Bulgaria (C)

2003

Frontalunterricht, (with Robert Stadler) Espace Paul Ricard Paris, France
One for the Money Two for the Show, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France

2002

Perfect Day, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Under Reconstruction, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France
Ket muvesz – ket kurator / Two artists – two curators, Budapest, VIII. Brody Sandor u. 15. fszt. 6. Hungary

2001

A Studio Remix Bravo Party, Gallery by night, Budapest, Hungary

2000

VTO Gallery, London, UK
Zwemmer Art, London, UK

1998

Next Stop, Kunstmuseum Thun, Thun, Switzerland

1997

Musee des Cartes. Inauguration du nouveau Musee français de la carte a jouer, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France

1994

Running with the King, Winchester Art Gallery, Winchester, UK

1990

Phone your friend, Galerie Artemide, Paris, France

(C) catalogue published

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025

Memories of the Future, ICA Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (curator Iara Boubnova)
<https://ica-sofia.org/en/ica-gallery/exhibitions/item/578:parallax-memories-of-the-future>

2024

Liens au choix, Institut français de Bulgarie, Sofia, Bulgaria
Music to the Eyes, Sarieva Gallery, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
<https://sarieva.org/shows/music-to-the-eyes#info>
Winter Showroom 2024–2025 @ DOT Sofia, Sarieva Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria
<https://sarieva.org/shows/sarieva-gallery-winter-showroom-dot-sofia#info>

2023

A Decade in Brussels, group show, Michel Rein, Brussels
<https://michelrein.com/expositions/presentation/362/a-decade-in-brussels>
Faites vos jeux !, Les Franciscaines, Deauville, France (curator Sébastien Gokalp)
<https://en.indeauville.fr/exposition-faites-vos-jeux>
10 years Emergent, Veurne, Belgium (curators Hilde Borgermans & Frank Maes)
<https://www.emergent.be/nl/Artistiek/Tentoonstelling/Id/452/10-jaar-Emergent>
What goes up must come down, Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium
<https://michelrein.com/expositions/presentation/320/what-goes-up-must-come-down>

2022

Self-splaining (a Triumph of Empathy), Manifesta 14, Pristina (curator Luchezar Boyadjiev)
<https://manifesta14.org/event/artistic-intervention-ica-sofia-2/>
L'ami-e modèle, Mucem, Marseille
<https://www.mucem.org/programme/exposition-et-temps-forts/lamie-modele>
Archi e Lumi, Stella Rouskova Gallery, Genova
The Hanging Show, ICA Gallery, Sofia
<https://ica-sofia.org/en/ica-gallery/exhibitions/item/509-the-hanging-show>
Sparks of Imagination: on the Frequencies of Beuys, National Gallery, Sofia (curator Vera Mlechevska)
<https://nationalgallery.bg/bg/exhibitions>

2021

UNDER DECONSTRUCTION, Sarieva @ DOT, Sofia (curator Vesselina Sarieva)
<https://gallery.sarieva.org/under-deconstruction/>
In Defence of Solid Material, Sarieva, Plovdiv (curator Vesselina Sarieva)
<https://gallery.sarieva.org/in-defence-of-solid-material/>

2020

Glass, Gas and Electricity, Sariev Gallery, Plovdiv, Bulgaria (curator Vesselina Sarieva)
<https://sariev-gallery.com/exhibitions/glass-gas-and-electricity.html#info>
Souvenirs from the Future, ICA–Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (curators committee)
<https://ica-sofia.org/en/ica-gallery/exhibitions/item/488-souvenirs-from-the-future>
25 Years ICA–Sofia, The National Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (curators committee)
<https://ica-sofia.org/en/projects/25-years-ica-sofia>
#sarievselfisolation (online project), Sariev Gallery, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
<https://sariev-gallery.com/viewing-room/sarievselfisolation.html>
Openning K11 MUSEA, Victoria Dockside, Hong Kong
Oh les beaux jours (Happy Days), Michel Rein, Paris, France
<https://michelrein.com/expositions/presentation/265/oh-les-beaux-jours-happy-days>
Toutes les lignes droites sont courbes (cur. Yolande De Bondtridder), Villa Carpentier, Ronse–Renaix, Belgique
https://irenelaubgallery.com/news_exhibitions/toutes-les-lignes-droites-sont-courbes/

2019

Open Art Files: Notes and footnotes, Kapana gallery, Plovdiv, organized and initiated by Open Arts Foundation (curator Vera Mlechevska) [c]

Smoke. Tobacco stories, SKLAD, Plovdiv
Pas de printemps pour Marnie, GDM Paris

2018

Art Bureau, Structura
On a clear day you can see forever, Goethe-Institut Bulgaria, Sofia
FIAC Projects, Sculptures and installations in situ during FIAC week, Paris
Sculpture Now, Credo Bonum Gallery, Sofia (curator Vessela Nozharova)
Present, Musée & Jardins Van Buuren, Uccle, Belgium (curator Michel Van Dyck)

2017

Palais Potemkine: A selection of artists who have been nominees or winners of the Prix Fondation d'entreprise, National Gallery / the Palace, Sofia, Bulgaria.
A Show without a title but in the holiday spirit, ICA Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria
Toyphilia and toy phobia, ICA Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

2016

Transformation, Cobo House, Hong-Kong

2015

Project Focus Bulgaria at viennacontemporary (project by Open Arts Foundation)
Variofocus – ARTISTS, curated by Iara Boubnova and Vessela Nozharova, group exhibition for Focus Bulgaria at viennacontemporary 2015, organized by Open Arts Foundation and Sariev Contemporary
Remember Me, Galerie Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium
SUMMERTIME LOVE 2, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France
LUX, Shanghai Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (curated by Michel Nuridsany)
GROUP SHOW, Sariev Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2014

LUX, Le Fresnoy, STudio National des Arts Contemporains, Tourcoing, France (curator Michel Nuridsany)
Know Thyself, Institut of Contemporary Art – Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria (curator Iara Boubnova)
Mais avant de mourir, j'aimerais savoir qui vous êtes, Cortex Athletico, Bordeaux, France
Beyond the Grid, Galerie Michel Rein, Brussels

2013

Dress up, ICA-Sofia Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria
Si l'art de la parure m'était conté, Chateau du Rivau, France
Walk on te Wild Side, GDM, Paris, France
Talkie Walkie, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris

2012

Suddenly Last Years, GDM Tokyo, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
A Possible History, Sofia Art Gallery, Bulgaria
Un Bel Été, Un cabinet d'amateur, Olivier Boissier LTD, Sofia, Bulgaria
Why Duchamp ?, Sofia Arsenal Museum, Bulgaria (curator Maria Vassileva)
Winter-Show, Un Cabinet d Amateur, Sofia, Bulgaria
Magnet et Antimagnet, ICA-Sofia Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

2011

N Minutes Video Art Festival, Shanghai, China (curator Li Ningchun)
Festival AP ART 2011, Alpilles-Provence Art, France
Multiples & Co, Centre d'art contemporain La Villa du Parc, Annemasse, France
Liberté/Vabadus, Château d'Asnières, France (curator Kaia Kiik)
Accrochage, Galerie Traversée, Munich, Germany
After the Flight, Institute of Contemporary Art Sofia, Bulgaria (curator Iara Boubnova)
Berlin-Paris, Galerie Florent Tosin, Berlin, Germany

2010

Beyond Credit, Contemporary Art and Mutual Trust, Istanbul, Turkey (curators Maria Vassileva, Iara Boubnova, Luchezar

Boyadjiev)

Breaking Walls – Building Networks, Macedonia Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece (curator Iara Boubnova)
Museum Souvenirs, Institute of Contemporary Art Sofia, Bulgaria

2009

Periodic table, Traversee, Munchen, Germany (curator Katalin Timar)
From Ideology to Economy. Contemporary Bulgarian Art – 20 years later, The State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, Moscow (curator Iara Boubnova)
Technics, ICA–Sofia Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (curator Iara Boubnova & Maria Vassileva)
Rideaux sur Loire, Candes Saint Martin et Montsoreau, France

2008

Le mois de l'image: L'Image fabriquée, Musée des Beaux-arts Ho Chi Minh Ville, Vietnam (curators Philippe Piguet, Nguyen Xuan Khanh et Bertrand Peret) (C)
WATCH YOUR STEP!, Sofia University St. Clement of Ohrid, Institute of Contemporary Art, Sofia, Bulgaria (curator Iara Boubnova)
Transfert, Lyon Septembre de la Photographie, BF15, Lyon, France
MoleculART, Gallery Raiko Alexiev, Sofia, Bulgaria (curator Boris Kostadinov)

2007

Promenade au Zoo, Biennale de Lyon 2007, France (curators Valerie Chatrain & Saadane Afif) (C)
Du machinique et du vivant, La Reserve, Pacy-sur-Eure, France (curator Régis Durant) (C)
Roomers, Galerie Traversee, Munchen, Germany
52 Biennale di Venezia, Bulgarian Pavilion, Italy (C)
Selest Art, 17e biennale d'art contemporain, Selest, France (curator Philippe Piguet)
Sublimes objets / sublime objects / objecte sublime, Collections sans frontieres VI, Muzeul National de Arta Contemporanea, Bucarest, Romania (curator Mihnea Mircan) (C)

2006

Important announcement, Sofia Art Gallery, Bulgaria (curators Maria Vassileva, Daniela Radeva)
Verstehst du das? Neue-Medien-Kunst aus Sudosteuropa, Ausstellungshalle Zeitgenössische Kunst Munster, Germany
Videotheque mobile, special programmation of Le Plateau, espace Landowski, Boulogne, France
Transat video, Eglise du Vieux Saint-Sauveur, Caen, France
Same Same but Different, Tina b., festival of contemporary art, Prague, Czech Republic (curator Pascal Beausse)
Sol System, la Passerelle, Brest Institut Français de Barcelone, Barcelona, Spain (curators Patrice Joly, Jean Max Colard)

2005

Joy, Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg (curators Iara Boubnova & Enrico Lunghi) (C)
Coalesce: the remix, Redux, London, UK (curator Paul O'Neill)
Parker's International Art Market, Brooklyn, New York, USA
Donumenta, Regensburg, Germany
Statement, opening exhibition, Galerie Traversee, Munchen, Germany
Ca ne se représentera plus, Ecole des Beaux-arts de Rennes, France (C)
FIAC 05, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris

2004

Prosismic, Espace Paul Ricard, Paris, France (curator Evelyne Jouanno)
Self-Portrait Part 2, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France
Playlist, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (curator Nicolas Bourriaud) (C)
Tonight, Studio Voltaire, London, UK (curator Paul O'Neill)
Shifting time / space, Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zurich, Switzerland

2003

Transit, Chur, Switzerland
Smoking / no smoking, Kunsthall, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (curator Benno Tempel)

2002

Double Bind, Irida gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (C)
4th Cetinje Biennial, Cetinje, Montenegro (curator Iara Boubnova)

20/20 The show, Deptford X, London, UK
Jacques Damase collector, Passage de Retz, Paris, France
Gwangju Biennale 2002, Gwangju, South Korea
Domino party, Attitudes, Geneva, Switzerland
Arte Bologna, Bologna, Italy / VTO Gallery London, UK

2001

Double Vie, Galerie Clark, Montreal, Canada
A timely place, or, getting back to somewhere, London Print Gallery, London, UK (curator Paul O'Neill)

2000

Kunst 2000 Zurich, Switzerland, Kunstraum Walcheturm Zurich, Switzerland
Oktoberfest, VTO Gallery, London, UK
La nuit americaine, Rapperswil, Switzerland
High Fidelity, White Box, Downtown Arts Festival, New York, USA (curator Julien Fronsacq)
A Shot in The Head, Lisson Gallery, London, UK
Psycho Park, Erban, Nantes, France

1999

Nous nous sommes tant aimés, Ensba, Paris, France (C)
Videothèque auf zeit, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen, Germany
ZAC 99, ARC Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France (C)
Cote Ouest - Global Motion, University Art Museum, Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, USA
Heartbreak Hotel, Thun, Switzerland
Clin d'oeil, Gallery Fotohof, Salzburg, Austria
Glassbau, Soirées Nomades, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France

1998

Multiples, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin, Ireland (C)
Les folies du quotidien, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany
Videothèque auf zeit, kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany
Videothèque auf zeit, Medienhaus für Kunst & Kultur, Hanover, Germany
In vitro e altro, Cabinet des Estampes, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, Switzerland
Andere sichten, In Vitro, Kunsthaus Zurich, Concept Field, Switzerland
Ascension, Glassbox, Paris, France
Messagers du XXI^{ème} siècle, exposition itinérante, Chronopost, France

1997

Ne me quitte pas, Glassbox, Paris, France

1996

Video flash, Gallery Hohenthal und Bergen, Cologne, Germany
Caravan 96, Taegu Art & Culture Hall, Taegu, South Korea (C)
The Richard Demarco European Art Foundation, Edinburgh, Scotland

1994

Pause, Duck Won Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea (C)

(C) catalogue published

Art Fairs

2023

Art Brussels, group show, Michel Rein Gallery

2018

FIAC, group show, Michel Rein Gallery

2016

Art Cologne, group show, SARIEV Gallery

2015

Artinternational Istanbul, group show, SARIEV Gallery

2014

Viennafair, group show, SARIEV Gallery

Artinternational Istanbul, group show, SARIEV Gallery

2013

Viennafair, group show, SARIEV Gallery

2005

Art Cologne 2005, group show, Galerie Michel Rein

2004

FIAC04, group show, Galerie Michel Rein

2002

FIAC02, group show, Galerie Michel Rein

Liste 2002, group show, VTO Gallery

2001

Liste 2001, group show, VTO Gallery

Arco 2001, group show, VTO Gallery

1999

Liste 99, group show, Glassbox & Feeld

Award

2002

UNESCO Prize for the Art, 4th Cetinje Biennial, Cetinie, Montenegro

Festivals & Special Screenings

The Screensaver / The hard-disk / The disk, Transat video, Lux Cinema, Caen, France

Collections

Actiforces collection, Tours, France

Centre de Création Contemporaine Olivier Debré – CCCOD, Tours, France

Château du Rivau, Réméré, France

DOT Sofia Art collection, Sofia, Bulgaria

Gensollen Collection, Marseilles, France

Florence & Daniel Guerlain, Paris, France

Musée français de la carte à jouer, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France

Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, The Netherlands

Alexandre Ricard, Paris, France

Dilyana and Spass Roussev, London, UK

Sergues/Wilkinson collection, Brussels, Belgium

Sofia City Art Gallery, Bulgaria

Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul