

Sarieva / Gallery – Winter Showroom 2024–2025 @ DOT Sofia

artists: Denitsa Todorova, Dimitar Genchev, Stefan Nikolaev

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Dimitar Genchev (b.1985 in Bulgaria) lives and works in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. He received his education from the National Academy of Art, Sofia, HKU University of the Arts in Utrecht, and studied at Rijksakademie, Amsterdam and Ecole des Arts Decoratifs de Strasbourg. His works have been presented in solo and group exhibitions at De Domijnen Museum of Contemporary Art, Sittard; Credo Bonum, Sofia; Morsbroich Museum, Leverkusen; Royal Palace, Amsterdam; Cloud Seven, Brussels; Sofia City Art Gallery, etc. Genchev has received various awards and scholarships: Mondriaan Fund foundation, the Buning Brongers Award in the Netherlands, the National Competition of Allianz Bulgaria, the Painting Award from Young Bulgarian artists and the Gaudenz B. Ruf Award.

Texture, light, matter, figure and colour are the fundamental elements of Dimitar Genchev's painting. He creates his simultaneously hyperreal, imaginary and abstract world of images and fragments.

Denitsa Todorova, born in 1984 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, currently lives and works in Antwerp, Belgium. She holds a Master's in Painting from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp and a Bachelor's in Stage Design from New Bulgarian University in Sofia. Her work has been exhibited at venues such as STRABAG Kunstforum and Art Foundation in Vienna, Design Museum Brussels, De Garage Mechelen, Art Biennale Kunst&Zwalm, Cultural Center Ronse, and Museum M Leuven. Denitsa has received the STRABAG Art Award International (2017) and the Drawing Prize Ronse (2014, 2015), and has been nominated for honors including the FID Drawing Prize in Paris (2017) and the Art Contest in Brussels (2016). Her monograph "Phosphenes (Seeing Stars)" features texts by Philippe Van Cauteren, Pieter Vermeulen, Eric Min, and poems by Peter Verhelst.

In Denitsa work the elemental power is generated from the interaction between the fragile and thin paper, the ethereal pigment and the sharp instruments used for the removal of the dark surface. The breach and removal are reminiscent of sgraffito – a technique for creating monumental murals in public spaces widely known in Eastern Europe during the middle of the last century.

Stefan Nikolaev (born 1970, Sofia, Bulgaria) is an artist based in Paris and Sofia. He began his studies at the Fine Arts High School in Sofia (1983–1988), before continuing at the Paris School of Fine Arts (1989–1994) and the Winchester School of Art (1992).

His work has been exhibited in major international venues, including the 52nd Venice Biennale (Venice), 7th Biennale de Lyon (Lyon), 4th Cetinje Biennale (Cetinje), 4th Gwangju Biennale (Gwangju), K11 MUSEA (Hong Kong), Victoria Dosckside (Hong Kong), National Gallery (Sofia), University Art Museum (Santa Barbara), Shanghai Minsheng Art Museum (Shanghai), Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (Berlin), Kunsthhaus Zurich, Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Sofia Arsenal – Museum for Contemporary Art (Sofia), Zwemmer Art (London), Antrepo 4 (Istanbul), National Museum of Contemporary Art (Athens), Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain (Paris), State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia (Moscow), Neues Museum Wesserburg (Bremen), Casino Luxembourg (Luxembourg), and many others.

Nikolaev's works are included in public collections such as K11 MUSEA, Hong Kong; Sofia City Art Gallery, Bulgaria; Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar; Centre de Création Contemporaine Olivier Debré (CCCOD), Tours, France; and Musée français de la carte à jouer, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France.

Nikolaev's art explores the transformations and crossovers between everyday objects and their reimagined forms. His works delve into the complex relationships between life and death, time and space, consumerism and basic human needs. This narrative has evolved over more than two decades on the international art scene. — Iara Boubnova