

**SARIEV**  
CONTEMPORARY

**ART BRUSSELS**

25 - 27 April 2015  
24 April - Preview & Vernissage

**Booth 3C - 45**

**artists presented**  
**Pravdoliub Ivanov**  
**Nedko Solakov**  
**Valio Tchenkov**

[www.sariev-gallery.com](http://www.sariev-gallery.com)  
[www.artbrussels.com](http://www.artbrussels.com)

At Art Brussels 2015, Sariev Contemporary seeks to present a selection of works by three of its artists: Pravdoliub Ivanov, Nedko Solakov and Valio Tchenkov.

Two of them, Pravdoliub Ivanov and Valio Tchenkov, will be relatively new for the Belgian art scene. The third one, Nedko Solakov, has recently had his retrospective exhibition "All in Order, with Exceptions" shown at S.M.A.K. (2012).

The gallery's concept for Art Brussels 2015 examines the role of narrative, literary fiction, mystique and storytelling in the visual arts. The selected works feature surreptitious humor, ridiculing trite folklore, cultural studies and art criticism clichés, while assuming self-irony as artistic position.



**Pravidoliub Ivanov** was born in 1964 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. He graduated from National Academy of Fine Arts, Sofia in 1993 where he presently is a Chief Assistant – Professor. He lives and works in Sofia, Bulgaria and is a founder member of the Institute of Contemporary Art – Sofia. Pravidoliub Ivanov has held solo exhibitions in private galleries in Sofia, Plovdiv, Warsaw, Vienna and institutions in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland and New York. He has participated in big international shows such as: 2015: Heaven and Hell, From magic carpets to drones. Villa Empain, Brussels, (Curators: D. Hennebert and C. Dosogne) End Fragment; 2014: Future Past – Past Future, within the framework of the Transmediale, Berlin; 2013: The Unanswered Question, TANAS and Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin; 2012: In Crisis – Terra Mediterranea, The Nicosia Municipal Art Centre, Nicosia; Sport in Art, MOCAK, Krakow, Poland; Beautiful game, City Art Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia; 2011: Within / Beyond Borders – The Collection of the European Investment Bank at the Byzantine & Christian Museum, Athens, Greece; Zwischenlager / Entrepot, Krinzinger Gallery, Vienna; An Elusive Object of Art, Dana Charkasi Gallery, Vienna; Vidéo et après Suspended Spaces #1, Screening at Cinema 1, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; 2010: “Suspended spaces - depuis Famagusta”, Amiens, France; 2009: “Who Killed the Painting?”, works from the Block Collection, Neues Museum Weserburg Bremen, Germany 2007: A Place You Have Never Been Before, 52 nd Venice Biennial, Bulgarian Pavilion; 2006: Of Mice and Men, 4th Berlin Biennial. 2005: Sous les ponts, le long de la rivière-2, Luxembourg. 2004: On Reason and Emotion, 14th Sydney Biennial. 2003: In the Gorges of the Balkans, Fridericianum Museum, Kassel, Germany; Blut & Honig, Zukunft ist am Balkan, Essl Collection, Vienna, Austria. 2000: Manifesta 3, Borderline Syndrome, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Pravidoliub's works have been reproduced in magazines such as Frieze, Flash Art, Kunstforum, Artforum etc., as well as in publications such as East Art Map. Sariev Contemporary represents Pravidoliub Ivanov since 2011 and has presented his work at ViennaFair; Istanbul Contemporary; ArtInternational Istanbul; Shanghai Contemporary; Roma Contemporary.

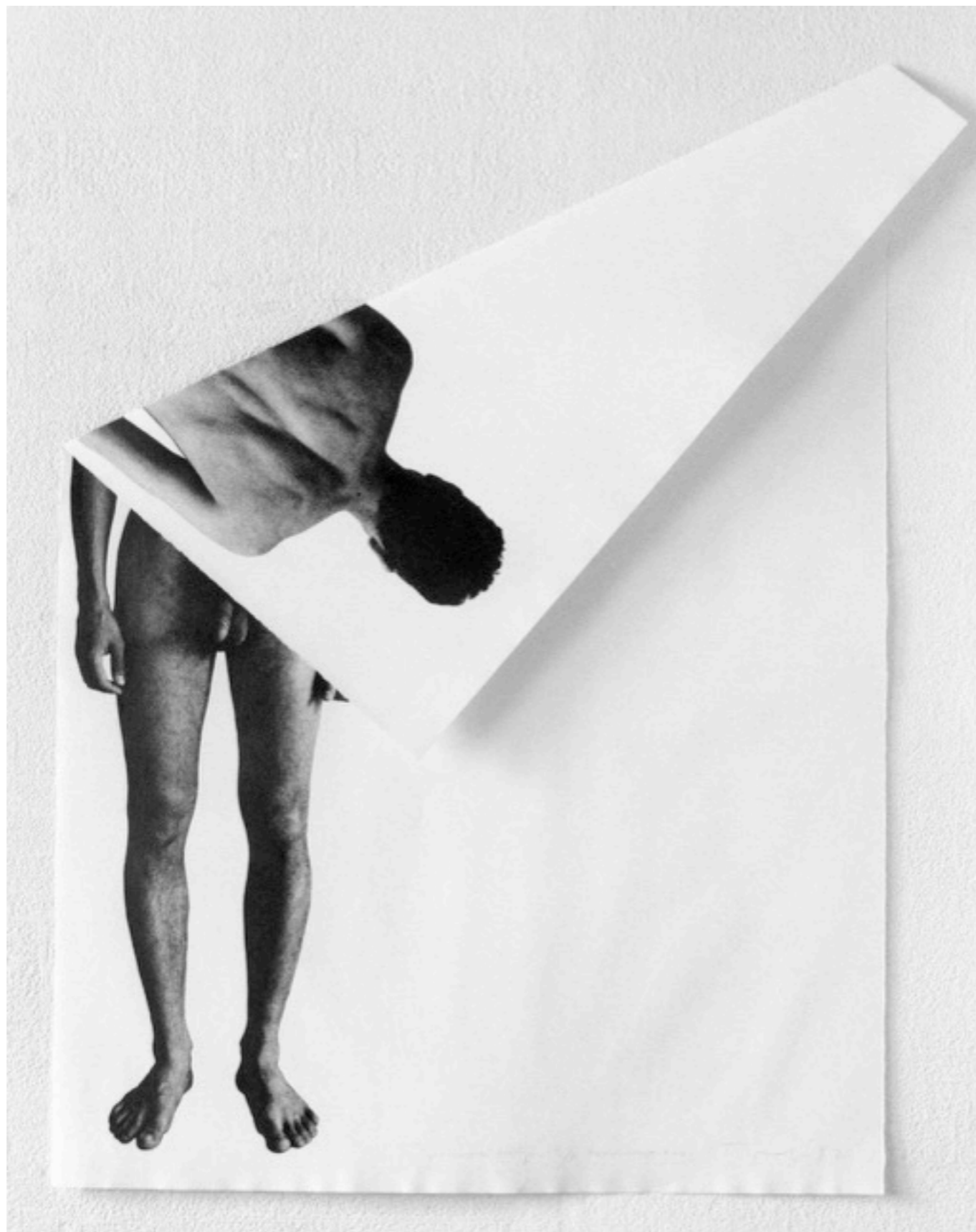
*“The works of Pravidoliub Ivanov revolve around moments of spatiality where norms are disrupted and trompe l’oeil effects introduced into an everyday visual vocabulary. Mingling public and private moments makes the artist transfer matters of privacy into the realm of the gallery or art space, thereby including specific architectural tropes. Ivanov plays with moments of irritation, where he uses ironic gestures taken from banal environmental situations to purport a heightened awareness for daily encounters, which often remain unnoticed. The juxtaposition of unusual objects and materials forms the basis for Ivanov’s installations, which mostly produce uncanny moments for the viewers.” (Walter Seidl)*



Pravdoliub Ivanov  
Endarkenment, 2007-2015  
Laser cut aluminium plate  
powder-coated in black  
mounted on wall  
265 x 238 cm  
Edition Number: 1/3+2 AP

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WORKS AT THE FAIR



Pravdoliub Ivanov  
Bent Figure, 1997  
Photo-lithography on paper  
Edition Number: 3/3  
120 x 85 cm (size framed)



*detail*

Pravdoliub Ivanov  
Mystic Truths, 2013  
Object, intervention, pencil,  
dimensions variable  
Edition Number: 2/3+2AP



Pravidoliub Ivanov  
No Name, 2004  
multiple, silicon, cement  
13 x 17 x 30 cm  
Edition Number: 2/5



From the beginning of the 90's **Nedko Solakov** (b. 1957, Tcherven Briag, lives in Sofia) has exhibited extensively around the world. His works was featured in Aperto'93 (Venice Biennial); the 48th, 49th, 50th and 52nd Venice Biennial; the 3rd , 4th and 9th Istanbul Biennial; São Paulo'94; Manifesta 1, Rotterdam; the 2nd and 4th Gwangju Biennial; the 5th Lyon Biennial, Sonsbeek 9, Arnhem; the 4th and 5th Cetinje Biennial; the 1st Lodz Biennial; the 7th Sharjah Biennial, United Arab Emirates; the 3rd Tirana Biennial; the 2nd Seville Biennial; the 2nd Moscow Biennial; documenta 12; the 16th Sydney Biennial; Prospect 1, New Orleans Biennial; Singapore Biennial 2011 and dOCUMENTA (13). Recent solo show locations include Museu do Chiado, Lisbon; Stichting De Appel, Amsterdam; CCA Kitakyushu, Japan; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona; Kunsthaus Zurich; Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli; Sofia Art Gallery and Galleria Borghese, Rome. In 2003-2005, an extensive mid-career "A 12 1/3 (and even more) Year Survey" was presented at Casino Luxembourg, Rooseum Malmoe and O.K Centrum Linz, and in 2008-2009 his solo project "Emotions" was exhibited at Kunstmuseum Bonn, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, and Institut Mathildenhoehe, Darmstadt. In 2011-2012, his retrospective "All in Order, with Exceptions" was presented at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; Fondazione Galleria Civica Trento ("All in (My) Order, with Exceptions"); S.M.A.K., Ghent and Fundação de Serralves, Porto. Sariev Contemporary represents Solakov since 2014 and has presented his work at ViennaFair and ArtInternational Istanbul.





Nedko Solakov

The Humble Snowflake, 1996 -

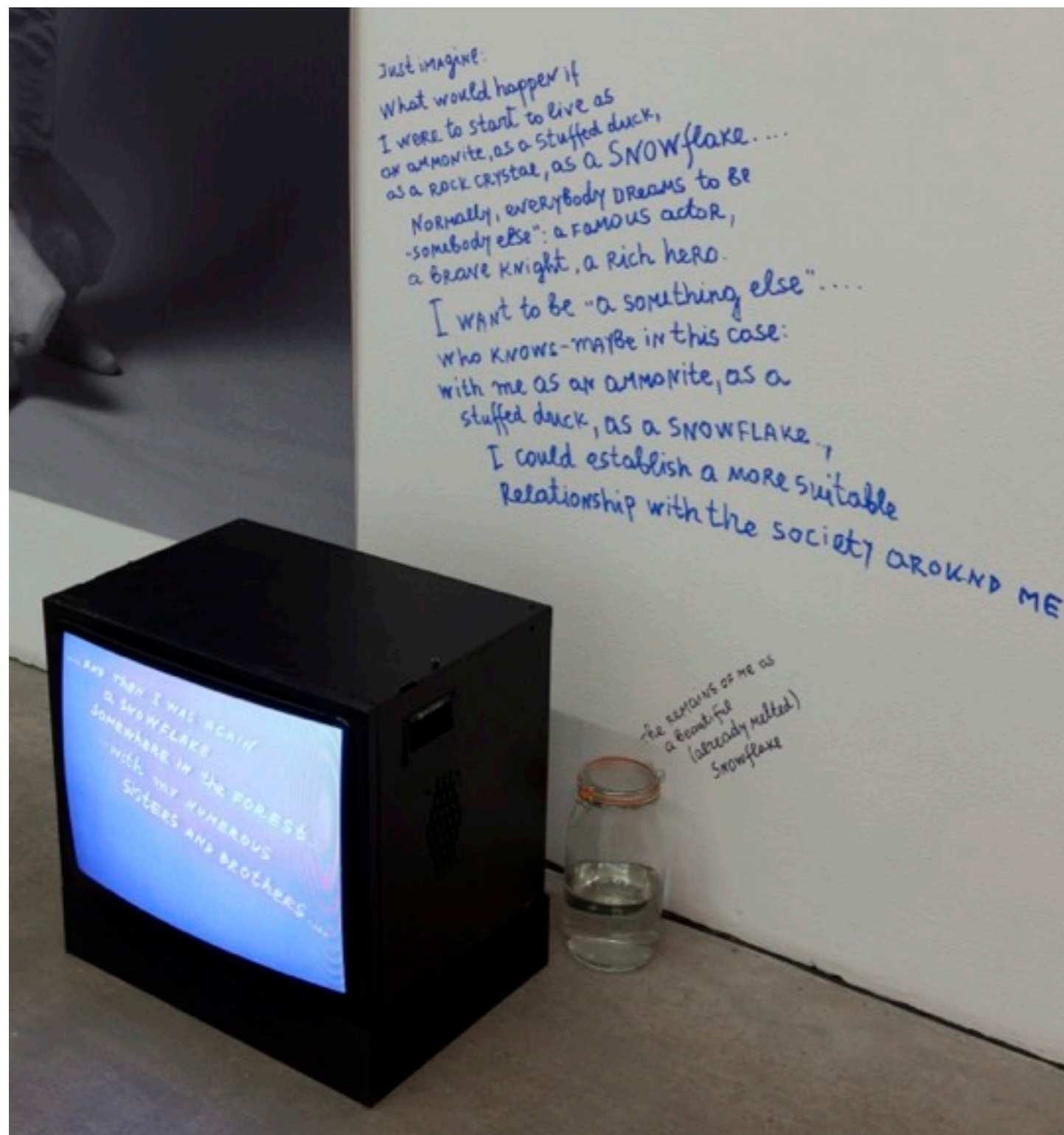
Edition of 5+1AP

*Consists of:*

- *Black and white photograph on variable supports, 220 x 120 cm*
- *Video, color, silent, 7:42 min., looped*
- *A jar with the snowflake's remains*
- *Wall texts (vinyl lettering based on artist's original handwriting or handwritten specially for the collector on chosen site)*

From "This is me, too...", 1996-2005

Collection De Vleeshal, Middleburg, on a long-term loan to M HKA Antwerp



Nedko Solakov  
*The Humble Snowflake, details*

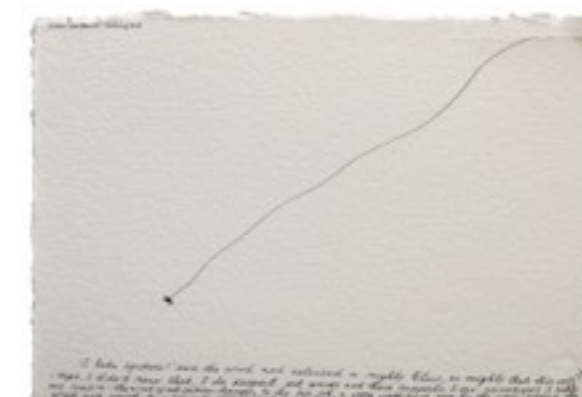
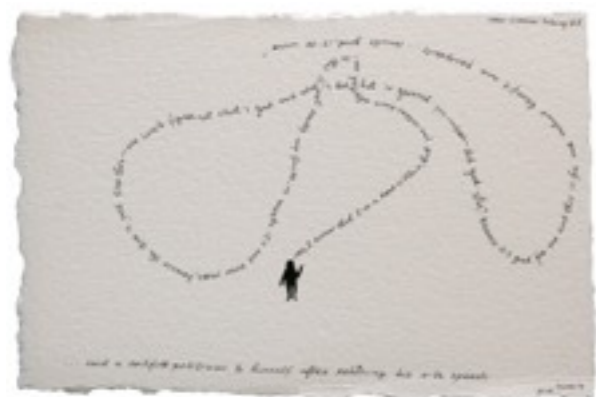


Nedko Solakov

Seven Little Pleasures for Seven Boring Days, 1991–1993

7 novels by Agatha Christie opened on the page where  
Hercule Poirot reveals the name of the murderer, 7 chairs  
To be produced on site with local chairs and Agatha  
Christie's books

Edition number related to the particular language, 2 per  
language



Nedko Solakov  
Villains' Talking, 2014  
Sepia, black and white ink,  
and wash on paper  
series of eight drawings  
19 x 28 cm each

FROM "VILLAINS' TALKING" # 1



"And then I, instead of raping her and killing her after the fuck (or during the fuck), let her free. And do you know what happened? She keeps writing me very nice letters, using nice words and—as you can read—this'd changed my way of talking. I used only three times the word fuck (this one included) which speaks for itself." said the oed pirate. COMAR 19 21.12.

FROM "VILLAINS" TALKING #2



"And then I decided to pay my taxes," said a middle-aged mafioso to the hooker who was doing something down there, around his BELLY. She got a bit stressed and asked for HER MONEY BEFORE COMPLETING THE JOB.

COARIC'19  
21.12

FROM "VILLAINS' TALKING" #3

"I'm the PRINCE of DARKNESS and I have a bit UNUSUAL request. May I have a flashlight for emergency situations?" asked the PRINCE of DARKNESS the DARKNESS herself. The DARKNESS had at least 236 PRINCES of DARKNESS regularly distributed throughout her in order not to see, better say FEEL, each other. So, the ANSWER WAS "NO, YOU MAY NOT!"

COARX'14  
21.12.





FROM "VILLAINS' TALKING" #5.

... just like this - one can't figure out what's good and what's bad, but in general you-voters-have elected me, but I know that I'm a Real Villain, but  
... because the time is just like this - one can't figure out what's good and what's bad, but in general you-voters-have elected me, but I know that I'm a Real Villain, but  
... sounds good, it'll work ...  
... because it's good for me and this is for  
... did good. Why? Because it's good for me and this is for



... said a skillful politician to himself after rehearsing his n-th speech.

FROM "VILLAINS' TALKING" #6



"I'm actually (and originally) a very good and positive deed, but I discovered one day, some years ago, that this goodness was rather boring and depressing, so I turned bad and dirty, which - logically speaking - is a progressive act in its nature, sort of a positive, self-improving deed," said a deed, who got conscience stricken, temporarily.

24.12. COXAK'14

FROM "VILLAINS' TALKING" #7



"It's a bit too kitschy for my taste, but I'll fight them anyway!" said the evil  
of all evils (master-villain by default) and checked its sense of self-irony  
FOR KITSCH, IN GENERAL, MAY SPOIL THAT ONE.

CONAK'14

24.12

FROM "Villains' Talking" #8



"I hate spiders!" said the wind and released a mighty blow, so mighty that this very sheet of paper got fucked  
"ops, I didn't mean that, I do respect art works and their supports. Even sometimes I help  
my cousin - the wind-of-art-fashion-changes, to do his job, a very well-paid one, by the way." added the  
wind and moved to a tornado area to give some hand there too.

2011



**Valio Tchenkov** was born 1966 in Svishtov, Bulgaria. He lives and works in Munich, Germany and Oresh, Bulgaria. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia and the Akademie der Bildenden Kuenste, Munich. Recent solo exhibitions include: "Kuschelecke, raue Decke", Galerie Nagel-Draxler, Projektraum Reiseagentur Diko, Köln, "...in a trice and for a while...", "A Sunny Day: Sandpaper on One's Back" at Sariev Contemporary, Plovdiv. Recent group exhibitions include „Air Hunters“ with Vincent Mitzev, Galerie Royal, Munich, "Saisonbedingt" (with S. Balkenhol, K. Daxenberger, G. Förg, H. Heindl, M. Kippenberger), Galerie Royal, Munich, "Why Duchamp", From Object to Museum and Back (125 Years) Curator Maria Vassileva, Museum for Contemporary Art, Sofia, Bulgaria, „Biennale for One“, curator Dr.Cornelia Osswald-Hoffmann, Munich. Other group shows include: "Poesie Summer Watou", Belgium, curated by Jan Hoet, "Sweet Case Eluminated", MAC/VAL Museum Paris, curated by Katia Angelova (a.o.); and "Conviction", Dafen Art Museum, China, curated by Wenie Wong (a.o.). Sariev Contemporary represents Tchenkov since 2012 and has presented his work at ViennaFair, Istanbul Contemporary and ArtBrussels.

*Of his own work Valio Tchenkov says: "My approach is a reaction to the rigorous structuring of the society I work in and reflect upon. The German sense of structure is relentless and I often find it drives me to destructive gestures. I normally start off constructively, aiming at a specific outcome, but then a moment comes (the most interesting moment!) when I lose control and "the cart veers off the road". I have no interest whatsoever in that which is being kept under control, but before you reach that moment of surrendering control, there is a lot to be done, you must prepare rigorously. Catastrophes can sometimes be very productive. I often think of the discoveries of America, champagne, penicillin, aspirin... All of them mishaps that have led to progress. I just try keeping my eyes wide open so I don't miss the right moment.", Valio Tchenkov*

*"Valio Tchenkov is technically very skilled, which is crucial to the survival of painting in times when it has been declared dead. He is mixes in substantial doses of skepticism and reflection, without making a claim to genius.", Annegret Erhard, Weltkunst magazine, 2013*



Valio Tchenkov  
No story, 2009  
oil painting  
145 x 100 cm



Valio Tchenkov  
Take it easy, 2010  
oil painting  
100 x 120 cm



Valio Tchenkov  
The Driveller, 2014  
oil on canvas  
150 x 110 cm





Valio Tchenkov  
Lazy, 2012  
oil on canvas  
90 x 110 cm

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WORKS AT THE FAIR



Valio Tchenkov  
THE BOSS, 2011  
oil painting  
105 x 90 cm



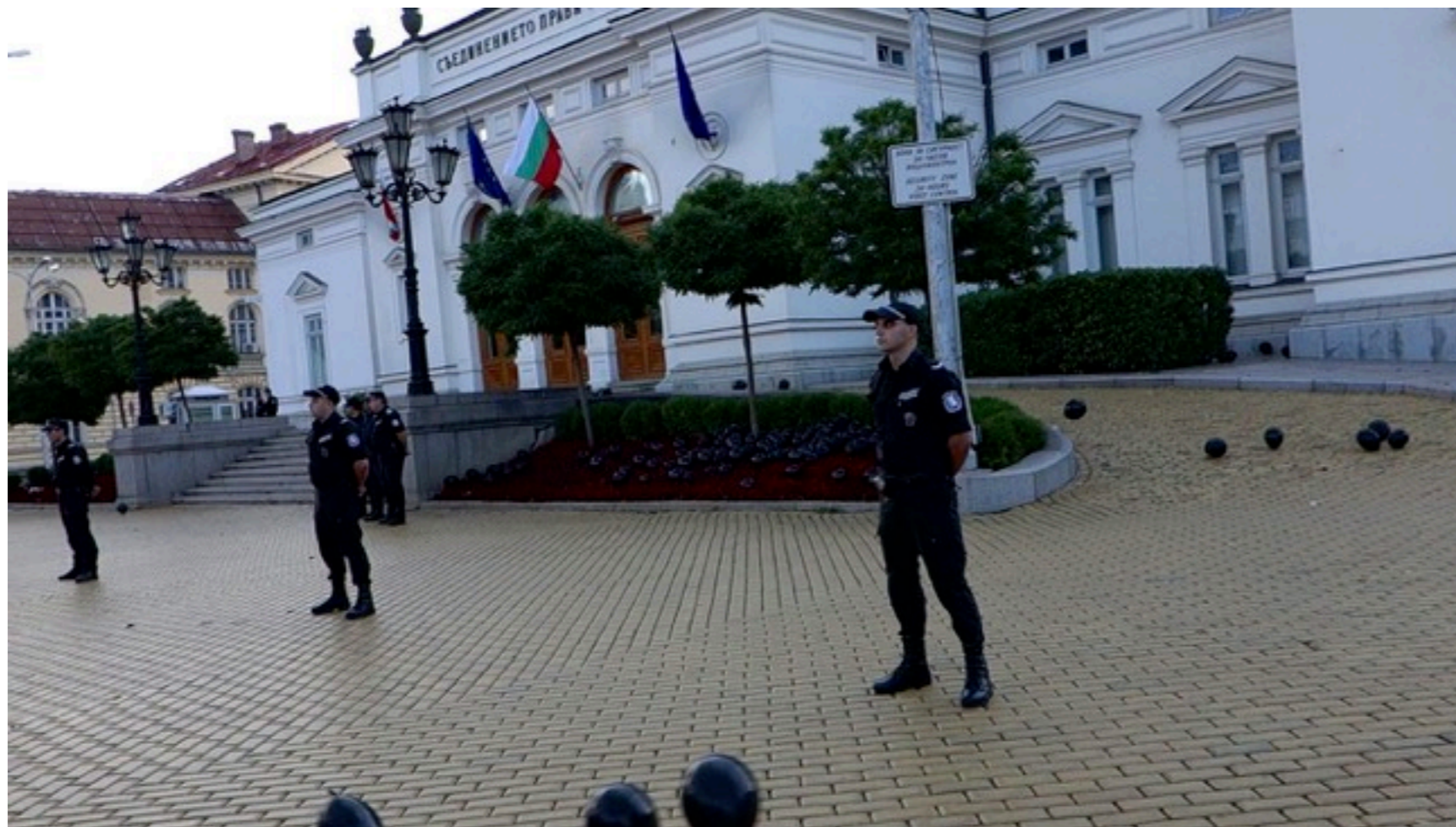
Valio Tchenkov  
Firefighter staring at the ceiling  
2006  
oil painting  
70 x 65cm



Valio Tchenkov  
Ich will auch urlaub haben  
oil on canvas  
50 x 70 cm



Valio Tchenkov  
The Greedy One, 2014  
oil on canvas  
90 x 75 cm



Pravdoliub Ivanov  
 Black Balloons, 2013  
 HD video, sound, 1'10"  
 Edition Number: 2/5+2 AP  
[YouTube.Watch](#)

The work is based on short footage filmed during one of the daily peaceful, antigovernment demonstrations in the summer of 2013 in Sofia. On that particular day, one of the protestors brought hundreds of black balloons and distributed them among the people. They blew them up and later, marching by the building of the Parliament, which was heavily fenced off and blocked by the police forces, they began throwing their balloons into the guarded area. The speed of the movie is slowed down and this mainly affects the recorded sound, since the policemen were motionless. No additional effects were added to the sound, which appears almost as eerie as the display of state power.

Sandra Naumann, text from the catalogue, 2014

*The work was shown as follows:*

2013 *What you See*, solo show, Sariev Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Curator Daniela Radeva

2013 *Unexpected Encounters*, group show Camera Austria, co-produced by Steirischer Herbst, Graz, Austria

2014 *Future Past – Past Future*, group show, An on-site exhibition within the framework of the Transmediale festival 2014, Berlin and online exhibition on the

2014 *ArtUP! Platform*, Curator: Sandra Naumann

2014 *Chamber of Uncertainty*, solo show, Krinzinger Parterre Gallery, Vienna

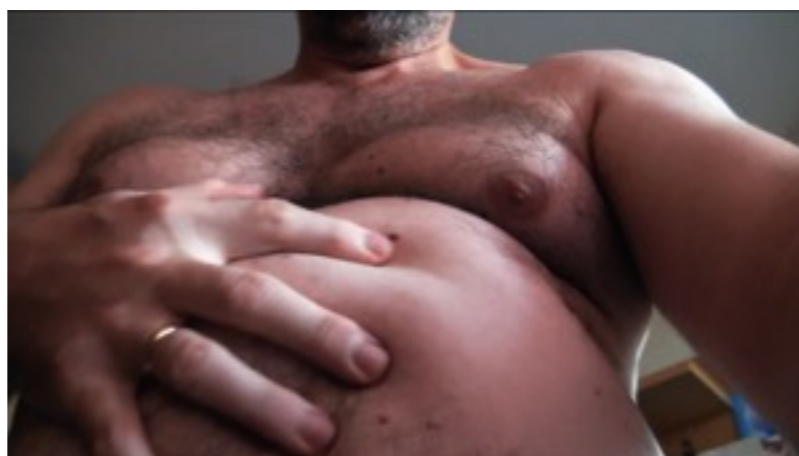
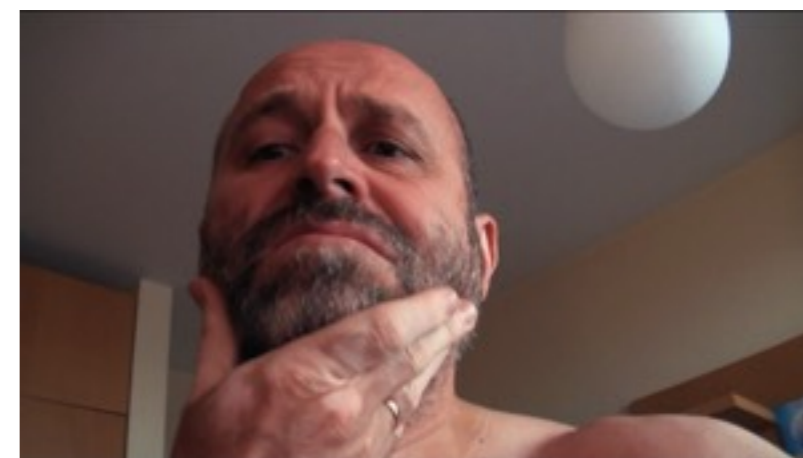
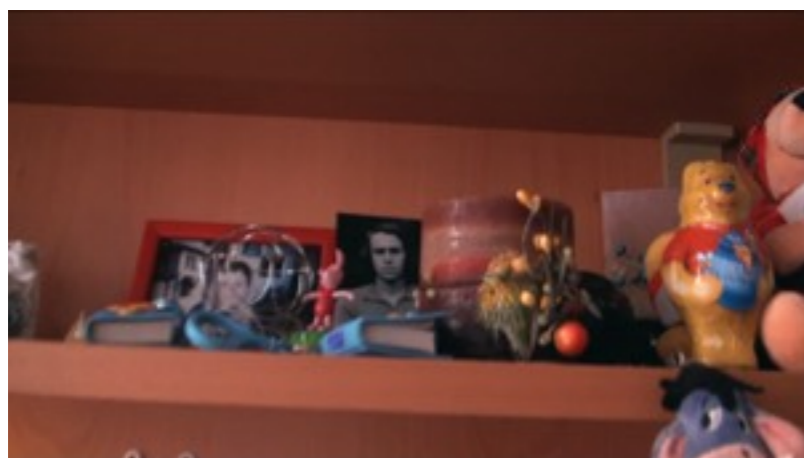
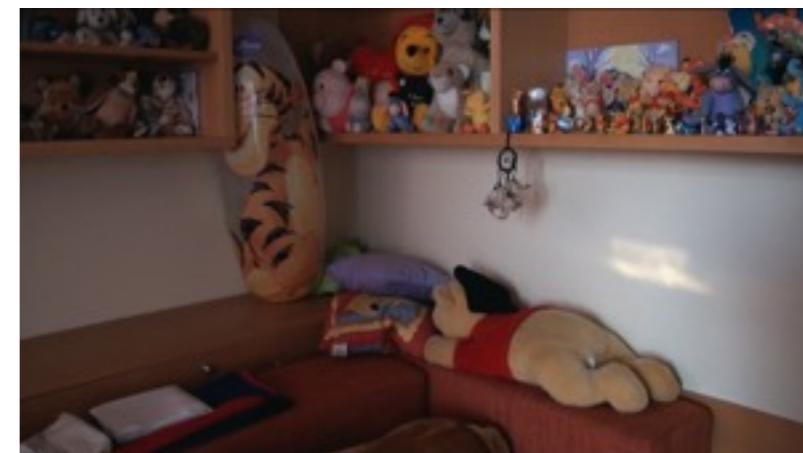
2014 *Just Another Boring Day*, solo show, Gallery Le Guern, Warsaw

2014 *AN EPIDEMIC OF AMNESIA*, Videos on Stage Program, Curator Başak Şenova, ArtInternational Istanbul

2015 *Art for Change 1985-2015*, curated by Maria Vassileva, group show, Sofia City Art Gallery

Nostalgia

Looking at a photo from the socialist times of me as an 18-year-old Sofia Art Academy student (which my 24-year-old daughter keeps among her enormous Winnie the Pooh collection) and realizing that the 52-year-old, relatively successful international artist looks different because of the benefits of capitalistic society.



*The work was shown as follows:*  
*"I Miss Socialism, Maybe..." solo exhibition, Galleria Continua Beijing, 2010*  
*"All in Order, with Exceptions" retrospective, Ikon Gallery Birmingham, 2011*

Nedko Solakov  
Nostalgia, 2010  
HD video, color, sound, 1:22 min., looped  
Edition 2/5+1AP



Sariev Gallery was founded by Katrin Sarieva and Vesselina Sarieva in 2004 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city, initially as a *Centre for photography and conceptual ceramics*. In its fifth year, the gallery's growth led us on to develop it as a space for contemporary art, and in **2011** it was **Sariev Contemporary** was officially announced.

Along the way, Katrin and Vesselina Sarievi established two other independent organizations which are closely related to the idea of the gallery: the *Open Arts Foundation* (est. 2007) and the *artnewscafe* (est. 2008).

In 2014 Sariev Contemporary opened its second exhibition space, the **Sariev Project Space**, in Plovdiv's Kapana Quarter, which is dedicated to the platform Background: Young Artists and to new collaborations.

**Sariev Contemporary** focuses on establishing itself in the form international gallery for contemporary art and it works for developing the scene for contemporary Bulgarian art. The artist from the gallery list are: **Stefania Batoeva, Rada Boukova, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Vikenti Komitski, Lubri, Stefan Nikolaev, Nedko Solakov, Valio Tchenkov, Voin de Voin.**

For the preparation and submission of its exhibitions and projects Sariev Contemporary works with **curators and art experts**, including: Vera Mlechevska, Vladia Mihaylova, Iara Boubnova, Jacob Racek, Vessela Nozharova, Emile Ouroumov, Maria Vassileva and also Walter Seidl and Bettina Steinbrugge.

In addition to **publishing artists' and exhibition catalogues and booklets**, we've also commissioned the first bilingual history of Bulgarian contemporary art by art historian Vessela Nozharova (due 2015).

The need for creating a context and knowledge of contemporary art in Bulgaria has motivated us to develop two para-platforms in partnership with curators and art critics: the **annual educational course Introduction to Contemporary Art** and the **Collectors' Forum**, whose first edition was in 2011.

Our artnewscafe, which runs its own cultural program of exhibitions, screenings and talks, some of which co-organised with Sariev Contemporary, is right next to the Sariev exhibition space. The café is subscribed to international art magazines and maintains a **small library** of art and design publications, with a selection of books, catalogues and zines for sale.



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