

SARIEV
CONTEMPORARY

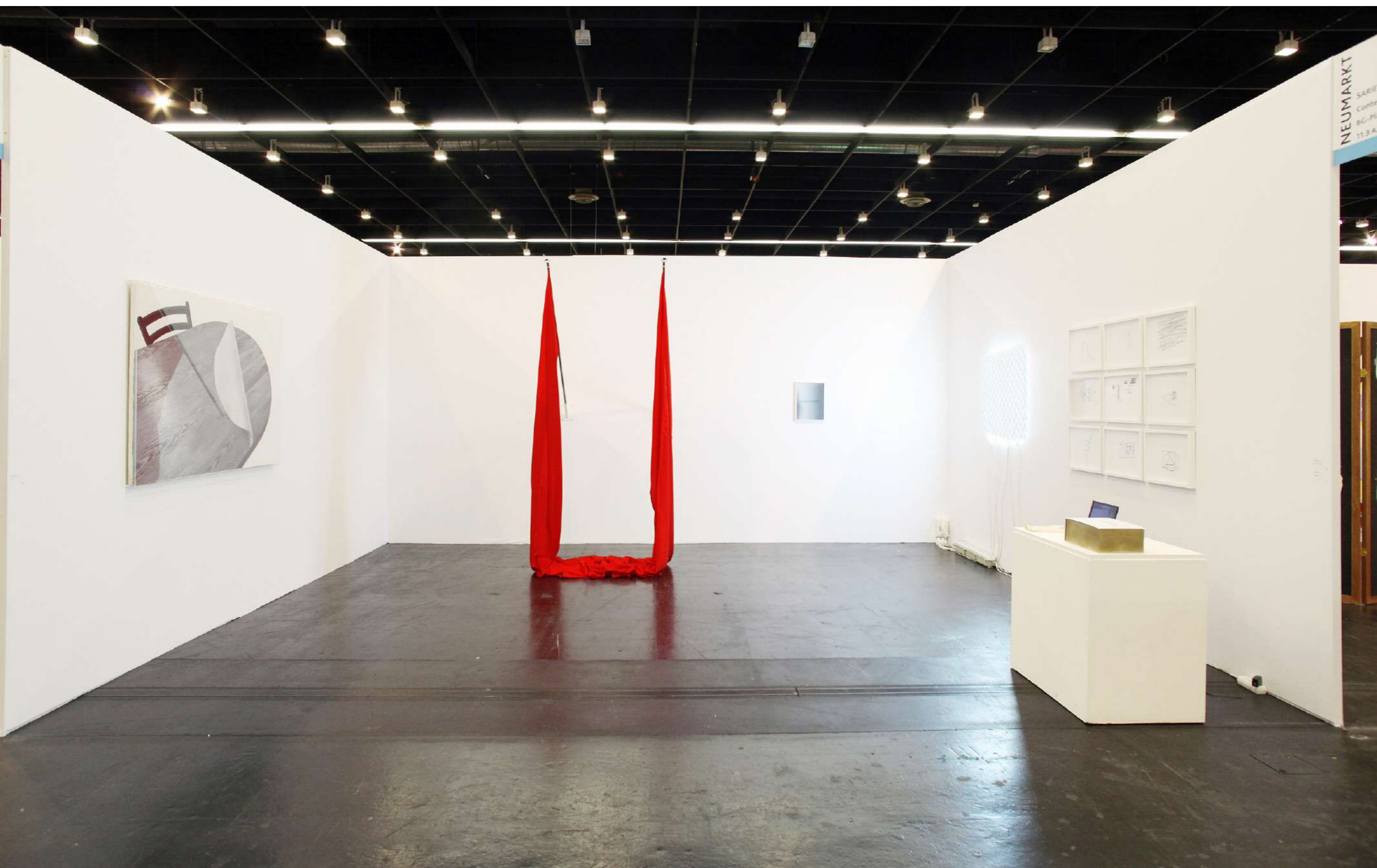


26 – 29 April, 2017
Preview & Opening 25 April

Artists presented:

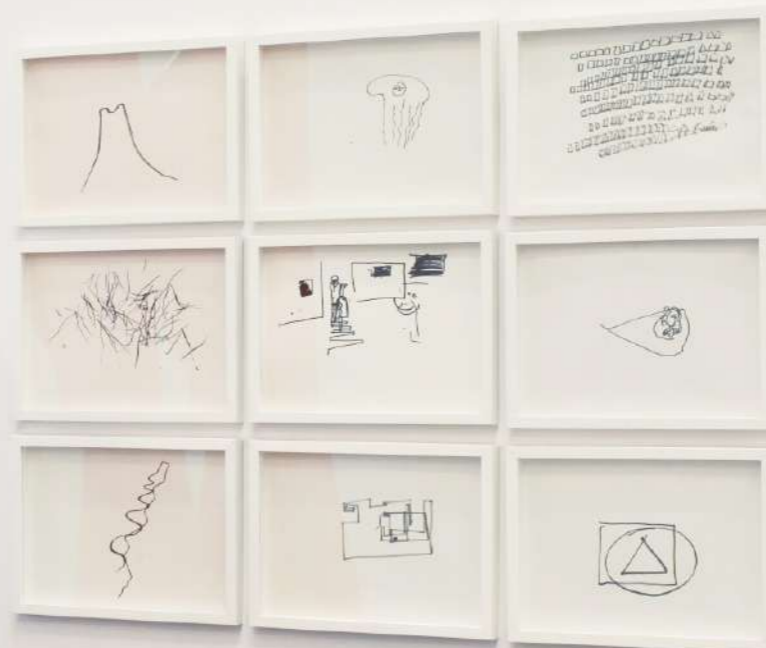
Pravdoliub Ivanov
Vikenti Komitski
Kamen Stoyanov

www.sariev-gallery.com
<http://www.artcologne.com/>













SARIEV Contemporary at Art Cologne 2017

SARIEV Contemporary remains **the only Bulgarian gallery to ever participate in Art Cologne**. For its second participation at Art Cologne SARIEV Contemporary has decided to present selection of artworks including installation, objects, drawings and painting by Pravidoliub Ivanov, Vikenti Komitski and Kamen Stoyanov. The selected artists represent specific aesthetics and attitude to the world, all of them playing with contemporary topics and still keeping away from being declarative or manifestive. All three artists represent typical for the contemporary Bulgarian scene combination of criticism, humor and lightness.

Pravidoliub Ivanov, who was presented last year with drawings and works on paper, will now show the large-scale installation "Trouble is Always Double". Typical for Ivanov's work is the sense of absurdity which may be interpreted both as existential and political attitude to the world, which is also the case with the installation in question. In Ivanov's work the flag occurs often as a problematic symbol of division and separation. "Trouble is Always Double" is a project from the 90s and historically continues aesthetically and conceptually the line of Ivanov's iconic work "Territories", included in the biennials in Istanbul (1995) and Berlin (2006). Beside the installation Ivanov will also be presented with a painting and a laser cut object.

Vikenti Komitski is one of the most promising Bulgarian young artists, whose work has received critical acclaim. In 2011 he won the BAZA Award for young artists (the most important prize in the country) and ever since he is active internationally, participating in various group exhibitions and projects. He has worked with curators such as Walter Seidl and Rene Block. At Art Cologne Komitski will show his work "Always Here, Never There", a lenticular print that carries a poetic statement drawn from psychology as a mechanism for self-assertion based on absence. As an artist Komitski is not a new name for the professional scene in Germany – he has lived in Berlin for the past three years and participates regularly in group shows in the country since 2012.

The third artist presented by SARIEV Contemporary will be **Kamen Stoyanov**. He is well-known for his performances, interventions and actions. In the past 15 years his works have been exhibited in major institutions and galleries and in 2016 at Manifesta 11 he presented a performance from his newest series of projects with performative drawing. Similar to Pravidoliub Ivanov's approach and to Vikenti Komitski's ready-made, his work also bears a sense of absurdity confronting questions such as the artist's creativity and position in the world. Kamen Stoyanov will be presented with a neon, an artist book and drawings.

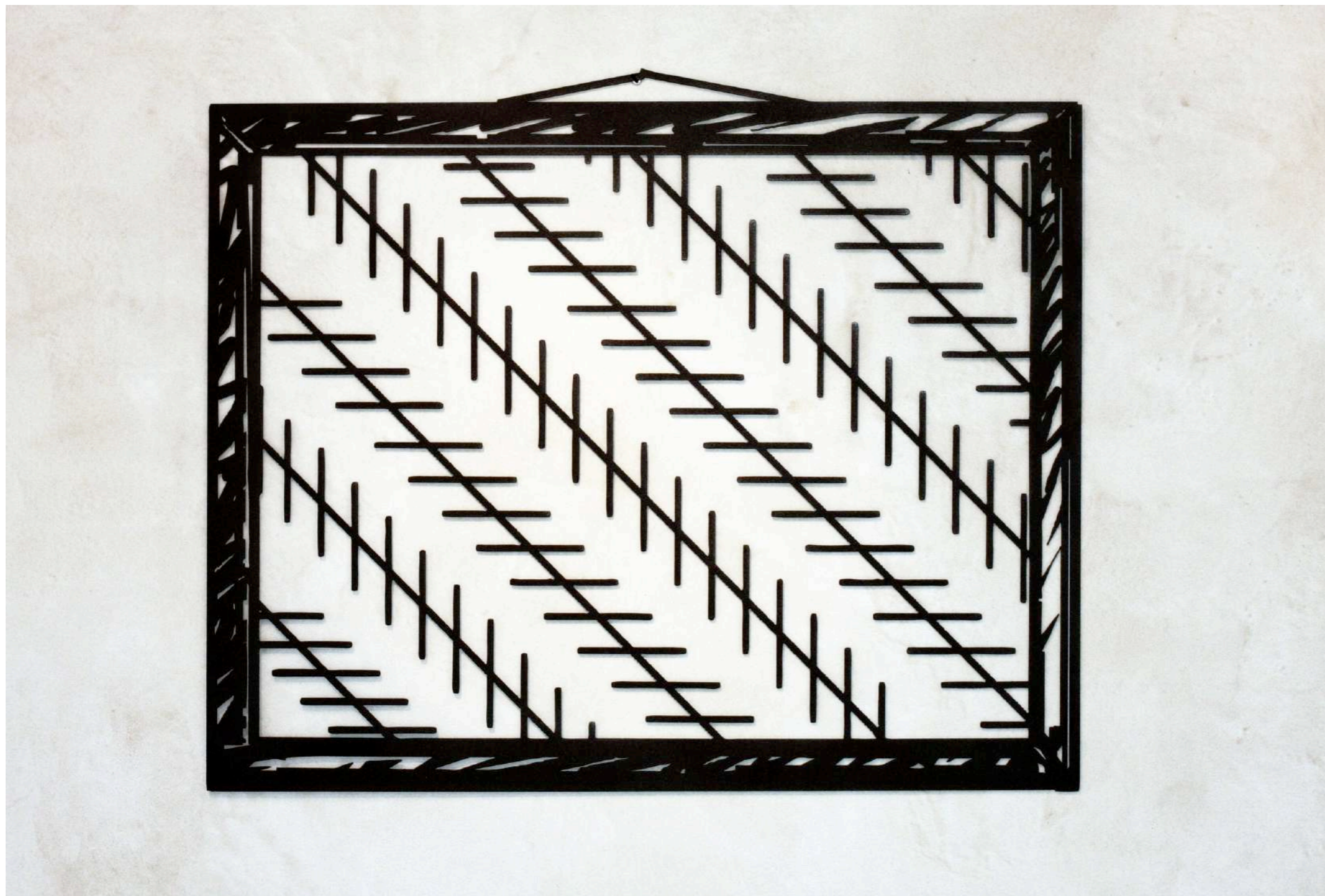
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Pravidoliub Ivanov
Trouble is Always
Double, 1997 – 2015
installation
282 x 120 x 165 cm



Pravidoliub Ivanov
Table and Wood,
2016-2017
painting
110 x 164 cm



Pravdoliub Ivanov
Illusion II, 2010
object of laser-cut
steel
77 x 95 cm
5 + 2 AP



Pravidoliub Ivanov was born in 1964 in Plovdiv. He graduated from the National Art Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria, where he is currently a lecturer. In 1995 he became a Founder Member of the Institute of Contemporary Art – Sofia. Pravidoliub Ivanov has a strong presence on the international art scene. In 2007, together with Ivan Moudov and Stefan Nikolaev he participated in Vessela Nozharova's curatorial project "A Place You Have Never Been Before" – the Bulgarian official participation at the 52nd Venice Biennial. His works were also presented at the 4th Istanbul Biennial in 1995, Manifesta 3 in Ljubljana, Slovenia – 2003, at the 14th Sydney Biennial, Australia in 2004 and at the 4th Berlin Biennial in 2006. He has participated in big international shows such as: In the Gorges of the Balkans, Fridericianum Museum, Kassel, Germany; Blut & Honig, Zukunft ist am Balkan, Essl Collection, Vienna, Austria; Sport in Art, Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Poland; Who killed the Painting?, Works from the Block Collection, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen, Germany; No New Thing Under the Sun, Royal Academy of Arts, London -2011; Sport in Art, Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Poland -2012; The Unanswered Question. Iskele-2, TANAS and Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin – 2013; Heaven and Hell From magic carpets to drones, Villa Empain, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels - 2015; The Travellers, Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw - 2016. Pravidoliub Ivanov's works are part of collections such as: Sofia Art Gallery, ERSTE Bank, Austria; European Investment Bank, Luxembourg; European Patent Office, Munich, Sofia City Art Gallery, Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul and Tiroche DeLeon Collection & Art Vantage PCC Limited; private collections of René Block, Berlin, Dr. Heinz and Dr. Kühn, Vienna Austria; Nedko Solakov and Slava Nakovska, Sofia, Spas Roussev, Sofia, London . 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 and Show Time – The Most Influential Exhibitions of Contemporary Art. Since 2011 he has been represented by SARIEV 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)

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Vikenti Komitski
*Always Here, Never
There*, 2016 lenticular
print
40 x 30 cm
Edition 3+2 AP



Vikenti Komitski was born in 1983 in Sofia. He lives and works in Berlin. He graduated in Sculpture at the National Academy of Art in Sofia. He works mainly with objects and installations. Some of his solo shows are BASIC AND THE BEAST in SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv (2017); Update in Krinzinger gallery, Vienna (2015), Commodities Unplugged in Sariev Project Space, Plovdiv (2014) New Poor, ICA, Sofia (2013); Subjective Geography, Sariev Contemporary, Plovdiv (2011); 1:200, Ogms gallery, Sofia (2010); No Image Available, The Fridge, Sofia (2010), #1, Vaska Emanuilova Gallery, Sofia (2009). Among the group shows he took part in are World at a Crossroads , National gallery of Iceland (2016) , Contemporary Icons; the art of spectacle, 3 rd Danube Biennial, Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava (2015), Places of Transition, Freiraum, Museumsquartier Vienna (2014), Balkon Zum Balkan, organized by kunsthalle Baden Baden, (2014), Go West! Muzeon Art Park, Moscow, special project for Moscow Young Art Biennial (2012); Is It Free?, NutureArt Gallery, New York (2012); Together Again, Radiator Gallery, New York (2012) East Of Best, Roodkapje, Rotterdam (2011); An Exclusive Object of Art, Dana Charkasi Gallery, Vienna (2011); Entrepot, Krinzinger Gallery, Vienna(2011); Beyond Credit, Antrepo 5, Istanbul (2010); FQ Test, GMG Gallery, Moscow (2010); Photo I Photo You, Calvert 22, London (2010); Breaking Walls Building Networks, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Tesaloniki (2010); From Ideology to Economy, Contemporary Bulgarian Art 20 Years Later, The State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, Moscow (2009). He was a resident artist at Quartier 21, Museums Quartier and in Krinzinger Projekte in 2014, Vienna, ISCP, New York in 2012, Futura, Prague in 2011 and SIM in Reykiavik in 2009. Komitski is the 2011 Baza award winner. Sariev Contemporary represents Komitski since 2011 and has presented his work at ViennaFair, Focus: Bulgaria at viennacontemporary, Istanbul Contemporary, ArtBrussels and ArtRotterdam 2016 with solo booth.

The artistic work of Vikenti Komitski revolves around everyday objects whose context and meaning are analyzed, scrutinized and transferred into a different reality. Komitski changes the nature of objets trouvés as well as of specifically chosen commodity goods that refer to the reality from which they were taken and in which they were originally used. However, Komitski's use of ready-made principles is not only applied to objects but also to ideas. (Walter Seidl)

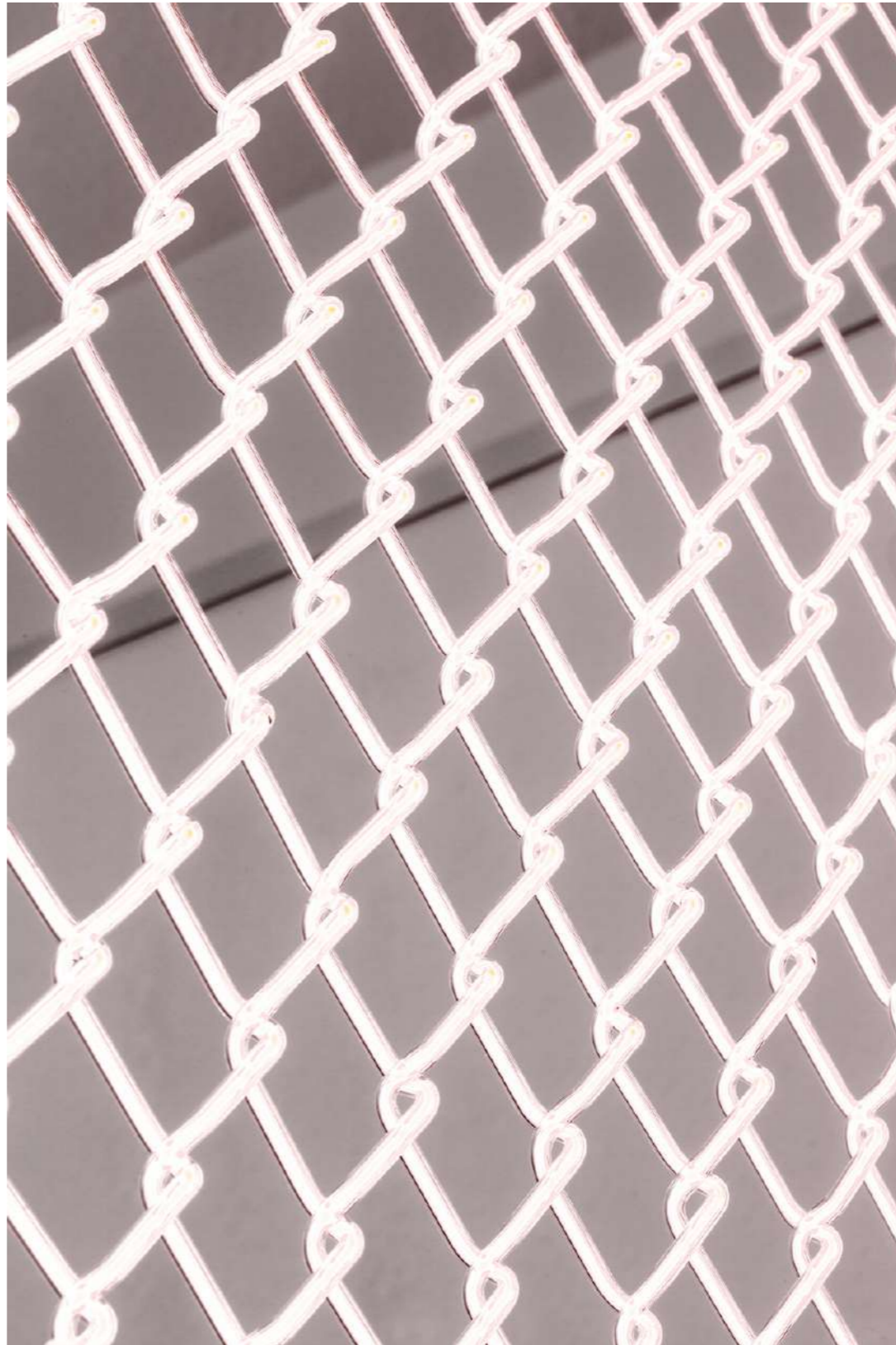
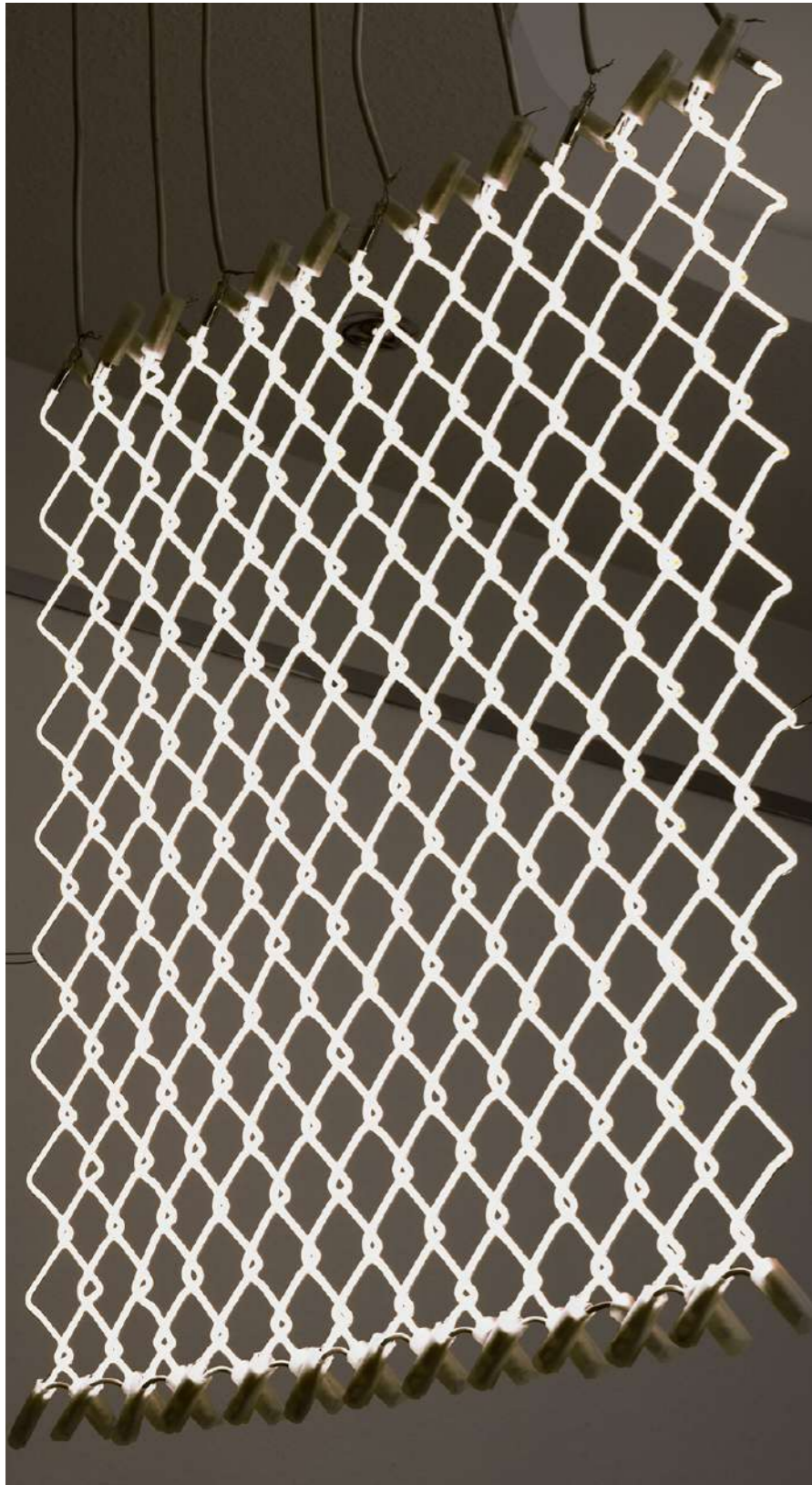
http://sariev-gallery.com/artists/Vikenti_Komitski/



Kamen Stoyanov
Operantium, 2016
artist book, 1100 pages
A4 with 10,5 cm back,
10 +1AP



Operantium, 2016
video documentation, 49”



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High Voltage Fence,
2015
neon
80x80 cm
1/5+1AP



Ask Me a Question,
2015-2017
drawing series
(60 until now),
each 30x40cm, framed

Installation view,
SARIEV Contemporary,
Plovdiv

See all drawings at
[http://sariev-gallery.com/
files/1732.Kamen
%20Stoyanov
%20Ask%20Me
%20a%20Question
%20Drawings.pdf](http://sariev-gallery.com/files/1732.Kamen%20Stoyanov%20Ask%20Me%20a%20Question%20Drawings.pdf)

Each set of drawing is accompanied by a photograph from the performance *Ask Me a Question*, specially selected by the artist.

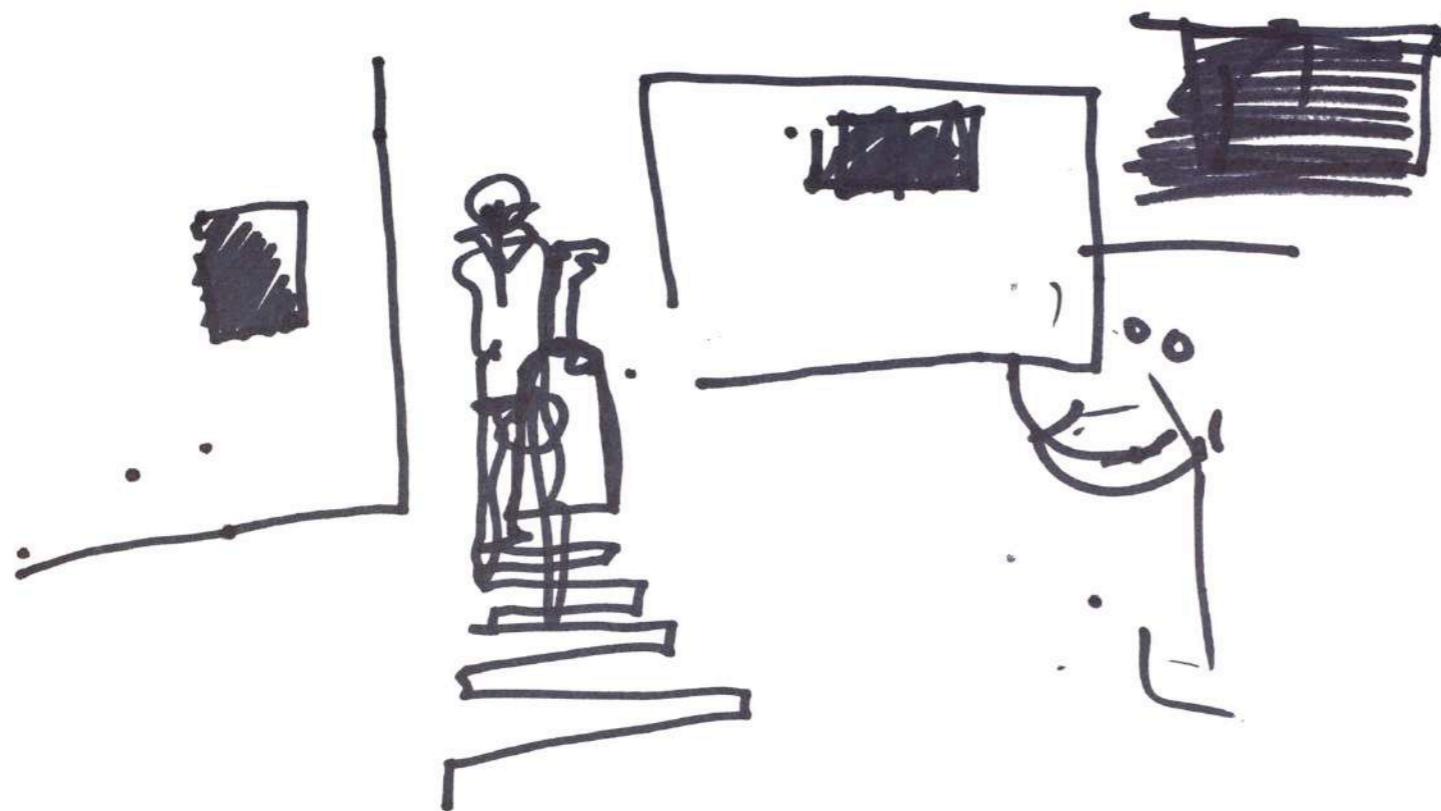


Ask the Artist, 2017
Installation view,
SARIEV Contemporary,
Plovdiv



How can I dance in the middle
of the earth?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



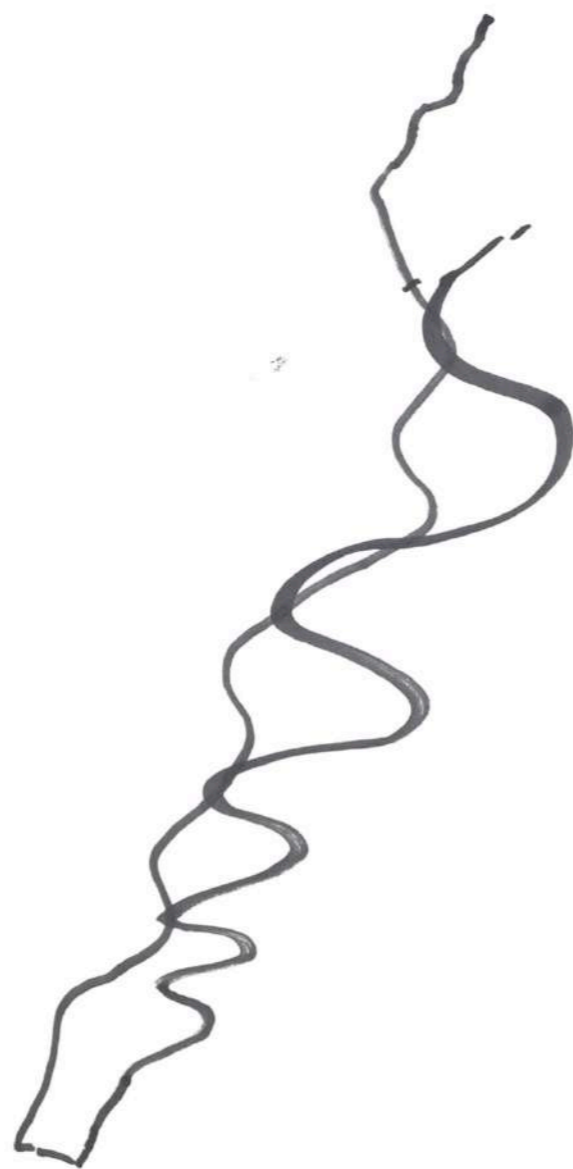
What are you going to do later?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



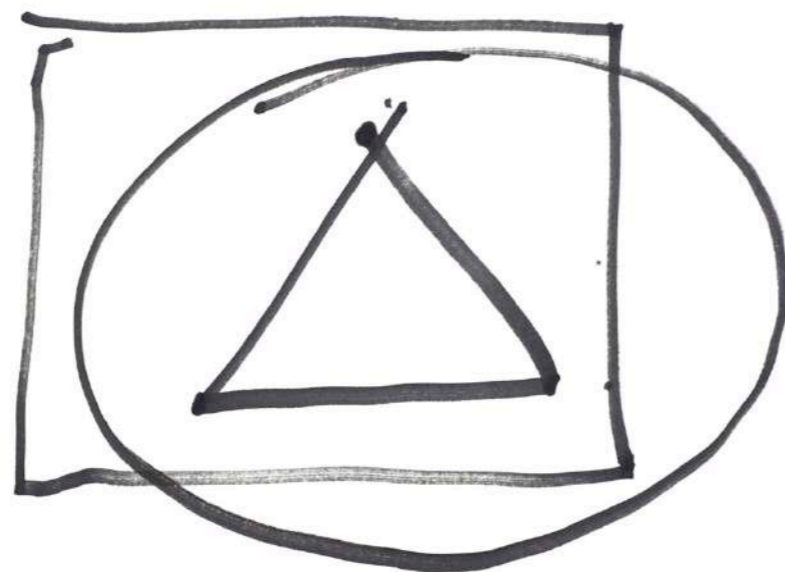
What have you eaten already today?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



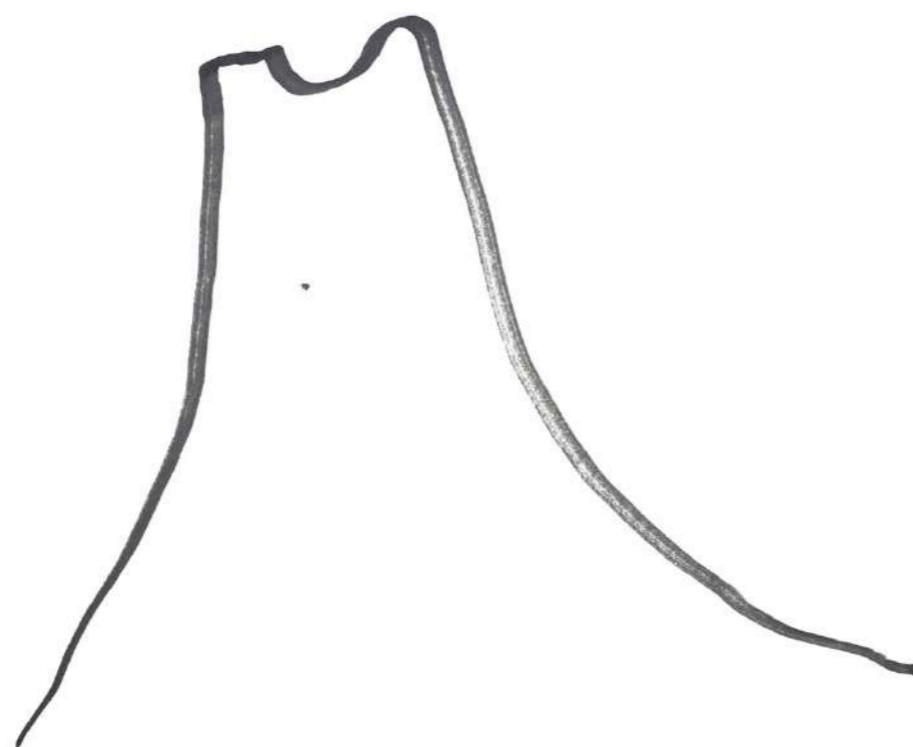
What inspires you?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



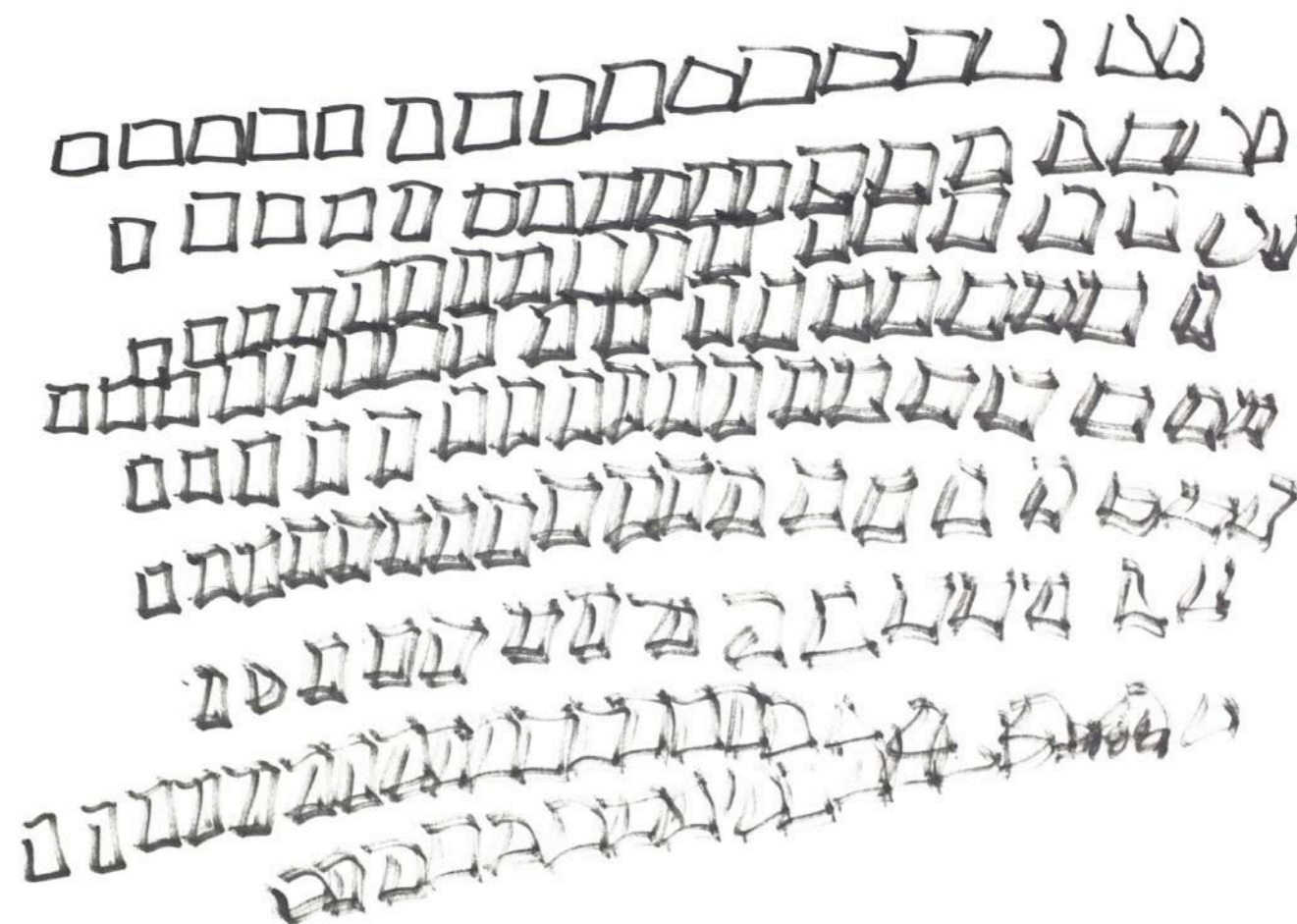
What is happiness?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



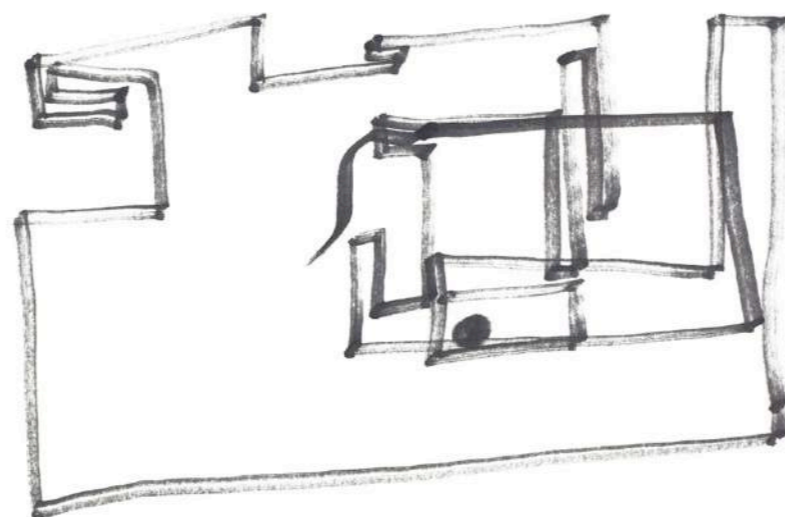
What is love?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



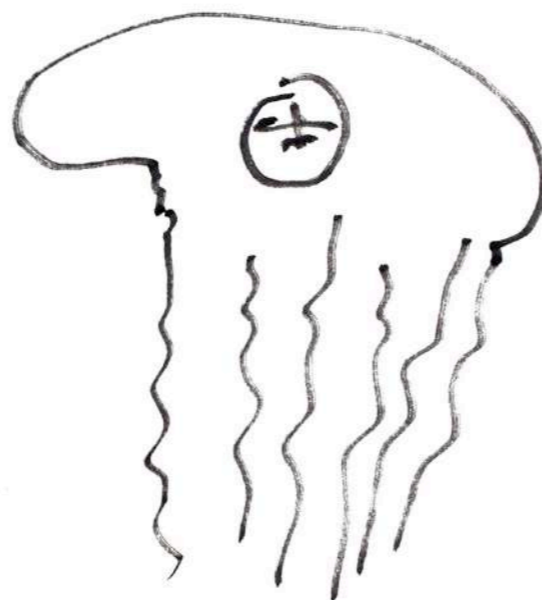
When will the things in Bulgaria
become better?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



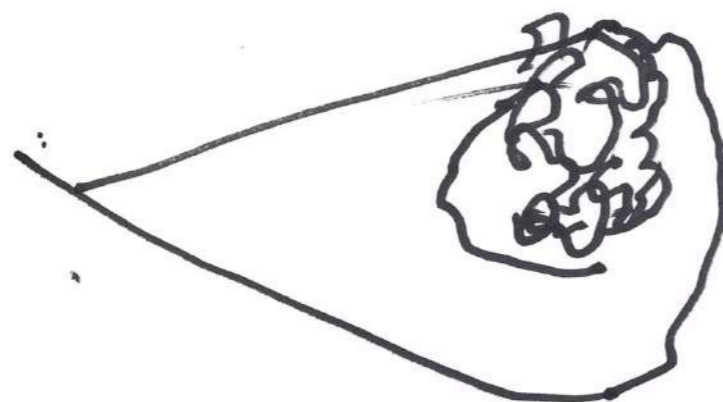
Where I will be in one year?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



Will you go and have a coffee
with me now?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



What is your favourite Bulgarian dish?

Kamen Stoyanov
Ask Me a Question, 2015-2017
performative drawing series
each 30x40cm, framed



Kamen Stoyanov was born in 1977 in Rousse, Bulgaria. He studied from 1996 to 2003 at the National Academy for Fine Arts in Sofia and from 2000 to 2005 at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He now lives and works in Vienna and Sofia. Over the past few years, his actions, videos, installations, photographic works and performances have been shown, among others, at the following exhibitions: WRO Biennale (WRO Art Center, Wroclaw, 2017); *Ask the Artist*, MANIFESTA 11 (Zurich, Switzerland, 2016); *Material and Culture* (MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, 2012); 17th Biennale of Sydney (Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 2010); Aichi Triennial (Nagoya, Japan, 2010); *At Arm's` Length*, MUMOK (Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, 2008, solo); MANIFESTA 7, the european biennial of contemporary art (Trentino, Italy, 2008). He was awarded, among others, with the following prizes: The Sovereign European Art Prize (2011), Otto Mauer Prize (2011), Alexander Resnikov Award (2010), Kunstpreis Europas Zukunft, (Galerie für Zeitgenoessische Kunst Leipzig, 2008) MUMOK Prize for the Zone1 at the VIENNAFAIR (2007), Prize for Visual Arts of the City of Vienna (2007) and with the MAK Schindler Artists and Architects-in-Residence Program in Los Angeles (2012)-. His works are part of public collections (Lentos, Austria; MAK MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts; MUMOK, Austria; MUSA, Austria, Public Collection of the Austrian Government; Sofia City Art Gallery, Bulgaria) and private collections (ESSL MUSEUM, Austria; EVN Collection, Austria; DOM MUSSEUM, Austria).

Kamen Stoyanov's artistic practice finds parallel between physical movement and process, and ideas of historical, social and cultural change. The artist performs - in actions or objects - with the same care in streets, fields, and art spaces, drawing on the accidental and ubiquitous readymade. Inevitably, high and low culture mix in Stoyanov forms; his work is just as likely to consist of making his native Bulgarian yoghurt as neon sculpture. From here, he inserts himself into dialogues of power, progress, and geopolitics, without abandoning the intimate that surrounds his ideas.

Pierre d'Alancaisez

The movement as a process plays an important role in my practice. The movement as an intentional act of change of a given condition. Social, urban, cultural or institutional one. The movement as an instrument of shaping the space. My actions happen on the streets or fields or in the art spaces. They are often reactions and comments on political and social processes or interactions with the environment. The accidental appears not as a problem but as an impelling power or force. My work could be seen as hybridizations of the art language and the bright cultural practices from the so called „outside“ of the art field. I get inspiration by ordinary daily processes and use them to transform conditions in which I am. In the specific tension between the artistic-high and the non-artistic or low, the idea of the absurd, misaligned and strange plays a crucial role.

Kamen Stoyanov



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** Sariev Contemporary was officially opened. **Sariev Contemporary** focuses on establishing itself as an international gallery for contemporary art and works for the development of the scene of contemporary Bulgarian art.

Since 2011 Sariev Contemporary has built a representative list of Bulgarian-born artists: **Rada Boukova, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Vikenti Komitski, Lubri, Stefan Nikolaev, Nedko Solakov, Kamen Stoyanov, Valio Tchenkov, Voin de Voin.**

SARIEV Contemporary presents solo shows by the artists from the gallery list, new collaborations and solo or group shows by international artists all of them developed in cooperation with curators or critics. The gallery is working intensively as well on two exhibition programs: **Background: Young Artists** and **re-discovery**. In 2014-2015 the exhibitions from the platform Background: Young Artists were hosted at **Sariev Contemporary Project Space**.

In addition to publishing **artists' and exhibition catalogues and booklets**, Sariev have also commissioned the first bilingual history of Bulgarian contemporary art by art historian Vessela Nozharova (due 2017).

The need for context and understanding 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.

For those activities Sariev worked with **numerous curators** and art historians including Vera Mlechevska, Vladia Mihaylova, Iara Boubnova, Jacob Racek, Vessela Nozharova, Emile Ouroumov, Maria Vassileva, Svetlana Kuiuudjieva, also Walter Seidl, Bettina Steinbrugge, Aaron Moulton and René Block.

Following the mission to promote Bulgarian contemporary art abroad Sariev Contemporary organized **Focus Bulgaria at viennacontemporary 2015**. Dedicated to the goal for establishing international connections and visibility is the goal of the project **Working Visits for International Curators and Art Critics**, which started in 2015.

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).

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