



Sariev Gallery Plovdiv

Presents:

Alla Georgieva
Frankenstein's Dinner
solo exhibition

7 December 2010 – 28 January 2011
Opening: 7 December 2010

Cooking Show: Frankenstein's Dinner
Performance, 7 December 2010, 7 p.m.

Alla Georgieva's presence on the Bulgarian and international art scene is long-term and meaningful. The most frequently recurrent themes in her works are the tempting, fascizoid face of modern-day fetishes, the mimicry of cruelty as innocence in human relationships, and the presence of psychopathology and trauma in apparently idyllic situations. She works with photography, installations, objects, video and oil painting.

More specifically, **her works tackle** such painful issues as violence in childhood (*Happy Birthday!*, 2003); the place of women as sexually exploited objects in East European societies (*Bulgarian Souvenirs*, 2006–2010) and the concept of borders in the love relationships of the great leaders and dictators in history (*On Love, great and small*, 2008).

The exhibition and performance *Frankenstein's Dinner at the Sariev Gallery* addresses the problem of harmful and noxious foods offered on contemporary food markets and our growing tendency to consume more with the eyes than the mouth. "Food has lost its innocence," the artist says. "The only place where we can still find harmless, innocent food are the still lifes of previous centuries".

The exhibition's centerpiece is a series of four 50x70 cm *natures mortes* photographs digitally printed on cloth – a modern-day interpretation of the popular Dutch and Flemish still lifes from the 17th century, the Golden Age of the Netherlands, when gourmet food became one of the country's national symbols. Still lifes during this period were a lucrative business supporting an army of over 2 000 artists, which are directly referred to in the photographs. Using 17th c. themes and compositions, Alla Georgieva has prepared meals from some of the most harmful foods available on the contemporary market and arranged them in 21st c. flasks and basins for chemical and medical experiments. The works simultaneously highlight the dangers of contemporary food making and consumption, and comment on the place of artists in the capitalist situation where artworks are subject to market manipulation as much as any other product. We are suddenly aware that a classical late-Renaissance still life and a glamorous contemporary junk food advert could be used to the same market end.

Cooking Show: Frankenstein's Dinner is a parody of TV cooking shows, making use of popular cooking myths, utopias, chemical experiments and advertizing ploys. The performers prepare "beautifully looking, tasty and nutritious" dishes from the most harmful ingredients available on the Bulgarian market. The performance is related to the photographic series *Frankenstein's Recipes* – five 50x50 cm color photographs of similarly prepared "gourmet" foods.

Frankenstein's Dinner at the Sariev Gallery is the first part of Alla Georgieva's long-term project *To Eat or not To Eat*, which examines eating as a historical, social, philosophical, political and cultural phenomenon. The title of the exhibition is derived from *Frankenstein food* – the Greenpeace term for genetically modified foods.

Alla Georgieva

1957 – born in Kharkov, Ukraine

1981 – graduated from the Academy of Arts and Design in Kharkov

1989 – member of the Union of Bulgarian Artists

1992 – member of the Club of (Eternally) Young Artists

1997 – founding member of the 8 March group of women artists

Lives and works in Sofia

Solo Exhibitions:

2008 – On Love, Great and Small, ARC Projects Gallery, Sofia

2007 – Happy Birthday!, FABS Gallery, Warsaw

2003 – Happy Birthday!, ATA Center and Institute for Contemporary Art, Sofia

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2010

- The Great Wave / August in the Visual Arts – Biennial of Contemporary Art, Varna, curator: Maria Vassileva

- 10 x 5 x 3, Oil Paintings, Union of Bulgarian Artists, Sofia, curators Irina Batkova and Stanislav Pamoukchiev

2009

- The Temptation of Chalga, Sofia City Art Gallery, curators: Svetlana Kuyumdjieva and Vessela Nozharova

- Thessaloniki Biennial of Contemporary Art, Greece

- Athens Biennial of Contemporary Art, Greece

- From Ideology to Market Economy, State Central Museum of Russian Contemporary History, curators: Yara Boubnova and Maria Vassileva

- Mtel Awards for Contemporary Art, Varna East Harbour

2008

- Contemporary Bulgarian Artists, Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, Germany

- Wasterland, Hattyuhaz Gallery, Pécs, Hungary

- Hack.Fem.East, Kreuzberg / Bethanien, Berlin

2007

- Multitudes, ARC Projects Gallery, Sofia

- Shortlist 2007, Gaudenz Ruff Awards for Contemporary Arts, Sofia City Art Gallery, Sofia

Awards:

Grand Prix for Cartoon (jointly with Chavdar Georgiev), Union of Bulgarian Artists, 2008; Second Prize for Oil Painting, 10th Biennial of Humor and Satire, Gabrovo, 1990; Support for the Arts Award, Support for the Arts Foundation, 1998