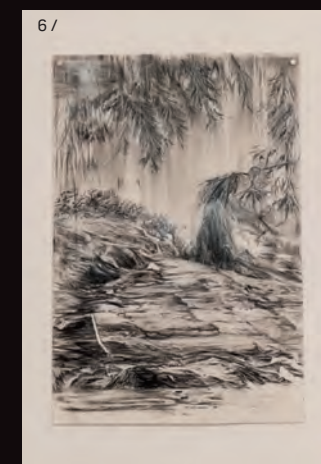
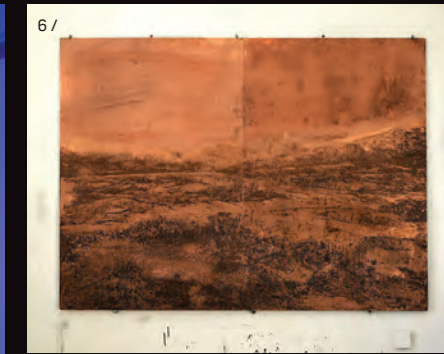
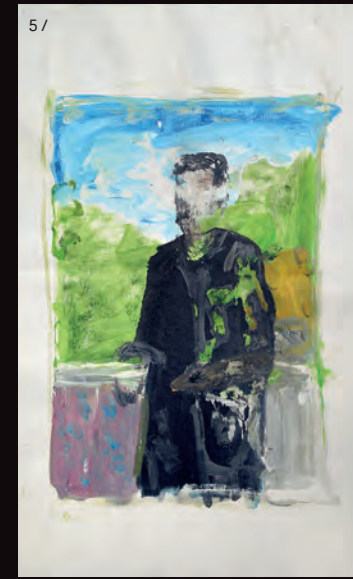
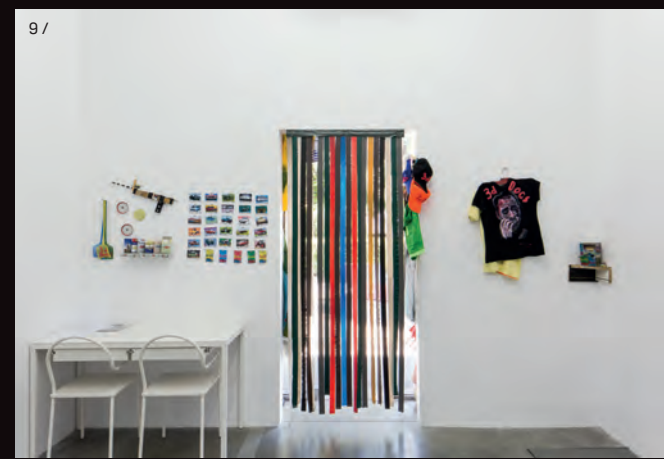


2020

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# sariev / BACKGROUND: Young Artists from Plovdiv

BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?



2020

# SARIEV

## BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

answers: I

HE, SHE, YOU IT WE YOU THEY

The exhibition „Background: Young Artists form Plovdiv“ presents individual exhibition projects of the artists: Mitch Brezounek, Martina Vacheva, Dimitar Genchev, Velizar Dimchev, Yavor Kostadinov, Lyubomir Krastev, Trifon Tashev, Valko Chobanov, Dimitar Shopov. The exhibition is presented by Sariev Gallery between 5 July – 30 August 2019 at the following locations in Plovdiv: Sariev Gallery, Danchova house in Old Plovdiv, Coffee&Gallery Cu29 in Kapana quarter and Artnewscafe. Parallel program at FLUCA – Austrian cultural pavillion and Lucky cinema.

Info about the exhibition can be found at Sariev's website: <http://sariev-gallery.com/>

Films about the artists participating in the exhibition can be seen at Sariev's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/SARIEVGALLERY>

# I

HE: is Hitar Petar and scores again. Even the most ruthless take on his fishing line with tricky numbers. For him, nothing is greater than bread as spiritual perfection, which will overcome material and thundering mediocrity and predatory greed. His persistent image in our folklore to this day, but as early as the 19th century, during the Ottoman rule, his image was metaphorically the voice of the people. Hitar Petar is a cunning man of life who copes with ease in any difficult situation thanks to his own rich fantasy. Today, his image is still used to represent national traits.

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Such is his portrait in my work, presented in the exhibition „Hitar Petar Scores Again“: crafty, cunning and smug, depicted on a tree-stretched hemp sack, primed with bricks and painted with selected temperate, earthy tones. He holds a fishing line in the space, which catches not one but two crocodiles.

WE: Plovdiv artists are some romantic punks who love to live. Without the vanity of what we might look like and what they would say about us, we just make up our own rules and have fun.

MARTINA VACHEVA, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/martina-vacheva/bio*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

I: I wrote something to explain my point of view and why I chose Plovdiv to become a young artist from Plovdiv:

I am really glad to be accepted as a Plovdiv young artist with this participation at “Background: Young artists from Plovdiv“. I think the idea of Plovdiv - European Capital of Culture 2019 and its motto “together” are represented really good by this exhibition. I am French and I decided to make my life in Plovdiv, because I have fallen in love in Plovdiv 6 years ago.

The reasons to be based in Plovdiv are first:

The different aspects of this city with the history and all of the cultural layers.

Secondly, the development of cultural projects in contemporary art, and the dynamic created by Sariev gallery and Foundation Plovdiv 2019 and Plovdiv - European Capital of Culture 2019.

Thirdly for all the good people around me, girlfriend, family, friends from Plovdiv.

The ailyak and all of this atmosphere in Plovdiv make me believe Plovdiv has a huge potential to become an important cultural platform for Europe.

MITCH BREZOUNEK, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/mitch-brezounek/bio*

BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?
THEY: Evolved primates that cannot imagine the infinity of the universe.
Where: On a small, blue planet, in one of the branches of the Milky Way.
How: With the power of thought.
I: A thinking, evolved primate, with no concept of infinity, in a small town on the Blue Planet.
TRIFON TASHEV, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/trifon-tashev/bio*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

I: am from Plovdiv, yes, but I no longer consider myself young. From a young age, I had the dream of joining Club 27, but unfortunately I am not a musician and was forced to focus on the visual arts. This year I turned 28, so now I have a new deadline – up to 35. Van Gogh was 35 when he cut his ear, and in honor of this, to this day it is considered the age limit at which you move from a young artist to an established artist. I hope that in 10 years there will be a „Background: Established artists from Plovdiv“.

WE: There's nothing to talk about, we're number one, let's not argue, we're number one.

YOU: have a chance to see the art of young Plovdiv artists; we are supposed to be the last generation of artists to have free time to paint. In the future, as the ocean level rises, people will either mutate and have gills like Kevin Costner in the Waterworld and live at the foot of the hills where they spend their days fighting for territorial supremacy with radioactive catfish and carp. Or else they will live on the tops of the hills, where there will be no free time to paint because of the constant attacks and raids of the seaguls. So you have one last chance to see this art at peace.

THEY: are coming.

VALKO CHOBANOV, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/valko-chobanov/bio*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

I – get excited about the banality of evil, the household burdens that can kill you (not physically), and all those psychotronic weapons, not so literally threatening our lives and health, as psychological ones, such as a razor or a floor brush. I create a visual conflict (which often happens behind the curtain) that once again reminds me of the annoying ways of being of everyday life. The mop died, long live the mop!

YOU – look and tell me are YOU a victim? HE, SHE, IT – the mop is dangerous to your health.

WE – are here to ask questions, not to give answers.

YOU – may also be behind the curtain.

THEY – are haunting us everywhere (tiles cleanser, razor, floor brush, MOP, etc.)

VELIZAR DIMCHEV,

# YOU

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participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ [www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/velizar-dimchev/bio](http://www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/velizar-dimchev/bio)

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

I... am really glad that this event happened and that I am part of it too! I think it is important for more people to have a view of the present and future of young art in Plovdiv and Bulgaria in general. It's happening here and now and I think it deserves a little more attention ... There are dozens of quality young authors who are not particularly known to the general public. Namely events and exhibitions like this can change things in a better direction!

SHE... the exhibition, I think turned out interesting and is quite diverse. It is a special collection of different artists, each with his own specific point of view, specific approach and interests. There are various media present and there is a good balance between them. Everyone's attitude towards the environment in which their work is located is also evident. Some of the participants work on the principle of contrast, others integrate certain elements of the environment into their exhibition project, while others try to be somewhat in tune with the environment while adding something of their own. Each artist has set a different experience for the viewer, and this, I think, is valuable.

It... the venue in this case was really key. Especially for my main project. Instead of trying to strike the contrast between environment and work, driven largely by sheer curiosity, I decided to associate my project with the location itself (The Danchova house in Old Plovdiv) and its history, and more specifically with the personality of Georgi Danchov-Zografna (1846 – 1908) - Bulgarian revivalist, publicist, artist, publicist and photographer, who has left a lasting mark on the history of Plovdiv.

DIMITAR SHOPOV, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/dimitar-genchev/bio*

DIMITAR GENCHEV, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/dimitar-genchev/bio*

I tried to communicate indirectly with him, mostly through his work. I believe that the several interpretations I have made based on his works have helped me to get in touch at least a little with his spirit. The study and preparation of the documentary that accompanies my project helped me to get a feel of the complex era in which Georgi Danchov worked and lived, and that was also a really interesting experience for me.

As such a project was more or less new to me, I am also showing several other paintings that have been characteristic of my work lately.

WE... the participants in “Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv”, I think we are seeking personalities. I see that each of us believes in what he does and believes in art, which is important. Everyone also approaches with professionalism, and this is an occasion to hope that the scene will develop even more in the future.

YOU... as an audience, you have to emphasize the works in the exhibition and find something of your own, because...

IE... the works are already living their own life!

YAVOR KOSTADINOV, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/yavor-kostadinov/bio*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

I: As a participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“, present several works: object, video installation, and graphic works combined with drawing. The spaces depicted in them are landscapes devoid of human presence, giving a nostalgic resonance to the values being transformed or imbued in a global context. For me, these values are also interpreted in the dual nature of graphic media, as in “Scar Field”, where the printing plate is exhibited as a stand-alone aesthetic object, whose deep relief due to corrosion and manual intervention gives away the physical and temporal aspect of creating work, but also in “Deranged”, which presents a drawing with acid-resistant materials on a copper plate. In the “Sublime” video installation, the hypnotic monotony of the barely changing elements immerses us in meditative contemplation and spiritual enjoyment, as in nature where we turn to ourselves, breathing slowly. Trifon Tashev's music composition made specifically for this work deepens the sensory illusion of dream reality.

LYUBOMIR KRASTEVA, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/lyubomir-krastev/bio*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

I – Dimitar Shopov, am the author of the outlet 3d DOGS exhibition. Many people do not understand the term outlet well and show great distrust of the word. What is this? Outlet in English means „conclusion, release, expiration“.

For the first time in America between 1933 and 1936, men's costume maker Maurice Anderson flooded the entire country, starting with the factory-owned store. Since there are no shipping costs, it is logical to sell things at a lower price in this store – that's how the discount came out.

The notion of “going out” for a walk on the main street or in the park only entered Bulgaria at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Many centuries earlier, other nations enjoyed such walks as they showed off their new outfits, hats, and other accessories.

Unlike other peoples, the Bulgarians themselves sewed, weaved, matured, knitted socks and loafers, which is why they did not have this urgent need for branded goods and boutique shops.

Anyway, at the same time, with the increase in production volumes, separate shopping centers are being set up with the sole purpose of selling.

Over time, the first stocks are reached. This enables manufacturers of well-known clothing brands to sell outdated merchandise without loss, and the consumer to buy a quality product at affordable prices.

Such stocks are also shown for the first time by the Bulgarian brand 3d DOGS, which launches with its first stagnant collection this year in early July.

But since stocks are close to 30 years old, their price should not fall, just go up. Only in 20 years these clothes would have antique value.

DIMITAR SHOPOV, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/dimitar-shopov/bio*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

THEY: I am impressed by the artists participating in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“. The freedom with which they work and communicate is intriguing. Their strong artistic presence and identity is inspiring. Their exhibition projects exude enviable vitality and positivism. I will gladly try to imitate them in these qualities and add them to my life and creativity.

DIMITAR GENCHEV, *participant in the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/dimitar-genchev/bio*

BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?
I: became even more convinced that there are young artists in Plovdiv who are extremely original and vibrant. It doesn't matter how long they will stay in the “background” – the perspective in the picture is illusion anyway. However, many of the most significant successes of the artists' careers so far coincided with the exhibition. But even without the recognition, the vocation is visible. Most interesting to me was the opportunity to discover these artists in a new way. I've done journalistic materials for most of them, but now they have more openly shared personal and artistic searches in the process.
YOU: Who became the new winner of the most prestigious award for young artists, you deserve it completely.
HE: Who has not won it so far, deserves it too.
SHE: Who has won it before, deserves it too.
I: The providence knows its deal.
WE: can perceive values regardless of their position in terms of recognition and popularity.
YOU: who share pieces from your infinitely interesting worlds, are happy.

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THEY: everyone who have seen the exhibition have surely been convinced in what I was convinced even more clearly – that there are young artists in Plovdiv – extremely peculiar and bright, and it doesn't matter how long they will remain in the background...

VLADISLAV SEVOV, *Plovdiv, journalist, author of the film for the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

SHE, HE: in the exhibition have managed to complement each other and become a group – They, the young artists from Plovdiv, filled with energy that enables them to change their environment.

I: I believe that this energy is created by them and in this exhibition, they are not the background, but the base (Baza :)) and we have a chance to support them because we see in them the future from which we want to be a part.

YOU: The unbiased eyewitness, enjoy the present, because the myth of IT /the place – Plovdiv, continues and happens here and now...

Plovdiv, collector BOYANA SOKOLOVA,

Plovdiv, collector BOYANA SOKOLOVA,

# BACKGROUND YOUNG

# ARTISTS FROM

# PLOVDIV ?

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

“Background Young Artists from Plovdiv?” Is not a question despite the question mark, but a statement, as is the event itself happening for the fourth consecutive year. As such, neither the „question“ needs an answer, nor the exhibition – dityrambi, but attention and curiosity. The attention and curiosity that the city owes to these young artists, not only because they were born here or chose to live here, not only because some of them already have a remarkable career, but because the future belongs to them, and to an ancient city is it is important to know that it has future. And judging by the exhibition, it is smart, talented and fun.

PRAVDOLIUB IVANOV, *Sofia, artist*

BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?
I: came to Plovdiv the first time in December 2018. During that time I was travelling through Central and Eastern Europe offering my skills as a graphic designer to artists and cultural workers. Inspired by an old ongoing craftsman tradition, the »journeyman Years« I looked up for cooperations were I get housing and an insight about the „clients“ environment in return for my work. To be honest Plovdiv was not on my route, I had hardly heard of this place and didn't know what to expect. All the more I was surprised how good the vibe of the city fitted to my approach. Sariev Contemporary connected me with Dimitar Shopov, Martina Vacheva and Mitch Brezounek. Each of them have been very open and friendly showing me their works, studios and the city. I was and I am still impressed by the quality and diversity of the work from young artists in Plovdiv. Since most of the time the work has a very strong local connection, but always appears contemporary, I could learn a lot about the country and its people. Unfortunately, I could not be present at the exhibition but I was even more happy to be able to support the event graphically.

I: In October 2020 will move to Plovdiv to continue my work as a graphic designer on the road and I am looking forward to getting deeper insight of the culture of Plovdiv and Bulgaria.

ISABELLA RITTER, *Art Historian and Co-Founder / Co-Director of LambdaLambdaLambda, Prishtina (Kosova)*

PAUL VOGGENREITER, *designer of the English version of the communication materials for the exhibition*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

I: know that excellent art is conceptualized, produced and exhibited all over the world, also in Plovdiv. A city you might have never heard of before.

YOU: will be surprised that the artists from there and their work do matter not only for the city, region or country but for all of us.

HE/SHE/IT: do understand the world, themselves and our existence in a very defined, specific and unique way, which is formulated in their individual works.

WE: the people from Plovdiv and from the global art community have to put our focus on such works and spots. They are the blind spots, which offer a perspective for a clear vision for the future of art and the society in general.

YOU: will be surprised that artists still have the desire, power and need to give voice to their attitudes, regardless if there is an art market or not.

THEY: are so important voices for a diverse and independent artistic language.

RAINALD SCHUMACHER, *OFFICE FOR ART, Berlin. Curator of Art Collection Deutsche Telekom*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

YOU: „Will not know anything about contemporary culture and what feeds it if you do not pay attention to these things,“ says Alfred H. Barr Jr., art historian and first director of MoMA, New York, on integrating of film and photography departments at the museum collections, considered in the early 20th century as „low“ or otherwise popular culture. I could say the same today about the exhibition „Background: Young Artists from Plovdiv“ in two directions. The first concerns the selection of works. Made by artists without the filter of an imposed theme to structure it, it reveals, with more spontaneity and unintentionality, multiple dialogues between different layers of contemporary culture. It is these dialogues that allow us, the audience, to play our own and (perhaps) find a different ending for them. For example, between the history from textbooks, its material presence and our presence in it today, or that of consuming ideals and making them a reality. Such dialogues are

integration of different spaces in purpose and meaning and the reaction to them, both by artists and visitors. A reaction in which some of the dialogues mentioned above can also be read and whose sharpness is evident through the aesthetics of the works. And if this aesthetics triggers a response, doesn't that make it one of the most important elements that need to be addressed?

DESSISLAVA MILEVA,

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

YOU: The Mahlerian quote “Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire” comes immediately to one's mind when strolling through the presentations at Danchova house. While many of you engage in questioning the notion of tradition and collective as well as individual histories – with humour and reflection – within this most traditional architecture you manage to keep the fire burning.

ISABELLA RITTER, *Art Historian and Co-Founder / Co-Director of LambdaLambdaLambda, Prishtina (Kosova)*

### BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?

IT: The exhibition also created a new vision for presenting contemporary art as it connected artists with no common theme, concept, curator, without being subject to the conventions of spaces and with complete freedom to dispose of themselves and themselves, to show themselves unconditionally.

THEY: Apart from being young from Plovdiv, they are very different and can hardly be called a „Plovdiv school“. And even if there are some similarities in expressive means, thematic excitement and reflections between Martina Vacheva, Mitch Brezounek, Dimitar Shopov, Valko Chobanov and to some extent Yavor Kostadinov with their expressiveness, trash aesthetics and irony, they are just one of the parties; quite different are the deep and surreal painter of the neglected and the dream Dimitar Genchev, the precise and polished Lyubomir Krastev, the perfectionist–player Velizar Dimchev, the patiently constructing visual and sound worlds Trifon Tashev.

THEY: live differently – some open and communicating, others imprisoned in their own lives, but there is an undemonstrated community and respect between them, perhaps precisely because of the lack of hierarchical regulators and some non-consummate empathy. They are participating, nominated and awarded, such as Dimitar Shopov, Martina Vacheva, Valko Chobanov with the prestigious BAZA Award, are part of large corporate and private collections (Martina Vacheva, Dimitar Shopov), have European galleries (Dimitar Genchev), but their presence in the scene is marked by a lack of pushing, artistic distance and a conviction that the talent is visible.

They are honest with themselves and the world around them and carry contagious empathy.

KATRIN SARIEVA, *gallerist, Sariev, Plovdiv*

BACKGROUND YOUNG ARTISTS FROM PLOVDIV?
I: imagined things like this
YOU: are here
HE, SHE, IT: are with you
WE: are together and there is something special around
THEY: are the island

VESELINA SARIEVA, *Sariev Gallery, organizer of the exhibition and so on, Plovdiv and everywhere*

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