

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS

via Arco dei Becci 1, San Gimignano (SI), Italia

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NEDKO SOLAKOV

"A Side Solo Show (drawings only)"

28/05/2022 - 04/09/2022

Opening Saturday 28 May, via Arco dei Becci 1, from 4pm - 8.30pm

Until 4 September 2022, Monday to Sunday, 10am - 1pm / 2pm - 7pm and by appointment.

To ensure maximum safety, it is necessary to book your visit to the exhibition using the appropriate form on galleriacontinua.com

Galleria Continua is pleased to host in its spaces in San Gimignano **a solo show by the Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov**, "A Side Solo Show (drawings only)". Through the presentation of a **conspicuous selection of drawings**, presented in chronological order, the realisation of which spans from 1981 from "Before the army (old woman)" until 2022 "(Dreams that disappointingly came true)", Solakov offers for the first time an exhaustive and impassioned excursus of his **daily practice** - drawing - that he has been doing for more than forty years. The exhibition highlights an experimental approach to drawing: the artist initially used charcoal, graphite, ink, using pen and brushes - techniques that we also find over the subsequent years - before introducing sepia ink, black and white wash on thicker paper, and also watercolour. In 2016, he came to use colour with the series "Stories in Color".

A prominent figure on the international art scene, Solakov has developed his oeuvre **in a perfect balance between form and content, tradition and innovation**. Narration is the artistic language that he applies both to large scale installation and, as in this exhibition, to small drawings. **Drawing and thought** (often in the form of narration or story telling) are the two inseparable and essential poles of his artistic practice. The stories that he represents aren't linear and they don't follow classic compositional rules, but they are multidirectional and intertwined. As they unfold, they form an environment that is both visual and

discursive, both physical and functional. His **drawings are always part of the story**, and are very often combined with textual explanations and comments in which the boundary between drawing and writing is blurred and the written texts become drawings themselves.

The **language he uses is explicit, immediate and often unsettling, facetious and at times tragic**. The **characters** that animate his drawings lay bare the conventions of everyday life, allowing us to reflect on our mechanisms of thought, on the relationship between personal and collective history, between reality and imagination. The goal in creating his art is to connect with people and talk to them through his work. In this exhibition, he presents the complete series titled "Well-Known Stories", twenty-three drawings made between 1992 and 1995 that question some of the best known stories in the Bible. Among the protagonists we find Mary, Joseph, Herod, Abraham, and Veronica. The artist overturns our expectations, making these stories recognisable and in some way familiar, bringing them closer to our daily life and diluting the gap between the sacred and the profane.

Humor and self-irony are the distinctive features of Nedko Solakov's work and they are a real key to understanding the world. The exhibition is completed by a video from 1995, "Some of My Capabilities", in which the artist shows off with a light-hearted tone some of his dynamic skills such as touching his nose with his tongue or flexing his thumb backwards, or drawing.

Since the early 1990s, **Nedko Solakov** (b. 1957, Cherven Bryag, Bulgaria; lives in Sofia) has exhibited extensively in Europe and the US. His work 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; 16th Sydney Biennial; Prospect 1, New Orleans Biennial, Singapore Biennial 2011, DOCUMENTA (13), Kathmandu Triennale, 1st Riga International Biennial for Contemporary Art and Lahore Biennale 2. He had solo shows at 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; Kunsthau Zurich; Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli; Sofia City Art Gallery; Galleria Borghese, Rome; Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg; BOZAR, Brussels; ICA Sofia, La Panacee, Montpellier, Mudam Luxembourg, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, and MAXXI - National Museum of 21st Century Art, 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 the "Emotions" solo project 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. His works belong to more than fifty international museums and public collections, among them MoMA New York, Tate Modern, London and Center Pompidou, Paris.

www.nedkosolakov.net

For more information and photographic material on the exhibition:
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