

NEDKO SOLAKOV

Stories from Faraway

The Métamorphoses Bookstore & Gallery, Paris

Nedko Solakov combines his traditional education with conceptual practices to create complex, multi-faceted and sharp-witted works. He is a great storyteller, showing an unmistakably poetic desire for short narratives, aphorisms, comparative descriptions, plays on words and semantic double entendres that are the characteristic elements of his idiom.

In his wide variety of drawings, paintings, performances and installations, Solakov employs an ironic, metaphoric and poly-semantic style to analyse the role and contradictions inherent not only to the contemporary art system, but also collective "truths" and societal norms connected with the human existence.

Stories from Faraway

"Quite frankly I haven't been reading books so much recently. But I "read" stories everywhere. Stories that pop into my mind from an inexplicable "somewhere", or directly attack my eyes in daily life, or just come from my childhood, the best place for breeding them.

When I am asked what I do as an artist, my usual answer is that I tell stories in space. Sometimes the space is a huge narrative installation with a main handwritten story on the wall, with several sub-stories and numerous sub-sub-stories; sometimes the space is a small piece of heavy paper, with rough edges, where there is an image and a text and where the image is not an illustration of the text, nor is the text an explanation of the image. The text and the image in my drawings go together and are conceived almost at the same time on that very small paper-space.

Very rarely do I feel insulted. However, one of those rare moments is when (frankly not so often) someone asks me which writer's book I have gotten the texts in my drawings from."

Nedko Solakov

October 12, 2021

Written on a parking lot, on the highway from Zagreb (Luxembourg) to Belgrade/Sofia.

BIO

Since the early 1990s, Nedko Solakov (b. 1957, Tchernven Briag, 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; Kunsthaus Zurich; Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli; Sofia City Art Gallery; Galleria Borghese, Rome; Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg; BOZAR, Brussels; ICA Sofia and La Panacee, Montpellier. 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

GALLERIA CONTINUA