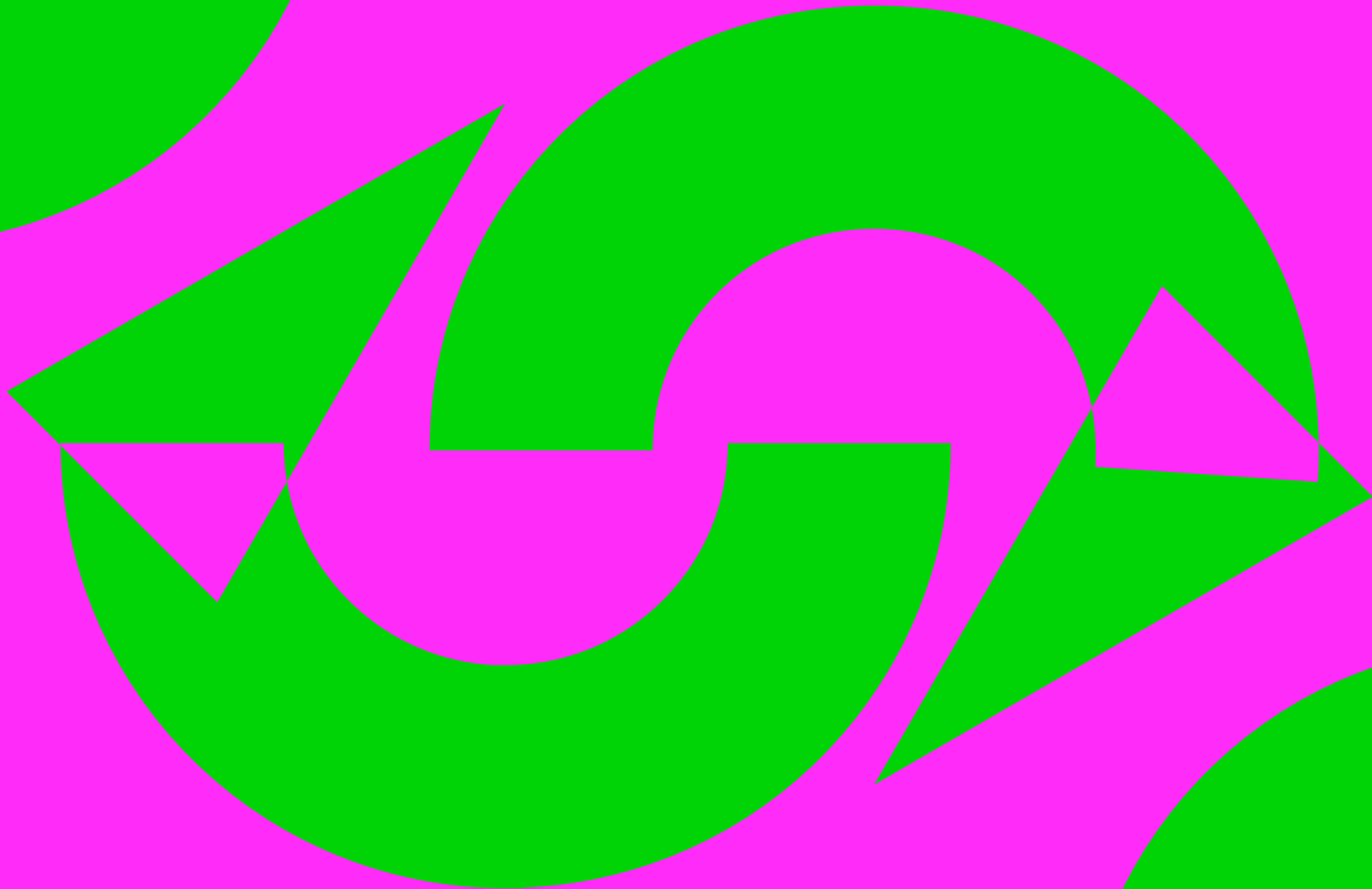


RESIDENCY RESULTS PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMME: 14 – 16 JUNE, VARIOUS VENUES



WATER TOWER ART-FEST → RESIDENCY → VOL. 2 → 1-18 JUNE

→ WATER TOWER ART RESIDENCY

For a second year,

Water Tower Art Residency (1-17 June 2018) offers dialogue opportunities between independent socio-cultural establishments and Sofia's residents. Run by the IME Association, the residency aims to explore the application of creative methodology to solving a specific social problem or achieve considerable improvement to the premises of a specific venue and/or neighbourhood, with site-specific work. For two weeks, several venues around Sofia will be the "research labs" and playground for urban interpretations for 12 international participants.

All projects developed during the residency are within the context of the surrounding urban environment, as well as the specific space in which they are planned to be presented to the public at the end. More than half of the planned projects are based explicitly on close collaborations with the local residents – and remain unrealised without the participation. Among the program events prepared for the resident artists as well as the wider public, are several guided walks with local established artists, an artist talk about the development and management

of independent creative points led by guest artists from the UK invited by the IME Association, as well as a suspended meal initiative in collaboration with Move.bg and Food not bombs organization. Input and input from Sofia dwellers.

About Water Tower Art Residency (WTAR)

Water Tower Art Residency is the new, independent chapter but, equally, a logical extension of the body of work carried out by IME Association and Water Tower Art Fest – which original format came to an end in 2016, with the 10th anniversary edition, including over 80 contemporary art projects, site-specific works of painting, sculpture, video, photography, installations and performances, from over 10 European countries as well as Brazil, Canada, USA and Japan. Based on years of experience and developed network of participants and partners, the essence of the residency is to maintain the concept and core values set-up in the festival: artistic development of participants and their audiences, creating works in a dedicated context, i.e. site-specific art.

About IME Association

IME Association was set up in 2004 by a group of artists, aiming to revive and restore important, but neglected, Sofia landmarks and buildings, as centres for creative residencies. The first such landmark is the eponymous water tower in the capital's neighbourhood of "Lozenets", where in 2006 joint efforts of very practical origins – to clean and clear the space, making its design and architecture available for public viewing – led to the establishment of the overall project for a contemporary art festival in alternative locations. The artist-run initiative „Water Tower Art Fest” was on the map of important cultural events in Sofia, as well as in Europe, and grew from a small local initiative to a space of creative, personal and professional exchange for many. Over the years, "Water Tower Art Fest" became the biggest international platform for ideas and arts exchange based in Bulgaria, attracting over 600 creative practitioners working in the sphere of socially engaged art from all over the world. The buildings discovered and integrated back into the society by IME Association are numerous and each of them presents a unique part of Sofia's cultural identity.

→ RESIDENT ARTISTS

Valentina Sciarra (Italy) res. grantee

<https://www.sciarravalentina.com/>

Eeva Lisa Puhaka (Finland) res. grantee

<http://www.eeva-liisa.net/>

Corinne Fhima (France)

<http://www.corinnefhima.com/>

Darena Georgieva (Bulgaria)

<http://www.darenageorgieva.com/>

Gal Leshem (Israel)

<http://www.galleshem.com/>

Juan José Valencia (Spain)

<http://www.juanjosevalencia.net/>

Maia Iotzova (Bulgaria)

<https://vimeo.com/maiaiotzova>

Marc Schmitz (Germany)

<http://www.marcschmitz.net/>

Marta Wlusek (Poland)

<http://cargocollective.com/martawlusek>

Patrick Fenech (Malta)

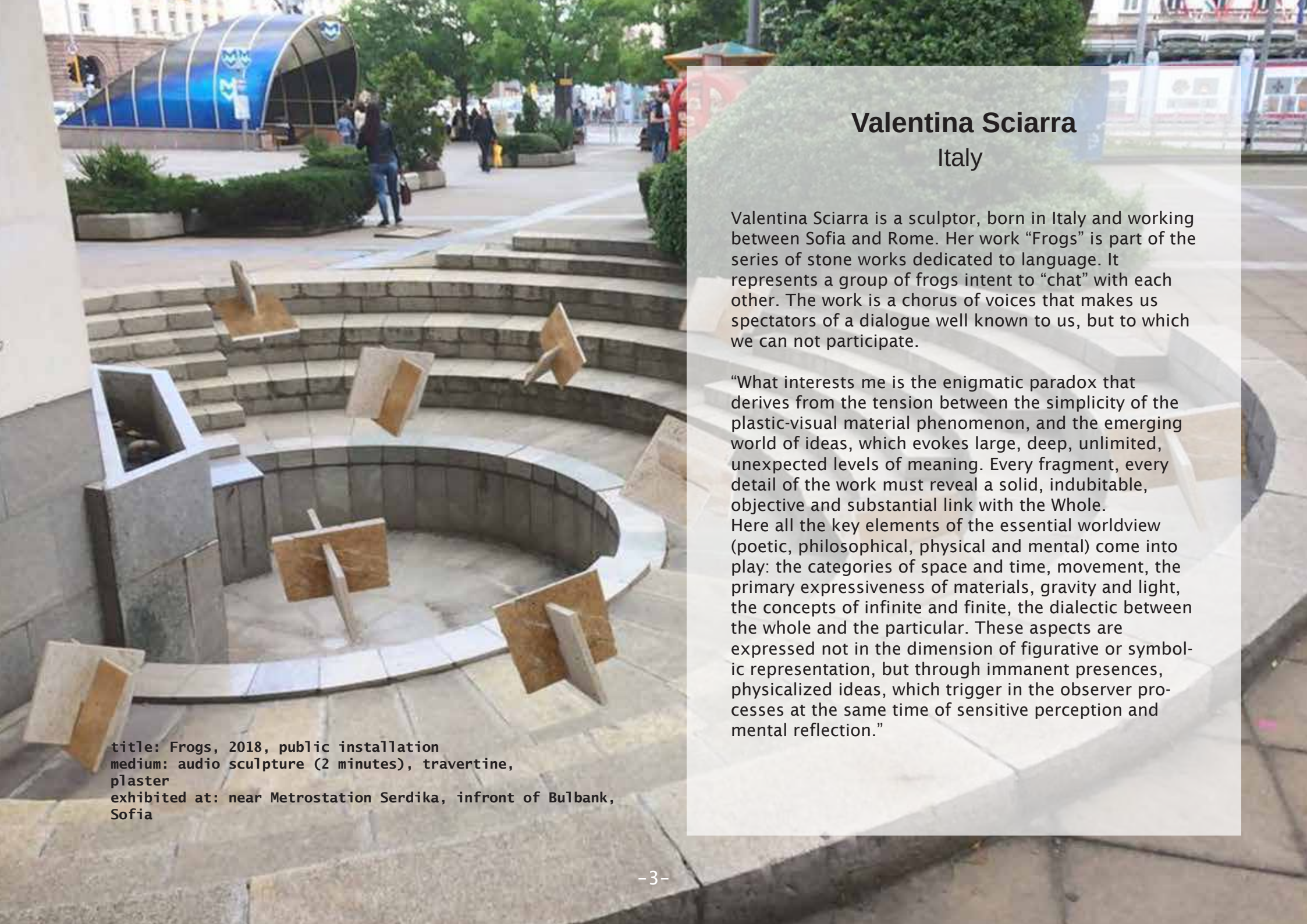
<http://patrickfenech.com/>

Ruby Cedar (UK)

<http://www.rubycedar.co.uk/>

Xiao Li (Japan)

<http://artistfitcat.wixsite.com/xiaoli>

A public art installation titled 'Frogs' by Valentina Sciarra. It consists of a circular stone structure with several rectangular blocks of travertine and plaster arranged around it, resembling frog shapes. The installation is located in a public square near a metro station in Sofia, Bulgaria. In the background, there is a blue and white arched structure and some people walking.

Valentina Sciarra

Italy

Valentina Sciarra is a sculptor, born in Italy and working between Sofia and Rome. Her work “Frogs” is part of the series of stone works dedicated to language. It represents a group of frogs intent to “chat” with each other. The work is a chorus of voices that makes us spectators of a dialogue well known to us, but to which we can not participate.

“What interests me is the enigmatic paradox that derives from the tension between the simplicity of the plastic-visual material phenomenon, and the emerging world of ideas, which evokes large, deep, unlimited, unexpected levels of meaning. Every fragment, every detail of the work must reveal a solid, indubitable, objective and substantial link with the Whole. Here all the key elements of the essential worldview (poetic, philosophical, physical and mental) come into play: the categories of space and time, movement, the primary expressiveness of materials, gravity and light, the concepts of infinite and finite, the dialectic between the whole and the particular. These aspects are expressed not in the dimension of figurative or symbolic representation, but through immanent presences, physicalized ideas, which trigger in the observer processes at the same time of sensitive perception and mental reflection.”

title: Frogs, 2018, public installation
medium: audio sculpture (2 minutes), travertine, plaster
exhibited at: near Metrostation Serdika, in front of Bulbank, Sofia

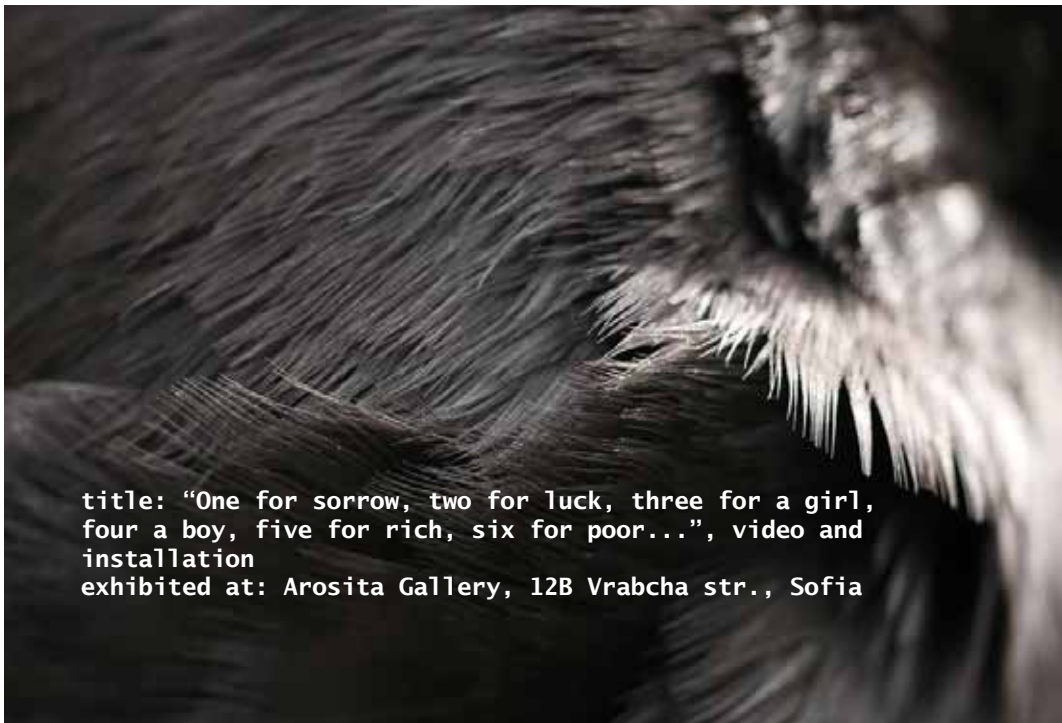


Eeva Lisa Puhaka Finland

Eeva-Liisa Puhakka is a multidisciplinary artist, who works with variety of media, including installations, video art, kinetic sculptures and environmental art.

“I investigate a synanthropic species, the crow, and their lives in Sofia. After the observing and studying crows in Sofia I made an installation in Arosita gallery that involves a variety of materials and technologies. It involves a kinetic sculpture mimicking the crows, light and shadow, video and sound with a text. I am interested in integrating aspects of both the scientific and mythological representations of crows, and the installation will be a view of the city, Sofia, from crows’ point of view (towards us).

Lately one of my artistic researches has been looking into crows from several points of view, that of human interaction and domination, the effects of global environmental changes on crow populations at large, as well as the mechanics of the bird’s wings structures and flight patterns. I am particularly interested in the sociology of crows, as they survive not merely as competitors for space with human beings, they are actually really thriving beside them. Crows are found everywhere on earth (except the Arctic and the extreme southern points of South America). They are always around. They live in cities with people, always less than 5 km away. They are so called synanthropic species, which are not domesticated but live near and benefit from humans and their dwellings.”



title: “One for sorrow, two for luck, three for a girl, four a boy, five for rich, six for poor...”, video and installation
exhibited at: Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha str., Sofia

Corinne Fhima France

Signs, symbols and emblems: Eve's story –
“These images, which are imposed on us since childhood, and which by turn, amuse us or horrify us, these fake or genuine signs, tiny or invasive, that we don't see any more, that we see too often, Corinne Fhima has taken over them. Eve is the primal figure, around which all of her body of work is centered. Become a series, Eve market, Eve factory, Eve delivery, Eve home, is the object of complex compositions, endlessly answering, repeating themselves, within a fire nourished by stories, symbols, emblems and signs, which the artist combines and throws inside installations, videos and performances. Eve, creator of humankind?

Now, symbols keel over. Here, Eve shall be manufactured. There, Eve shall be purchased and delivered. Over there, she will be consumed a– meat-woman duplicated in masse, within butchers' trays, yellow, green, red: Eve I love Marx, Eve CAC 40. Symbols and signs answer each other choir-like, in refrigerating, sophisticated cupboards or in carrier bags made of nylon film. Huge trademarks of the present, tiny emblems of the past. Here is Wonder Woman, a super heroin who casually transports the mother of humanity like a piece of market meat. The era of the living painting has arrived.”

title: “Eve Total Inflated”, several projects on the topic in the form of installations and performances

medium: Installation with plastic and inflatables exhibited at: Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha str. and Despred warehouse, 84 Veslets str., Sofia



Darena Georgieva Bulgaria

Darena Georgieva, born and currently based in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, is an interdisciplinary artist who combines printing, installation, photography and drawing.

“In my work I am searching for the counterpoints between the natural and the digital realities, as well as the human and their surroundings. Fascinated by nature and its elements, I use them as means to depict patterns and behaviors in life and society.

My project developed in the residency is a site-specific video installation, that presents footage from the Boyana river and the Boyana waterfall in Vitosha, made after a day hiking in Boyana mountains. The hiking trail to the Boyana falls is one of the most visited routes of Vitosha Nature Park, the first natural park on the Balkan Peninsula. With my work I want to challenge the way the viewer perceives nature, placing it in the decaying urban surroundings of Despred halls.”

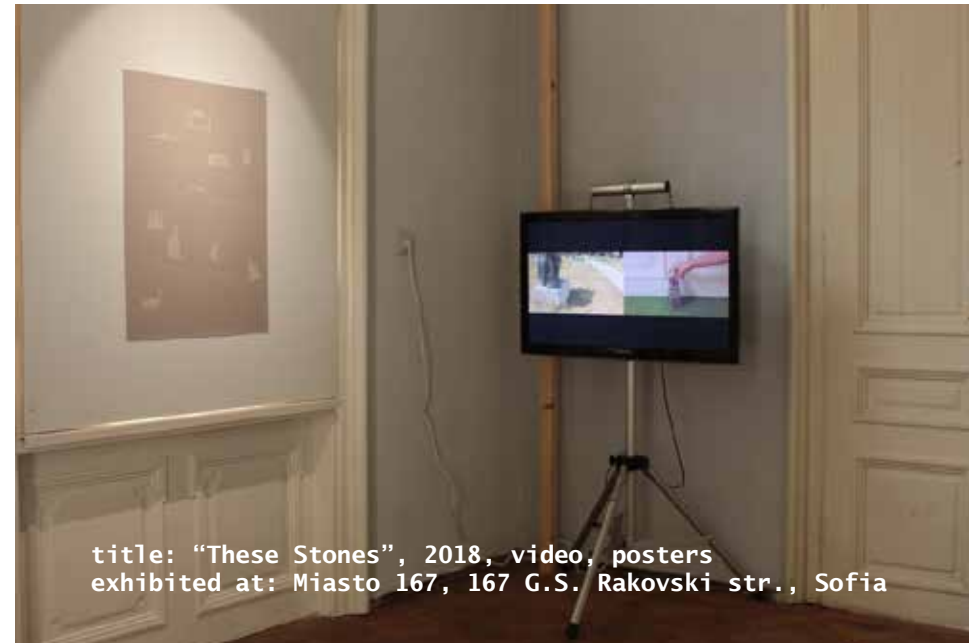


**title: “Sanctuary”, site-specific video installation
exhibited at: Despred warehouse, 84 Veslets str., Sofia**

Gal Leshem Israel

“My work is centred around the significance of history and collective memory within the construction of local identities. It sets out to explore collective sense of belonging in different communities through the visual and architectural landscape of particular places. My practice is based around research into archival and personal images that have had a pivotal role within the collective memory. It brings into a new debate the symbols, rituals and traditions that have been preserved only as historical relics, through processes of shared remembering, tracing and reencounters.

My project for the residency, which has generated the video work “These Stones” as well as a printed “map” of locations in the city that no longer exist, strives to bring such concerns into the specific context of Sofia. Through a series of recorded interviews the work traces the changes in urban landscape which took place in Sofia over the last decades. The interviews served as the starting point for an exploration of both personal and collective memory and the relationship we have to the monuments and relics that commemorate historical narratives and events. The project provides a perspective of Sofia through a multiplicity of the voices that inhabit it, creating a dialogue between the past and the future of the city as well as between its residents.”



title: “These Stones”, 2018, video, posters
exhibited at: Miasto 167, 167 G.S. Rakovski str., Sofia

Juan José Valencia

Spain

image 1 title: "A summary walk"
medium: photography
exhibited at: Despred warehouse, 84 Veslets str., Sofia

image 2 title: "Yo no soy extranjero",
public installation
medium: vinyl
exhibited at: Eagles Bridge, Sofia



Juan José Valencia is an artist, curator and editor of projects in network, he has a degree in Fine Arts by the University of La Laguna. During the residency he develops two projects, a photography installation and a public art installation.

"Understanding the walk as an artistic practice I have walked from the south entrance to the north entrance of the city in an exercise of cartography and reflection of the symbolic character of the city. It is about experiencing travel through walking, formulating strategies of knowledge of the city through walk, meeting the Other and his trace. The strangeness or how to overcome the unattractive feeling of being a foreigner; The idea of what is to be known - Estrangement and camaraderie are part of the concepts that are contrasted within the artwork.

Together with this activity I made an intervention on Eagle's Bridge highlighting its symbolic character. It is a welcome bridge to the city. Therefore, I intervened it placing a banner that contrasted and emphasized that condition. It is a piece that challenges the citizen of Sofia and my reality as a guest visitor. The text of the poster is saying in Spanish: "I am not a foreigner."

Maia Iotzova Bulgaria

Maia Iotzova grew up in Sofia and lives and works in Montreal, Canada.

"For 10 years I've been using cartographic methods in my art practice. All of my maps have so far tried to capture people's relationship with nature. Following this direction, I started the two-week Water Tower Art Residency with the task of mapping citizen initiatives in Sofia's green spaces. I was inspired by a few miniature gardens in the centre, decorated with philosophical quotations. So I started to search for other similar initiatives that not only beautify the neighbourhoods but also ignite the sparks of good in us.

The neighbourhoods I researched were: the Center; z.k. Iztok; z.k. Vitosha; and z. k. Mladost. Based on my explorations, I made a map and a video. On the map I did not draw any streets or buildings, but I put as landmarks the two large parks in the south east part of the city, the Boris Garden (with the Hunting Park) and Park Vartopo. Each of the citizen's gardens was identified as a dot and accompanied by a sentence taken from the interview with its caretakers. The map is schematic and poetic and the idea is that the sequence of the phrases for each garden is to be read as a free verse. On the other hand, the video gives depth to the map by showing us the world of the people who care for the gardens, their daily lives, motivations and problems. I see this short residence as a good achievement, and a foundation on which I can build on."



title: "Sofia's Flowers", video, installation
medium: hand-drawn textile map
exhibited at: Miasto 167, 167 G.S. Rakovski str., Sofia



Marc Schmitz Germany

Marc Schmitz is a German artist based in Berlin and Ulaanbaatar. He explores the foundations of the different media that he is in use with, by challenging their limits. His works convey sensuality and thought, inviting the viewer to enter into a mutually constructive dialogue, while addressing the limitless space with all of the viewer's basic senses. His works have been exhibited internationally, are represented in private and public collections and have been remarked with several international awards.



“Any typical space is constructed by typical social conditions. Every part of our consciousness is included therein. Images of space are dreams of society.

My recent projects have focused on finding and interpreting unclaimed or contested/bare public space(s), and on reading the importance of the spatial relationship to both personal and shared-cultural memory. The stories told in those blank spaces reveal alternate possibilities for the human experience – and particularly our experience of urban zones. My work is oriented toward the public sphere, is collaborative more than it is ‘interactive,’ relies on ethnographic and art-historical research, and takes advantage of both contemporary and historical forms of artistic media.”

title: “How to free the leaves from the wind and the sky from the air” - Installation, Objects, Performance
medium: Copper, felt, Iodine, questionnaire, objet trouve
exhibited at: Arosita Gallery, 12B Vrabcha str., Sofia

Marta Wlusek

Poland

Marta Wlusek is a Berlin-based Polish artist. She graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Fine Art Photography from University of the Arts London in 2017. In her interdisciplinary practice, she deals with fundamental properties of either the photographic medium or society, to explore the themes of truth, power relations, media and representation.

In addition to her Photography diploma, Marta holds an MA in Culture Studies with a concentration in Film from the University of Silesia (Katowice, Poland). Her latest research is a combination of both fields of study. She has shown her work in exhibitions and festivals in the United States, China, Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and the United Kingdom, among the others.

Her work "Temporal Structures" is a site-specific installation encompassing photography, video, and sculptures made from objects found on the site and around the building. The word 'temporal' with its double meaning - as referring to both time and terrestrial - connects the pieces together in an attempt to address the issues of, often relentless, urban redevelopment in the post-transition countries.

title: "Temporal Structures", site-specific installation

medium: found objects, photography, video

exhibited at: Despred warehouse, 84 Veslets str., Sofia



SUPPORTED BY



Patrick Fenech Malta

Patrick Fenech is a photographer and lecturer, specializing in installations and mixed visual arts. He is a visiting lecturer of photography at the Faculty of Art Education and the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences at the University of Malta. Fenech is also the organizer and founding member of Valletta Photography Festival.

“The set of 5 photographs taken during his residency in Sofia, represent the iconography of Eastern Orthodoxy, which traditionally, leaves little room for artistic license. Almost everything within the image is controlled and has a symbolic aspect. The use of certain colours play an important role as well Gold, represents the radiance of Heaven; Red, divine life; Blue, the colour of human life, and White, is the 'Uncreated Light' of God; hence its scarcity in most of this kind of imagery. Fenech, uses the religious communicative aspects of icons and the transfigurative element of the white space, which he purposely removes by eliminating faces, to transcend contemporary environmental ethics and philosophy.

As part of his ongoing concern with the preservation of the biosphere, he invites the audience to connect with the white space in the photographs so that they can write and stick their thoughts and suggestions on how to save the planet. He starts the process himself by sticking a maple tree seed, picked from a park in Sofia, thereby suggesting to plant more trees.”



title: 'I'd like to save the World, but i don't know what to do.' 2018
medium: Photography prints, maple tree seeds and post-it-notes.
dimensions: Size: 60 x 40 cm
exhibited at: Miasto 167, 167 G.S. Rakovski str.



Ruby Cedar UK

Ruby is interested in challenging typically hierarchical forms of education as a means to producing inclusive spaces and meaningful exchanges. She is also interested in the way that words & language constantly reconstruct our experience of reality and our grip on a sense of self. Her practice attempts to locate her own boundaries of self in order to attempt to transgress them. Ruby's work groups together: video, drawing and writing with an experiential, performative and often socially engaged practice.



“PlayBack is a performance piece that seeks to discuss some of the myriad of ways in which the structures of patriarchy and misogyny affect how women navigate domestic, public and work spaces. The work discusses the varieties and forms that violence is felt towards women in these spaces. It is the amalgamation of the artist's extensive research into female subjectivities through an intersectional feminist praxis. It has been nourished through many important conversations with women along the way both in the UK where the artist originates from and in Sofia, Bulgaria. The performance will take place within an installation of water cooler dispensers, which signify the role of the audience as silent witnesses to work relationships. PlayBack hopes to equip the audience with the anecdotal tools to be better allies to the women in their lives.”

title: “PlayBack”, performance
exhibited at: Move.bg, 20 Serdika Str, Sofia



Xiao Li Japan

title: "Recollection of space" - site-specific installations
medium: found objects, carpets, traditional plates
exhibited at: Despred warehouse, 84 Veslets str., Sofia

Xiao Li is an independent curator, artist and teacher. She lives and works between China and Japan; Li's works explore the intersection of art, nature and science. Collected on-site natural material - leaves, plants, grass and others, as well as plexiglass and metal is the basis for her installation in Sofia.

"This space had been used as customs house . There are some objects that were discarded in the house, such as trolleys, posters, pictures, stamps, tables etc., you can feel the trace of history. I found some discarded trolleys , table which might have been used previously. I brought them into my creative space, releasing the memories of the customs house again."



Alnoor Mitha UK

Alnoor Mitha is a Senior Research Fellow at Manchester School of Arts and Humanities Faculty, Manchester Metropolitan University, and the research Centre leader for Asian Cultures.

Alnoor has over 20 years' experience working in Britain and internationally, as an artist, curator, writer, and producer. He has edited numerous scholarly publications and specific artist's monographs.



He is cultural and artistic policy advisor to numerous arts organisations including the British Council and the inaugural Biennials in South Asia. He is the Founding Artistic Director of the Asia Triennial Manchester, (2008 – present), Alnoor has supported young and emerging South Asian artists in the country including, Rashid Rana, Imran Qureshi, Subodh Gupta, Shilpa Gupta, Shamsia Hassani and many more.

Previously, he was the artistic Director of Shisha the international agency for contemporary South Asian crafts and visual arts (2002 –2011). For over two decades, Alnoor has curated a visionary artistic programme of historic, modern and contemporary art exhibitions ahead of its time.

In 2016, he is curated the fourth edition of the Colombo Art Biennial (CAB), Sri Lanka. The CAB engaged with 73 artists, from 21 countries across 10 venues. In the summer of 2018; he will co curate the work of the celebrated artist, Anish Kapoor at gallery F15, Moss, Norway (2018).

As part of the fourth edition of the Asia Triennial Manchester (ATM18), he is curating a series of multiple events, performances, exhibitions and a symposia across Greater Manchester.

Peter Jenkinson and Shelagh Wright UK

Peter Jenkinson and Shelagh Wright are passionate internationalists and independent creative and cultural agents based in London, UK with extensive experience of working across the world in over 40 countries on every continent. Current ventures include ODD, an action research enquiry into global civic and socially-engaged cultural and creative practice with particular focus on people and agencies that pursue positive deviance to make positive change; the creation of a civic hub with young creative Syrian refugees in the city of Gaziantep, Turkey; and the devising and co-facilitating of learning programmes with young cultural innovators and activists working to build community in their cities around the world. Over the last few years their work has included: the co-creation of open, a globally-facing resource focussing on the development of civic infrastructures and tools for hubmaking and collective community building; co-authorship of the British Council's global Culture and Development strategy; support of the evaluation programme of Hivos's Middle East Creatives; the creation and facilitation of a pan-Mediterranean Pop-Up Creative Hub within the World Summit on Arts and Culture in Malta; the co-devising and delivery of the Cultural Leadership and Innovation Programme over several years, for the Ford Foundation and the British Council across the Middle East and North Africa and of the Creative Hub-Making

Programme in Vietnam; faculty of the Hammamet Conference in Tunisia; co-facilitators of the international forum on Living Arts in Post-Conflict Contexts in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Genocide; co-curators of Change For A Tenner, an events programme for the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT). They are ongoing strategic and programme advisors to, and lead co-facilitators of, the Young Cultural Innovators Programme of the Salzburg Global Seminar over the last five years bringing together cultural and creative activists aged 25-35 from over 30 cities across the world; Associates of Compass, UK; and UK Ambassadors to the Alternativet cultural-political party in Denmark.





Neil McDonald UK

Role: Director of Stour Space – Neil was responsible for the innovative design of the Stour Space building which influences the way in which people perceive and have access to art and creative enterprise as well as physically building the vast majority of the internal structure. He played a lead role in listing Stour Space as an Asset of Community Value, one of the first in the country to be listed as such under the Localism Act. Neil's current role at Stour Space hinges around project and company strategic development both in Hackney Wick and internationally, covering such fields as: social value, business modelling, architecture and neighbourhood regeneration.

Favourite thing about Hackney Wick: It's the people, there are so many creative people around that it's hard not to be motivated.

Favourite thing about Stour Space: It's the people! Our team and the community inside the building really are like family, I'm inspired every time I come in.

Other work/hobbies: I am a Sculptor and Designer with a keen interest in creating interactive, often musical works. I am a lover of all things wood and delight in working with it from anything from Jewelry and furniture to building and restoring houses. I am also an avid gardener with an ever expanding veggie plot.

A socially minded organisation offering exhibition, performance and studio space for the development of creative enterprises. Devoted to the promotion and production of art and design, performance and innovative business, Stour Space also works in collaboration with many local enterprises, residents, artists and committees.

Stour Space recognises the significance of creative enterprise in the social sector and public education, believing creative industry skills to be increasingly important to the economy in a world of rapid technological and social change. With a focus on the local neighbourhood, the economy and sustainable regeneration Stour Space endeavours to support and promote the value of creative enterprise and public innovation to people of all abilities and experiences.



14th
June
2018

**Arosita
Gallery**
12B Vrabcha str.,
Sofia

exhibited
artists:
Eeva Lisa Puhaka
Corinne Fhima
Marc Shmitz





15th
June
2018

Myasto 167
167 G.S. Rakovski
str., Sofia

exhibited
artists:
Corinne Fhima
Gal Leshem
Maia Iotzova
Patrick Fenech





16th
June
2018

Despred Halls
84 Veslets str.,
Sofia

exhibited artists:
Corinne Fhima
Darena Georgieva
Juan José Valencia
Marta Wlusek
Xiao Li

→ SUSPENDED LUNCH INITIATIVE



15th
June
2018

Move.bg
20 Serdika Str,
Sofia

The “Suspended Lunch” initiative is organised by IME Association and MOVE.BG, in support of people in need and “Solidarity Kitchen” Sofia. Invited guests had the opportunity to sit down for a shared meal and donate one towards Solidarity Kitchen’s initiative of “suspended lunches”, given away every Sunday.



→ RESIDENCY GUESTS OPEN DISCUSSION

13th
June
2018

the fridge
General Parensov
6B, Sofia

An open discussion on creative residences and social development, led by the guests of Water Tower Art Residency, where most participants took action, presenting examples from personal experience and professional practices for fruitful collaboration between independent artistic structures and urban institutions.



→ GUIDED WALKS

Period:
Throughout the whole
residency

various venues

artists studios
artists exhibition sites
other places

Throughout the whole period of
the residency, the resident artists
had meetings with many estab-
lished Bulgarian artists in their
studios or in guided walks and
current exhibitions.

Artists involved:
Alexander Vulchev
Angela Minkova
Elena Panayotova
Doychin Rusev
Sasho Stoitzov
Stefan Petrunov
Stela Vassileva
Stanimir Genov



Andrey Vrabchev studio visit



artowork by Andrey Vrabchev



Stefan Petrunov studio visit



artowork by Sasho Stoitzov

→ WATER TOWER ART RESIDENCY TEAM



Nia Pushkarova
Artist, Festival Organizer and Founder of NGO IME
Born in Sofia, BG

BA Honors in Fine Arts, Reading University, UK; ICCM, Salzburg, Austria – art management diploma; Founder and Director of NGO IME since 2004
Curator of Water tower art fest
“The importance of making this festival is in its synergy with the local needs and our adequacy in the world and the ever inquisitive mind of artists to live a better life – pointing out to problems and finding creative solutions.”



Oli Gots
WTAR Program Manager and PR / Freelance creative producer

Prior to the Water Tower Art Residency, Oli has been the publicist and artist liaison of the Water Tower Art Fest since 2014, and for the 10th anniversary edition (Water Tower Art Fest 2016, June 16-25), she looked after the opening night music program.



Elena Radeva
Coordinator and Artist Liaisons

Creative head and soul, Eli keeps order in the second year residency, brings her experience on the field of cinema and TV productions and festivals (including contemporary art), Bulgarian and English. She graduated from the Arts High School, then Bachelor of Cinema and TV at the University of Arts in London (2015); Simultaneously working as a freelance assistant director and a part of musical duo 200 Autiste.



Georgi Kambourov
Technical Assistant

Born 1981. He has worked as a stagehand at National Theatre “Ivan Vazov” and “Global Films”, technical assistant at Centre for culture and debate “Red House – Andrey Nikolov”, light desk operator at Theatre 199 “Valentin Stoichev”, technical consultant and assistant at “Antistatic” festival for contemporary dance and performance.



Teodor Nenov
Technical assistant

Teodor is part of the technical team of the festival. He works in the fields of painting, sculpture and has participated in international art forums and collective exhibitions. He has graduated from the Highschool of Applied Arts in Troyan, Bulgaria and from the National Art Academy in Sofia, sculpture department.



Special thanks to our long-time and newly joined tireless volunteers, without whom we couldn't make the residency happen.

Anna Gancheva
Dima Nasteva
Ivanna Stefanova
Kristina Stoyanova
Lili Angelova
Vanya Karagancheva

→ A FEW FEEDBACKS:

Gal Leshem, resident artist, Israel

"I had a wonderful experience at the WTAF residency. Doing a project that was relevant to current discussions on monuments, urban changes, and history in Sofia has allowed me to generate an important dialogue on many levels: with different residents of the city, with the volunteers who helped my translate the conversations, with the visitors in the exhibition and with other artists in the programme. Having a socially-engaged practice, I believe in the importance of art in generating conversations around social and political issues in a way that allows for various voices to be heard. I felt that with the support of Nia, Elena and the volunteers, I was able to create work that represents a variety of voices and that has resonated in wider conversations around the city's heritage."

Ruby Cedar, resident artist, UK

"I can't quantify the ways in which the Water Tower Art Residency and its team has helped me and my work. They made such a beautiful atmosphere and program that made networking, collaborating and creating a solely positive experience which it so rarely is. It further developed my interest in Sofia and Bulgaria as a place rich in creativity, warmth and cultural production, through the artist studio visits, the constant exposure to art events around the city and the existence of such a comprehensive residency in Sofia.

The WTAR team's technicians and volunteers supported us throughout the residency in so many unexpected ways supporting:

making, translation, navigating the city and through conversations around the ideas we had. Strong valuable connections were made that will hopefully be sustained and revisited."

Shelagh Wright and Peter Jenkinson, Cultural Change Agents, London

"At this moment of increasing nationalism, populism, xenophobia and hatred within Europe the need for maintaining, building and making new connections, solidarities and friendships across Europe has never been more urgent. The Water-tower Residency has been a timely response, resisting the tide of darkness through collective creative activism."

→ SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Nikolay Nedelchev - Foundation Grund, Dessislava Moneva, Move.bg, Food not bombs, Timeheroes, Gaudenz B. Ruf, Ministry of Culture, National Fund of Culture and all the volunteers and supporters of Water Tower Art Residency!



WATERTOWERARTFEST.COM



Организатор:
Сдружение
ИМЕ



Water Tower Art Residency 2018
<http://watertowerartfest.com/>

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