



GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA

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NEDKO SOLAKOV

Stories in Colour

Opening: Saturday February 18th 2017, Via Arco dei Becci 1, 6pm–midnight
Until 23.04.2017, Monday–Sunday, 10am–1pm, 2–7pm

Galleria Continua San Gimignano is pleased to host a new solo show by Bulgarian artist **Nedko Solakov**, a prominent figure on the international art scene. The show, which has been conceived for this event, is entitled *Stories in Colour*, and consists of a series of new watercolour drawings.

The autobiographical and narrative dimensions play a central role in Solakov's work: the artist employs an explicit, immediate language that often wrong-foots the viewer, lays bare the conventions of everyday life and dwells upon our thought mechanisms, on the relationship between personal and collective history, between the private and the social sphere, between reality and imagination. Imperfection, error and failure are deeply bound up with Solakov's work, as are humour, self-irony and an ability to smile at one's own fragilities, attitudes which the artist uses as filters to observe the reality surrounding him with a fresh gaze.

"For quite some time I have resisted

making watercolours again. My last proper ones were done some twenty years ago. Meanwhile, I more or less mastered my relatively well-known "sepia, black and white ink, and wash on 850-gram paper" drawings, which in general were produced in series containing 7, 9, 12 and even up to 99 and 123 works.

I made thousands. And then, just like that, in late October 2016, I put some protective white sheets on my second table, which I always kept clean, placed a jar of water on it, dug out my old watercolour brushes and paints, and just started painting on the same heavy paper.

It was a kind of revelation when I again discovered the obvious – that the colour adds a dimension which I could not achieve with the ink, even though sometimes the sepia, black and white, and wash give the sense of polychromy.

And then, step by step, story by story, colour after colour – or rather, on top of each other – the "Stories in Colour" came to light.

Some of the stories are still a bit sad and perhaps not so optimistic, and my sense of humour may have become more like a middle-aged man's

as well, which in my case means more childish. Which is okay, I guess."

(Nedko Solakov, February 2017)

Nedko Solakov (b. 1957, Tchernven Briag, Bulgaria) lives in Sofia and has shown extensively in Europe and the United States since the beginning of the 1990s. His work has been exhibited at Aperto '93 (Venice Biennale); at the 48th, 49th, 50th and 52nd Venice Biennale; the 3rd, 4th and 9th Istanbul Biennial; the São Paulo Biennial in 1994; Manifesta 1, Rotterdam; the 2nd and 4th Gwangju Biennale; the 5th Lyon Biennale; Sonsbeek 9, Arnhem; the 4th and 5th Cetinje Biennial; the 1st Lodz Biennale; the 7th Sharjah Biennial, Arab Emirates; the 3rd Tirana Biennial; the 2nd Seville Biennial; the 2nd Moscow Biennale; documenta 12; the 16th Biennale of Sydney; Prospect 1 New Orleans; the Singapore Biennale 2011; dOCUMENTA (13) and the Kathmandu Triennale. He has recently had solo shows at the Museu do Chiado, Lisbon; Stichting De Appel, Amsterdam; CCA Kitakyushu, Japan; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona; Kunsthaus, Zurich; Castello di Rivoli; Sofia City Art

Gallery; Galleria Borghese, Rome; and the Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg. In 2003–2005 a major retrospective of his work, *A 12 1/3 (and even more) Year Survey*, was held at the Casino Luxembourg, Rooseum Malmoe and O.K Centrum Linz. In 2008–2009, his *Emotions* project was shown at the Kunstmuseum Bonn, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen and Mathildenhoehe, Darmstadt. Between 2011 and 2012, the exhibition *All in Order, with Exceptions* toured to the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, the Fondazione Galleria Civica in Trento [*All in (My) Order, with Exceptions*], the Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst / S.M.A.K. in Ghent and the Museu de Arte Contemporanea Serralves in Porto. His work can be found in the collections of over fifty international museums and public collections, including the MoMA of New York, the Tate Modern in London and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

For further information about the exhibition and for photographs:

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