

## ALLA GEORGIEVA

Born 1957

### About the Artist:

Alla Georgieva was born in Kharkov, Ukraine, in 1957 and lives and works in Sofia, where she moved in 1981. She graduated from the Kharkov Art and Design Institute in 1980. Until 1992, she worked primarily in the field of book illustration, design, applied graphic art, satirical paintings and cartoons. Since the mid 1990s, she has been actively involved in contemporary art (installations, objects, photographs, performances, etc.). Alla Georgieva is one of the founders of the 8th of March Group of women-artists, which attempts through its exhibitions to provoke discussions on gender and feminist questions. She is one of the initiators of the exhibitions Erato's Version (1997) and Obsession (1999), as well as the co-founder of the newspaper Pras-Press. In recent years, she focuses on research of historical and ideological clichés of political myths and stereotypes.

"In her photo-installations, videos and objects the artist mixes visual elements typical of the "new" Balkan sub-cultural movements and the aestheticism and elitism of contemporary art. The artist uses the language of advertising, often draws on the grotesque, farce and parody to dissect the everyday absurdity in the contemporary Bulgarian society in transition"

Iliyana Nedkova, n.paradoxa #19, 2007

Her work are presented in galleries and events such as:

The Life is a bed of roses, Structura gallery, Sofia /2018/; XXIII International Biennial of Humour and Satire in Art, Gabrovo, Bulgaria, Special Award for contemporary art /2017/; Amor, OI Futuro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil /2016/; Gender-Check / F femininity and Masculinity in Easter European Art, National Gallery of Art Zaheta, Warsaw, Poland; BIENNALE: 2 of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki; "Land of Promise", part of REMAP: KM shared for the 2nd Athens Biennale, "Current Bulgarian scene," Ludwig Museum in Koblenz; "Wasteland", gallery Hattyuhaz, Peja, Hungary; "Hack.Fem.East", Kunstraum Kreuzberg / Bethanien, Berlin; "Wild Girls", gallery EXIT ART, New York; Play Sofia, Kunsthalle, Vienna; Cosmopolis / 1, Microcosmos X Macrocosmos ", State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki; "Privatizierungen" / The Post-Communist Condition, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; "The Sphinx will Devour You", Gallery Karsi Sanat, Istanbul; "Blood & Honey / Future's in Balkans", Sammlng Eszl, Klosterneuburg, Vienna; "Bound / Less / Borders", Museum of the History of Yugoslavia, Belgrade; "Bulgaria, NY", "Elizabeth foundation", New York.

In 2011 she realized curatorial project "Re-production" in Sofia Arsenal Museum of Contemporary Art.

Alla Georgieva's works are part of collections such as:

Moderna Galeria /MG+MSUM/ Slovenia; National Art Gallery, Sofia; European Investment Bank; Sofia City Art Gallery, Bulgaria; Bulgarian Consulate, Dundee; Stills, Edinburgh, Scotland; House of Humour and Satire, Gabrovo, Bulgaria; Petko Churchuliev Art Gallery, Dimitrovgrad, Bulgaria.

**ALLA GEORGIEVA**

**1. *Home*, 2018**

textile object, 86 x 140 x 30 cm

**Edition:** Unique

**Ownership history:** The Artist



**ALLA GEORGIEVA**

**2. *Anatomy Textbook*, 2012**

oil on canvas, 100 x 70 cm

**Edition:** Unique

**Ownership history:** The Artist



**ALLA GEORGIEVA, *Home*, 2018; *Anatomy Textbook*, 2012****About the works:**

Alla Georgieva started working on her project, *Life Is a Symphony* in 2012. The path to its completion and the decision to share it was a long one, meandering through a crescendo of emotions, of the most profound and personal kind.

This exhibition – featuring paintings, objects, photographs and drawings embroidered by hand (with thread and hair), tells a story of suffering, loss, pain and love. The past floods through to the present, finding stillness in the artist's parting moment with her mother, which coincides with her own farewell to an integral part of herself. The present offers little solace, as the artist finds herself in the same predicament as her mother – a looming disease threatening her own existence, after having taken her closest person. This dark procession of events hints at the unjust way of the world and the fateful bond of two individuals, in life and in death.

Black thoughts, fear of disease, death and parting – an inseverable part of one's existence, are "dressed" by Alla Georgieva in bright garments. These are not just her mother's dresses, bound to her childhood and personal memories. They are also the artist's suggestion that, in spite of everything troublesome in the world, we can still seek and find harmony. When she came to the realization that she would in fact survive, the artist decided that from then on, she would sign her works as "Alla Vitta".

Disease, "an abrupt stop along the way", forces people to face their own weaknesses and fears. In Alla's case, the thoughts of death are deeply connected with the sorrow of knowing that one day, she will also have to part with the world of art. It's no coincidence that several compositions are homages to her favorite artists.

Quite often, Alla Georgieva's works share personal stories and experiences. Her own image appears repeatedly, as a sort of guarantor of the veracity of her stories and life experience. This exhibition is ultimately a self-portrait of the artist's life, but it is also a portrait of the anxieties and relationships that shape each and every one of us.

Maria Vassileva

**Exhibition history:**

*A Few Ways to Win the World*, Doza Gallery, Sofia, 2023

*Life is A Symphony*, Structura Gallery Sofia, 2018