

Press release

Group show
28/04/16 - 11/06/16

« Did you know... Kazakhstan? »

Opening : Thursday April 28 from 18.00 to 21.00
Wild Project Gallery, 22, rue Louvigny, L-1946 Luxembourg

The **Wild Project Gallery** is pleased to present its first exhibition of the series « Did you know...? ». Once a year, this group show will enable the public to discover the artistic culture of a different country in the heart of Luxembourg City.

Kazakhstan is the largest territory of Central Asia and as such, it raises a lot of interest and questions. However, after twenty years of independence, the idea that we have of this country remains vague, imprecise, intangible. Perception is the same with regard to contemporary art of Kazakhstan, while the cultural and artistic life is very intense.

To highlight the creativity of contemporary artists from Kazakhstan, the Wild Project Gallery invited **IADA**, International Art Development Association, to represent the artistic scene of its country. For three years, IADA has developed an action program to promote a platform for contemporary art of Kazakhstan. IADA organizes artist residencies, exhibitions and participates in art fairs in Vienna, Venice, Paris, London, Dubai... Through its large network, the opportunity is given to artists to engage in dialogue with collectors, curators and professionals of the art market.

Among the ten selected artists, some pursue their work in Kazakhstan, revisiting the pictorial traditions of the country, whilst others, from a new generation of artists, have immigrated to Paris, London or Berlin. The confrontation of works by established and emerging artists from Kazakhstan reflects the diversity of its culture, inspiring and powerful emancipation, but also embodies the risk of dissolution of the Kazakh identity.

For the first time in Luxembourg, the Wild project Gallery will present works by the most established contemporary artists from Kazakhstan, as Askhat Akhmediyarov, Said Atabekov, Galim Madanov, Almagul Menlibayeva and Alexander Ugay. The exhibition also introduces young Kazakh artist who have made their proof on international scene during the last years: Kamilla Gabdullina, Gaisha Madanova, Gulnur Mukazhanova, Aza Shadenova and Ada Yu.

www.wildprojectgallery.com
www.iada.kz



WILDPROJECTGALLERY



INTERNATIONAL
ART DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION

Askhat Akhmediyarov



Born in 1965, Uralsk, West Kazakhstan
Lives and works near Astana, Kazakhstan

His work is curious, inventive, in a way, undisciplined. Hardly assignable to a particular category, his creations combine pictorial tradition and contemporary designs, precise and disorder lines, realistic figures and abstract shapes. Akhmediyarov works in several genres: video art, performance, installation, and photography. A creative freedom also appears in the choice of his subjects, sometimes in surrealistic scenes, playing of ambiguities and installing a critical distance, not without irony. One of his main topics is an investigation of the influence of the Western culture on the national one, of its expansion. Through his work, the Kazakh artist makes the viewer sensitive to the dissonances of a world in full transition.

Askhat Akhmediyarov is one of the brightest representatives of the modern Kazakhstani art. He participated in the Venice Biennale in 2015, Art Dubai in 2014, Singapore Biennale 'If The World Changes' in 2013, Berlin festival 'No Mad's Land'.



Askhat Akhmediyarov
Autumn Cleaning (series)
C-print, ed. 5
60 cm x 90 cm
2013

Said Atabekov



Born in 1965, Bes Terek, Uzbekistan
Lives and works in Kazakhstan

Said Atabekov graduated from Shymkent Art College in Kazakhstan. He was a founding member of Kyzyl Traktor (Red Tractor Group), the first avant-garde art collective to be established during the 1980s political reform. From the beginning, his works were a clear affirmation of a new individual voice in contrast to the traditional Soviet aesthetic of "collectivism". As a witness to successive waves of social and political change in an area which saw a transition from nomadic culture through Communism to Capitalism in less than a hundred years, Atabekov explores the intersections and local impact of often conflicting cultures, skilfully identifying and animating elements that reveal their deeper paradoxes. While acutely aware of the attractiveness of the exoticism associated with the iconographical stereotypes of Central Asian art, he often refers to them with a touch of irony and continues to focus his attention on the costumes, daily life, legends, and the history of his origins.

Notable exhibitions include show at the Sharjah Art Museum (2014), 5th Moscow Biennale (2013), Central Asia Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2011, 2007, 2005), *Ostalgia*, New Museum, New York (2011), *Time of the Storytellers*, KIASMA, Helsinki (2007), 9th Istanbul Biennale (2005).



Said Atabekov

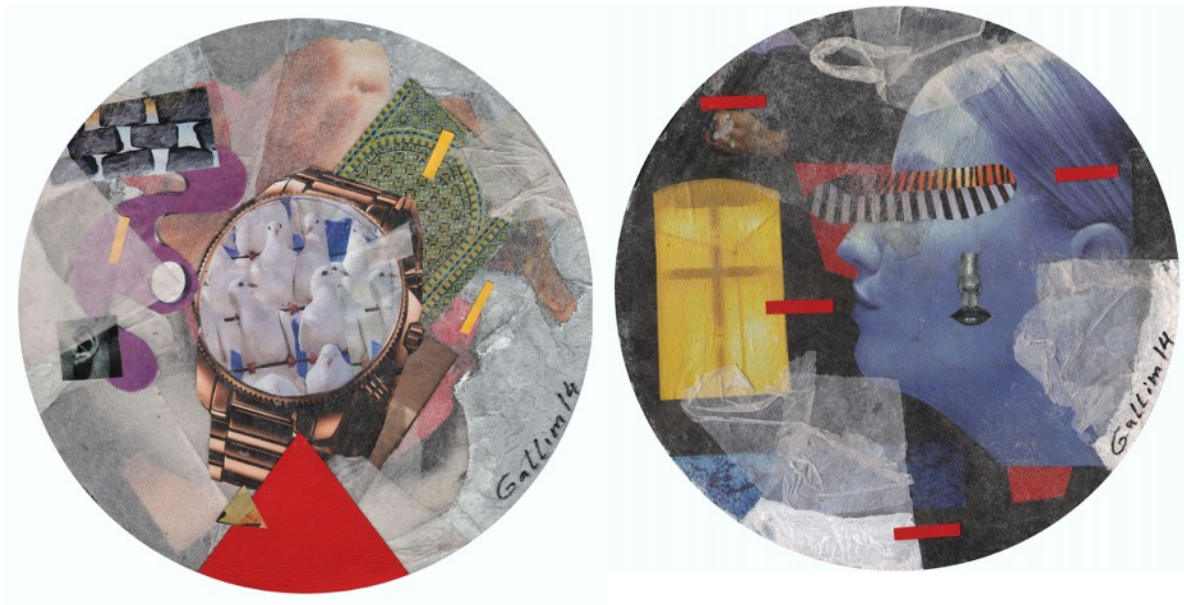
Trojan

C-print

67 cm x 105 cm

2013

Galim Madanov



Born in 1958, Kazakhstan
Lives and works in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Artist (paintings and installations) and cultural critic.

Galim Madanov is both a graduate of the All-Union of Cinematography in Moscow and of Philosophy and Political Science at the Kazakh State Al-Farabi University in Almaty. Often working in an intellectual duo and creative team with Kazakh artist Zauresh Terekbay, he is among the few contemporary artists who are rethinking the medium of painting by identifying its contemporary and social significance. Simultaneously involved in cinema and contemporary visual arts his artistic practice is a means of social critique.

Galim Madanov participated with Zauresh Terekbay in over 100 republican, regional and international exhibitions. He has exhibited, among other places, at: the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011; Aluminium, IV International Biennial of Contemporary Art, Baku, Azerbaijan in 2009; and in Red Star-Blue Dome, IFA-Gallery, Berlin in 2004. He is member of Artists' Union and the Cinematographers' Union of Kazakhstan and member of the Central Asian Arts Academy.



Galim Madanov
Untitled,
Collages on paper
30x30 cm
2014

Almagul Menlibayeva



Born in 1969, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Lives and works in Almaty, Amsterdam and Berlin

Menlibayeva graduated from the Theatre and Fine Arts Institute in Almaty in 1992. Her educational background is in the Soviet Russian avant-garde school of Futurism, which is combined with a nomadic aesthetic of post-Soviet, contemporary Kazakhstan. Working across a range of media including painting, graphics, performance, video and installation, Menlibayeva established her presence in the international art scene with her assertive aestheticism and mythical portrayal of the steppe landscapes of Central Asia. Her beautiful images evoke ancient myths while also reminding audiences of current environmental disasters. Her works also question the representation of women as they oscillate between a traditional Kazakh representation of women and a Western one.

Menlibayeva exhibited for the first time with the underground group Green Triangle in 1988 and was awarded the Daryn Prize by the President of Kazakhstan in 1998. Her work has been exhibited, among other places at: Priska C. Juschka Fine Art, New York, 2011; Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp, 2010; Galerie Davide Gallo, Berlin, 2007; Biennale of Sydney, 2006, 51st Venice Biennale, 2005; Artra Gallery, Amsterdam, 2002.



Almagul Menlibayeva

My Silk Road to You 3

C-print

71x107 cm

2011

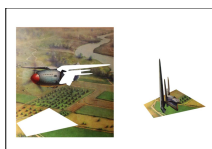
Alexander Ugay



Born in 1978, Kyzilorda, Kazakhstan
Lives and works in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Alexander Ugay is a representative of the new generation of the Central Asian contemporary art. Educated in St. Petersburg and the University of Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan, he is a photographer, video artist and one of the co-founders of the experimental collective Bronepoez (literally “armoured train”). The artist deals with memory and nostalgia, particularly in relation to the legacy left in his native Kazakhstan by the former Soviet Union. Ugay's main area of interest is the development of history and its relationship with our current situation; as well as the idea that provisional life can be cross-referenced internationally.

Alexander Ugay's works have been exhibited in numerous biennales and international shows: *Sharjah Biennial 10*, Sharjah (2011), *Promises of The Past*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2010), *Ground Floor America*, Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen (2010), *Younger Than Jesus*, New Museum, New York, NY (2009); Central Asia Pavillion, 52nd Venice Biennale, Venice (2007).



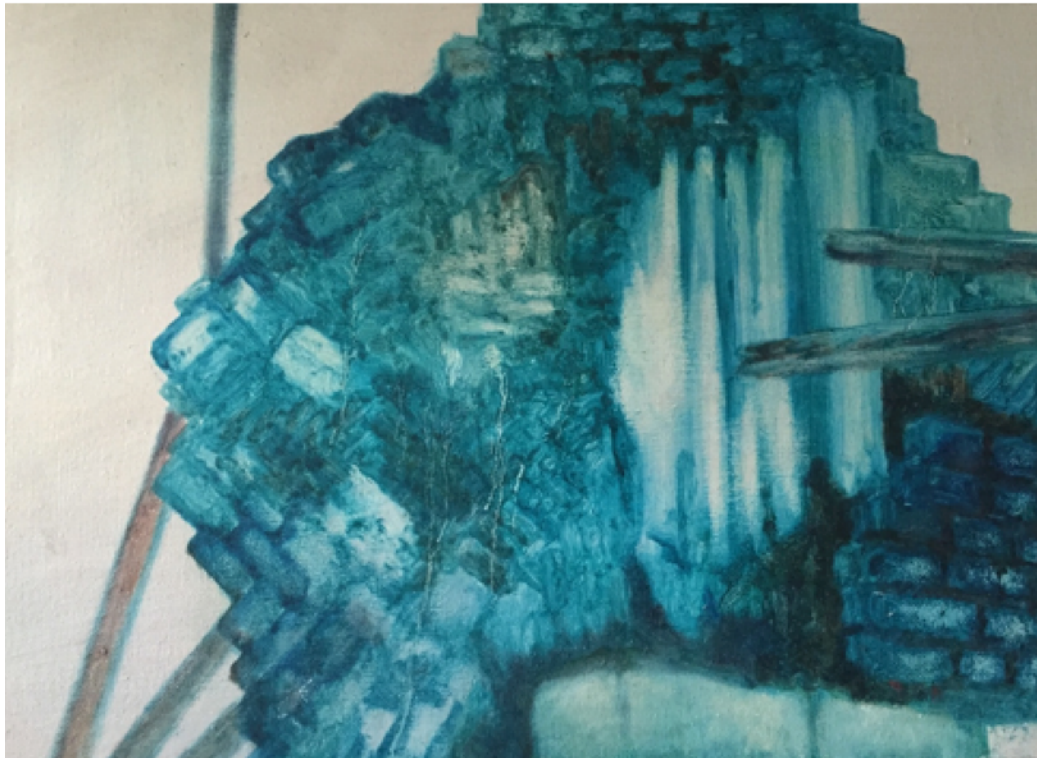
Alexander Ugay

More than a dreams, less than a things

Kinetic collage

2013

Kamilla Gabdullina



Born in 1986, Almaty, Kazakhstan
Lives and works in Paris

Kamilla Gabdullina leads at two levels a research on the picturality of conflict. On one hand, she experiences the act of painting as a struggle with the canvas, the result of forceful dialogue with its failures, its hitches, its losses and its ceaseless alterations. Giving free rein to the imagination, these visceral paintings mean nothing, they are simply the expression of what a psychic and aesthetic conflict can produce. On the other hand, the conflict is treated as the subject of the painting, putting together a new set of works.

The artist conceives then stages situations of social violence, relying in particular on the work of René Girard and the drift of "mimetic desire." Kamilla Gabdullina "executes" her paintings in the strongest sense of the term, meaning both to put to death and carry out a plan. This ambiguity also characterizes the tone it uses : the absurd poetry of the first paintings contrast strongly with the crudeness and the frontality of seconds, leaving nobody indifferent. Between horror and fascination, the spectator ends by experiencing the conflict between the sensations, becoming struggle between the ideas.



Kamilla Gabdullina

Chantier #1

Oil on canvas

46 cm x 33 cm

2015

Gulnur Mukhazanova



Born in 1984, Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan
Lives and works in Berlin, Germany

Based upon her personal biography, travelling between two cultures, Gulnur Mukhazanova defines her artistic concern by choosing her topic in a way that allows her to critically differentiate the individual identification with an ethnographical, archaic developed culture from the actual general globalization, as well as the mutually influencing interaction between them. Her works centre on the notions of femininity and alienation. She also looks at the multinational population of Kazakhstan, questioning with idea of identity as a form of a mask.

“She transcends and objectifies her subjective transcultural life history, between her own country and her momentary abode Germany, by staging it in a parable-like way. Doing so, she challenges and questions artistically the ritual tradition as well as the global information - and media society.”
Prof. T. J. Pranyko, Berlin



Gulnur Mukazhanova
Post nomadic reality in Kazakhstan
Mongolian sheep wool, styrofoam
6,33 cm x 18 cm x 23 cm
2016

Aza Shadenova



Born in 1989, Uzbekistan
Lives and works in London, UK

Aza Shadenova graduated from Central Saint Martins in graphic design / moving image. The majority of Aza's work is based around a dark humour and absurdism involved in dysfunctional childhoods, mental disorders, and poverty. Clearly speaking her work visualization of the lack of rational thinking and logical perception of life. She believes that uncontrollable elements are the keys to free creativity, freedom allows choosing the form, and immersion in the form of lies is the key to reality. Her inspiration comes from 20's - 40's avant-garde, and the phenomenon called "Theatre of the Absurd ». She uses absurdity as a way of styling and the goal of it is to deliberately lead to an idea, in which Aza's contemporaries will not notice the "quot-ideological trick", nothing that would contradict common sense. Her work often centers on people with communication problems. The objective of her work is to obtain the feeling of sensational precision in an artistic and object abstraction. Aza thinks that people will miscomprehend the video/photo or painting work if they start to dissect its metaphors or attempt to understand the artist's logic. "Sometimes I'm more interested with the emotional elements of my work as apposed to its literal implications and understanding »

She has put on solo show across London, Geneva, and in the National Gallery of her hometown Kyrgyztan. She represented Central Asian Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale 2013.



Aza Shadenova
Disappearing City
Video
2011

Gaisha Madanova



Born in 1987, Almaty, Kazakhstan
Lives and works in Munich

In 2009 she graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of the Almaty College of Construction and Management. After her graduation, Gaisha continued activity as a full time artist. Her debut on the art scene took place in 2007 as part of the international art collective Artpologist (art +anthropology). In their project "Transformation of space in Almaty" Artpologist collective made research of urban environment changes and the impact of this changes on the artists' studios of different generations. Gaisha also explores the issues surrounding surveillance and privacy, which have become increasingly unbalances in the recent years following the War on Terror and the changing status of the former Soviet bloc.

In 2012 Gaisha took part in «Kompetenzzentrum Kulturemanager» program organized by Goethe Institute. After the program Gaisha organized as a culture manager and curator her first educational project in the sphere of the contemporary art - VIDEO[ARTiFACT]. The project included exhibition, educational lectures about German and Kazakhstani video art and master class. Since October 2012 she became a student of the Munich Academy of Fine Arts (AdBK).



Gaisha Madanova
Syndrome of Learned Helplessness
Silkscreen prints
2013

Ada Yu



Born in 1987, Tekeli, Kazakhstan
Lives and works in Paris

Ada Yu is a multidisciplinary artist embracing film photography, installation, performance and cinema in my work. Giving priority to photography, of which the process and means are of extreme importance, use of various formats of film and scrutinized hand prints made in a darkroom are primordial for creation of my artworks, yet the practice extends beyond technical precision. Preparation for every photograph is carefully mastered in search of a better way to transmit an idea, feeling or even a flare of emotion.

Recurrently works are inspired by old paintings, by their manner of bringing stories before our eyes. Borrowing their aesthetical language and lighting styles, it infuses my universe with denuded bodies. The preparation for a photo shoot may take hours, days and sometimes even weeks if it involves construction of a décor. This technique, that I call 'Decompostruction' – decomposition of reality and its visual representation, further construction of an alternative reality using defragmented matter to produce imagery. Every photograph or an installation are staged and directed, as if they were frozen fractions of cinema.

Ada Yu believes an artist is like a prism that intakes the white light and releases a spectrum of colors. It is the precise intensity of an experienced moment that makes the memory alive.



Ada Yu

As cold as burned Phoenix can be
Color darkroom C-print
150 cm x 120 cm
2015



22, rue Louvigny
L-1946 Luxembourg

Director : Renaud Bergonzo
Co-founder of Acte2Galerie, Paris

Located in the heart of Luxembourg City, the **Wild Project Gallery** aims to highlight the richness and diversity of contemporary creation with five exhibitions per year, which guide the visitors through new experiences, push them to question what they see and feel, to exchange ideas and share the gallery's passion for art.

Past exhibitions:

02/10/2015 - 21/11/2015

Exhibition / IN MEMORIAM

Artist / Sabine Pigalle

03/11/2016 - 08/11/2015

Art Fair / LUXEMBOURG ART WEEK

Group show / Leila Alaoui, Sabine Pigalle, Philippe Perrin, Nøne Futbol Club, Jeanne Susplugas

05/12/2015 - 16/01/2016

Exhibition / CURATED BY... #1

Group show / Jacques Courtejoie, Izumi Miyazaki, Sabine Pigalle

21/01/2016 - 12/03/2016

Exhibition / DISORDER

Artist / Jeanne Susplugas

17/03/2016 - 23/04/2016

Exhibition / MUSES

Artist / Emmanuelle Bousquet

31/03/2016 - 03/04/2016

Art Fair / ART PARIS

Group show / Izumi Miyazaki, Nøne Futbol Club, Sabine Pigalle, Vee Speers, Jeanne Susplugas

Press Contact

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Please contact us for visuals in high resolution

Opening hours

Wed, Thu, Fri: 14:30 - 18:30

Sat: 10:30 - 12:30 et 14:00 - 17:00