

**PANCH** Performance Art  
Network CH



# MAPPING EUROPE

PLACES/ORTE

**SOFIA & PLOVDIV, BULGARIA**

DATE/DATUM

**1.4.19–7.4.19**

REPORT FROM/BERICHT VON

**JUDITH HUBER**

OCCASION OF THE TRIP/ANLASS DER REISE

**PANCH EUROVISION | RESEARCH TRAVELS**

# Travelogue Bulgaria

Time: 1.–7.4.2019

Travellers: Judith Huber

Local Guide and Translator: Albena Mihaylova

Places visited: Plovdiv, Sofia

Judith Huber writes:

In 2019 Plovdiv was the European Capital of Culture and therefore various cultural and artistic projects were made possible. My first interviews I made in Sofia and then travelled on to Plovdiv. Some appointments I had already made in advance, others happened spontaneously.

Albena Mihaylova linked me up with **Orlin Dvoryanov**, artist and organizer of «aaa – Art in Action Association» and several student platforms. He introduced me to EDIT Gallery in Sofia, where I arranged an interview on the same day. Other interview partners were **Nia Puskarova**, artist and organizer of the «Water Tower Festival», and **Nadezhda Dzhakova**, curator of the «Arsenal – Museum for Contemporary Art (National Gallery)» in Sofia. The contacts to **Voin de Voin**, artist and operator of «Æther Sofia», and **Emil Mirazchiev**, artist and director of «art today», I received from Dorothea Rust, who had been involved in an exhibition project in Plovdiv a year ago, organized by Dimitrina Sevova from Corner College Zurich. Furthermore, I interviewed **Vessellina and Katrin Sarieva** from the Sariev Gallery in Plovdiv, **Albena Mihaylova**, artist and winner of the Culture Prize Plovdiv 2019 and spontaneously **Maria Kulikovska**. She is a Ukrainian artist and performer living in Sweden, who can't return to her home Crimea. Because as a lesbian she would be threatened with death on her return.

Most of my interview partners built up a strong international network. That's how they can generate more funding, by inviting artists from abroad. And to show their work, they get more opportunities abroad. For them it is self-explanatory that you travel internationally.

### **Voin de Voin**

Sofia

artist and operator of

**Æther Sofia**, an independent art space

<https://aethersofia.wixsite.com/artspace>

facebook: [Æther@aethersofia](https://www.facebook.com/vvoindevvoin/)

[www.facebook.com/vvoindevvoin/](https://www.facebook.com/vvoindevvoin/)

<http://sariev-gallery.com/artists/voin-de-voin/bio>



Voin de Voin



Æther Sofia

### **Nia Pushkarova**

Sofia

artist and organizer of the

**Watertower Art Festival** and member of

**AIM – Artist Initiatives Meeting**

[www.niapush.dankin.net](http://www.niapush.dankin.net)

<http://nia.watertowerartfest.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nia.pushkarova>

<https://artistsinitiatives.com>



Nia Pushkarova

**Nadezha Dzhakova**

Head of

**Sofia Arsenal – Museum for Contemporary Art**  
(National Gallery)

[sofiaarsenal-mca.org](http://sofiaarsenal-mca.org)

<https://nationalgallery.bg/visiting/sofia-arsenal-museum-of-contemporary-art/>



Sofia Arsenal – Museum for Contemporary Art

**Orlin Dvoryanov**

Sofia

artist, teacher and head of

**aaa – Artist in Action Association**

[http://artinaction.eu/?page\\_id=2437](http://artinaction.eu/?page_id=2437)

<https://openartfiles.bg/en/people/2587-art-in-action-association>



Orlin Dvoryanov

**Vessellina and Katrin Sarieva**

Plovdiv

Head of the

**SARIEV Contemporary**

<http://www.sariev-gallery.com/>



Vessellina & Katrin Sarieva



**Emil Mirazchiev**

Plovdiv

artist and director of

**Art Today**

<http://www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/emil-mirazchiev/exhibitions>

<https://www.arttoday.org/site/news.php>



Emil Mirazchiev

**Albena Mihaylova**

artist and winner of the

**Culture Prize Plovdiv 2019**

[www.am-contemporary.com/bendji-bendji](http://www.am-contemporary.com/bendji-bendji)

[www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/albena-mihaylova/bio](http://www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/albena-mihaylova/bio)

<https://openartfiles.bg/en/people/1124-albena-mihaylova-bendji>

[https://art-collection-](https://art-collection-telekom.com/de/news/2019/05/albena-mihaylova-benji)

[telekom.com/de/news/2019/05/albena-mihaylova-benji](https://art-collection-telekom.com/de/news/2019/05/albena-mihaylova-benji)



Albena Mihaylova

**Maria Kulikovska**

Stockholm/Sweden

artist and founder of

**Body and Borders**, an international feminist organisation and founder of the art collective

**Flowers of Democracy**

[www.artrepresent.com/maria-kulikovskaya](http://www.artrepresent.com/maria-kulikovskaya)

[www.mariakulikovska.net/en/body-and-borders](http://www.mariakulikovska.net/en/body-and-borders)

[www.artrepresent.com/flowers-of-democracy-about](http://www.artrepresent.com/flowers-of-democracy-about)



Maria Kulikovska

## INDEX

### PEOPLE/LEUTE

- Judith Huber, artist, Emmenbrücke, Switzerland: [www.judhu.ch](http://www.judhu.ch)
- Albena Mihaylova, artist, Basel/CH, Grenzach/D:  
[www.am-contemporary.com/bendji](http://www.am-contemporary.com/bendji)  
[www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/albena-mihaylova/bio](http://www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/albena-mihaylova/bio)  
<https://openartfiles.bg/en/people/1124-albena-mihaylova-bendji>  
<https://art-collection-telekom.com/de/news/2019/05/albena-mihaylova-benji>
- Voin de Voin, artist, Sofia, Bulgaria: <http://sariev-gallery.com/artists/voin-de-voin/bio>,  
[www.facebook.com/vvoindevvoin/](http://www.facebook.com/vvoindevvoin/)
- Nia Pushkarova, artist & organiser, Sofia, Bulgaria: [www.niapush.dankin.net](http://www.niapush.dankin.net),  
<https://www.facebook.com/nia.pushkarova>
- Nadezha Dzhakova, Head of Sofia Arsenal – Museum for Contemporary Art, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Orlin Dvoryanov, artist, teacher and head of aaa – Artist in Action Association, Sofia
- Vessellina & Katrin Sarieva, Head of the SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- Emil Mirazchiev, artist & director of Art Today, Plovdiv, Bulgaria:  
<http://www.sariev-gallery.com/artists/emil-mirazchiev/exhibitions>
- Maria Kulikovska, artist & founder of Body and Borders, an international feminist organisation and founder of the art collective Flowers of Democracy, Stockholm, Sweden:  
[www.artrepresent.com/maria-kulikovskaya](http://www.artrepresent.com/maria-kulikovskaya), <https://www.mariakulikovska.net/en>

### FESTIVALS/PROJECTS/PLACES

- Æther Sofia, independent art space, Sofia, Bulgaria: [aethersofia.wixsite.com/artspace](http://aethersofia.wixsite.com/artspace),  
[Æther@aethersofia](mailto:Æther@aethersofia)
- Watertower Art Festival, Sofia, Bulgaria: <http://nia.watertowerartfest.com/>
- AIM – Artist Initiatives Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria: <https://artistsinitiatives.com>
- Sofia Arsenal – Museum for Contemporary Art (National Gallery), Sofia, Bulgaria:  
<https://nationalgallery.bg/visiting/sofia-arsenal-museum-of-contemporary-art/>,  
[sofiaarsenal-mca.org](http://sofiaarsenal-mca.org)
- aaa – Artist in Action Association, Sofia, Bulgaria: [http://artinaction.eu/?page\\_id=2437](http://artinaction.eu/?page_id=2437),  
<https://openartfiles.bg/en/people/2587-art-in-action-association>
- SARIEV Contemporary, Plovdiv, Bulgaria: <http://www.sariev-gallery.com/>
- Art Today, Plovdiv, Bulgaria: <https://www.arttoday.org/site/news.php>
- Body and Borders, an international feminist organisation and founder of the art collective Flowers of Democracy: [www.mariakulikovska.net/en/body-and-borders](http://www.mariakulikovska.net/en/body-and-borders),  
[www.artrepresent.com/flowers-of-democracy-about](http://www.artrepresent.com/flowers-of-democracy-about)