

NICODIM

STEFANIA BATOIEVA: SOMETHING TO ME

Nicodim Upstairs Los Angeles

December 16, 2021 – January 29, 2022



Stefania Batoieva, *Untitled*, 2021

It has become somewhat cliché to talk about how the past years have turned our collective sights inward, forced us to recalculate how we interact with one another, what it means to be together, what it means to be alone. For most painters, the truth has always been a lonely one: a solitary conversation between artist, brush, canvas, and whatever specters emerge in the process. *SOMETHING TO ME*, Stefania Batoieva's fourth solo exhibition with Nicodim, is a direct dialogue with the ghosts she conjures in her studio—voices that have always been there who suddenly find themselves with the bandwidth to articulate their own aspirations.

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The paintings in *SOMETHING TO ME* compositionally resemble Lacan's graphs of desire, conscious and subconscious longings forever bound in Freudian double inscription. (All works in this series are untitled, inviting viewers to link their own signifying chains to the ideas presented.) They are segregated, yet entwined dualities competing to determine which side is more real. Here we have a ballerina in relevé on the right side of the canvas, hunched in fierce concentration to either expel or match gazes with a much darker, ethereal version of herself. Here we have a man and woman standing back-to-back on the left half of a painting, arms folded in disagreement, while a ghostlier version of the male reaches to embrace his despondent love from the right. Here we have a central nervous system on the left, its blackened soul opposite. The pathos is palpable, but so is the spark of life.

There is an irony inherent to a state of universal loneliness. We may be forced into isolation from one another, but we're alone together. With *SOMETHING TO ME*, Batoieva and her ghosts join in opposition to form a community of separate-but-equals, a populace unified by longing for physical contact, personal connection. It is a mantra for these times: the loneliness is a life force, our signifying chain.

Stefania Batoieva (b. 1981 Sofia, Bulgaria) lives and works in London. Recent exhibitions include *Le Marteau sans maître*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2021, solo); *SAGG Napoli and Stefania Batoieva: Drama, Import Export*, Warsaw (2021); *Winter in Paris*, Artuner, online (2020, solo), *When You Waked Up The Buffalo*, Nicodim, Los Angeles (2020); *Marc Chagall*, All Welcome, London (2019, solo); *Periods*, ICA, Sofia (2019); *Devoted Iota Elusion*, Emalin, London (2017, solo); *Total Devotion*, Almanac, Turin (2017, solo); *Winterheart*, Ermes-Ermes, Vienna (2017, solo); and *SPEEDING TO THE CORNER*, Nicodim, Los Angeles (2015, solo). *SOMETHING TO ME* is her fourth solo exhibition with Nicodim.

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Stefania Batoeva

° Born 1981 Sofia, Bulgaria
Lives and works in London, United Kingdom

Education

2014 Royal College of Art, London
2007 AA School of Architecture, London

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2021 *SOMETHING TO ME*, Nicodim, Los Angeles
Drama, Import/Export, Warsaw (with Sagg Napoli)
Le Marteau sans maître, Nicodim, Bucharest
- 2020 *WINTER IN PARIS*, ARTUNER, online
Misfortunate Mortals, Medium P at Stödelschule, Frankfurt (with Marsida Rexhepaj, curated by Antinia Lia Orsi)
- 2019 *Marc Chagall*, All Welcome, London
- 2017 *Total Devotion*, Almanac, Turin
Winterheart, Ermes-Ermes, Vienna
It Is Forever Ours, two person show with Goran Chanter, curated by Swimming Pool, Sofia at David Dale Gallery, Glasgow
Devoted Iota Elusion, Emalin, London
- 2016 *EXPORTING MARSII REX*, Stefania Batoeva & Isaac Lythgoe, dreamt by Guido Santandrea, Palermo
- 2015 *TIA DETH*, two-person show with Adriano Costa, Emalin, London
SPEEDING TO THE CORNER, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles
Club Caligula (with Ilja Karilampi, Leslie Kulesh and Isaac Lythgoe), Supplement, London
- 2014 *Angela Is Sliding*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest
PAUL, Sariev Contemporary, Plovdiv
- 2013 *Still No Masterplan*, Almanac Projects, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

2020 *Sky-blue and green*, Curated by Ellie Pratt, hosted by VO Curations, London

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- When You Waked Up The Buffalo*, Nicodim, Los Angeles
- 2019 *Thank You, Mr. Ruf*, Credo Bonum Gallery, Sofia
Ford Every Stream, Galleria Acappela, Naples
Periods, ICA, Sofia
Nome d'us, Shore Gallery, Vienna
Daughters of Hecate, White Crypt, London
- 2018 *Unearthing*, Becky's, London
Entagled Tales, Rupert, Vilnius
The Church Painting Show, Blackwing Studios, London
- 2017 *A Highly Dazed World*, Daily Lazy Projects, Athens
All Men By Nature Desire To Know, curated by Joshua Lockwood, Bonington Gallery, Nottingham
- 2016 *FOLLY*, Emalin at The Dunmore Pineapple, Scotland
With Institutions Like These, curated by Viktor Wang, The Averard Hotel, London
- 2015 *1(um)*, BFA Boatos, Sao Paulo
BALCONIA (three person show with Emanuel Röhss and Yves Scherer), SWIMMING POOL, Sofia
You will find me if you want me in the garden, Galerie Valentin, Paris
My Internet Was Down For 5 Minutes So I Went Downstairs And Spoke To My Family. They Seem Like Nice People, Galerie Jeanroch Dard, Brussels
- 2014 *Got tortilla with butter on phone. Think it's the end?*, Rod Barton Gallery, London
MAJESTIC BATHER, 68 square metres, Copenhagen
Dizziness of Freedom, Bermondsey Project, London
Royal College of Art Degree Show, London
- 2013 *'l'Echappée Belle'*, Kilometre, Grand Palais, Paris
AUTO COUTURE, Automotive Couture, London

Publications

- 2020 *Mura Masa Raw Youth Collage publication*, London
- 2019 *Marc Chagall zine*, All Welcome, London
MANHOLE, London
Time to wake up yet, London