

APALAZZOGALLERY

ALEXANDRA SUKHAREVA, DENIS KOSHKAREV

***Take Off the Mask,
Take Off the Hat***

24 May – 2 September 2023

APALAZZOGALLERY is pleased to present *Take Off the Mask, Take Off the Hat*, Alexandra Sukhareva and Denis Koshkarev's new exhibition at the gallery opening on Wednesday 24 May.

Alexandra Sukhareva has embarked on personal experimentation with toxic materials and substances, testing the corrosive capacity of liquids in combination with a variety of media. She has worked on canvas using chlorine to imprint and burn the surface.

"The fear of light is not immediately noticeable. I remember the time, when I experienced it vividly. On a winter evening, as the night was setting in, I went around the house to turn on the lights. To my surprise, the light not only failed to dispel the darkness, but it also seemed to bring its own haze. The brighter the light was, the less it was able to illuminate anything, create a sense of space, and ultimately distinguish between light and darkness.

On canvases, once I have finished sticking the lines, the power of photons begins to take effect. Without photons, there can be no imprint. Moreover, the longer the exposure or the brighter the light that falls on the linen, the brighter the trace. As for chlorine, it only accelerates the process of routine burning, which occurs at any time of day.

I rarely transfer the sketches I draw onto canvas. All the elements that can be found in a drawing — human touch, the force of desire, and the tone expressed — disappear under the light. The only thing that has ever helped preserve the difference in tone is something like a simple mask. Of all the options, canvases ultimately only show the confrontation between all-consuming light and, if the mask can withstand the confrontation, the (temporary) shadow beneath it.

Denis's drawings gave me a reason advance in interpreting the "aporia of light". He once said about those drawings, *"This is the result of the unbearable dialogue that I start over and over, the inability to agree with anyone. These images are broken and stripped of meaning, but they still strive for something, they keep striving."*

The unbearable dialogue is always there, where meaning has left us. This is apparent. But the unbearable only comes when one's reflection enters the dialogue, a double who has the exact same desire. In the radical world of doubles, there's no place for neutral relations. And it doesn't matter what the myth of difference says about your vision; if you're caught in the trap of a shared desire. The desire is fully revealed here in its ambiguity, as the carrier of "light" and the seed of violence.

Denis said about the immediacy of his work, *"Little accidents and unexpected twists make up these drawings. All aesthetic decisions are made on the fly. I think I just wanted to keep living."* But what does the desire to keep living even mean today?" – Alexandra Sukhareva

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Alexandra Sukhareva (b. 1983, lives and works in Moscow) - a visual artist, author of process-oriented works often affecting the phenomena of the mutual influence of matter and cognition. Participant of international exhibitions: dOCUMENTA 13 (2012), "Human Commonalities", V. Sidur Museum (2016), "Time, Forward!", Palazzo Dzattere (2019), 13th Gwangju Biennale (2021) and others. Her works are included in the museum collections of Tate Modern (London), Castello di Rivoli (Turin) and private collections in Mexico, Italy, UK and Russia.

Denis Koshkarev (b.1987, Moscow) is a visual artist exploring grotesque and comic images. From 2007 to 2013 he studied animation and graphic design. In 2016 he graduated from contemporary art school Baza (Moscow). His practice was influenced by grassroots culture while he was taking part in the street art group Influx. From 2017 Koshkarev participated artist-run space Red, Moscow. His works were shown at the exhibitions "Make Medium", Museum of Moscow (2015), "In the picture", Red Center (2016), "Turbo Anti-Allergy", Red Center (2017), "Reincarnation", Cube.Moscow (2020).

APALAZZOGALLERY was founded in 2008 by Francesca Migliorati and Chiara Rusconi, as a commercial space for new encounters. Inspired by the unique architecture of the gallery, the prestigious Palazzo Cigola Fenaroli, it aims to show contemporary art through a particular perspective, presenting curated solo and group exhibitions on a diversity of themes. The commitment of the gallery is to develop a multidisciplinary and cross - generational programme. APALAZZOGALLERY organises exhibitions based on a particular theme or, alternatively, on the work of a single artist; and it supports international and Italian artists, both young and historical figures. Every project is built on a long and attentive dialogue between the gallery space and the artist; the result is often a show, in which the artworks engage the space in innovative ways, creating complex connections with the architecture of the palace. The gallery encourages and sustains this dialogue through artist residencies. APALAZZOGALLERY promotes the work of the artists through Italian and international art fairs and curatorial projects. Represented artists are Sonia Boyce OBE RA, Ann Iren Buan, Edsno Chagas, Giorgio Ciam, Raül De Nieves, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Emkal Eyongakpa, the Estate of Larry Stanton, Paolo Gonzato, Ibrahim Mahama, Servane Mary, the Estate of Jonas Mekas, Lucia Pescador, Marta Pierobon, Nathalie Provosty, Alan Reid, Olympia Scarry, Augustas Serapinas, Alexandra Sukhareva, The Reader and Luc Ming Yan.

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