



Curatorial project for the National Participation
of the Republic of Bulgaria in the 61st International Art Exhibition
of the Venice Biennale

Rehearsal

Curator: Vessela Nozharova

Artist: Kalin Serapionov

Team:

Exhibition design:

pov architects – Boris Emilov Tikvarski, Bojidara Valkova

Visual identity: Zahari Dimitrov

Technical advisor: Tilmann Rödiger

Three-channel videoinstallation, sound, sync, 21 min (loop)

Participants: Alex Flavie, Boryana Petkova, Daniela Christova, Emilia Toncheva, Gabi Grigorova, Ina Dobreva, Kyril Buhowski, Marin Penev, Nevelin Ivanov, Simeon Markov, Tsveta Doycheva, Usha Tsonkova, Vassil Atanasov, Viktor Anchev

DoP: Tilmann Rödiger

Camera Assistant: Lukas Rehm

Lighting: Kiril Yonchev

Gaffer: Nikola Lilovski

Grip: Georgi Georgiev – Gugunde

Make-up: Stanislava Cherganova

Sound: Georgi Atanasov

Filming equipment: Magic Shop Ltd.

Kalin Serapionov

“Rehearsal”

“Every moment of our lives is a miniature theatrical performance. Even our most intimate moments have an audience of at least one: ourselves.”

Declan Donnellan

“Rehearsal” is a three-channel video installation created for the National Autumn Exhibitions – Plovdiv in September this year. There it was shown in the Vaulted Hall of the Balabanov House – a long rectangular space divided into three parts by two transverse walls. A space whose architecture allows the screen action to be both separated and viewed from a single point – conditions also present in the Venetian “Tiziano” Hall.

In “Rehearsal”, Kalin Serapionov follows the relationships that unfold between a group of people invited to interact with one another in a shared space. They are placed in the conditional and metaphorical setting of a rehearsal room, without prior dramaturgy or choreography.

The fourteen participants are of different ages, belong to different generations, and are more or less unfamiliar with each other. Placed on the stage, they are prompted to interact. On this stage, they are all equal.

Rehearsal is a preconditioned life process that takes place in the moment. It is simultaneously preparation for and the ultimate goal of the artwork. The participants are invited to observe their own reactions, guided by intuition and spontaneity. Without words

but through gestures, through body language, through hands that hold each other and eyes that meet, people begin to communicate through slow, ritual movements. Their bodies build figural compositions that tell stories of human relationships and emotions: empathy, affection, jealousy, loneliness, anticipation.

The understanding of closeness and togetherness is conveyed through bodily behavior. The body is the main instrument of this work. The camera captures the finest nuances of this behavior: moments of physical touch, the search for motivated action, the intrigue and tension between the characters.

At the end of the work, Kalin Serapionov introduces another “participant” into the action – a piece of colored fabric that enters the space like the drapery of a classical painting, simultaneously concealing and revealing the desires of the bodies.

In “Rehearsal,” Kalin Serapionov poses important questions to the audience. One of them is: **Can we truly be together – genuinely, physically – at a time when everyone is alone?**

Vessela Nozharova
Curator