

Radina Stoïmenova

Radina Stoïmenova was born in 1991 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

She obtained her Bachelor's degree in mural painting with high honours at the National Art Academy of Sofia and then her Master's in visual arts in Annecy, France, in 2016. She works in the field of drawing and performance, exploring urban space and the place it holds in collective memory.

She currently lives in Biarritz, France.

(...) Radina describes all those places that have sometime existed, and will remain forever as urban ruins. She steps beyond their purely social or economic meaning. In other words, she creates memory for those deteriorating urban landscapes she depicts. The political dimension of her work is natural: it is in the freedom of expression. Political awareness means being unburdened, and free at any cost. Accepting death as part of life and memory as a vital need of subjects is what Radina does.

Voin de Voin

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Sofia Tropics

Sofia Tropics is a project which juxtaposes urban landscapes and reflects on the conception of property and luxury. It focuses on private luxury residences and the place they hold in contemporary urbanism through drawing, painting and writing. Luxury has become poor (from a semiotic point of view) - a few symbols can identify it: high security, tropical plants, swimming pools and spas.

The artist positions herself as a pedestrian who doesn't no longer access to parts of the city. She roams about the edges of different parts of Europe only to discover that parts of it have come to a disturbing resemblance.

Sofia Tropics I
Acrylics on plastic sheeting
2020



Residence Euskadi
Acrylics on cotton
2021



42nd Avenue vs Mike & Jessica Wolf
Acrylics on organza fabric
2021



Towards the Edge of google Maps
Series of digital drawings
2021



Exhibition view
Depoo gallery, Sofia
2021

The Memory of Objects Remains in Safe Spaces

Once it's gone, it is hard to keep the precise outline of a place in mind.

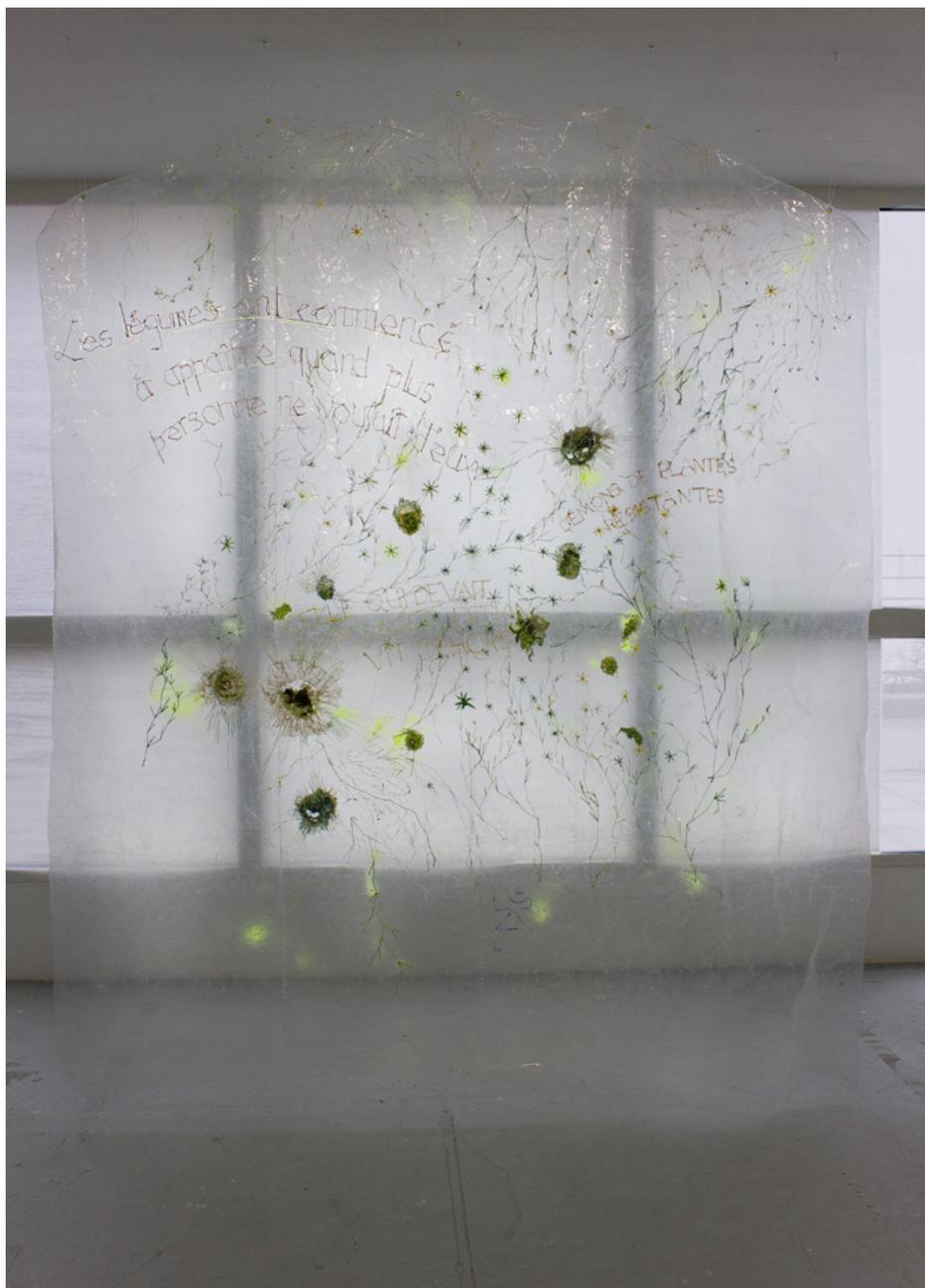
Although still vivid, a memory is selective and misleading.

While exploring the remnants of an old plant nursery in the French Alps, I was thinking of how people would remember this place soon to be destroyed. I took a large piece of tarpaulin off a hothouse. I like the transparency of this cheap material. Respectful towards the mold colonies already invading the plastic, I started embroidering mosses, lichens and other vegetal species. Embroidering takes a long time and so did the nursery to develop and grow. Now that it's no longer controlled by humans, plants grow freely everywhere.





The Memory of Objects Remains in Safe Spaces
drawing installation
exhibition view
Arteppe contemporary art center, Annecy,
2021



The Garden's Keeper
Embroidery on plastic sheeting
330 x 280 cm
2020 - 2021

ВИЖ.

МИНАВАШ ОТТУК.

АКО РЕ-ЦЕПИШ

ПРЕЗКАЛТА.

ТАМ, КЪДЕТО ВИДЯХМЕ

ЕДИН ЧОВЕК ДА ЛЕЖИ

В ТРЕВАТА, ПОМНИШ ЛИ?

ПОМНИШ ЛИ КАК

СЕ СТРЕСНА?

ИНАЧЕ НА МЕН МИ ХАРЕСВА

ЗЕЛЕНИНАТА В КВАРТАЛА.

ПЛАНИНАТА ОТСРЕЩА

ТЕРАСАТА.



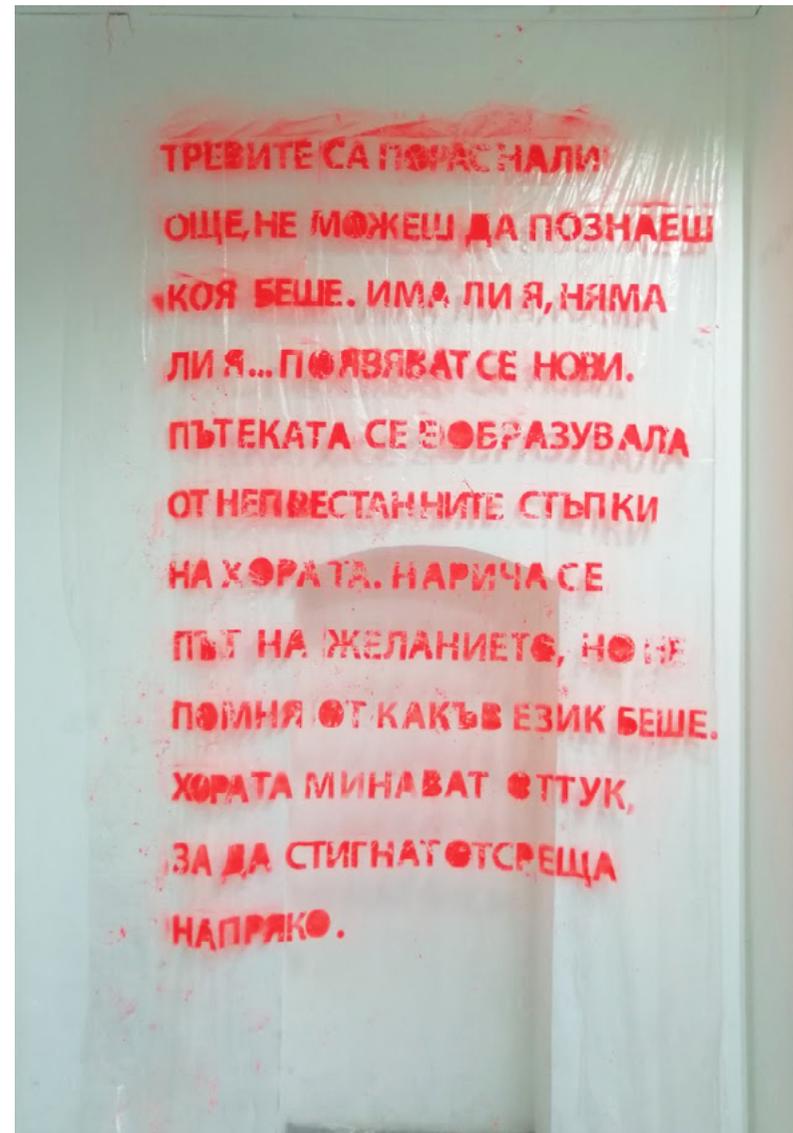
This Place Has Been Here Before

This is an attempt to resurrect a land that no longer exists through drawing and writing. There used to be lush terrains full of vegetation around my old neighborhood in Sofia. They were wild but not exotic. Exotic has to be appealing but not too scary, like a palm tree in a pot. Same with architecture. Wild means ferocious so better abandon it or get rid of it. The muddy fields surrounding my childhood block naturally turned into a wasteland that progressively turned into an immense park, playground, vegetal maze. Then buildings were built over it erasing everything. By means of old pictures and memories.

I'm trying to make the wasteland reappear.

This Place Has Been Here Before
Exhibition view
Espace Port A
Sofia, 2020

“
*The weeds have grown, there's no way
to remember which one it was.
Does it still exist or not...
New ones are appearing. Paths form by
neverending human steps. They're called
'desire lines' but I don't remember
where I know it from.
People cross through here to reach
the other side quicker.*”





Hiding the Invisible

Bamboo shoots and weeds have started to grow inside the 200 years old house and have made their way towards the ceiling. I built structures reminding of sprouts built from chicken wire and fabrics collected from the local people. The pieces of clothing that belonged to people of the village were assembled inside the same house creating a tiny landscape. This project aims to explore everyday life in the mountain village of Kuni, Japan.

Hiding the Invisible
Installation
Variable dimensions
Nakanojo Biennale
2019





LAST TIME I WAS HERE
TAKING WALKS IN THE FOREST EVERY
ONCE I SAW AN ABANDONED HUT
UP IN THE WOODS.
ANOTHER TIME SOMETHING THAT
LOOKED LIKE A SUNKEN SHIP



Would You Take That Path if : the Moon was Shining, Stones were Red?

Two guided evening walks on Tsukimi Bridge and through the Firefly Path somewhere far in the mountains. The guide has never visited these areas, but their names, locations and the few Google Maps pictures she has seen of them have arisen her imagination. Stories would be told, mixed up with legends. This performance unfolds as a two parts story, told two consecutive nights. It aims to explore the potential of a geographical location through the eyes of a stranger.

Would you... Part 1 & 2
Performance
About an hour long
Nakanojo Biennale 2017





Education

- 2016** ESAAA, Annecy, France
Master in visual arts
- 2014** National Art Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria
BA in mural painting
- 2012-2013** ESBAMM, Montpellier, France,
Erasmus

Shows and residencies

- 2022** *Sofia Tropics part 2*, solo show, Arosita gallery, Sofia (upcoming)
R3:Scape City, performance at distance, online performance festival
- 2021** *Sofia Tropics, part 1*, solo show, Depoo gallery, Sofia
From SD to SE, participation in Nicolas Chapelle's show,
l'Assaut de la menuiserie, St Etienne
Le murmure des serres, collective show, Arteppes art center, Annecy
- 2020** Coolt Salon, collective show & zine, London, Belgrade, Sofia
Water Tower Art Residency, online edition
Solo show, espace Port A, Sofia,
Beyond, collective show, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Bulgaria
- 2019** *T5, non meublé*, curatorial project, Sous-Alery studio, Annecy
Akiyoshidai International Art Village, artist residency, Japan
Nakanojo Biennale, Nakanojo, Japan
LAF, contemporary art festival, Larroque, France
- 2018** *Au grand air*, collective show, Sous-Alery studio, Annecy
Duos, collective show, Sous-Alery studio, Annecy
Terre de Béton sauvage, Sous-Alery studio, collective show, Annecy, France
- 2017** *After Puls'art*, Moulins'art art center, le Mans, France
VRRRRR drawing festival, Museum of art, Toulon, France
- 2016** Nakanojo Biennale, Nakanojo, Japan
Collective show, Nuance gallery, Sofia