

voskhod

Voskhod Gallery is pleased to announce its first physical exhibition and public gallery space with the installation **Noah** by **Fedora Akimova**.

In her work, whether painting or installations, Fedora explores imaginary mystic worlds that feel cold and give us a sense of anxiety and alienation. These worlds are inhabited by animals that are either extinct or not real and there is no human in sight. Have humans gone or did they never exist? Religious symbols that should offer secret or sacred meanings instead symbolize emptiness and remind us of empty shells.

The whole of Fedora's practice leaves the viewer a bit disturbed with a feeling that something big and inevitable has just happened, a global catastrophe, that might be result of man's presence, his destructive existence.

In her latest project, *Noah*, Fedora again places us in her post-human world, however also gives us an opportunity to contemplate our chance for salvation.

The project explores the problem of discrediting universal human values and illusions that have been built for millennia. We all know the bible story of Noah which, like the rest of the Old Testament, explores the chance for salvation. Looking at the plot from our present, one can see many new, more utopian meanings, and this can become a story of a failure to save and be saved. Man now needs to be saved first of all from his anthropocentric, barbaric illusions and the consequences of his own actions.

The central part of this installation is an icon case (a "kiot"), as a cultural code of Orthodoxy, which once was the uniting religion for many slavic nations. A huge, hand-embroidered canvas is connecting pieces of transparent matter that were once an integral universe. Criticism of the Anthropocene Epoch in this installation is conveyed by complete removal of any image of humans, whilst it is filled with the diversity of the animal world, from which, as a species that has compromised itself on earth, we can learn something.

Is there still an opportunity to escape the fate, or is doom inevitable?

About our author

Fedora Akimova is a mixed-media artist specializing in installations, video and objects. She was born in 1987 in Kyiv, where, after receiving her first degree in printing and graphics, she began her creative career as an illustrator. As someone who had studied art since the age of 7, the matter of the profession was never a real question. In 2010 she moved to Russia – first to Kaliningrad, then St. Petersburg, where she studied decoration and staging. This diploma in theater decoration and stage design has impacted and developed her as a future artist, as she picked up many techniques and crafts into her art.

"Each visual component should carry its own meaning, its own emotion or sound. When you successfully combine several components, you get a melody as a result. In the first place for me - for the viewer to hear this melody in their own way, so that my art helps to evoke emotions"

In her practice, Fedora creates blurred hypnotic landscapes and tender objects with elements of embroidery – all of these serve to depict new imaginary worlds - as mesmerizing and uncomfortable as they are, to help us to imagine a world "after", a world without a human.

From 2017 to March 2022 Fedora resided and practiced in Moscow, and had multiple exhibitions in private galleries and large institutions including: Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (2021), MMOMA Moscow (2021), Cosmoscow Contemporary Art Fair (2018, 2021) and others. Fedora's solo exhibitions were held at the Artis (2018), Lazy Mike (2021), etc.

Her works are part of collections around the world: US, UK, Australia, Poland, Germany, France, South Korea, Mexico, Russia and of course, Ukraine.

Since March, 2022, Fedora has lived and worked in Tbilisi, Georgia.

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Quotes from the author

...**on Embroidery.** Passion for hand embroidery was passed on to me from my grandmother from Kyiv and grandmothers from Chernihiv. For me, embroidery as a medium speaks for itself: archaic, feminine, fragile and conveys creation and harmony. I use embroidery to depict broken worlds that were once a whole.

... **on Objects.** In my installations, I use things that I find in garbage dumps or buy at flea markets. My objects often imitate some kind of cult or functionality, but in fact they, like random assemblies, speak of the absurdity of our reality, of a failure in the system called "human".

..... Pre-revolutionary icon cases from Orthodox icons for me are a frame for the emptiness and loss of our era, and a symbol of the tacit question of what a person, civilization, culture is and where we should go now, what to be.

...**on sustainable living.** It is very important for me not to buy new things. Buying new stuff, especially clothes, depresses me, like flying on airplanes - I don't understand why there is a need to produce so much and create so much pressure around consumption.

About Voskhod

Voskhod was founded out of Basel by Daria Lobyntseva, an art lover, collector and practitioner, with two distinctive goals: engage a broader audience into understanding and communicating through art and make the process of buying art more accessible. Secondly, to help talented young artists advance their careers and get more exposure on the international stage.

To merge these two goals, Voskhod operates as an online art platform offering a fine selection of curated works from talented young artists. While the mission is to focus primarily on online sales through the platform, we are happy to leverage a small exhibition space in Basel to help connect with the local audience.

The new vitrine is a relatively small exhibition place (2.6 x 6m) that allows compact exhibitions and shows and will help us to introduce our artists to the local Basel community.

We had never expected that our first exhibition would take place in such extreme circumstances. And it is now important to note, that while the project is taking roots from Russia through its founder, the view on the war has been very clear. We are condemning the war that is happening and we stand with Ukraine.

We remain committed to supporting and nurturing our artists.

Noah Installation

Chapel 3: Wooden icon case (19th Cent), diodes, crown of an Orthodox Icon; Organza veil with handmade embroidery; colored toys

2.6 x 6 m, 2022

Noah will run April 1st – May 8th

For any inquiries, please email: info@voskhod.ch and check our website for more works voskhod.ch