

# voskhod

## 'The Fleeting Light on Your Folds' Solo Exhibition by Katya Tsareva

Curated by Anzhela Popova

### **Part 1. The Chapel, Brompton Cemetery**

Old Brompton Road, SW5 9JE, London, UK

Exhibition dates: 5th – 6th October

### **Part 2. Voshod Gallery**

Postpassage 9, Basel, Switzerland

Exhibition dates: 17th October – 16th November

This autumn *Voshod Gallery* is delighted to present the solo exhibition '*The Fleeting Light on Your Folds*' by a London based artist Katya Tsareva which reveals the extent of our physical sensuality and vulnerability. The main idea feels like a time capsule, half buried in history and still humming with life. The exhibition digs understanding of the body itself: why it's so difficult to inhabit, why we might want to escape or subdue it, why it remains a naked source of power. The free body's full power is not despite but because of manifest tenderness.

*Katya Tsareva* is examining the bodies adopting an academic painterly approach and what could go wrong, working this way through hundreds of distinguishing between them. The artistic approach is to show the body as a device for processing the external world: a conversion object, hoarding, transforming, discarding, stripping for parts.

The exhibition is purposely divided into two parts and set up in different cities and countries – London, the UK and Basel, Switzerland. The visitors are invited to experience the two diverse but interconnected expositions. The first one at the *Brompton Chapel* in London is focused on viewing the body as an initial element or cell. What does it actually mean to life inside of it? The site-specific installation '*Tenderness*' as a set of surfaces features large-scale watercolors and hand stitched soft objects by *Katya Tsareva*. This is a metaphor of the unattainable second skin, so smooth and gleaming it is practically alien. The installation presented at the Chapel serves for the profound attraction between pleasure and pain, hatred and desire.

The second part of the exhibition that follows Brompton is based in *Voshod gallery* space in Basel. The total window installation of large watercolors from the series '*Tender*' completed with numerous little bits of torn paper reveals that the ideal of the body's beauty is administered as a form of self-oppression. *Katya* alters the photographs of figures, body fragments using collage, computer graphics and AI, achieving a new form-making for her works. The watercolors unlatch a whole suite of emotions, among them pleasure, attraction, even disgust. Nevertheless, these sets of opposing forces and the disparate tensions are in specific balance. The large watercolors are evidently the product of long, meticulous, repetitive labor. They are on their own begging the question of what forces were being mastered, what kind of longings assuage.

We are taught to see their bodies in parts and to evaluate each part separately: breasts, feet, hips, waistline, neck, eyes, nose, complexion, hair, and so on. Nothing less than perfection will do. Beauty is a phantom. The question is, what sort of phantom — will it give freedom or confinement? To be sure, beauty embodied in the body is a form of power. It is a power that negates itself, for this power is not one that can be chosen freely or renounced without social censure.

*Artist. Katya Tsareva* is a UK-based multidisciplinary artist who currently lives and works in London. Born in Krasnodar, Russia. She graduated at MA Architecture and Design from Kuban State University, Russia (2006) and Chelsea Open Studio Short Course, Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK (April/May 2024). In 2012, Katya held her inaugural solo exhibition and participated in the Moscow International Biennale of Young Art. Recognized as one of the top 100 young Russian artists by 'In Art' in 2017, she had a solo exhibition at the Udmurt Republican Art Museum in 2018. In 2022, she contributed to a collective exhibition supported by Voices of Culture at the Basel Art Center, Switzerland. Recent group exhibitions (2024) include: Open Call curated by Phony, Gallery Lock In, Brighton, 1st Ground Biennale, Textile in contemporary art, Ground Solyanka, Moscow and HEAT RuptureXIBIT(+Studio) Gallery, London and 'Dawn On Your Skin', duo exhibition with Damaris Athene, Feelium Gallery & Studios, London. [www.katyatsareva.com](http://www.katyatsareva.com)

*Curator. Anzhela Popova* is London based independent curator and co-founder of a multidisciplinary organization that focuses on building international cultural connections. She works individually and collaboratively to achieve goals, directs a high level of exhibitions from idea to implementation, and creates new formats of cultural projects. She co-curated more than 20 exhibitions including international shows. Anzhela manages emerging and established artists and has been connecting people in the industry together for over 8 years. [www.anzhelacurator.taplinc.ws](http://www.anzhelacurator.taplinc.ws)

*The Brompton Chapel* is located at the Brompton Cemetery in London. It is one of the Magnificent Seven cemeteries managed by the Royal Parks and also the only UK cemetery owned by the Crown. The central architectural element is the chapel, designed in the image of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Chapel was built to hold funeral services, and is still used for this and exhibitions and other cultural activities. The angular, eight-sided building is said to represent life on earth, while its lofty dome suggests heaven. [www.brompton-cemetery.org.uk](http://www.brompton-cemetery.org.uk)

*Voshod Gallery* was established in 2021 as an artistic platform for the brightest young talents of the New East: Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Founded as an online platform with an office in Basel, Switzerland, the gallery endeavors to act as a stage for experimentation on presentation, displaying and distribution of art, connecting people with the art they love.

Firmly believing that broader exposure to art can play a decisive role in the cultivation of creative thinking, Voskhod aims to bring together different art systems (both geographically and ideologically), and thereby discover the names of young and talented artists. Therefore, promoting art and creativity to the widest possible audience is the gallery's primary and goal-driving mission. [www.voskhod.ch](http://www.voskhod.ch)