# Yelena Vorobyeva and Viktor Vorobyev

Yelena Vorobyeva was born 1959 in Balkanabat (former Nebit Dag), Turkmenistan. Viktor Vorobyev was born 1959 in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan. They live and work in Almaty.

**Education:**
Yelena Vorobyeva
1985-1990 – State Institute of Theatre and Art

Viktor Vorobyev
1986-1991 – State Institute of Theatre and Art

**Selected solo exhibitions:**
2022
*Phantom Stories*, Aspan Gallery and DOM36, Almaty

2015
*The Artist Is Asleep*, organised by Aspan Gallery, A. Kasteev Museum of Arts, Almaty

2013
*Yelena Vorobyeva and Viktor Vorobyev: Provincial Sets*, Laura Bulian Gallery, Milan
Solo exhibition, LES, Almaty

2010
*In Search of Reason…*, Tengri-Umai Gallery, Almaty

2009
*Kazahkstan: Blue Period*, Laura Bulian Gallery, Milan
*VIP (Very Impotent Persons)*, Tengri-Umai Gallery, Almaty

2008
*Vtoraia popytka materializatsii* [*Second Materialisation Attempt*], Tengri-Umai Gallery, Almaty

2003
*Hitchkok's Teapot*, Art Navat Gallery, Almaty

1996
Solo exhibition, Soros Foundation for Contemporary Art, Almaty

**Selected group exhibitions:**
2026
*Union of Artists*, Tselinny Center of Contemporary Culture, Almaty

2025

*Documentation: Imagining Central Asia on the Map of Contemporary Art*, Tselinny Center of Contemporary Culture, Almaty

2024

*Cosmism: Images from a Future Gathering*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

2023

*Power and Ornament – Roving Central Asia*, Mill6 CHAT, Hong Kong
Antropocene, Artbat Fest'10, Almaty

2020

*Ornamentum*, Aspan Gallery, Almaty
*La nave va*, Aspan Gallery, Almaty

2019

Group show, Kmityv Museum of Fine Art, Kmityv
*Human Condition Session V: Teleology of the Human. Biography, Destiny, Hope, Faith. Biography: A Model Kit exhibition*, MMOMA, Moscow
*The Missing Planet*, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato

2018

*Eurasian Utopia: Post Scriptum,* Suwon l'Park Museum of Art, Suwon
*Phantom Stories: Leitmotifs of Post-Soviet Asia,* Lunds Konsthall, Lund
*Human Condition Session IV: Searching for a Place. Home, Homeless, Travel, Refugees*, National Centre for Contemporary Art, Jewish Museum and Tolerance Centre, Moscow
*At the Corner: City, Place, People*, Tselinny Center for Contemporary Culture, Almaty
*All the World's a Collage*, Aspan Gallery, Almaty
*Durnye shutki* [*Bad Jokes*], Artmeken Gallery, Almaty
*Alternativnye Tezisy: Group Show of Contemporary Central Asian Art*, Esentai Gallery, Almaty
*Water Stream*, Artbat Fest'9, Almaty
1st April Competition, Bishkek

2017

*VIVA ARTE VIVA*, 57th Venice Biennale, Venice
*Suns and Neons*, Yarat Contemporary Art Space, Baku
*Esli gora ne idet k Magometu…* [*If the Mountain Will not Come to Muhammad…*],
1st April Competition, Bishkek
*Not Not Not*, Asanbay Center, Bishkek
*Human Rights: 20 Years Later*, Artmeken Gallery, Almaty

2016

*Symbiosis*, Botanical Gardens, Almaty
2nd Astana Art Fest, Astana
*Limited Liability Pavilion 2.0*, Closer Art Centre, Kyiv
*Post/Nachalo* [*Post/Beginning*], Kazakh-British Technical University, Almaty

2015
8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Gallery of Modern Art | Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
*BALAGAN!!! Contemporary Art from the Former Soviet Union and Other Mythical Places,* Nordwind Festival, Berlin
*Topografica,* American University of Central Asia, Bishkek
*The Practices of Contact,* 11th Krasnoyarsk Biennale, Krasnoyarsk
*The Beast and the Sovereign*, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Barcelona; Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart

2014
*At the Crossroads 2: Contemporary Art from Istanbul to Kabul*, Sotheby's, London
*La vie est une légende e.cité – Almaty/Kazakhstan*, Museé d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg

2013
*At the Crossroads: Contemporary Art from the Caucasus and Central Asia*, Sotheby´s, London
*No-Mad-Ness in No Man's Land,* Eslite Gallery, Taipei

2012
*Migrasophia*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah
*The Best of Times, The Worst of Times – Rebirth and Apocalypse in Contemporary Art*, Kyiv Biennale of Contemporary Art, Arsenale, Kyiv
*The Bride's Face,* PERMM Museum of Contemporary Art, Perm

2011
*Mezhdu proshlym i budutschim. Arkheologiya aktual'nosti* [*Between the Past and the Future. The Archeology of Contemporaneity*], Goethe-Institut, Almaty
*Between Heaven and Earth - Contemporary Art from the Centre of Asia*, Calvert22, London
*Astral Nomads*, Independence Palace, Astana

2010
*Post Monument*, 14th International Sculpture Biennale of Carrara, Carrara
*Rites Without Myths*, Laura Bulian Gallery, Milan
*Ground Floor America*, Kunstraum Lakeside, Klagenfurt, Austria; Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen
*The Melancholy of Resistance. Works from the M HKA Collection*, Centre of Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu, Torun

2009
*Tarjama/Translation: Contemporary Art from the Middle East, Central Asia, and Their Diasporas*, Queens Museum of Art, Queens; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca

*Making Interstices*, Central Asia Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice
*Lonely at the Top*, *Europe at Large #2*, M HKA, Antwerp

2008
*Tracing Roads through Central Asia: On Trader's Dilemmas and Travelers' Perspectives*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco
*Boom-Boom,* 4th Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, ArtEast, Bishkek
*Nos Réalités*, Le Quartier, Centre d'art contemporain de Quimper, Quimper
*Unrealised Projects*, Stuttgarter Kunstverein, Stuttgart

2007
*Time of the Storytellers: Narrative and Distant Gaze in Post-Soviet Art***,** Kiasma - Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki
*Progressive Nostalgia: Contemporary Art from the Former USSR*, Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato
*On Geekdom: Contemporary Art from the Former USSR*, Benaki Museum, Athens
*The Return of the Memory. New Art from Russia*, KUMU Art Museum, Tallinn
*The Paradox of Polarity: Contemporary Art from Central Asia*, Bose Pacia, New York
*Muzykstan: Media Generation of Contemporary Artists from Central Asia*, Central Asia Pavilion, 52nd Venice Biennale, Venice

2006
*Zones of Contact*, 15th Sydney Biennale, Sydney
*Zone of Risk: Transition*, 3rd Bishkek Exhibition of Contemporary Art, ArtEast, Bishkek
*Concept Has Never Meant Horse*, Generali Foundation, Vienna
*Art from Central Asia: Contemporary Archive*, Russian Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography, Moscow; Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw

2005
*In the Shadow of «Heroes»*, 2nd Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, ArtEast, Bishkek
*Art from Central Asia: A Contemporary Archive,* Central Asia Pavilion, 51st Venice Biennale, Venice

2004
*From the Red Star to the Blue Dome: Art and Architecture in Central Asia*, ifa Gallery, Berlin; ifa Gallery, Stuttgart
… *and Others*, 1st Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, G. Aitiyev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, Bishkek

2003
3rd Novosibirsk International Graphic Art Biennial, Novosibirsk State Art Museum, Novosibirsk
*Pervoaprel'skii konkurs* [*First of April Contest*], G. Aitiyev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, Bishkek

2002
*Trans-forma*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Geneva
*Off the Silk Road: No Mad's Land: Contemporary Art from Central Asia*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin
*re-orientation*: *Kunst zu Mittelasien*, ACC Gallery, Weimar

2001
*Tangibility: Between Europe and Asia,* 2nd Shiryaevo Biennale of Contemporary Art, Shiryaevo

2000
*Communications: Experience of Interaction*, 2nd annual exhibition of the Soros Foundation for Contemporary Art, Atakent, Almaty

1999
*The Passion and the Wave*, 6th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul
*Plus-Minus*, G. Aitiyev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, Bishkek

1998
*Labyrinth*, G. Aitiyev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, Bishkek
*Self-Identification: Futurological Prognosis,* 1st annual exhibition of the Soros Foundation for Contemporary Art, Almaty
*Kazakhstan Artists on the Brink of the Millennium*, Kasteev State Museum of Arts, Almaty

**Selected bibliography:**

2022
Phantom Stories, exhibition catalogue. Aspan Gallery and DOM36: Almaty, 2022

2019
Eurasian Utopia: Post Scriptum, exhibition catalogue. Suwon I'Park Museum of Art: Suwon, 2019.

2018
Phantom Stories: Leitmotifs of Post-Soviet Asia, exhibition catalogue. Lunds Konsthall: Lund, 2018.
Imago Mundi: Art Theorema. Luciano Benetton Collection. Antiga Edizioni: Italy, 2018. P. 486-487.

2017
VIVA ARTE VIVA, exhibition catalogue. 57th Venice Biennale: Venice, 2017.
Orlova M. Khudozhniki zhiv'iom [Artists Alive]//The Art Newspaper Russia, 15 May 2017 (www.theartnewspaper.ru)
Ungarbayeva A. Prosnis', khudozhnik! [Artist Wake Up!] // Express-K, 11 May 2017 (www.express-k.kz)
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Kazakh Artists, Yelena and Viktor Vorobyev Make a World Art Breakthrough at the Venice Biennale // LUX magazine, 19 May 2017 (www.lux-mag.com)

Nikulina K. «Khudozhnik spit» – Yelena i Viktor Vorobyevy ob uchastii v 57-oi Venetsianskoi Biennale ["The Artist is Asleep" – Yelena and Viktor Vorobyev on the participation in the 57th Venice Biennale] // The Steppe, 24 May 2017 (the-steppe.com)

Ryzhkina G. Poka on spal: Pochemu installiatsia Vorobyevykh, vystavlennaia na Venetsianskoi Biennale, - simvol vsego Kazakhstana [While He was Asleep: Why the Vorobyevs' installation exhibited at the Venice Biennale is a symbol of the whole Kazakhstan] // Buro 24/7 Kazakhstan, 24 May 2017 (buro247.kz)

2016

Notarianni R. Visions on an Empty Canvas// KYOTO Journal, issue 87, November 2016. P. 86-87.

2015

Knezic S. 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art// Frieze, 6 January 2016 (www.frieze.com).

Kusainova A. In the Language of Metaphor// Tengri, #1 (60), 2016. P. 116-119.

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Winograd A. Yelena and Victor Vorobyev// Frieze, 7 December 2015 (www.frieze.com).

de Ruyter T. The Exploration of the Mind// ALUAN magazine, issue 1, November 2015. P. 106-111.

BALAGAN!!! Contemporary Art from the Former Soviet Union and Other Mythical Places, exhibition catalogue. Berlin: MOMENTUM Berlin, 2015. P. 192-193.

Misiano V. (ed.) Yelena and Viktor Vorobyev "The Artist is Asleep". Almaty: Aspan Gallery, 2015.

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2014

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2013

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2012

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2011

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De Baere B. (Ed). Europe at Large: Art from the Former USSR. Antwerp: M HKA, 2011. P. 82-85.

Baladrán Z. (Ed). Atlas of Transformation. Zurich: 2011.

2009

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2008

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2007

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2006

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2005

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In the Shadow of «Heroes». 2nd Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art. Bishkek: ArtEast, 2005. P. 40-41.

2004

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… and Others, exhibition catalogue. 1st Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Bishkek: G. Aitiyev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts*,* 2004.