

## **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

*Kazakhstan: 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

## Aspan Gallery

---

### **Selected group exhibitions:**

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

1<sup>st</sup> April Competition, Bishkek

2017

*VIVA ARTE VIVA*, 57<sup>th</sup> 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...]*,

1<sup>st</sup> April Competition, Bishkek

*Not Not Not*, Asanbay Center, Bishkek

*Human Rights: 20 Years Later*, Artmeken Gallery, Almaty

2016

*Symbiosis*, Botanical Gardens, Almaty

2<sup>nd</sup> Astana Art Fest, Astana

*Limited Liability Pavilion 2.0*, Closer Art Centre, Kyiv

*Post/Nachalo [Post/Beginning]*, Kazakh-British Technical University, Almaty

2015

8<sup>th</sup> 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

## Aspan Gallery

---

*The Practices of Contact*, 11<sup>th</sup> 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*, Musée 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, Arsénale, 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*, 14<sup>th</sup> 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, 53<sup>rd</sup> 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

## Aspan Gallery

---

*Boom-Boom*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice

2006

*Zones of Contact*, 15<sup>th</sup> Sydney Biennale, Sydney

*Zone of Risk: Transition*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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»*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, ArtEast, Bishkek

*Art from Central Asia: A Contemporary Archive*, Central Asia Pavilion, 51<sup>st</sup> 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*, 1<sup>st</sup> Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, G. Aitiyev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, Bishkek

2003

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## Aspan Gallery

*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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shiryaevo Biennale of Contemporary Art, Shiryaevo

2000

*Communications: Experience of Interaction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> annual exhibition of the Soros Foundation for Contemporary Art, Atakent, Almaty

1999

*The Passion and the Wave*, 6<sup>th</sup> 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*, 1<sup>st</sup> 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:**

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. 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale: Venice, 2017.

Orlova M. *Khudozhniki zhiv'iom [Artists Alive]*//The Art Newspaper Russia, 15 May 2017 ([www.theartnewspaper.ru](http://www.theartnewspaper.ru))

Ungarbayeva A. *Prosnis', khudozhnik! [Artist Wake Up!]* // Express-K, 11 May 2017 ([www.express-k.kz](http://www.express-k.kz))

Dege S. *Biennale: Venice Celebrates Freedom of Art* // Deutsche Welle, 15 May 2017 ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com))

Davis B. *In the Venice Biennale's 'Viva Arte Viva,' Shamanism Sneaks Back Into the Picture* // Artnet News, 12 May 2017 ([news.artnet.com](http://news.artnet.com))

Sperandio S. La Biennale di Venezia guarda all'umanesimo: artisti al centro, tra resilienza e libertà [The Venice Biennale Looks at humanism: Artists at the Centre, between Resilience and Freedom] // Il Sole 24 Ore, 12 May 2017 (www.ilsole24ore.com)

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 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale] // The Steppe, 24 May 2017 (the-steppe.com)

Ryzhkina G. Poka on spal: Pochemu installiatsia Vorobyevykh, vystavlennaiia 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.

Sorokina Yu. Khudozhnik dolzhen spat [The Artist Must Sleep]// Etage, volume 5, December 2015. P. 140-146.

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.

Darmodekhina A. Yelena i Viktor Vorobyevy pokazhut “Hudozhnik spit” [Yelena and Viktor Vorobyev Are Showing *The Artist is Asleep*]// Artparavoz, 20 August 2015 (www.artparavoz.kz).

Mazorenko D. Yelena i Viktor Vorobyevy: My staraemsya ne soprikasat'sya s gosudarstvom [We Are Trying to Avoid the Government] // Vlast.kz, 28 August, 2015 (vlast.kz).

Ryzhkina G. Otkritie vystavki “Khudozhnik spit” Yeleny i Viktora Vorobyevykh [The opening of Yelena and Viktor Vorobyevs' exhibition *The Artist is Asleep*] // Buro247.kz, 28 August 2015 (www.buro247.kz).

Doszhan D. Pravila zhizni hudozhnika-kontseptualista [Conceptual Artist: The Rules]// Esquire, 3 September 2015 (www.esquire.kz).

Hudozhnik spit – novaya vystavka Vorobyevykh [The Artist is Asleep – new exhibition of Yelena and Viktor Vorobyev]// Marie Claire Kazakhstan, September 2015 (www.marieclaire.kz).

## Aspan Gallery

---

Yevdokimenko K. Kartinki vo sne I nayavu [Images in a Dream and Reality]// time.kz, 4 September 2015 (www.time.kz).

La vie est une légende e.cité – Almaty/Kazakhstan, exhibition catalogue. Strasbourg: Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, 2015. P. 38-39.

2014

At the Crossroads 2: Contemporary Art from Istanbul to Kabul, exhibition catalogue. London: Sotheby's, 2014. P. 6-7 and on the cover.

Ibraeva V. Iskusstvo Kazakhstana: Postsovetskii period [Art of Kazakhstan: Post-Soviet Period]. Almaty: 2014.

2013

The Collection as a Character, exhibition catalogue. Antwerp: M HKA, 2013. P. 190.

At the Crossroads: Contemporary Art from the Caucasus and Central Asia, exhibition catalogue. London: Sotheby's, 2013. P. 114-115.

Vorobyeva Ye. Vorobyev V. "Photo for Memory. If a Mountain Doesn't Go to Mahomet..."// On Curating, issue 18 (on-curating.org).

Macchine che cristallizzano il tempo: Yelena Vorobyeva & Viktor Vorobyev"// Nèura Magazine, November 2013.

Buchan N. The Wanderers. Review// Taipei Times, November 2013.

Fomenko A. Zanimatel'nii modernism [Amusing Modernism]// Art1 Visual Daily, 21 November 2011 (art1.ru).

Vorobyeva Ye., Vorobyev V. Kazakhstan. Goluboi period "Kazakhstan. Blue Period]// Art1 Visual Daily, 20 November 2013 (art1.ru).

2012

The Bride's Face, exhibition catalogue. Perm: PERMM Museum of Contemporary Art, 2012. P. 42-45.

2011

Mezhdu proshlym i budutschim. Arkheologiya aktual'nosti [Between the Past and the Future. The Archeology of Contemporaneity], exhibition catalogue. Almaty: Goethe-Institut, 2011. P. 128-135.

Between Heaven and Earth - Contemporary Art from the Centre of Asia, exhibition catalogue. London: Calvert 22, 2011.

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

Tarjama/Translation: Contemporary Art from the Middle East, Central Asia, and Their Diasporas, exhibition catalogue. Ithaca: Queens Museum of Art, Queens and Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, 2009. P. 68-69.

## Aspan Gallery

2008

Boom-Boom, 4<sup>th</sup> Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, exhibition catalogue. Biskek: ArtEast, 2008. P. 110-113.

Misiano V. Progressive Nostalgia: Contemporary Art of the Former USSR. Moscow: 2008. P. 40-41, 54-57, 112-113.

Vtoraia popytka materializatsii [Second Materialisation Attempt], exhibition catalogue. Almaty: Tengri-Umai Gallery, 2008.

2007

Time of the Storytellers: Narrative and Distant Gaze in Post-Soviet Art, exhibition catalogue. Helsinki: Kiasma - Museum of Contemporary Art, 2007.

Progressive Nostalgia: Contemporary Art from the Former USSR, exhibition catalogue. Prato: Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, 2007. P. 46-49.

Muzykstan: Media Generation of Contemporary Artists from Central Asia, exhibition catalogue. Central Asia Pavilion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale. Venice: 2007.

2006

Zone of Risk: Transition, exhibition catalogue. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bishkek Exhibition of Contemporary Art. Bishkek: ArtEast, 2006. P. 58-61.

Art from Central Asia: Contemporary Archive, exhibition catalogue. Moscow: Russian Federal Agency for Culture and Cinematography, 2006. P. 102-105.

2005

*Art from Central Asia: A Contemporary Archive*, exhibition catalogue. Central Asia Pavilion, 51<sup>st</sup> Venice Biennale, Bishkek: 2005. P. 98-101.

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

2004

From the Red Star to the Blue Dome: Art and Architecture in Central Asia, exhibition catalogue. Berlin: ifa Gallery, 2004.

... and Others, exhibition catalogue. 1<sup>st</sup> Bishkek International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Bishkek: G. Aitiyev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts, 2004.