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LINKS კავშირები

May 2 - June 15, 2024

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 2, 2024, 6-8pm

On view at 291 Grand Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10002 and 127 Elizabeth Street, New York, NY 10013

Nathalie Karg Gallery, Artbeat Tbilisi, and John Riepenhoff presents *Links კავშირები*, a two-part group presentation of works by various generations of Georgian artists: Edisher Beradze, Irakli Bugiani, Elene Chantladze, Salome Chigilashvili, Mamuka Japharidze, Tamo Jugeli, Anna K.E., Giorgi Khaniashvili, Nika Kutateladze, Nino Kvrivishvili, Elene Lukhutashvili, Sergei Parajanov, and Beso Uznadze.

“As *Links* makes its debut in New York City, it marks a new chapter in the ongoing narrative of artistic exchange. This exhibition serves as a bridge between Georgia and the United States, transcending geographical boundaries to acknowledge the power of friendship and creative connection. We anticipate that this network will continue to expand in the future, welcoming many more participants.” — Natia Bukia, Co-founder of Gallery Artbeat

Edisher Beradze (b. 1975) is a writer and essayist. He primarily writes about topics related to contemporary visual art and has experience in curatorial work. He leads an organization that promotes research and development of creative industries in Georgia

Irakli Bugiani (b. 1980) is a contemporary artist currently based in Düsseldorf, Germany. Bugiani's body of work primarily consists of oil paintings that highlight his artistic prowess and unique vision, showcasing vividly expressive and psychedelic characters that serve as a testament to his mastery in wielding color and dynamic brushstrokes. His artworks depict the struggle between the natural and the man-made world, emphasizing the influence of industrial artifacts. He employs rough and expressive brushstrokes to create a world that exists in the realm of the intangible, where dreams and danger coexist. Bugiani's creative methodology revolves around intentionally juxtaposing fragmented elements derived from diverse artistic processes, involving the deliberate arrangement of these fragments to create collage-like structures.

Elene Chantladze (b. 1946) lives and works in Tskaltubo, Georgia. A storyteller and painter, she often is inspired by found materials and the natural world.

Salome Chigilashvili (b. 1996) graduated from Visual Arts, Architecture & Design School – VAADS of Free University of Tbilisi. She works in many mediums including sculpture, painting, and found objects, often working with threads and plaster.

Mamuka Japharidze (b. 1962) lives and works in Tbilisi and UK. The medium of his works changes according to the context and environment and includes: happenings, collections of objects and images, video projections, photography, linguistic games, drawings, sound design, prints, photo archives collected over a long period of time. Since 1987, Mamuka Japharidze has been working on conceptual projects. ARTRA was presented at the Georgian Pavilion, the 48th Venice Biennale, 1999. In the same year a video projection, *Eye Trees* was presented in Atlanta. The artist's work has been exhibited at Georgian National Museum several times, including Reframing the 80s in 2012 and Re:Museum in 2014.

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Tamo Jugeli (b. 1994) is an emerging self-taught artist from Georgia. After studying Journalism at David Aghmashenebeli University of Georgia from 2013-2017, she shifted her focus to painting. Jugeli's work delves into unconscious impulses, evident in her distinct linear and color structures. Her art presents a blend of abstract and figurative elements, creating complex networks that challenge traditional boundaries. With dynamic spatial dimensions and a balance between rationality and irrationality, Jugeli's pieces can be seen as vibrant topographic maps of energetic and unconventional motion.

Anna K.E. (b. 1986) is a Queens-based interdisciplinary artist known for her exploration of the body's role in technologically and physically mediated landscapes, as well as the absurdities inherent in the creative process. Working across painting, sculpture, performance, and photography, K.E. delves into the tension and humor of the body in space and the ironies of social relationships.

Giorgi Khaniashvili (b. 1982) is a visual artist and sculptor. Despite his painterly education, the artist mainly produces three-dimensional wooden works, as well as ceramic reliefs. He works in series. The main motifs of Khaniashvili's works focus on the issues of religion and the legacy of the post Soviet era.

Nika Kutateladze (1989) is a contemporary artist. He currently resides and works in both Georgia and France. Kutateladze's artistic practice primarily revolves around installations, sculptures, and recently also paintings that intricately explore the multifaceted dimensions of day-to-day consumerism and environmental issues. His artworks serve as profound reflections on the transformative processes of architectural spaces and the urban environment as a whole. Through his creative lens, Kutateladze delves into the complexities of migration and how socio-economic conditions manifest in both architecture and daily life. His thought-provoking and poetic symbolic interpretations offer viewers an opportunity for introspection and dialogue.

Nino Kvrivishvili (b. 1984) is a young Georgian artist living and working in Tbilisi, Georgia. She studied Textile Design at Tbilisi State Academy of Art (2001-20017). She has exhibited extensively in Georgia and abroad. Her work addresses her biographical connection and artistic interest to this topic in Soviet Georgia.

Elene Lukhutashvili (b. 1929, d. 2019) was born in Telavi. She was fascinated by painting since childhood but because her family could not afford to buy pencils — her initial works were out of broken glass and pebbles. Some of her most vivid images were created using glass bottles, pottery, clay shards, stones, cement, sand, and candy wrappers. Her paintings depicted the kings of Georgia, biblical stories, animals, and naked women in nature. In the 1990s, she twice participated in group exhibitions held in France. About 500 works were created, which, in addition to Georgia, were exhibited in Paris and St. Petersburg. In 2016, a personal exhibition of Elene Lukhutashvili was organized in the Library of Georgia. She was a self-taught artist.

Sergei Parajanov (b. 1924) was born in Georgia to Armenian parents and it was always unlikely that his work would conform to the strict socialist realism that Soviet authorities preferred. His work mainly depicts the ethnic diversity of the Caucasus.

John Riepenhoff (b. 1982) is an artist, curator and co-owner of The Green Gallery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He painted a series of portraits of Mamuka Japharidze, whose works are also included in the exhibition.

Beso Uznadze (b. 1968) lives and works in London, UK. Beso Uznadze's artistic oeuvre started as a portrait photographer. With his photos the artist managed to depict personalities of his sitters, showing both their vulnerability and strength. His latest works are abstract, large-scale paintings. Being it photography or painting, the artist uses the creative process for all the same purpose, freeing himself from the content and getting lost.