

NIKITA KADAN
ANASTASIA POTEKINA

The body of Attis
will not decay

opening
Tuesday 4 December, 2018
at 6.30 pm

04.12.2018
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critical essay by
Andrey Shental

LAURA BULIAN GALLERY
via Piranesi 10, 20137 Milano
www.laurabuliangallery.com

Monday – Friday, 15 – 19 pm
Morning by appointment
Free entrance



Laura Bulian Gallery is pleased to announce *The body of Attis will not decay*, the first exhibition by Nikita Kadan (Kyiv, 1982) and Anastasia Potemkina (Moscow, 1984). The political aspect of the idea of 'Nature' is common for the practice of both artists, presented in the show with installations, drawings, collages and videos.

The exhibition interprets the Phrygian myth of Attis recorded in Pausania, with its motifs of fluidity and transformation of female and male, living and dead, anatomical and floral, human and divine – bringing these motifs into contemporary political context.

The main characters, Attis and Agdistis, pass through castration to reborn in a new condition. In the myth, according to Pausania, Zeus letting his sperm fall on a stone, creates the demon of Agdistis, that combines the power of male and female, represented by both sexual organs. The other gods, fearing his enormous power, evirate him. From his blood an almond tree grows up, and its fruit gives birth to Attis.

In the works by Nikita Kadan presented in the exhibition,—drawings, collages and installations—the crucial motif is the non-distinction between floral and anatomical—in the drawings of cut and anatomically dissected male organs, and of 'healing the wound with the green leaf'—in the series 'Protection of plants', where floral motifs partly cover the images of war ruins in Donbass. As in the myth of Attis, plants grow on the place of human catastrophe, as a form of permanent re-birth of life.

In the works by Anastasia Potemkina—installations and videos—the human being communicates with the floral world through the psychedelic experience and through the tactile contact with plants.

NIKITA KADAN

was born in Kyiv in 1982. In 2007 he graduated from the National Academy of Fine Art (Kyiv). Nikita Kadan works with painting, graphics, and installation, often in interdisciplinary collaboration with architects, sociologists and human rights activists. He is a member of the artist group REP (Revolutionary Experimental Space) and founding member of Hudrada (Artistic Committee), a curatorial and activist collective. He Lives in Kyiv.

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2018 *Carte Blanche/De More Cry Sea*, together with Babi Badalov, Jerome Poggi Gallery, Paris, France

2017 *The Possessed Can Witness in the Court*, M HKA – Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp, Belgium; *(un)named*, Center for Urban History of Eastern Central Europe, Lviv, Ukraine

2016 *Above the pedestal the air condenses in a dark cloud*, Škuc gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia; *The Bones Mixed Together*, Arsenal Gallery, Bialystok, Poland; *Procedure room*, National Art Museum of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

2015 *Gazelka. Art and the struggle of ideologies*, Transit gallery, Mechelen, Belgium; *Limits of Responsibility*, Waterside Contemporary, London, UK

2014 *Everybody wants to live by the sea*, Viafarini DOCVA, Milan, Italy

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2018 *Divided we stand*, the 9th Busan Biennale, Busan Museum of Contemporary Art, Republic of Korea; *EXTRA MUROS: Middle Gate II – The Story of Dymphna*, Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp/Centre de Werft, Geel, Belgium; *What is Enlightenment?*, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland

2017 *Natural Histories. Traces of the Political*, mumok | Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Wien, Austria; *Festivities Are Cancelled!:* an exhibition at the The Kyiv International – Kyiv Biennial 2017, Ukrainian Institute of Scientific,

Technical and Economic Information) and the Pavlo Tychyna Literary Memorial Museum, Kyiv, Ukraine; *Parliament of plants*, daadgalerie, Berlin, Germany; *Postponed Futures*, GRAD gallery, London, UK

2016 *Do boomerangs always come back?*, Castle d'Aspremont-Lynden, Oud-Rekem, Belgium; *Into the Dark*, Kunsthalle Exnergasse - WUK, Wien, Austria

2015 *The School of Kyiv*, *Kyiv Biennale*, National Museum of Ukrainian History, Kyiv, Ukraine; *EUROPE. The Future of History*, Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland

2013 *The Future Generation Art Prize*. Venice 2013, Collateral Event of the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Venice, Italy

ANASTASIA POTEKINA

was born in 1984 in Moscow, Russia. 2008 - graduated from Moscow Institute of Architecture/ State Academy/ 2012-2013 — student at Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. Since 2011-2017 — the member of Urban Fauna Laboratory /UFL/ Lives and works in Moscow.

SOLO SHOWS

2016 *Bad Seed Renaissance*. Triumph Gallery, Moscow, Russia / Pavillon, Zurich, Switzerland.

2014 *A Few Words About Politeness*. Taiga Space, St. Petersburg, Russia

SOLO SHOWS / UFL

(Urban Fauna Laboratory)

2017 *Urban Sauna. How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Pollution*. Contemporary Art Centre Winzavod, Moscow, Russia; *New Leaders of Regional Development*. GULAG History State Museum, Moscow, Russia

2014 *Outer Green. Pavilion N59 'Grain'*, All-Russian Exhibition Centre / VDNKh, Moscow, Russia

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2018 *General Rehearsal*. MMOMA Petrovka. Moscow, Russia

2017 *Art Experiment: Laboratories of Earthly Survival*. GARAGE Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia, *First Person*. SkateCafe, Amsterdam, Netherlands, *Hosting the Inhuman*. MMOMA, Moscow, Russia

2015 *Expanding Space. Artistic Practice in the Urban Environment*. GES-2, Moscow, Russia

2014 *IK-00. Casa dei Tre Oci*. Collateral project of the 14th Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy.

2013 *Monday Begins on Saturday*. Bergen Assembly, Bergen, Norway; *Frontier*. Laboratoria Art&Science Space, Moscow, Russia

2012 *Angry Birds*. The Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland; *The Way of Enthusiasts*. Casa dei Tre Oci. 13th Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy; *The False Calculation Presidium*. Museum of Business and Philanthropy, Moscow, Russia

2011 *Urban Fauna Zoo*. Arthouse Squat Forum. Special project of 4th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia