

# CARDI GALLERY PROJECTS

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Nika Neelova, Fragments shored against the ruins (ongoing series), 2015  
Wood, cement and marble dust, Variable dimensions

## NIKA NEELOVA

Curated by Maria Abramenko

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**Nika Neelova** was born in Moscow, Russia in 1987. She received a BA from the Royal Art Academy, The Hague and an MFA in sculpture from Slade School of Fine Art, London, where **Neelova** currently lives and works.

**Nika's** practice is predominantly inspired by architecture. She often takes fragments of crumbling Soviet-era buildings and transforms them into the keystone of her minimal installations. Her Soviet background is very important to an understanding of her work and she is inspired by the dystopian realities of Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris* and *Stalker*. **Neelova's**

work hypnotises in a similar way to Tarkovsky's long and silent landscapes... As the result of her Soviet-Russian heritage, she is keenly aware of the way that materials and architecture influence our sense of time and place, and that even the most solid structures are subject to ruin. The artist works with materials such as jesmonite, plaster and recuperated objects from homes slated for demolition. **Neelova** creates alchemy with the synthetic and organic elements of her work.

**Neelova's** works call to mind cold and massive Brutalist Soviet buildings in a post-human world. **Nika's** aesthetic is very connected to her cultural background and is evidenced at every stage of her practice: from idea's inception through to the artwork's realisation.

*'I am Imagining an alternative human history'* says **Nika**. In imagining an alternative human history, through giving another life to ordinary objects, she is also exploring the variations and possibilities of alternative futures. By reshaping the obvious to the human mind, she is also reframing it, and playing with our psychological consciousness and perception.

**Nika** works primarily with sculpture and large sculptural installations, recently also drawings that will form part of **Nika's** solo show. This exhibition brings together different works across a number of **Nika's** selected projects in order to give its viewers a larger understanding of **Nika's** discourse and practice.

**Neelova's** recent solo exhibitions include drifts (there is always ground, even at night), MLF Brussels (2018), Glyphs, Noire Gallery, Turin (2019) and Ever, The Tetley, Leeds (2019).

Maria Abramenko

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