

Oct 17TH

Dec 21ST 2019

First, Admit You Have a Problem

Solo show by Ivan Moudov

Curated by Dessislava Dimova

47 rue de Montmorency - 75003 Paris

Opening on Oct 17th / FIAC Gallery Night / 6pm - 10pm

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 11am - 7pm

In his work, Ivan Moudov's has continuously addressed and challenged various elements of the art world. The visible or invisible rules and codes of collections, museums, exhibitions and exhibition openings, have equally been submitted to a pitiless play of deconstruction and mise-en-abyme.

"First, admit you have a problem" is part of this on-going interest, but also the first more humanistic work of the artist. Probably because he is himself not only an artist but also a gallerist and a collector, Moudov takes here a more holistic approach and proposes an exhibition that is basically about healing. In a fast producing and consuming art world, what we all have in common is that no matter on which side of the game we are, we all have a problem.

This revelation has inspired Ivan Moudov to begin the creation of Collectors Anonymous (CA) – a mutual aid system to help collectors recognize their obsession and ultimately give up collecting as we know it, with all the possible repercussions this endeavor might have for the art world as a whole.

The exhibition will introduce the first CA meetings – anonymous gatherings of collectors, which will be organized every Tuesday at 6pm for the duration of the show. A specially prepared moderator will conduct the meetings, following the principles of CA (Collectors Anonymous), developed especially for this project. The gatherings will be held in privacy, after the closing of the gallery. No public except for the participants and the moderator will witness the sessions. Participants will need to subscribe in advance at the gallery.

In addition, Moudov has developed together with Dr. Ivaylo Dimitrov, a psychiatrist and homeopath specialized in addictions and substance dependencies, a complete homeopathic program for recovery from collecting, which will further help the healing process. Homeopathy is known to use infinitely small doses of substances, which normally provoke the same symptoms as the ones it aims to cure.

In this line, Moudov proposes also a more obviously artistic, although more expensive, alternative (or rather a complementary treatment) – the energy paintings. The effect of the paintings is virtually immediate, collectors may not even want to put them on their walls (but they must). Soon these paintings will be the only artwork they own, and once this happens they could easily discard them – they won't need them anymore, as they won't be art collectors anymore.

Ultimately, CA meetings will continue to be proposed at various art events (possibly even as part of the program of art fairs) to help maintain the results of the therapy.

Dessislava Dimova

Ivan Moudov

Born in 1975 in Sofia, Bulgaria.
Lives and works in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Deconstructing the usual chain reaction of actions and facts, and judging and analyzing them in a playful way, Moudov underlines the ambiguity of the real and the inadequacy of our instruments of the interpretation.

Ivan Moudov provides a critical and corrosive analysis on political and social conventions, as well as individual behavior.

His artistic practice comprises photography, video, performance, and installation. In his work, he questions the field of contemporary art within the system of power as well as the sociopolitical and economic conditions. Furthermore, by subverting the existing norms and rules, he aims at revealing the levers of their functioning.

Moudov graduated from the National Academy of Arts in Sofia in 2002. In the same year, he participated in Manifesta 4 in Frankfurt and has since then exhibited widely in Europe and across the globe.

In 2005, he took part in the 1st Moscow Biennale, and in 2007 represented the Bulgarian Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale.

His work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows, such as *Ivan Moudov* curated by Ulf Eriksson at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm (2008), *Trick Or Treat* at Kunstverein Braunschweig in Braunschweig on the same year, and *Wine for Openings*, Cabaret Voltaire, Zürich (2010). In 2010 his shows included also the exhibition *The Watchmen, the Liars, the Dreamers* (curated by Guillaume Désanges) at the Plateau-Frac Île-de-France, as well as the 2nd International Biennale of Antakya. He took part in the group shows *Contemporary Icons Recent Art From Bulgaria* curated by J. Hughes, Hunt Gallery, St. Louis, USA (2012) and *We Should Have Never Left* (Uganda) Collective, at MUMOK, Vienna, in 2013. Moreover, after an experience at RAVE Residency, he presented his final work in the *one-man show* at Casa Cavazzini,

Udine, Italy in 2013. In the same year, he was nominated for the Blumm Prize.

In 2015 he had a solo show, *Certificate of Authenticity* in Tobacna 001 CC, Ljubljana, Slovenia. In the same year he took part in two important projects: *OFF - Biennale Budapest*, Hungary and *Grammar of Freedom / Five Lessons: Works From Artest 2000 + Collection*, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia.

In 2016 he performed at MSU (Zagabria, Croatia) Performing an exhibition and exhibited at Sofia Art Gallery with the solo show *Exchange*. In 2017 he took part in *A Romance with revolution*, curated by A. Patsey and F. Motz, at Museum of Non Conformist Art, in Saint Petersburg, Russia and *Témpano, El problema de lo institucional - Cruces entre Europa del Este y el Río de la Plata*, at MACMO, Montevideo, Uruguay and *Symptoms of Society* at Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou, China among others.

In March 2018, he exhibited his work in a solo show at the Armory Show, New York, in Alberta Pane gallery's booth. In the same year he also took part in *From the Cabinet of Curiosities to the Curatorial Situation* at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, and in *Anima(L)rave* at Villa Manin, Centro d'arte contemporanea, Codroipo, Italy, curated by Daniele Capra, Isabella and Tiziana Pers.

In 2019 his group shows include *Ruhr Ding: Territories* at Urbane Künste Ruhr, Bochum, Germany and *Animai Libars Vigne* in the Museum Manzano at Udine, Italy.