

# ANATOLY AKUE

## MEETING WITH YOUR NATURE

### The Ground

Press Release

“Man cannot fulfill his nature except by fulfilling the nature of being and things. The realization of this “nature” is intimately bound up with the discipline of painting. Painting is the preeminent way leading to the fulfillment of everything potentially alive.”

Francois Cheng, “Empty and Full”

In-Gate Gallery is pleased to present *Meeting with Your Nature*, an exhibition project combining two installations that consistently develop their general idea and form two parts of the show united by their shared vision. The first part of the project - the exhibition “*Meeting with Your Nature. The Ground*”, on show from **July 21 to September 24, 2022**, embodies the idea of space and void as the basis for manifestation and experience of phenomena in real world.

Both shows feature works by **Anatoly Akue** (b. 1986), an artist who develops his creative practice in a wide range of techniques and formats, from street art and abstract painting to digital works and sculpture.

For the artist who lives and works in Montenegro, in symbiosis with the natural environment, nature itself and its relationship with innermost human nature are the source and object of reflections and creative research.

For his first show with the gallery, **Anatoly Akue** presents abstract works in mixed media on canvas and textile. Most of the exhibited works constitute *The Ground* series and were created specifically for “*Meeting with Your Nature. The Ground*” exhibition in the gallery space. Colorful abstract compositions of this series in mixed media on canvas represent the artist’s free expression on ways and limits of visualization of the inner emotional field.

Anatoly Akue’s artistic language is multidimensional; it was formed in the process of the research and experiments. The artist’s creative pursuit has begun with street art in 1997 and became the first stage of his development, during which he found a characteristic style and implemented large-scale projects at street art festivals all over the world, including Australia, Japan, Germany and Denmark, etc. In 2018 the artwork of Anatoly Akue was exhibited at Venice Biennale of Architecture, and in subsequent years, studio work and exhibition projects were playing increasingly important parts in the artist’s creative activity.

The artworks have a strong philosophical and psychological undercurrent. The psychological practice of “experiencing” spatial environment is one of the central themes in the artist’s exploration and creative quest. Anatoly Akue explores the possibility of harmonizing human relations with outside world through creativity, cognition, and creation of an imprint of one’s inner “nature.” The artist channeled his knowledge and research on these subjects into creating a theoretical course focused on the connection between physical and spiritual aspects of a personality and their manifestation in creative process.

The project *Meeting with your Nature* is a dialogue between the artist and the viewer about peculiarities of human perception and the reality’s refraction in human mind. It’s a representation and reflection of artist’s revelations and his comprehension of entity and nature of things.

Each work included in the installation is a unique creative and psychological experiment, another step in exploring the possibilities of revealing and visualizing inner emotional *field* by creating an abstract composition.

Space, or void in the artist’s vision, is the basis for manifestation of all phenomena. It is a resource, a neutral and unchanging unifying element that does not have any color or shape. Space contains everything that is manifested or not manifested, it is the repository and the shape of all appearing and disappearing phenomena. It is filled with energy, color and movement.

Anatoly Akue visualizes his own inner space and communicates with outside world through free flow and transformation of color and form: *“The abstract works presented at the exhibition were created in an integral creative flow, on one wave of energy. It was a free and natural process, like breathing, like life itself. Abstract intuitive images are not opposed to work with shape and meanings; they are rather its harbingers and its first impulse. They reflect my emotional experience; however, viewers will perceive the emotional space of my works from the perspective of their own inner world and condition.”*

The artist’s visualized experience carries the energy and state of mind of certain moments perpetuated in pictorial layers of artworks and forming a structure of levels within a painting. Color becomes one of the main elements in artistic language, filling each composition with special emotional content.

For the artist working with abstraction is not only a choice of the artistic language, but also a point of entry into a certain state of exploration, in which familiar solutions can be transformed. It is a process of meeting his potential and overcoming his limitations. On an emotional level, he is very mobile and full of insights.

According to Anatoly Akue, his abstract creations are inspired by a narrow but powerful stream of vibrations, which he intuitively chooses from the entire spectrum of spatial experiences. These vibrations give impetus to visualization. A reference point appears, and with it the vector and quality of energy that flows into the first movement on the canvas.

Creation of *The Ground* composition became an experience of a creative process *flowing* from the realm of abstraction to the space of concrete shapes and back again.

Talking about his feelings in the process of creating this work, the artist describes it as *struggle* with emerging geometric shapes, an opposition to the transition of pictorial matter into concrete images, as repeated attempts to dematerialize the color space.

During Anatoly Akue’s work on the compositions **Gate of Perception** and **Gate of Perception 2**, geometric structures spontaneously arose and formed a distinct shape of a gate or a portal, which gave the name to these works. The image of a gate or entry, discovered through abstract shapes, is the center and meaning of the composition, the entry point into the color field. This image guides to the work’s other internal dimension, giving rise to a perception that becomes central to the viewer’s experience.

Creating abstract works is also a way of communication for the artist, where his experience and discoveries are not transmitted verbally. They are broadcast directly through gesture and image and perceived by the viewer at the same intuitive level:

*“The more skillful is the knowledge of space at the level of experience, the easier it is for an artist to convey it. Just because he is experiencing it. And his attitude towards everything with which he interacts in space will be different from that of a person whose perception remains at the level of intellect.*

*The experience of space is so powerful, and this energy is so intense that it becomes impossible to hold on to meaningless illusions.*

*The experience of one’s own consciousness as integrated space is liberating. It liberates from everything that is not true.”*

The practice of meditation, which Anatoly Akue combines with his artistic practice over the past 12 years, plays an important part in shaping his artistic vision:

*“At the beginning, these two activities were opposed to each other. I saw a way to get some freedom in one, while the other was just a less significant tool to achieve this goal. Meditation and creativity seemed to be two separate and unchanging modes of experience. Each time when I chose only one of them, I felt the lack of the second one; it was a feeling of disharmony.*

*Once, while talking with one of my teachers, 17th Karmapa Thaye Dorje, I realized that art was a result of human activity and did not exist separately from the state of consciousness and from inner nature. This gave me the freedom to express myself creatively and helped me to better understand the process and its potential for self-knowledge.”*

*“Meeting with Your Nature: The Ground”* illustrates the closeness and common roots of Buddhist philosophy and modern science, as well as ideas about the structure and form of the existence of matter. The observer and the observed are considered as inseparable participants in the same experience. The exhibited works represent a creative experiment in which the artist is an observer, and his inner space is an object of study. They form a single entity. In the process of observation, the artist’s inner nature gives impetus to the emergence of its material imprint in abstract composition.

Traveling in the spaces of works by Anatoly Akue promises a discovery of the illusory side of familiar things and acquaintance with materialized reality that is hidden from outside view.

Selected solo and group exhibitions include:

*Hidden place*, Bunker 703, Max Art Foundation (Moscow, Russia) (2021)  
*Papers please*, Group show, Collab Gallery (Germany) (2021)  
*State of emergency*, Triumph Gallery (Moscow, Russia) (2020)  
*Wave of dreams*, Triumph Gallery (Moscow, Russia) (2020)  
*Aporias*, Group show, Mirus gallery (USA) (2019)  
Venice Architectural Biennale (Venice, Italy) (2018)  
*The guest*, Triumph Gallery (Moscow, Russia) (2018)  
*Discursive mind*, Dukley European Art Center (Kotor, Montenegro) (2016)  
*Retreat*, Project in Street Art Museum (Saint -Petersburg, Russia) (2014)  
*Entering the history*, Museum of Moscow, curated by Triumph gallery (2017)

Selected street art and graffiti projects:

*Wonder Walls* Festival (Adelaide, Australia) (2019)  
*Hk walls* (Hong Kong) (2019)  
*Akasuka project* (Tokyo, Japan) (2019)  
*Step in The Arena* (Eindhoven, Holland) (2018)  
*Aarhus Festuge*, Streetart festival (Danmark) (2017)  
Smukfest (Skaneborg, Danmark) (2017)  
*Residence of DEAC* (Dukley European Art Community, Montenegro) (2015-2016)

The artwork of Anatoly Akue was exhibited at Venice Architectural Biennale in 2018. The artworks are represented in Ru Arts Foundation (Russia) and in private collections in Spain, Italy, Canada, Switzerland, Denmark, Russia, Montenegro, Holland, Greece and Australia.

Anatoly Akue is the author of a course for the artists which is focused on transmitting knowledge of psychosomatic and spiritual aspect of human potential in the art practice. First group of students completed the course in 2021.