

ANATOLY AKUE. MEETING WITH YOUR NATURE: The Presence

29.09 – 03.12.2022

“Nature, in its virtuality, reveals to man his own nature, making it possible for him to go beyond himself. Man, in fulfilling himself, makes it possible for nature to be fulfilled in its turn.”

Francois Cheng, “Empty and full”

In- Gate Gallery is pleased to present the solo show by Anatoly Akue **Meeting with Your Nature: The Presence**, on view from **September 29** until **December 03, 2022**. The installation creates a sematic sequence for the first part of the exhibition project – **Meeting with Your nature: The Ground**.

Both installations are united by their main idea and concept and present the works of Anatoly Akue (b. 1986) - artist of street art, painter, graphic artist, who lives and works in Montenegro. For his second exhibition with the gallery the artist showcases paintings, drawings and digital works created between 2017 and 2022.

The show brings together works in which the artist addresses the viewer by creating a special language of signs and symbols, sharing his sense and knowledge of space through images and shapes that can be read at the level of external perception. The works create a collection of visual fragments of existence, they are a kind of illustration of the outer world experienced by the artist.

The first show of the project **Meeting With your Nature: The Ground** was centered on *space* as the media and the source of all shapes, phenomena and experiences, and as the impulse for *birth* and *emergence* of all existing things. Its ideas and meanings found a development in the new exhibit **The Presence** that focuses on what has arisen, realized in material form, and occurred in the *space*. Some abstract compositions presented at the first show are continued with works in which the artist addresses the viewers by creating recognizable images and symbols, inviting them to a fascinating game of identifying and deciphering the meanings inherent in the compositions. Figurative compositions feature the development and embodiment of the impulse hidden in the space of abstraction that is saturated with movement and energy.

Works by Anatoly Akue integrate the language of graffiti codes and images that interpret Buddhist symbols and develop their meanings. The compositions presented at the show include elements of images, signs and symbols that are perceived as part of our reality, and recount the conditional existence of movement, time, space, unity and plurality. The symbolism of images cannot always be perceived logically; it is cognized intuitively and perceived by the viewer’s consciousness through direct experience of contemplation. Illusory images are combined with glimpses of empirical reality, which is also interpreted and perceived as an illusory and imaginary space.

Since 2010, the ideas and psychological aspects of Buddhism have played an important part in the artist's perception and interpretation of reality, as well as the meanings, ideas and process of creating his works. Having started his career with street art, Anatoly Akue transformed his vision and approach to artistic practice by combining meditation and psychological Buddhist practices with a flow of experiences associated with day-to-day life.

"In 2010, I first met a Buddhist teacher, and this encounter opened up a new space for creativity and a new vision of its possibilities, influencing my attitude to myself and life in general. From then on, I began to practice meditation and weave the resulting revelations into my stream of emotional experience.

My approaches to creativity underwent a transformation, enriching my experience of painting and street art with new meanings and vectors.

I realized what attracted me in art, and how my artistic endeavor could be combined with spiritual practice.

My artistic practice is inseparable from the holistic experience and vision of the world, being an intrinsic part of this experience. It reflects my observation of what runs through the whole creative process and my acceptance of the fact that my concepts of beauty and truth can change. In these visual and sensual changes, my experiential consciousness is always present as a medium that makes it possible for things to manifest, be experienced and disappear, returning to emptiness that is their true nature."

The exhibited works are inspired by the main ideas of Buddhism that show a way of existence in the space that comprises all phenomena. These ideas are love and sympathy, rousing the artist's desire to share and interact with the environment, to impart his knowledge and the joy of discovery that he experiences.

In abstract compositions, the artist remains at the level of his innermost feelings, personal experience and emotions. In figurative works, he addresses the viewer, switching to a language of specific symbols and signs that is clearer for an outsider, and developing the narrative with evocative shapes and familiar images.

The diptych ***Meeting with Your Nature*** (2017) was inspired with Anatoly Akue's stay and work of in the monastery headed by one of the lamas of Karma Kagyu lineage in Nepal. *"The tremendous work on decorating the walls and practice rooms gave me a creative boost and inspired me much more than any of contemporary art exhibitions,"* recalls the artist, sharing his experience.

On the left side of the painting, abstract shapes invading the monastery symbolize a practicing disciple who begins his path with offerings. The closer he gets to the main luminous figure on the right side of the diptych, the less artificial are his movements, his behavior, and his consciousness. Some distance remains between the newcomer and the host, showing the path of awareness and practice lying ahead.

The idea of unity of time and space, embodied in the work ***Illusion of Time*** (2017) is revealed through allegories and symbols.

Semi-abstract images in the foreground are amalgamated into one composition with graffiti images created by the artist in the past, showing that both the past and the future are experienced as one stream or one temporal field bringing together disparate fragments of memory.

“Consciousness may have no concept of time, place and boundaries. It may have no color and shape. The space of consciousness may not have any characteristics that we can cling to and say that they really exist. Then who looks with our ears and sees with our eyes?” the artist questions.

The composition **Offering** (2022) focuses on understanding generosity as inner wealth and practicing generosity as a way to build relationships with the world around us.

A series of graphic works that formed the basis for a collection of limited edition prints is presenting a visualization of various emotions and states of consciousness, including anger, fear, absolute peace, and openness to knowledge and experience of spontaneous revelations. With semi-abstract images, Anatoly Akue highlights the relativity and duality of perception, exploring vast variety of possibilities for experiencing diverse feelings and states of mind.

Anatoly Akue’s system of symbols, signs and shapes is a system of codes and meanings, containing his feeling and understanding of relationships and interconnection of phenomena, emotional space, passage of time, cause and consequence as parts of one universal whole.

Selected solo and group exhibitions include:

Meeting with Your nature. The Ground, In-Gate gallery, (Brussels, Belgium), 2022

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.