

I Dreamt... Did I Dream...?

Sana Shahmuradova Tanska

July 19 – August 25, 2024
13 Tereshchenkivska St., Kyiv



Sana Shahmuradova Tanska, *On Few Recent Dreams*, 2024. Courtesy of Sana Shahmuradova Tanska and Voloshyn Gallery.

Voloshyn Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition “I Dreamt... Did I Dream...?,” the first solo exhibition by the artist Sana Shahmuradova Tanska at the Kyiv gallery.

Constructing her works around non-verbal experience, the ideas related of the conventionality of place and the conventionality of time, Shahmuradova Tanska expresses important changes in human character that are happening to her generation. The traumatic impact of the current war on consciousness compelled the artist to look for signs that replace the trauma of loss and the wounds of ruination. Her main goal is to capture the emotional traces of those events, the knowledge of which is existentially important for us today – the history of genocides in the Ukrainian historical context and beyond.

The space of dreams and their recollection provide the source for the narrative that the artist has developed. The viscosity of her paintings, with their melancholic aesthetics, half-formed images and repeated motifs, indicates exhaustion from the war. The tone on her canvases are camouflaged as mould. As you look closely at the paintings, the silt and water take on a significant presence as characters in her stories. These silted-up paintings speak with the voices of tens of thousands people, who merge into an alarming chorus. Is it swimming in pain, or rather searching for something stable at the bottom to lean on... Mourning, reflections on the cyclical nature of violence and acceptance of the experience of those who have survived become a work that is inscribed in the artist's daily practice in her studio.

Her aim is to put this phenomenological experience into an exclusively optical, aesthetic form. Images from previous eras and contexts spontaneously appear in Shahmuradova's paintings, sometimes reminiscent of worn frescoes on the walls of cathedrals, mystical surreal spaces in Remedios Varro's paintings or Magritte's kisses with faces wrapped in fabric form. In the end, it is matter that transcends its own limits in Shahmuradova's works, beginning to resemble the idea of a sound wave and ultra-fine vibrations. In Shahmuradova Tanska's new project, there is a hint of the impossibility of creating an image being in a state of excitement, and at the same time an idealistic faith in the viewer's empathic reaction.

This is a story about the voice and light inside what we see. We do not become emancipated and spiritually connected overnight. We gain freedom when we use our voices to let the voices we keep inside us speak.

Opening reception: Friday, July 19, 6-8 pm.

Dates: July 19 – August 25, 2024

Location: Voloshyn Gallery, 13 Tereshchenkivska St., Kyiv

For all press enquiries please contact: info@voloshyngallery.art

About Sana Shahmuradova Tanska

Sana Shahmuradova Tanska was born in 1996 in Odesa, Ukraine. A significant part of her childhood was spent in the countryside in the Podillia region of Ukraine. In 2010, she graduated from ballet school, and in 2013, her family immigrated to Toronto, Canada, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from York University in 2020. She decided to relocate to Kyiv in 2020, where she continues to work on oil paintings and graphics on a variety of surfaces. Her most recent works highlight atrocities and violations against nature and people.

Her works are in public collections including the Krupa Art Foundation (Wroclaw, Poland), SAF – Samdani Art Foundation (Dhaka, Bangladesh), and Marquez Art Projects (Miami, USA). Sana's works have been shown in several solo and group exhibitions, including the 24th Biennale of Sydney, Ten Thousands Suns (2024, Gadigal Land, Australia), Catching Circles – Then They Match Again, Gunia Nowik Gallery (2023, Warsaw, Poland), Further than Light or Language, Voloshyn Gallery (2023, Miami, FL, USA), and EVA International, Ireland's Biennale (2023, Limerick, Ireland). Shahmuradova's works have been covered and reviewed by Cultured Magazine, e-flux, Vogue Polska, Frieze, and The Guardian.

Sana has participated in residency programs at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, in partnership with EVA International 2023/Ireland's Biennale (curated by Sebastian Cichocki, 2023, Dublin, Ireland), Asortymentna Kimnata, Where the Story Was Interrupted (curated by Dmytro Chepurnyi and Anton Usanov, 2022-23, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine), and Casa Balandra (2023, Portol, Balearic Islands).

About Voloshyn Gallery

Established in October 2016 by Max and Julia Voloshyn, Voloshyn Gallery specializes in contemporary art. It exhibits a broad range of works in a variety of media, hosting solo and group exhibitions and taking part in leading contemporary art fairs. Over the last two years, the gallery has participated in The Armory Show, Liste Basel, ARCOmadrid, Art Brussels, Art Cologne, Enter Art Fair, Vienna Contemporary, Dallas Art Fair, Independent Art Fair, NADA Miami, Felix Art Fair, Art Dubai, Untitled Art, Art Athina, EXPO Chicago, and more. Voloshyn Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA). In 2023, Voloshyn Gallery opened its new space in Miami, FL, US.