

**Pavlina Chakarova** (b. 1979) is a visual artist based in Sofia, Bulgaria. She graduated from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2002 with a degree in German Philology and went on to study BFA with a Major in Photography. She has been exhibited nationally and internationally and has been featured in a number of online and print publications. Her photographs have been shown at the Sofia Arsenal – Museum For Contemporary Art (SAMSA), Contemporary Istanbul and her works became part of the permanent collection of the Art Colony Galichnik in Macedonia. Recently Pavlina has been nominated for MOST price for Contemporary Bulgarian Art.

Pavlina works as a photographer and photo editor and is active mainly in the field of photographs, installations and objects. In 2009 she presented her first solo exhibition "Dream" – photographic installation that reflects together the ongoing time and the eternity – a "game between reality, associations and staging." In her works she examines the problems of the identity, communication and the interaction between people, refracted through the prism of the subjective and personal sense of symbolism and "aura" of given color. The metaphysical nature is the basis on which the idea for the "Self-portraits" series /pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta/, developed and rationalized through the usage and decomposition of various colors.

She says "In my project I'm working with the color patterns of my own aura, captured with Kirlian photography. I believe they represent my state of mind and my personality." For the author the idea and the creation of "Self-Portraits" is a meditation, it's a way of self-awareness and natural transition through different influences and concepts that explore similar issues. The image in her photographs has sign character impact and possesses profound suggestiveness. The choice of a given color and the message it directs, interacting with different shapes and volumes is the essence of the accent on which Pavlina Chakarova focuses.

"Self-concept", "Attached", "Kindred spirits" are synthesized image of her inner world through expressive use of the color and its impact on the viewer.

The "Self-abstractions" images picture the movement as a universal means of expression and the horoscope as vehicle of cosmic energies and a modification of the contemporary dance. They examine the transformation of the speech into body movements and its postpeception through non-verbal gestures, interpreted as an act of self-awareness.

The objects "Box to increase the level of happiness", "Super water" and "2012" are like reaching out for another reality and associative perception of colors. They offers an alternative method for achieving an inner harmony.

Definitely that what makes the impact is complete is the interaction between colors and shapes and their organic location in space. In her self-portraits, Pavlina uses the expression of color, loaded with deep meanings, associations and perceptions. Each piece of her work has its own sign character. For her, it is of great importance to examine these relationships and their hidden spiritual nature.

The visual works that she creates are her very personal sense of freedom, exchange and communication in the world around us.

**Diana Draganova – Stier**  
**Curator at The National Art Gallery**



**From the series Self-concept, triptych, 2011**  
Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

3 each 40/40 cm

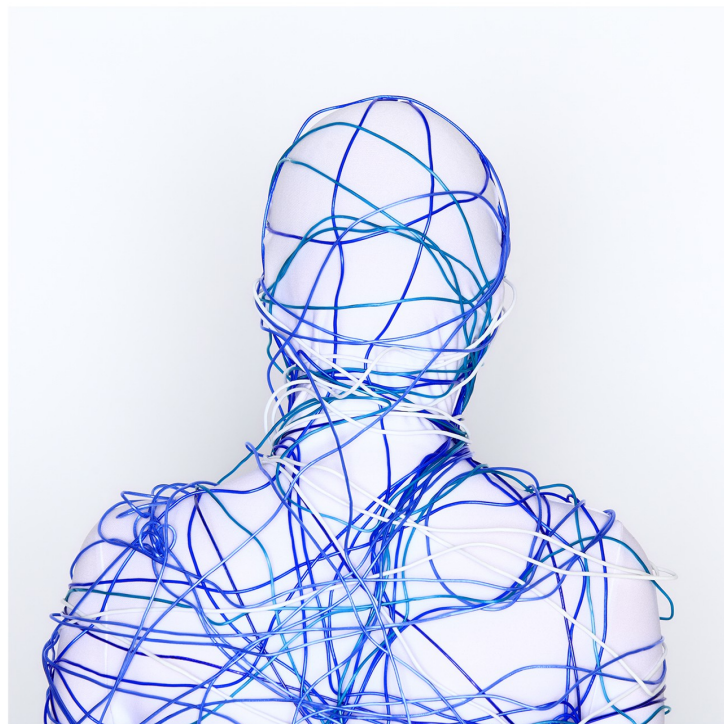
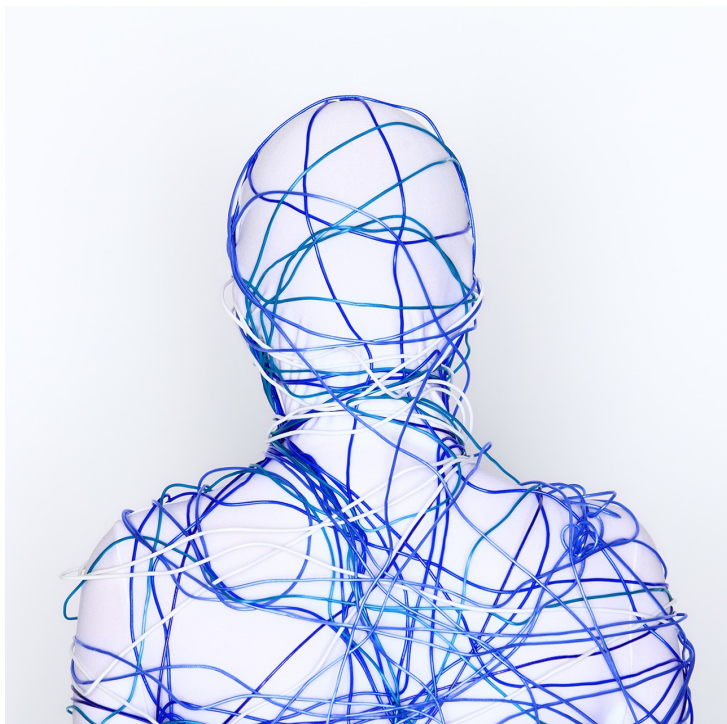


**5 + A. P. = 6**

**From the series Self-concept, 2011**

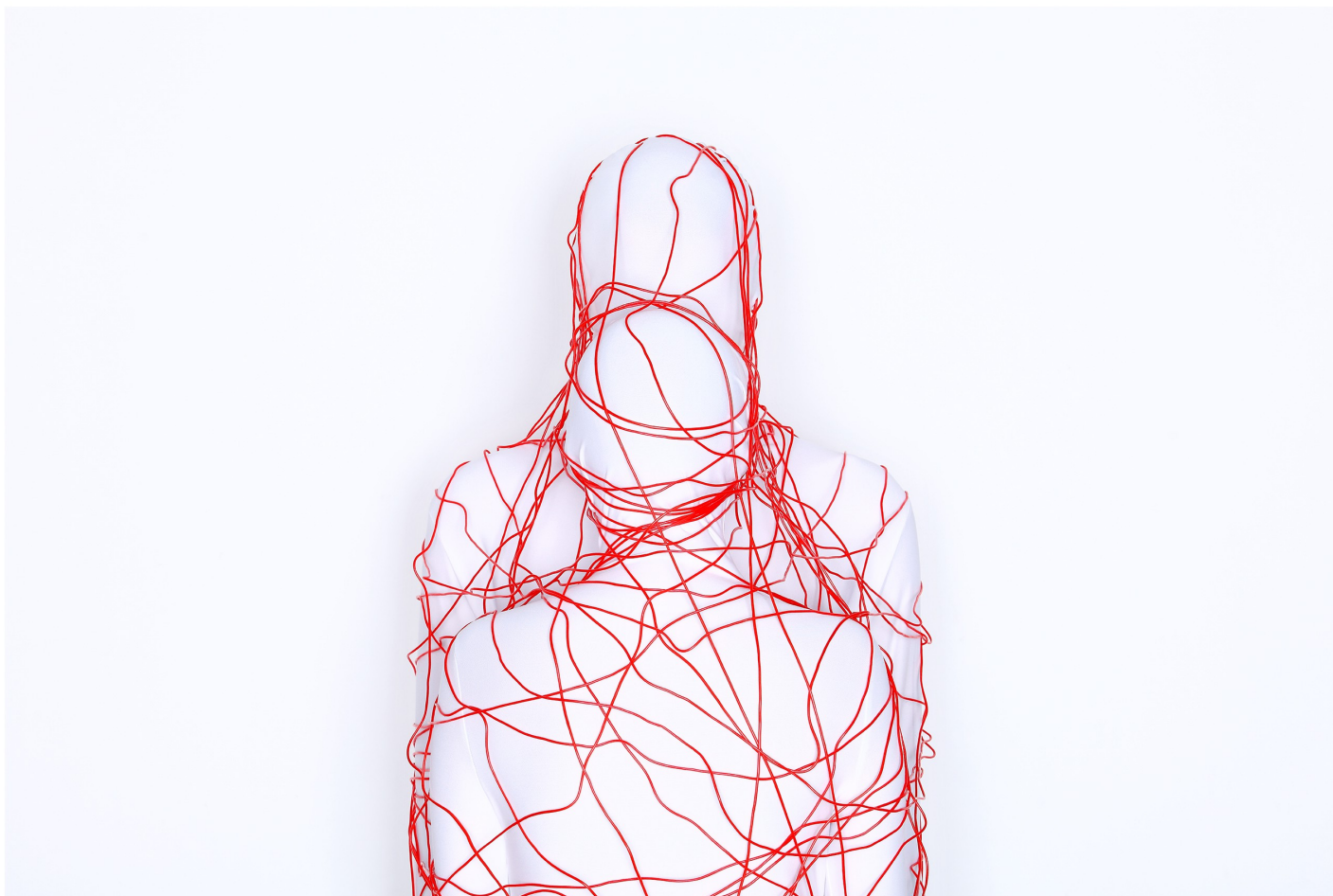
Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryt60/60 cm

**4 + A. P. = 5**



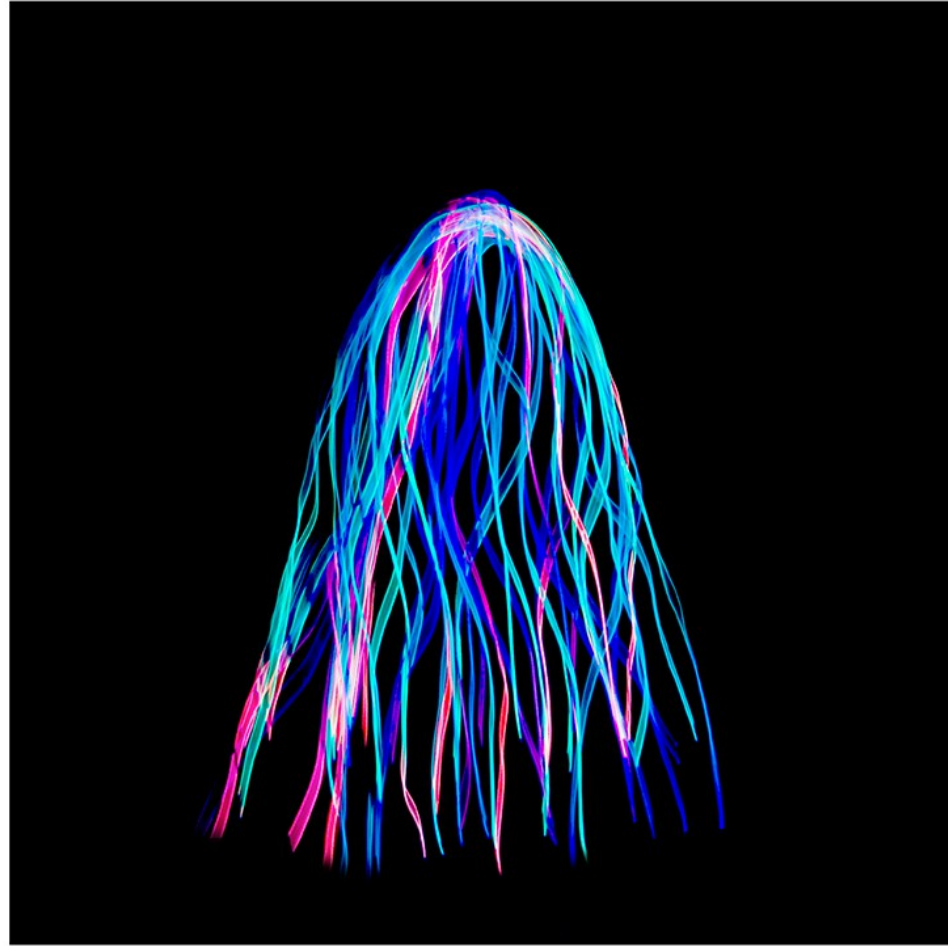
**Kindred spirits, diptych, 2011**  
Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

2 each 30/30 cm  
**5 + A. P. = 6**



**Attached, 2011**  
Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

60/90cm  
**3 + A. P. = 4**



**From the series Self-concept, 2011**  
Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

60/60 cm  
**4 + A. P. = 5**



**From the series "Self-abstractions"**

**Gemini, 2012**

Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

6 each 30/40 cm

**5 + A. P. = 6**



**From the series "Self-abstractions"**

**Virgo, 2012**

Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

6 each 30/40 cm

**5 + A. P. = 6**



**From the series "Self-abstractions"**

**Mercury, 2012**

Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

6 each 20/30 cm

**5 + A. P. = 6**



## **BOX TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF HAPPINESS, 2011**

photoinstalation

plastic box, acrylic, pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

20 x 10 x 2 cm

40x40 cm

**4 + A. P. = 5**

This happiness box offers an alternative way of achieving self-consistency. The viewer absorbs the pills visually instead of taking them. Always follow your own intuition to choose the right hue combination, imagine the colors beginning to spark and reach every part of your body. Meditation is recommended to start with duration of 5 to 10 minutes a day. To intensify the result please follow the regulations: Sunday – orange, Monday – green , Tuesday – red, Wednesday – yellow, Thursday – blue, Friday – pink, Saturday – violet



## **SUPER WATER, 2011**

installation  
glas bottles, water

In "Super water" I use the power of positive vibrations as a tool for building vitality. It has been scientifically proven that the structure of water is influenced by the meaning of sounds and words of the surrounding environment. So, I assume that water molecules change into harmonious geometrical shapes under the influence of positive phrases. The power of words is often used on a grand scale by a variety of religions, where equal passages are repeated over and over again to strengthen faith. Considering the fact that prayers are positively charged expressions, everyone ought to be able to turn ordinary water into a holy one, taking advantage of the vibrations of good words.

My project consists of 45 identical glass bottles filled with water, on each of them is written in 45 different languages the miraculous word "thank you".



## 2012 installation

plastic box, paper  
10 x 10 x 5  
1 + A. P. = 2

The underlying concept of the color calendar is the association of each day with a certain hue: Monday - green, Tuesday – red, Wednesday – yellow, Thursday – Blue, Friday – pink / light blue, Saturday – violet and Sunday – orange. The installation is a natural extension of the topic in some of my previous projects ("Box to increase the level of happiness") and interprets the chromotherapy and the philosophy of color. The object consists of 366 monochrome sheets that follow the chronological order of the days in 2012 and periodically change the color of the installation. The choice of the name is not accidental; it is inspired by the speculation around the year 2012 and the energy changes that according to me are about to happen on the spiritual level.



**CIRCLES OF HAPPINESS, 2013**  
installation

Ayurveda or “The wisdom of life” is an old Indian philosophy that gives us the the knowledge how to live a happy and a full of value life. The most ancient natural healing system identifies 6 tastes by which all foods can be categorized: Sweet, Sour, Salty, Bitter, Pungent, and Astringent. Each taste feeds our mind, body, senses, and spirit in its own unique way. The incorporation of all the 6 tastes into each meal brings greater balance to our body. In my installation I’m combining the power of the circle (perhaps the purest shape) with the symbolic meaning of number 6, associated with harmony. I’m filling each of the circles with one of these six tastes, searching to achieve eternal happiness.

Circle number 7 (associated with perfection) is a combination of all the six tastes – a dish symbolizing a balanced food.



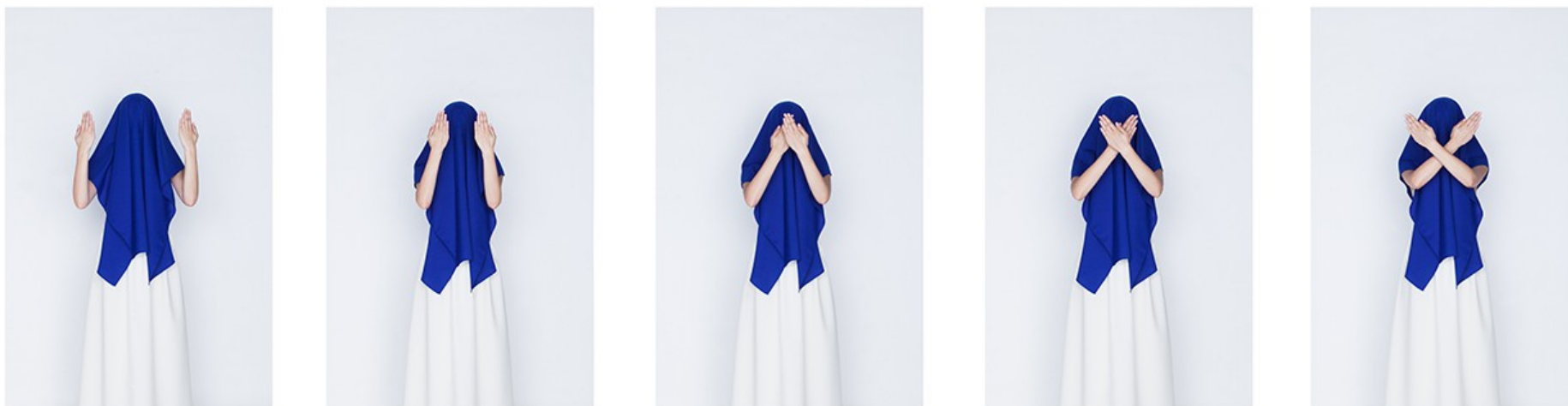
**From the series "Self-abstractions"**

**Venus, 2013**

Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

5 each 30/40 cm

**5 + A. P. = 6**



**From the series "Self-abstractions"**

**Mars, 2013**

Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta

5 each 30/40 cm

**5 + A. P. = 6**

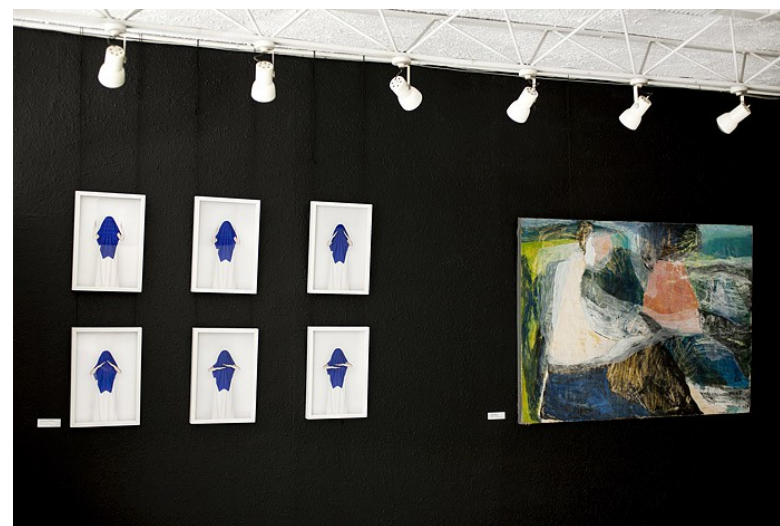
**From the series "Self-abstractions"**  
**Taurus, 2013**  
Pigment print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Baryta  
50/70 cm  
**5 + A. P. = 6**



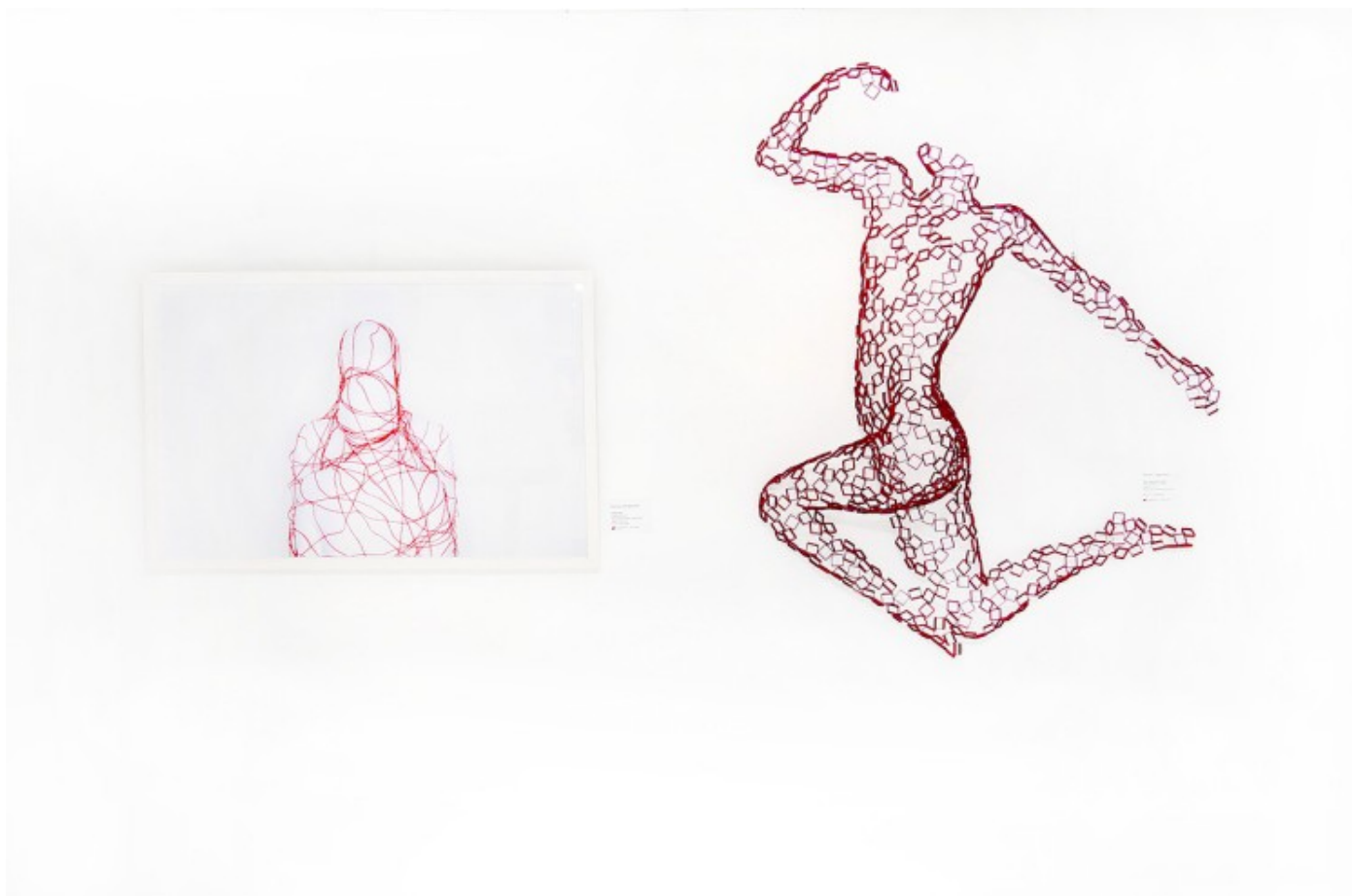
## INSTALLATION VIEWS



Modern Art Gallery in Sofia, 2012



Seasons Art Gallery in Sofia, 2012



Modern Art Gallery in Sofia, 2013