



## VILLA MAGDALENA

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**Milko Pavlov** (Aytos, 1956) is a Bulgarian abstract painter based in Berlin whose primary approach to painting is through color. "I am a colorist, and color knows everything." In Pavlov's paintings form, surface, composition, and subject matter develop as a response to paint. His black and white frottage works - a technique he now applies to canvas but which began as graphite works on paper in the late 90's - are a continuation of the graphic work he made in Bulgaria in the early 90's. Nonetheless, his recent works on canvas have biographical references that lend his oeuvre a strong personal identity. The artist's colorful palette derives from his early exposure to 18th and 19th century Bulgarian Icon painters, specifically the Tryavna iconographic school; where he spent time as a child due to his father's medical practice. In the 70's, Pavlov shifted his attention towards the icon painters instead of assimilating formal ideas related to the socialist realist aesthetic dominant in Bulgaria at the time. Even though representation is not intentional, the way he organizes space in his paintings and the general composition loosely resemble mountains or landscapes; a subconscious gesture which perhaps illustrates the mountainous nature of his native country. At times, the viewer sees an elusive figure blending into its surroundings.

Milko Pavlov paints places and things we haven't seen. Environments that can't be named. He paints the unknown, like an abstract painter does. Pavlov is interested in invisible space; the kind of space that we can't perceive or see with our material eyes but that, ultimately, exists.



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**LIVES AND WORKS IN BERLIN, GERMANY**

**SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**2022**

*Recently Ahead*, One Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

*Unsettled Paintings Frozen like Mountains*, Villa Magdalena, Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain

**2021**

*Frei Sein*, St. Peter und Paulkirche, Ratingen, Germany

**2020**

*FACIES*, St. Matthäus Stiftung, Berlin, Germany

**2019**

*Hungertuch*, St Peter und Paulkirche, Ratingen, Germany

**2018**

*Sophia Nova 2118-2084*, One Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

**2012**

*Brother in Arms*, Yuzina Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

*Tomorrow belongs to me*, The OMC gallery, Huntington Beach, California, USA

**2008**

*2076:120 Years of Milko Pavlov*, National Art Gallery Sofia, Bulgaria

**2007**

*Bilocation 2029*, FLUC Belgrade, Serbia

*Tomorrow belongs to you – Milko Pavlov Painting 2004-2066*, City Art Gallery, Bremen, Germany

**2005**

*milkopavlovthelargesizedrawings (2012-2030)*, Sofia City Art Gallery, Bulgaria



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## **SELECTED GROUP SHOWS**

**2020**

*BLAU*, Ohnesorge Gallery, Bremen, Germany

**2019**

*BG minimal*, Tarnovo, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

*Thank you Mr Ruf*, Credit Bonus, Sofia, Bulgaria

**2017**

Sofia underground Art Festival, Sofia, Bulgaria

**2016**

*Watercolour, ink and acrylic on paper*, Jordan-Seydoux Gallery, Berlin, Germany

**2015**

*Prints from the SGHG Collection*, Sofia, Bulgaria

**2014**

*The Untold Bulgarian Abstraction*, Shipka 6 Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

*Unknown Masterpieces*, Wonderloch Kellerland, Berlin, Germany

**2011**

*Out of time*, SGHG, Sofia, Bulgaria

**2009**

*Reflections from Tomorrow*, The Ancient Bath, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

**2008**

*Heaven and Hell today*, St. Stephani Kirche, Bremen, Germany

*Gardens of Memory*, Sofia City Art Gallery, Bulgaria

**2007**

*Visual Immortality*, Contemporary Art from Southeast Europe, Basel, Switzerland

**2006**

*The Unknown Masterpiece*, City Art Gallery, Bremen, Germany



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**SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

National Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria  
Sofia City Art Gallery, Bulgaria  
Art Gallery, Dobrich, Bulgaria  
City Art Gallery, Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
Varna City Art Gallery, Bulgaria  
Arts support Found, Sofia, Bulgaria  
Stiftung St. Matthäus, Berlin, Germany  
Grafik Museum Stiftung Schreiner, Bad Steben, Germany  
Städtische Gallerie Bremen, Germany  
Swb Enordia Bremen, Germany  
Leopold-Hoesh Museum Düren, Germany  
International Print Society Cracow  
TAMA Art University Museum Tokyo, Japan  
Kanagawa Art Foundation Yokohama, Japan  
Associazione Premio Internazionale Biella per l'Incisione, Italy