

NEDKO SOLAKOV: A CORNERED SOLO SHOW

A series of solo shows in prominent museums with unusual architecture. Each should be titled “A Cornered Solo Show #1, 2, 3, etc.”

What I need is an “insignificant” corner in the museum's building, in an area which is not usually used for exhibitions, i.e. out of the proper gallery halls. An insignificant corner in the margins with a Solakov story. Such a show requires almost no budget, and there is also no need for the usual timely preparation process for a serious solo exhibition in a museum institution.

The process should start with the selection of an “appropriate” corner in the museum, which should be out of the usual exhibition areas and at the same time be accessible to the visitors. In general, all artists dream of having a huge show in the best museum halls. I am asking for a non-usable corner, even outside the margins, something which any other artist would most likely not appreciate. An important detail is that this proposal comes from an artist who is relatively famous internationally. If the proposal came from an emerging artist, it would not be the same. She/he deserves the big official halls for exhibiting significant art.

The particular narrative will come after selecting the corner. I can do it from a distance as well - if travel is not possible because of the pandemic - with the help of local assistants collaborating online. In any case it will be a story about our times, when we, even if we are cornered by the crisis situation worldwide, still have to survive, and we will. Also, an artist's cornered point of view might help us better swallow the bitterness of daily life, because one thing is for sure: my stories for the cornered solo shows will not be pessimistic (or only a little bit for the sake of realism).

Nedko Solakov
March 2021

A Cornered Solo Show #1 – Mudam, Luxembourg
06.10.2021 – 18.04.2022

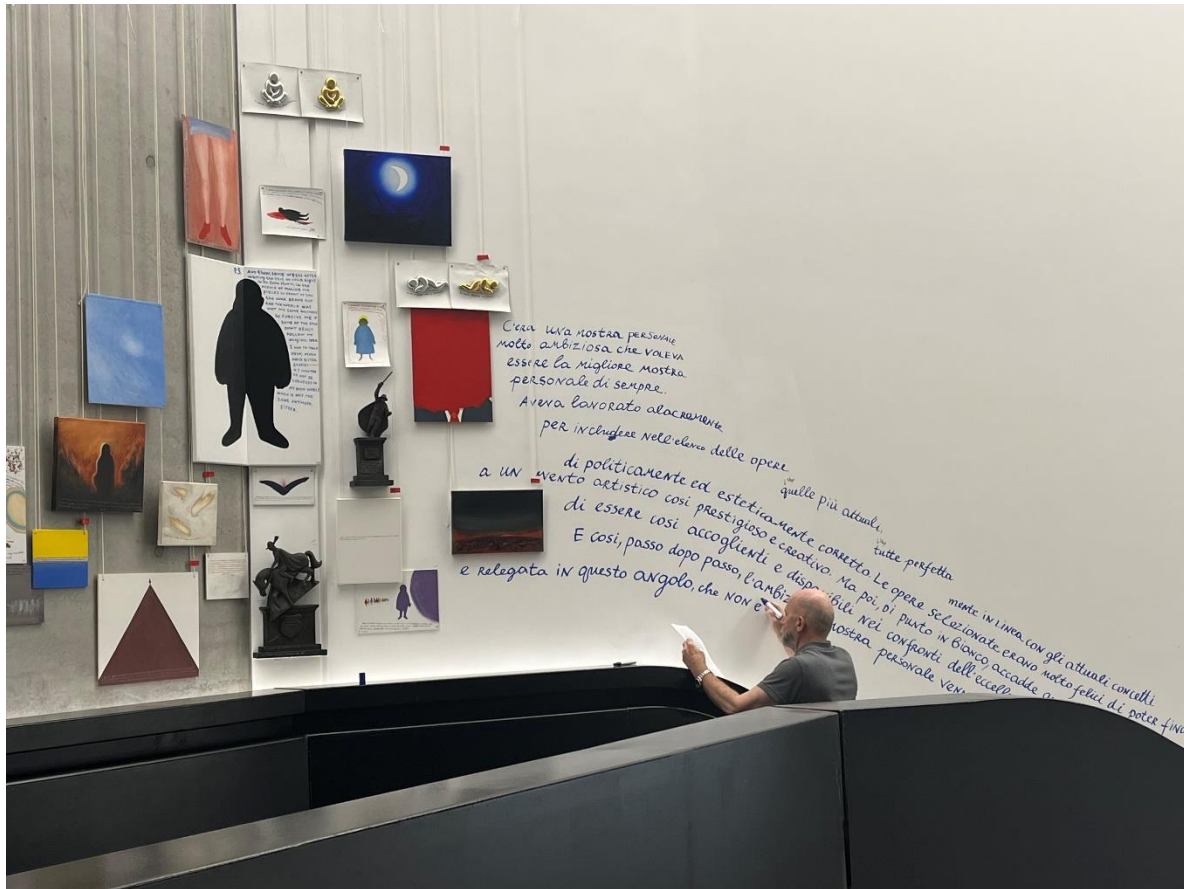


“Renowned for his acerbic sense of humour and work that highlights the absurdities and contradictions of social norms, Solakov chose to present his work in Mudam’s cloakroom. In this confined and often overlooked space, he presented an installation that plays with the aesthetic judgements and codes of the retrospective exhibition format. The exhibition could be seen to engage with the subject of the social isolation engendered by the COVID health crisis. The artist elaborated: ‘It is a story about our times, when, even if we are cornered by the situation worldwide, we still have to survive, and an artist’s point of view, from the corner, might help us to better swallow the bitterness of daily life’”

<https://www.mudam.com/exhibitions/a-cornered-solo-show-1>

http://nedkosolakov.net/content/a_cornered_solo_show_1/index_eng.html

A Cornered Solo Show #2 – MAXXI, Rome
26.05.2022 – 01.10.2023



“Here, by relying on a witty play on words – corner/cornered – the artist has chosen a corner of MAXXI to critically recount highly topical socio-cultural issues and ironically reveal the most hidden mechanisms of contemporary art. He explores the complexities, contradictions, alternatives and experiments that arise from the urge to think, give form and negotiate with the human condition and self-representation. These themes have been complemented by reflections and thoughts on the Russian-Ukrainian war that broke out in February 2022, which prompted the artist to replace some of his stories with new works designed to evoke the tragic events of the present in the collective imagination.”

<https://www.maxxi.art/en/events/nedko-solakov-a-cornered-solo-show/>
http://nedkosolakov.net/content/a_cornered_solo_show_2/index_eng.html

**A Cornered Solo Show #3 (with Charles Esche as my artistic conscience) –
Belvedere, Vienna
24.11.2023 – 19.06.2024**



“The exhibition is not on view in the prestigious galleries of the Upper Belvedere; instead, it can be found in an inconspicuous corner of the museum’s coatroom. In this transitional space between arrival and departure, Solakov engages visitors with the themes of his art and wittily involves them in an inner dialogue with his artistic conscience.”

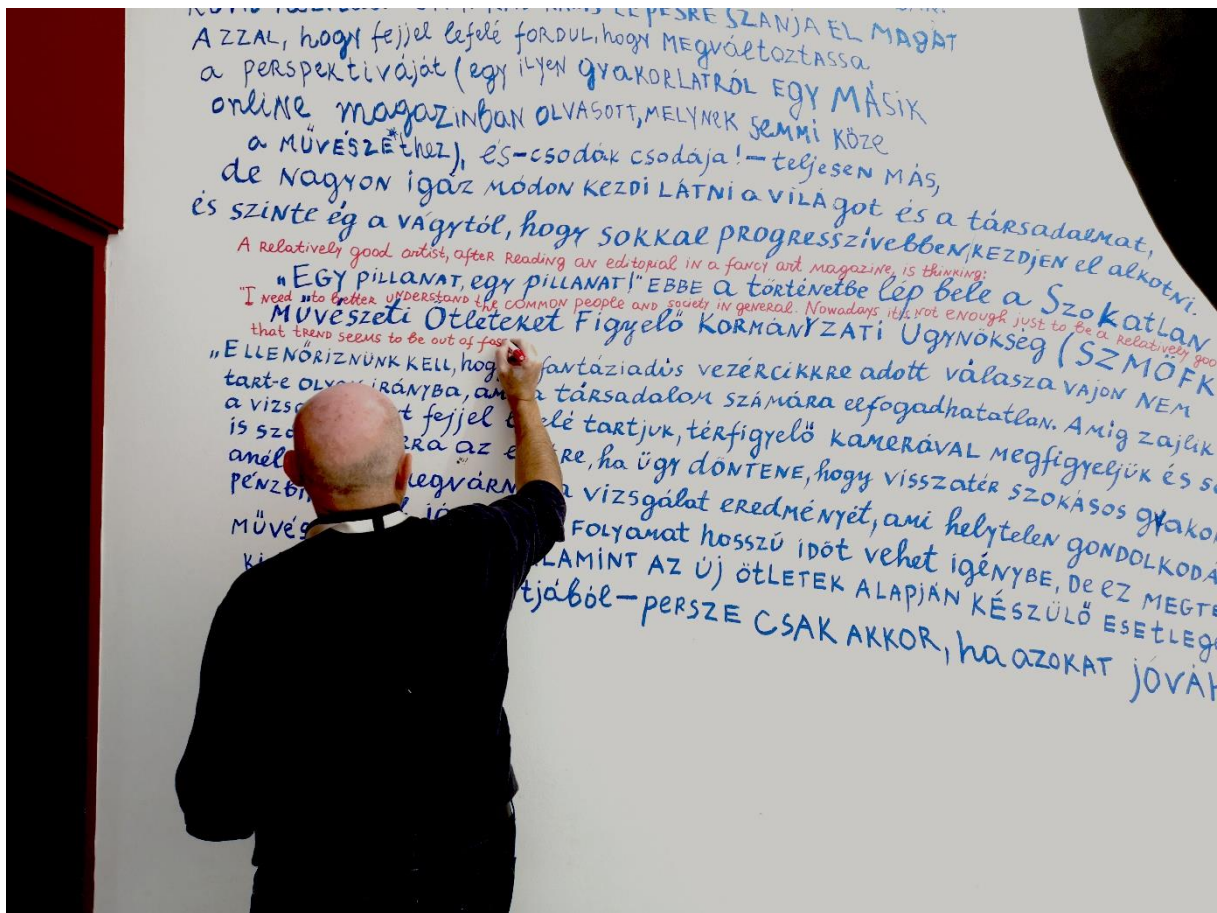
<https://www.belvedere.at/en/nedko-solakov>

A Cornered (Future) Solo Show #4 – National Gallery, Sofia, The Palace
31.05.2024 – 27.10.2024



At the National Gallery in Sofia, in such a previously unused “new,” albeit obvious and easily accessible space in the Palace, “A Cornered (Future) Solo Show #4” tells the imaginary story of a humble court painter and his friend, a tiny mouse, who are living under the staircase of the palace.

NEDKO SOLAKOV: A CORNERED SOLO SHOW #5 – Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest
17.10.2024 – 29.06.2025



In this work, Solakov explores the idea of an artist who seeks to view the world from a radically different perspective—literally by turning himself upside down to shift his viewpoint.

<https://www.ludwigmuseum.hu/en/exhibition/nedko-solakov-cornered-solo-show-5>