

Sacred Creatures. Beraqas
Art Dubai Digital
March 1-5, 2023

At Art Dubai Digital 2023, Window Project, in collaboration with Instigators, presents the second series of *Sacred Creatures, Beraqas (Anahata and Vishuddhas)* by Uta Bekaia x Denis Davydov. The drop is powered by The Curated, a platform for digital art curating. The collection was created at a seismic time. Ethnic conflicts, wars, and changes in the global political paradigm are all reflected in the artists' reflections on how their universe should function and develop. According to Bekaia and Davydov, the Anahata is the most empathetic family of all because empathy has totally atrophied in our time.

Project Description

Walter Benjamin once said that a child's first experience of the world is not his realization that "adults are stronger but rather that he cannot make magic."

Giorgio Agamben

Sacred Creatures by the Georgian-American artist Uta Bekaia and the Uzbek multimedia artist Denis Davydov explores and revisualizes avatars. The collection was created at a seismic time. Ethnic conflicts, wars, and changes in the global political paradigm are all reflected in the artists' reflections on how their universe should function and develop. According to Bekaia and Davydov, the Anahata is the most empathetic family of all because empathy has totally atrophied in our time.

This drop is based on the idea that a person's earliest avatar is a children's toy. The toy is the first thing of value that belongs exclusively to the child and is an artifact to which supernatural powers can be ascribed by the force of the imagination. The cultural horizon of both artists emerged, by their own account, as something "extremely multicultural and variegated, a paradoxical agglomeration of signs—a Molotov cocktail of images from American comics, Japanese manga, traditional toys, Western cartoons, and, last but not least, first-generation computer games." The artists also attach great importance to creating their own "legendarium," a universe populated by their characters, each of whom has a story and a personality of its own. They use the concept of a universe for good reason. In times of trouble people tend to seek refuge by mentally traveling to other spaces or artificial worlds governed by different types of laws (often bordering on magic). This project is conceived as a serial undertaking, with every instalment shedding new light on Davydov and Bekaia's universe.

Each work consists of a hand-painted watercolor sketch and ceramic sculpture, which are transferred into the virtual space with the help of unique textures, materials, and mechanisms taken not from reality but specially developed for the project to activate the plastic possibilities of the avatars.

ANAHATA

Coven of 8 unique creatures

The members of this coven lost everything during the great transformation. To survive, they have learned to truly share. They cannot comprehend the idea of belonging. These creatures are the pure perception of devotion. They will share everything with you, even their heart.

VISHUDDHAS

Coven of 8 unique creatures

These creatures are blind, though they do have eyes. They have learned to materialize their thoughts, desires, and passion. They crystallize it, and when they are completely covered with crystals, they shed and then crystallize into myriads of jewels all over again.

After Art Dubai

The second part of the drop will consist of one unique piece and ten editions of Vishuddhas, as well as five remaining editions of Anahata. It will be offered via an exclusive online drop on The Curated platform in May. The Curated has launched a waitlist campaign on its website, where early birds can sign up for as much as a 20% discount on artworks, as well as priority during the online drop. Two collectors who are on the waitlist and make a purchase will be randomly selected to receive a free ceramic sculpture or a watercolor sketch by Uta Bekaia.

Artists bio

Uta Bekaia (b. 1974) is a contemporary artist who lives and works in New York and Tbilisi. Bekaia studied Industrial Design at Tbilisi Mtsire Academy and debuted as an artist at AMA Avant-Garde Fashion Assembly with a sculptural performance. He has been awarded residencies at ART OMI, Museum of Arts and Design MAD (New York), and Art Villa Garikula (Georgia). His work is a speculative recreation of ancestral rituals restaged for a queer utopian future. Fascinated by traditional crafts, Bekaia creates richly adorned wearable sculptures, ceramics, tapestries, and objects, bringing them together as immersive installations, films, and live performances. His artworks have been shown worldwide, including at Window Project, Tbilisi; SchauFenster, Berlin; Museum of Modern Art, Tbilisi; biennials in Istanbul and Kyiv; ERTI Gallery, Tbilisi; Silk Museum, Tbilisi; The Lodge Gallery, New York; and Center for Contemporary Art, Batumi. He has staged parades for the Tbilisi City Hall Tbilisoba Festival, Book Capital of the World Opening Ceremony, TurnPark, and ArtPark, among others. His latest solo exhibition, *My Fragile Little Rabbit*, took place at Marisa Newman Projects, New York and was accompanied by a printed catalog with an essay by Glenn Adamson. Bekaia is a founding member of the Tbilisi-based queer creative collective Fungus.

Denis Davydov (b. 1985) is a Tashkent-based media artist who is the founder of Instigators and N3 Design. He has a BA in design from Tashkent Institute of Architecture and Construction (2008). During his freshman year, he received an award from the Render.ru independent community of CGI artists. In 2012, his project *Units of Lust* was displayed at the SYE Foundation's group exhibition at Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris. After establishing his career as an independent computer graphics artist, Denis joined N3 Agency as a Creative Director, developing CGI content for brands such as Microsoft, CCTV, Samsung, NBC, Ford, and Bloomberg. Denis's projects have received 10+ Adobe Behance awards in the categories "Editors Choice" and "3D Gold." In 2015, Denis participated in the exhibition *Bidding for Glasnost* at Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, with an immersive VR installation. In 2020, he launched the multimedia art project *Gameland*. In the same year he founded Instigators, a supergroup of international art practitioners and cryptoenthusiasts united by exploration of the NFT medium. His first NFT project, *Exported from the Museum*, debuted at Cosmospow Art Fair 2021. He was one of the speakers at the discussion "The Future History of Art Infrastructure: Culture and Representation in the Metaspace," organized by the Uzbekistan Pavilion during the 59th Venice Biennale (2022).

About

Window Project is a contemporary gallery based in Tbilisi, Georgia that shows works by Georgian and international artists. The gallery focuses primarily on promoting young Georgian artists, while also showing works by the "forgotten" older generation in order to contribute to the dialogue between past and present. The gallery's first project was launched in 2013 in an alternative exhibition space, an empty display window of the Pantomime Theater on Rustaveli Avenue. It aimed to support local artists of the post-Soviet period, primarily young artists but including some internationally well-known names. The main purpose of the window concept-gallery was to make art public and available. In 2018, Window Project opened a new exhibition space where artists and curators are invited to create a range of projects.

Instigators is a blockchain atelier that produces and promotes art projects in the Web3 Space.

The Curated is the first decentralized platform for digital art curating that allows users to search, catalog, and rate art pieces from all over Web3. The platform makes digital curating simple and accessible for both newcomers and professional curators, and streamlines collective efforts to identify art gems. The Curated's mission is to give visibility to meaningful artworks handpicked from open sources and existing collections in accordance with curatorial expertise in contemporary art. The Curated app offers collectors the finest art selection in a convenient, dedicated feed.