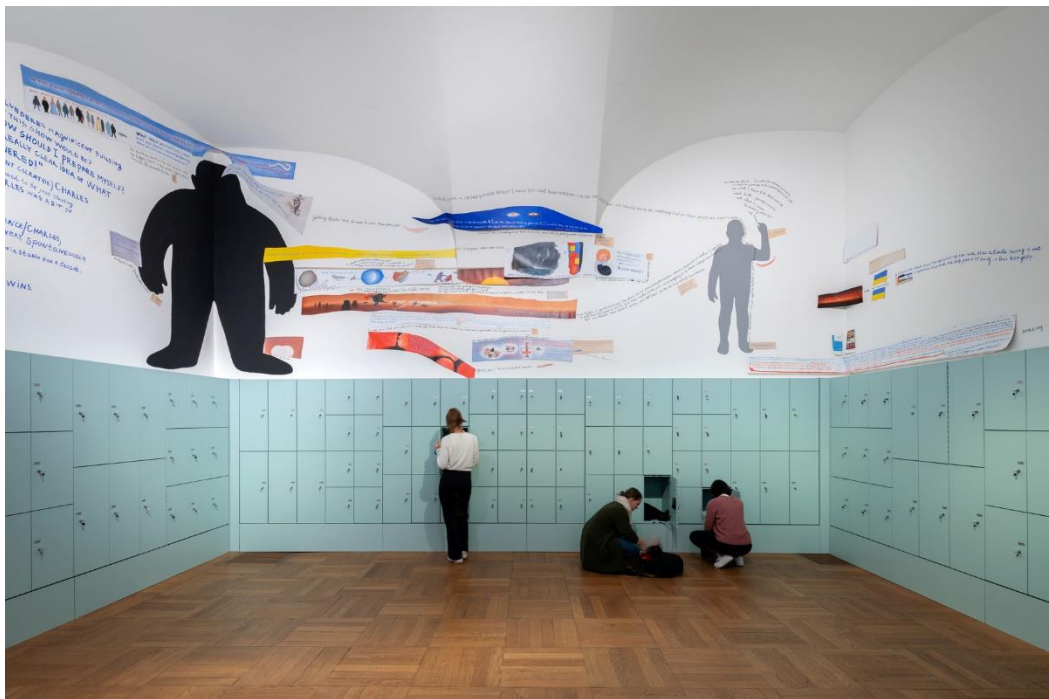


## NEDKO SOLAKOV

### A Cornered Solo Show #3 (with Charles Esche as my artistic conscience)

Upper Belvedere

24 November 2023 to 19 June 2024



Nedko Solakov, *A Cornered Solo Show #3 (with Charles Esche as my artistic conscience)*, 2023

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Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov's artistic intervention, *A Cornered Solo Show #3 (with Charles Esche as my artistic conscience)*, can be found in an inconspicuous corner of the Upper Belvedere, the museum's coatroom, as a collage of image and text elements. Solakov engages visitors with the themes of his art and wittily involves them in an inner dialogue with his artistic consciousness, personified by his long-time friend and companion, curator and museum director Charles Esche.

General director and curator Stella Rollig: *In this tongue-in-cheek autofiction, the artist Nedko Solakov (he is quite famous and successful in real life) ostensibly reveals his less than glamorous attempt to present himself in the best possible light at the Belvedere – a mischievous intervention meant to round off the anniversary year on a cheerful note.*

*A Cornered Solo Show #3* is the third exhibition of a series by Nedko Solakov, with previous projects shown at MAXXI in Rome and MUDAM in Luxembourg. The unconventional venue for the presentation of his work within the museum was the artist's choice.

Nedko Solakov has written on the walls of the cloakroom:

*I would love to do a huge solo show in one of the gorgeous halls of the Belvedere's magnificent building. And in case this happens and I get invited someday, why not figure out in advance what this show would be? The audience of this extremely well-visited museum is hard to please. How should I prepare myself? "Go to that corner, you 65-year-old dreamer, and until you have a really clear idea of what this solo show of yours will look like, you must stay there, cornered!" said my artistic conscience in the shape of an old friend (and prominent curator) Charles Esche [...]. And then, so as to be very spontaneous and artsy-fartsy in front of my conscience/Charles, I decided to fix my thoughts and worries and questions and answers on these very spontaneously done cut-outs of primed canvas, which has stayed rolled up in the corner of my studio for a decade. Here it is, sort of a dialog between me and my conscience. This is not the first time I've argued with it and, frankly, as a rule, it always wins. Let's see what will happen now.*

Since the early 1990s, Nedko Solakov (born 1957, Cherven Bryag, Bulgaria; lives in Sofia) has exhibited extensively in Europe and the US. His work was featured in Aperto'93 (Venice Biennial); the 48th, 49th, 50th and 52nd Venice Biennial; the 3rd, 4th and 9th Istanbul Biennial; São Paulo'94; Manifesta 1, Rotterdam; the 2nd and 4th Gwangju Biennial; the 5th Lyon Biennial; Sonsbeek 9, Arnhem; the 4th and 5th Cetinje Biennial; the 1st Lodz Biennial; the 7th Sharjah Biennial, United Arab Emirates; the 3rd Tirana Biennial; the 2nd Seville Biennial; the 2nd Moscow Biennial; documenta 12; 16th Sydney Biennial; Prospect 1, New Orleans Biennial; Singapore Biennial 2011; dOCUMENTA (13); Kathmandu Triennale; 1st Riga International Biennial for Contemporary Art and Lahore Biennale 2. He had solo shows at Museu do Chiado, Lisbon; Stichting De Appel, Amsterdam; CCA Kitakyushu, Japan; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; The Israel

Museum, Jerusalem; Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona; Kunsthaus Zürich; Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli; Sofia City Art Gallery; Galleria Borghese, Rome; Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg; BOZAR, Brussels; ICA-Sofia, La Panacée, Montpellier, Mudam Luxembourg, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, and MAXXI – Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Rome. In 2003–05 an extensive mid-career *A 12 1/3 (and even more) Year Survey* was presented at Casino Luxembourg, Rooseum Malmö and OK Centrum Linz, and in 2008–09 the *Emotions* solo project was exhibited at Kunstmuseum Bonn, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, and Institut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt. In 2011–12 his retrospective *All in Order, with Exceptions* was presented at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; Fondazione Galleria Civica Trento (*All in (My) Order, with Exceptions*), S.M.A.K., Ghent and Fundação de Serralves, Porto. His works belong to more than fifty international museums and public collections, among them MoMA New York, Tate Modern, London and Centre Pompidou, Paris.

[www.nedkosolakov.net](http://www.nedkosolakov.net)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Exhibition</b>	A Cornered Solo Show #3 (with Charles Esche as my artistic conscience)
<b>Curators</b>	Stella Rollig, Johanna Hofer (assistant curator)
<b>Duration</b>	24 November 2023 to 19 June 2024
<b>Location</b>	Upper Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna
<b>Opening Hours</b>	Monday to Sunday, 9 am to 6 pm
<b>Media Contact</b>	Press Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-177   M <a href="mailto:press@belvedere.at">press@belvedere.at</a>

For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos please visit [www.belvedere.at/en/press](http://www.belvedere.at/en/press)