

Georgian Banquets

Organized by Elene Lapiashvili and Julia Marchand
Within Thomas Hirschhorn installation for Poush

Georgian Banquets offers a few hours of immersion in Georgia's artistic scene, while offering a platform to speak about the current political situation, where the focus is on the hopes and aspirations for Europe. Young people, who went to the streets since the announcement of the law on foreign agents, are mobilizing a desire, perhaps a fantasy, for a Europe at a time when the far right all over Europe is on the rise. But there are several Europe, just as this projection mobilizes several desires. In a discussion bringing together a political scientist, exhibition curators, journalists and an artist, the aim is to take the pulse of these impulses and look back at the history of this country that holds such fascination.

In parallel, or even as a preamble, *Georgian Banquets* presents four films by Georgian artists and/or directors whose works transport us into another texture of reality: Some films are wrapped in a surreal torpor ("Nightvision, Limited Access " by Andro Eradze and "Kolga" by Mikheil Kobakhidze), while others take us into an art of editing that reveals the art of dosage ("Hail Medea" by Sophio Medoidze) and the collection of family memories in the 1990s Georgia ("Glasses Crack, Tablecloths Splinter" by Ana Japaridze).

Welcome
14h

Screenings
15h - 16h

Ana Japaridze "Glasses Crack, Tablecloths Splinter" (2022) 17 min.

Anna Japaridze is an English-Georgian artist-film director whose work lies at the crossroads between documentary film and experimental cinema. After completing a BA at Goldsmiths in Fine Arts, she did an MA in Film and Video at Stanford. She is currently making her first feature film in Tusheti, in the Caucasus mountains. "Glasses Crack, Tablecloths Splinter" is a documentary essay developed around a series of partly dematerialised home video cassettes that were digitalized by the filmmaker on behalf of strangers and friends in Georgia. The film transports viewers back in time to the kitchens and living rooms of 1990s Georgia, as the filmmaker weaves together a domestic ethnography of life during the post-Soviet transition period.

Mikheil Kobakhidze, "Kolga" (1967) 20 min

Mikheil Kobakhidze (1939-2019) was a Georgian filmmaker whose works were revolving around love, rebellion, disobedience. Those themes were standing against Soviet ideology, leading to problems of censorship. A friend of Tarkovsky and Paradjanov, Kobakhidze made wordless short films set to choreographic music. His surrealist silent film, "Kolga", tells the story of an umbrella that endangers the love of a young couple. This film won him the Grand Prize at the Krakow Film Festival. Kobakhidze moved to Paris in 1993.

Andro Eradze, " Nightvision, Limited Access " (2021) 3 min

Andro Eradze lives and works in Tbilisi. He studied at the Shota Rustaveli Film Academy and the MFA programme at the CCA-T (Centre of Contemporary Art Tbilisi). His practice explores the potential of animism as a method. His photographs, installations and experimental films manifest a fading reality in which the Anthropocene teeters. Drawing on the heritage of alternative approaches to reality (surrealism and magic realism), his films blur the distinction between the real and the imaginary. In "Nightvision, Limited Access", shot in the confined streets of Tbilisi, the artist follows the trail of stray dogs, who appear like cyborg creatures.

Sophio Medoidze " Hail Medea" (2023) 7 min

Sophio Medoidze was born in Tbilisi in 1978, under the Soviet Union, but grew up in an independent Georgia. She now works in London. A graduate of Tbilisi's Shota Rustaveli Institute of Film and Theatre (TAFU), she has won international acclaim. Her work focuses on film, installations, and text, with a view to exploring the similarities between touch, language and film, and "exploring the poetic potential of uncertainty". His film "Hail Medea" was inspired by his visit to a cellar used as a pharmacy in Vardzia, South Georgia, as well as his reading of Roland Barthes and Bernard Stiegler on the subject of pharmakon/Pharmacopoeia and a re-reading of the figure of the goddess Medea.

**Roundtable discussion
4.15 pm - 5.45pm**

"European dreams, hangovers, and voices from Georgia"

Torniké Gordadzé, researcher

Torniké Gordadzé is a French Georgian academic and researcher. From 2010 to 2012, he was State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of the Republic of Georgia. He was Georgia's chief negotiator for the Association Agreement and the negotiations of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) with the EU (2010-2012). From 2014 to 2020, he was Head of the Research and Studies Department at the Institut des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale in Paris, France (2014-2019). He was a Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) (2021-2022). He currently teaches at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (SciencesPo) and is programme officer for the Eastern neighborhood and the Black Sea at the Institut Jacques Delors.

Théo-Mario Coppola, curator and critic

Théo-Mario Coppola (b. 1990 - French Italian - non-binary) is a curator and art critic. Considering aesthetic issues as intrinsically linked to social struggles, his curatorial and critical practice is in direct engagement with experimental, narrative, political, and research-based forms. Théo-Mario Coppola organised HOTEL EUROPA in various European cities between 2017 and 2019 including Tbilisi at Open Space, the third edition of the Nuit Blanche art festival

at the Villa Medici in Rome, Italy, in 2018, and the eleventh edition of the MOMENTUM biennial in Moss, Norway, in 2021. Théo-Mario Coppola are currently conducting research into the notion of the 'commons' as developed by Elinor Ostrom, focusing on experiences of concrete utopia, personal and collective stories of emancipation, and initiatives of resistance.

Paolo Giordano, writer and journalist (online/video)

Paolo Giordano, a renowned Italian writer born in Turin in 1982, is the author of the novel "La solitudine dei numeri primi" ("The Solitude of the Prime Numbers"), published in 2008, for which he won the famous Campiello "first work" prize and the Strega prize. At 26, he is the youngest author ever to win this major Italian literary prize. He is the author of four other novels ("Le Corps humain", "Dévorer le ciel", "Les Humeurs insolubles" and "Tasmania"). Alongside his novel writing, he works for the Italian daily Corriere della Sera, where he has published several portraits of pro-European Georgian youth.

Julia Marchand, curator

Julia Marchand is an exhibition curator based in Paris and Venice and currently curator of the Georgian pavilion at the 60th edition of La Biennale di Venezia. Curator at the Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles between 2015 and 2023, where she organised the Niki Pirosmani exhibition (cur. Bice Curiger), she is also the founder of the Extramentale platform dedicated to visual creation relating to adolescence. She has organised exhibitions and events at the Centre Pompidou Paris, Centre d'Art Edouard Manet, Gennevilliers, E.A. Shared Space, Tbilisi, Istanbul Contemporary, Beaux-Art de Paris). In 2021, his research on the Georgian publisher Iliazd (1894-1975) in relation to young artists will be exhibited as part of the "Fest I Nova" festival in tribute to the Zdanevich brothers.

Moderated by

Anano Bakuradze, filmmaker and journalist

Anano Bakuradze is a distinguished Georgian journalist and documentary filmmaker renowned for her impactful storytelling and cinematic prowess. A graduate of the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, La Fémis's esteemed Atelier Documentaire, and the prestigious ESEC Film School, Anano has honed her craft at some of the finest institutions in Europe. s co-founder of MOVEMENT, Georgia's largest storytelling platform and production company, Anano has played a key role in shaping the country's media landscape. Through MOVEMENT, she has provided a platform for powerful stories that resonate with local and international audiences, reinforcing her status as a pioneer in the industry.

Elene Lapiashvili, artist

Elene Lapiashvili (* 1999 Tbilisi, Georgia) studies at école Nationale Supérieure des Arts décoratifs, Paris. Her artistic practice combines mediums such as sculpture, installation, performance, text and video. Elene Lapiashvili's work suggests a home where the questions of the intimate are brought to light. The artist creates a meeting point between her childhood and current uncertainties. She is inspired by stories and haunting memories through diverse materials, from cold to solid, soft to ephemeral. Elene's work is an architecture of crisis. Her subjects are often gothic, twisted, frightening and yet they evoke a capacity of change, evolution, and the innocent and tended sweetness of childhood. This paradox subtly suggests destruction as catharsis or freedom.

Closing

6 - 7 pm

Georgian choir and wine tasting Supra Cave

With Tamara Demuria, Fabien Mornet, Elga Porchkhidze and Salomé Kvaratskhelia