

HOMO, META, MEGA

Iliko Zautashvili

Selected Works

‘Homo, Meta, Mega’ are the three perspectives adopted by Iliko Zautashvili to characterize the nature of his creative work. ‘Homo’ is a perspective realized within human parameters. ‘Meta’ is a perspective that calls for the investigation of reality beyond the empirical world. ‘Mega’ is the perspective that everything always remains in progress and undergoes constant transformation. In his works, the artist freely plays with multimedia possibilities. He involves various contexts in his artworks, making no specific preference as to the means of self-expression, which can be texts or objects, images, spaces or even sounds.’

Magda Guruli,
excerpts from the catalogue
‘Journey to Tbilisi’,
2008, Nantes

Once within the word EARTH I found the word ART. Since then there is no reason to look for ART.

Iliko Zautashvili, 1998, Bristol

My art space ranges between various fields that are contradictive sometime. These are border territories of a man's interests that are oriented much more on the global issues.

Independence and freedom – these priorities defies valuable interrelation between free personality and independent society.

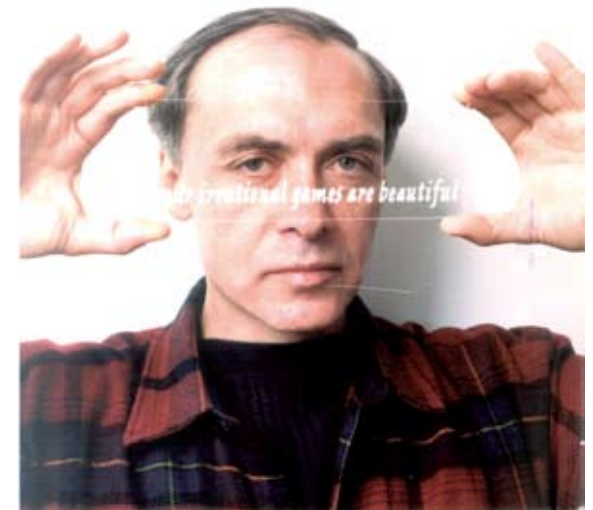
I don't think that authorities can changes anything but provide with the guarantees for progressive tendencies in society.

Art is a possibility to get in touch with reality, reveal new ideas and unexpected context. Solution comes in itself in accordance with the task set and situation. I'm curious how the same concepts can be realized through different medias.

I can't perceive art as a time notion (past, present or future).

Art is a spatial, unlimited category.

There is no art, but ideas.





'Habits, Needs And...', installation view, Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal, Basel, 2006;



'Habits, Needs and...', 2006/08, video installation, 4 Plexiglas shelves (30X40 cm), 4 TV monitors, b/w Video DV, 3 metronomes, sound, text on the wall:

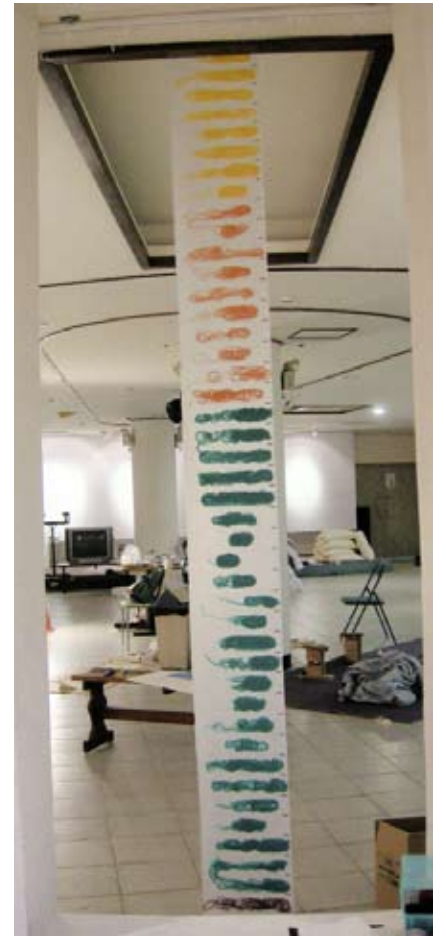
'there are no answers to the most important questions'

'This is not a declaration or a verdict. This is a universal language, universal information beyond frontiers and national clichés. This is a dynamic process of the endless exchange of questions and answers that emerge amid habits and needs, freedom and taboo, morality and pleasure, personality and society'.

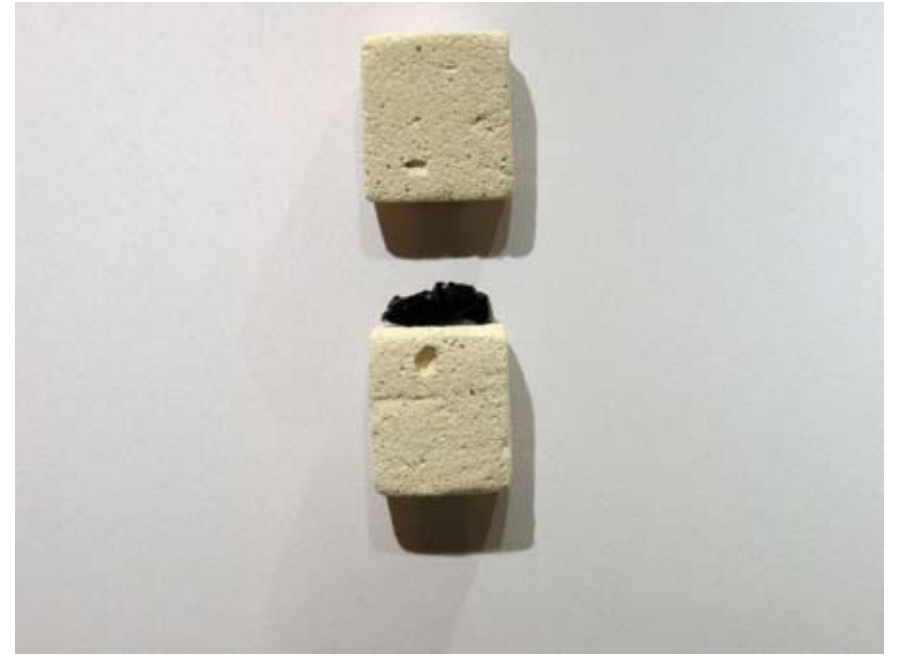


'Habits, Needs And...', installation view, Musee des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, France 2008;





*'MegaArchive 3', 2007, unlimited indoor and outdoor installation, film files, knitting threads, ropes.
Hwei Lan tourist center, Taiwan.*



'Black, Giant Mount', 2007, installation, white pumice stone, black obsidian, chinese ink on paper, 300X300X5 cm, Hwei Lan tourist center, Taiwan.



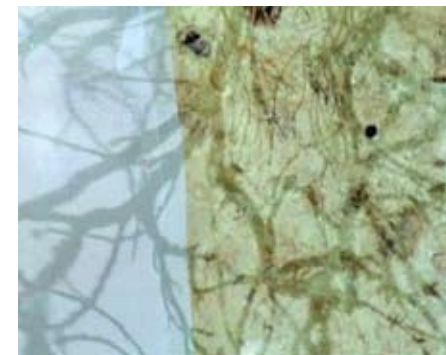
*'Time Disappears in Time',
installation view, Siemens
Art Gallery, Istanbul, 2007*



*'Time Disappears in Time',
installation view, National
Centre for Contemporary
Arts, Moscow, 2006*

'Time Disappears in Time', 2003/2006, video installation, text, 12 pillows with serigraphy, 3 flat screen monitors

'Time Disappears in Time', consists of twelve pillow case with serigraphic imprint of calendars on them. 3 flat screen monitors places randomly among the pillows show contrasting flows of water. The image of flowing water shows of movement of time disappearing in two simultaneous, though opposite, streams. It's like moving into the future and past at the same time. In this way, it is obvious the relativity, unreality, and absurdity of time. A person standing at a bridge is kept in a listless and indifferent state. Only changing digits pulse chaotically around still pointing at the flow of time. The video ends like it beings: unexpectedly, as if it doesn't matter where and when an ending may be places.





*'Unlimited Gaps in a Limited Time', 2008, installation view and detail
 25 pillows: 12 with calendar prints, 13 with b/w photo prints, (pillowcases 70X70 cm)*



*'Unlimited Gaps
in a Limited
Time', Cobra
Museum.
Amstelveen,
2009,
installation view*



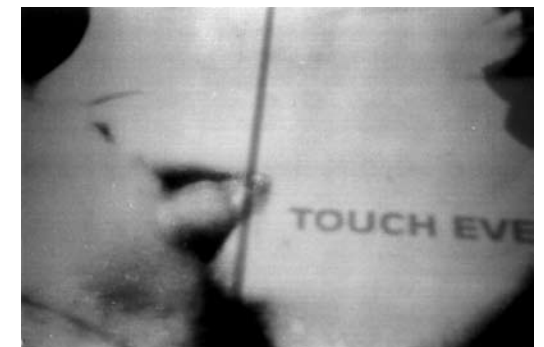
*'According to the Earth.
According to the Sky', 2007,
photo installation with mirrors,
200 X 300cm*



*'According to the Earth.
According to the Sky',
installation view, Siemens
Art Gallery, Istanbul, 2007*



Installation View, 2000, La Ferme du Buisson, Marne-la-Vallée, France



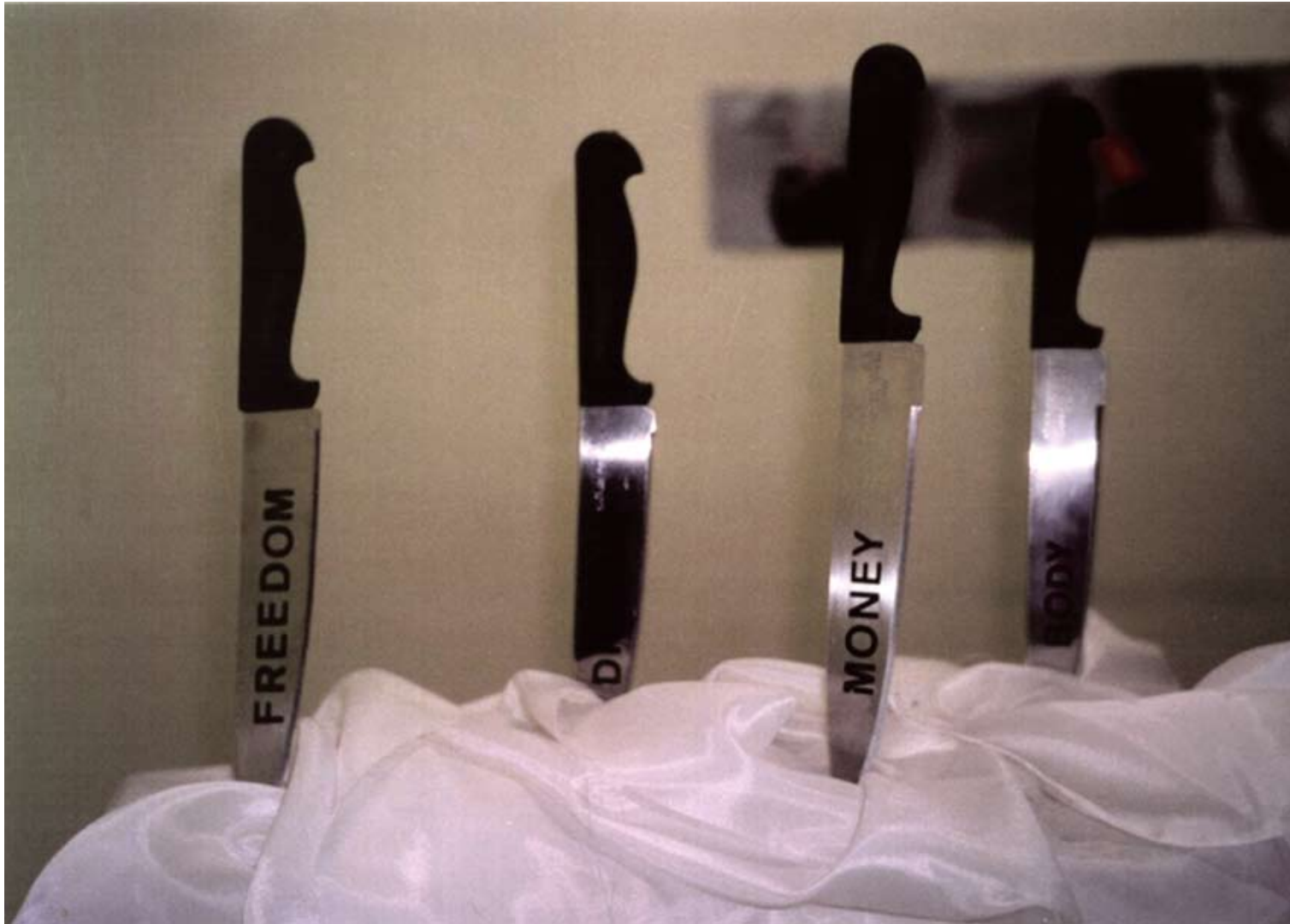
'Touch Everything Except my Heart', 1997/2000, installation, 16 photographs, 17 Plexiglas shelves (30X40 cm), plaster object, text, 250X800X30 cm

'Iliko Zautashvili seems to be on essentially sentimental ground, with his installation Touch everything except my Heart. He is positing the necessarily ambivalent relationship between the artists and his subject, translating the transient nature of our reality with fragmentary documents. The group of photographs depicting events distant in the mists of memory, as well as the white plaster heart locked in a display case.....

....all these announce and yet simultaneously conceal different levels of meaning. The work seems to function like a secret text which gives clues, but seeks also to maintain the privilege of hermeticism. It is a strategy whose objective is to arouse within the viewer a kind of mental impatience, which urges him to pose questions, leading him to put forward answers. By imaging the situations with act upon the observer's conscience, Iliko Zautashvili is able to touch simultaneously upon the behavior of the individual in society, his relative passivity, and the absolute necessity of the principle of interiority, without the two appearing contradictory.

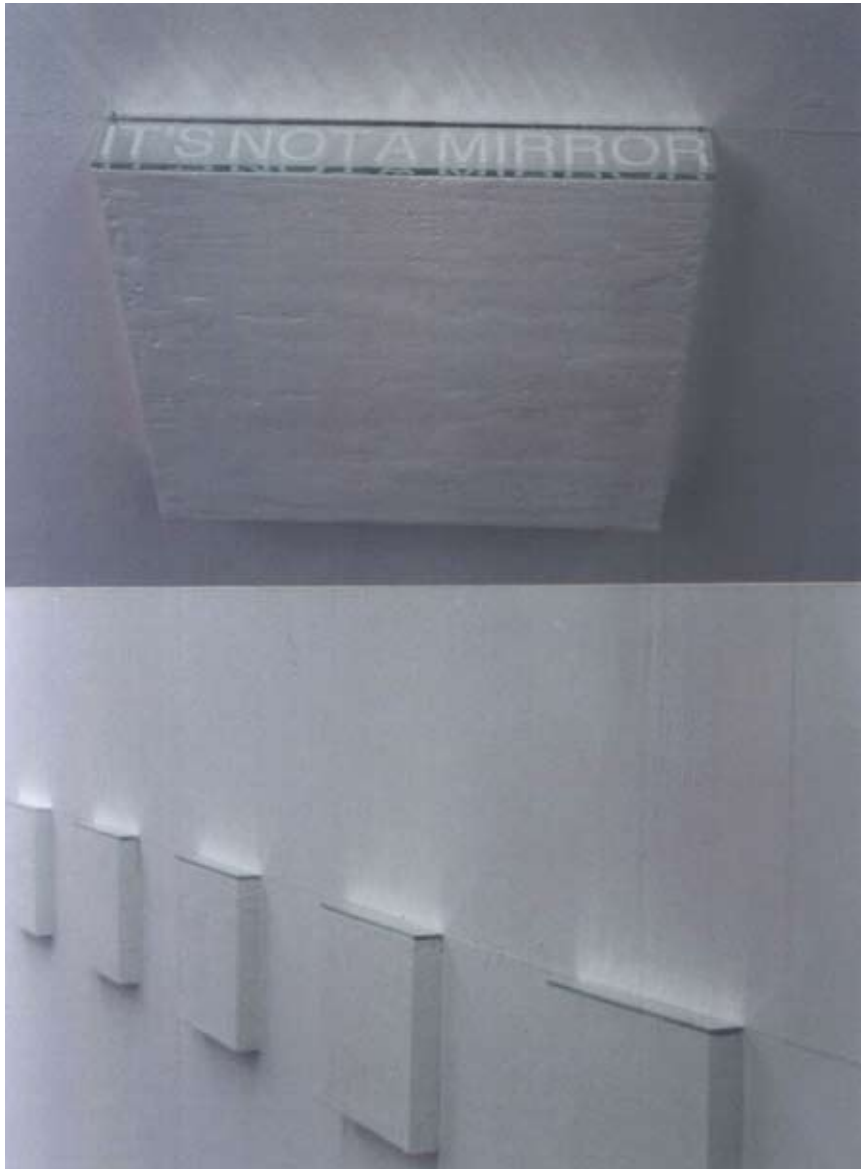
Touch everything except my Heart is a voluntarily sentimental work, for this enables the construction of a vision of a resistance, which is necessary in the relationship that obtains between the internal conscience and the course of history'.

Anne Tronche,
excerpts from the catalogue
'On the other side of history',
2000, Paris.



Sweet Life, 2000, installation, 12 knives, white silk, /detail/

'Sweet Life', is the installation concept, which provokes the audience to reconsider the ordinary sense and meaning of already settled words. 12 words inscribed on the 12 knives indicate the double nature of the 12 well-known meanings, such are: revolt, power, money, freedom, morals, nations, faith, society, fame, religion, passion and marriage. Sometime meanings are dangerous as much as knives and may be used for the negative courses as well.



Installation view, detail, 1998, Spike Island, Bristol

IT'S NOT ART

IT'S NOT A MIRROR

IT'S NOT PAST

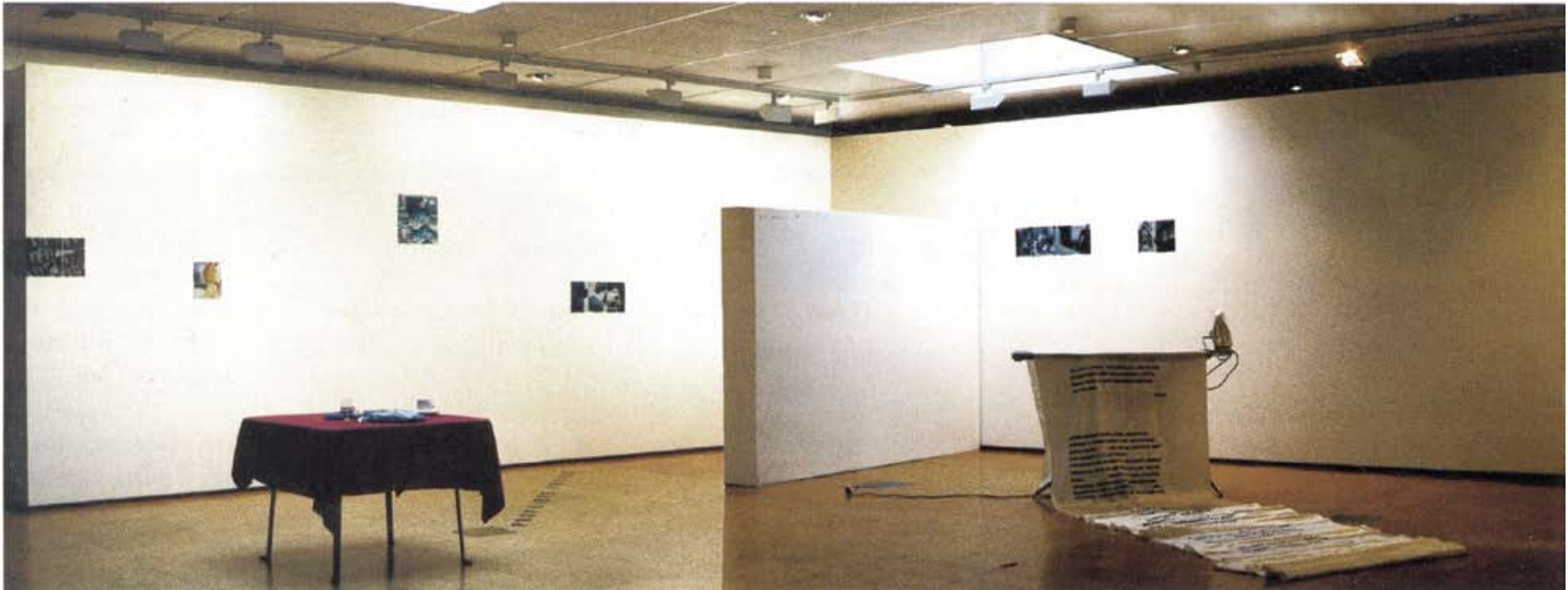
IT'S NOT FUTURE

IT'S NOT MONEY

IT'S NOT MORAL

IT'S YOU

'It's You', 1998, wall installation, 15 sq/m, mixed media on 7 white panels, 7 mirrors with texts



*'Private Life', 1998, installation, objects, photographs, screen print on fabric, texts, 35 sq/m
UNESCO exhibition hall, Paris*



*'Public Opinion,
Private Life',
detail*

*'Dessert,
Private Life',
detail*



'Sansara', 1998, installation, photographs, glass shelf, 40X100 cm, Braziers, UK



*'Next to the Art', 1996/97,
Installation, text on the
metal, photograph, red rope,
250X150X50 cm*



*Installation view, 1996,
National Picture Gallery, Tbilisi
Georgia*



Drawing, Print, Photograph



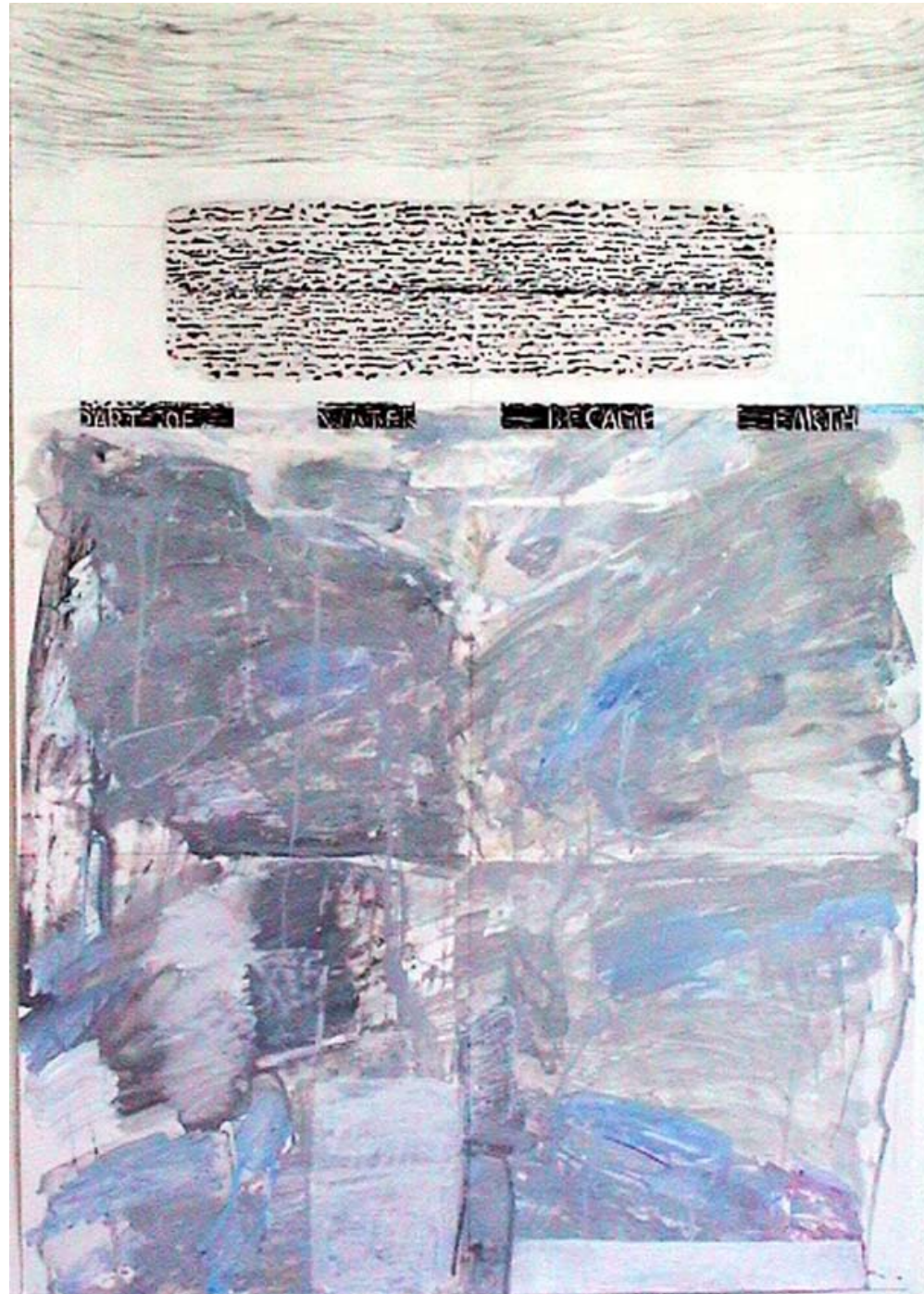
*'Between Silence
and Vibration', 2007,
mixed media on paper,
300X300 cm, Hwei Lan
tourist center, Taiwan.*

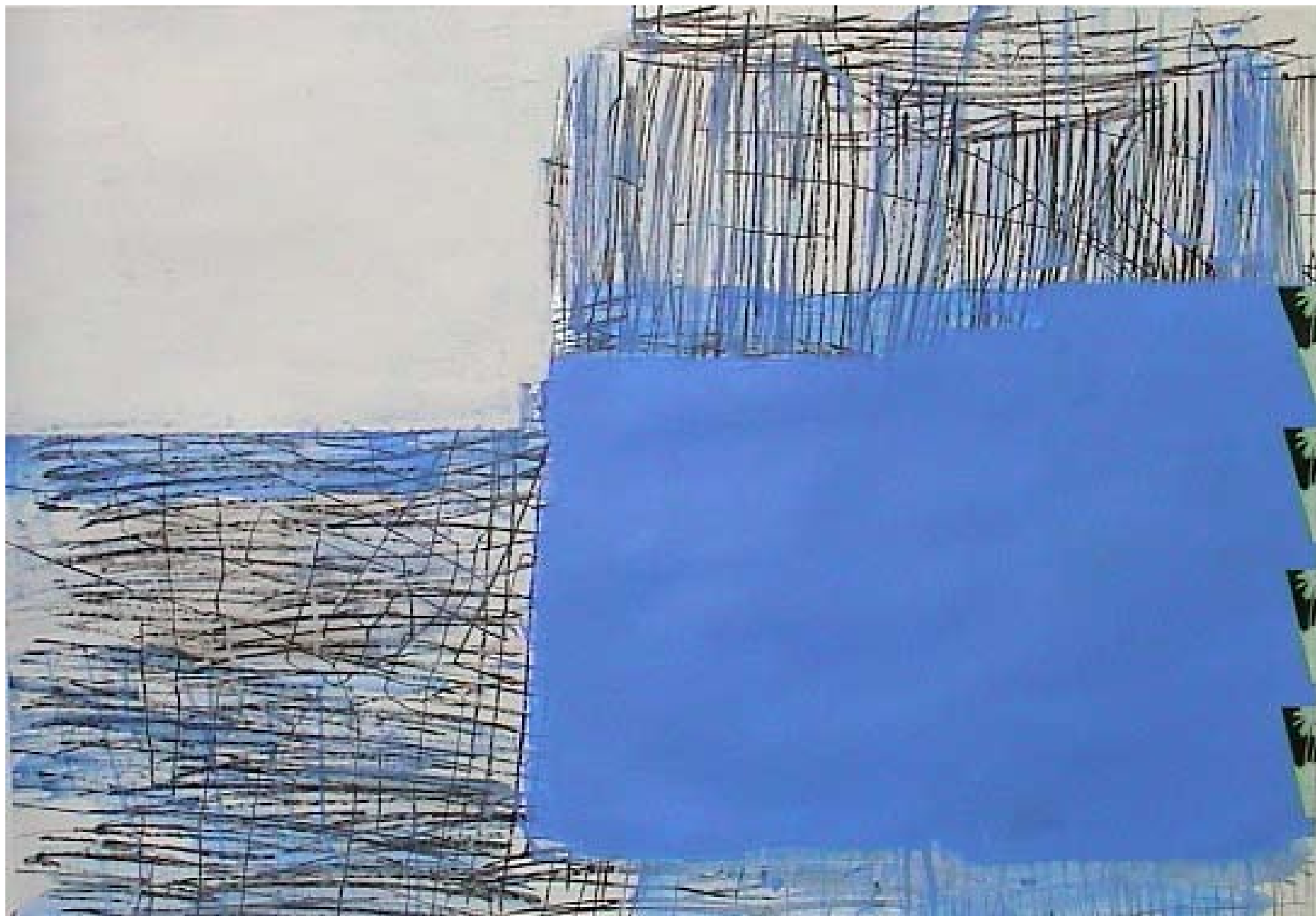




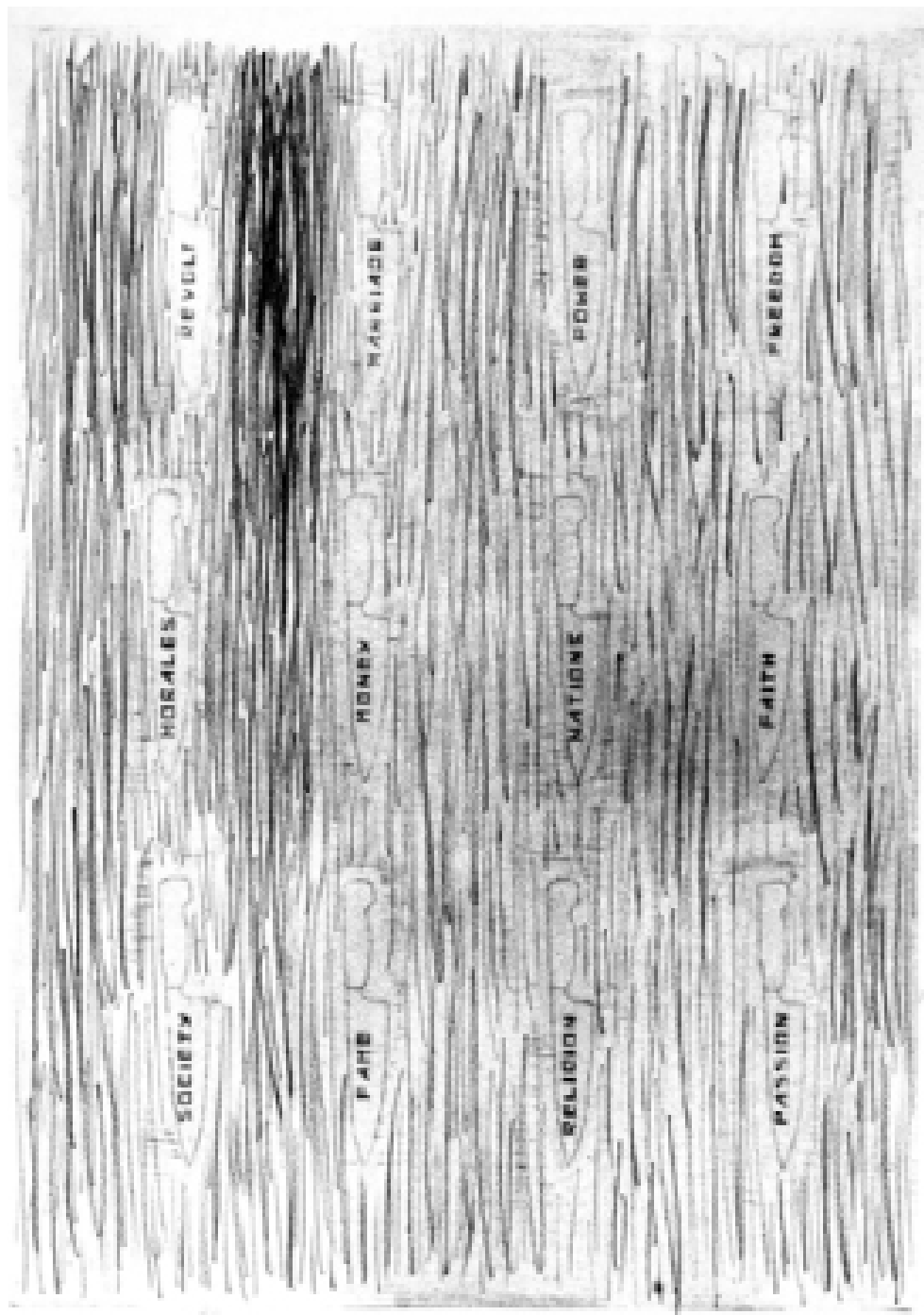
'Within Hieroglyph', 2002, mixed media, collage on cardboard, 80X120 cm

*'Part of Water became Earth', 2002,
mixed media, lithography on cardboard,
120X80 cm*

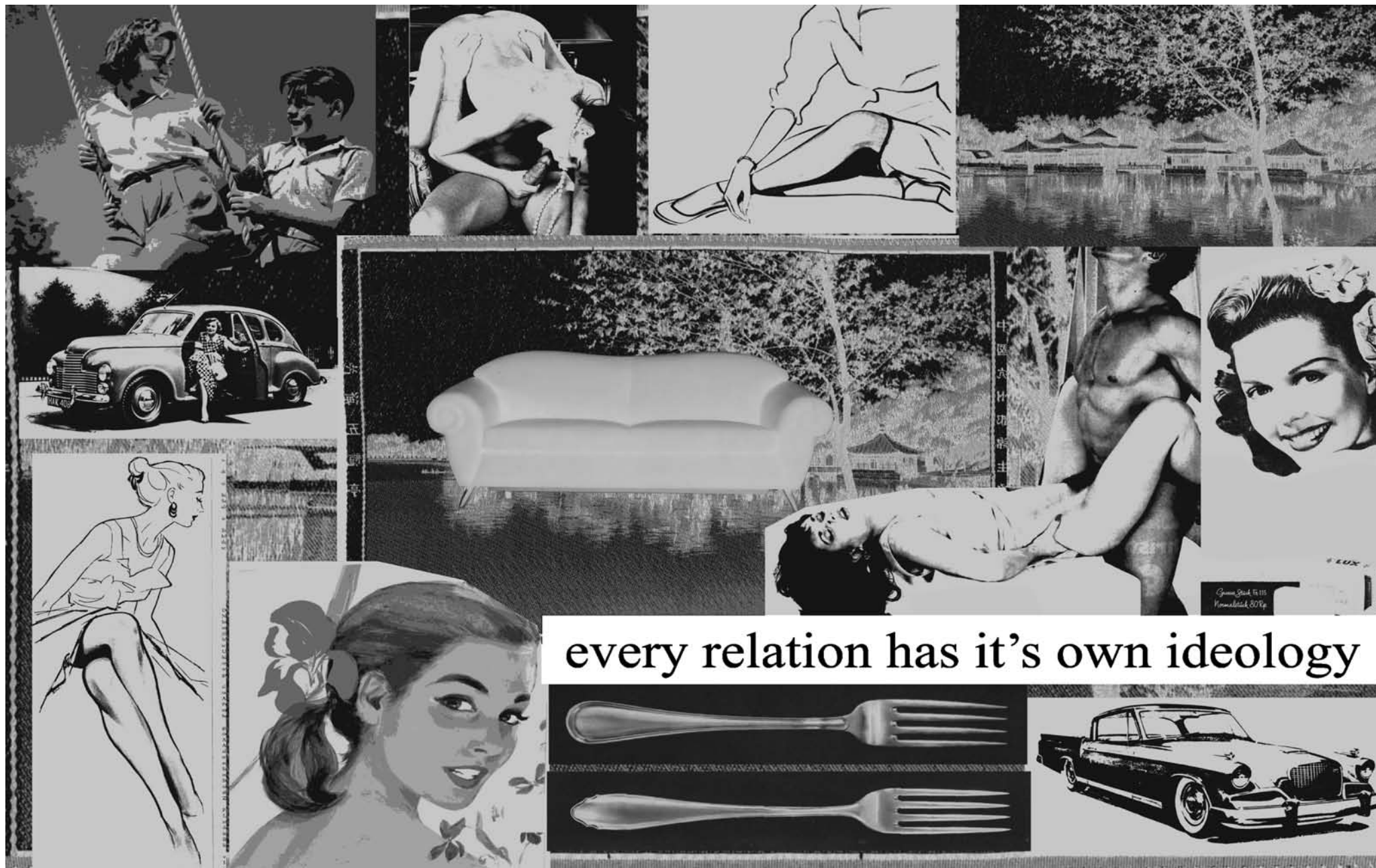




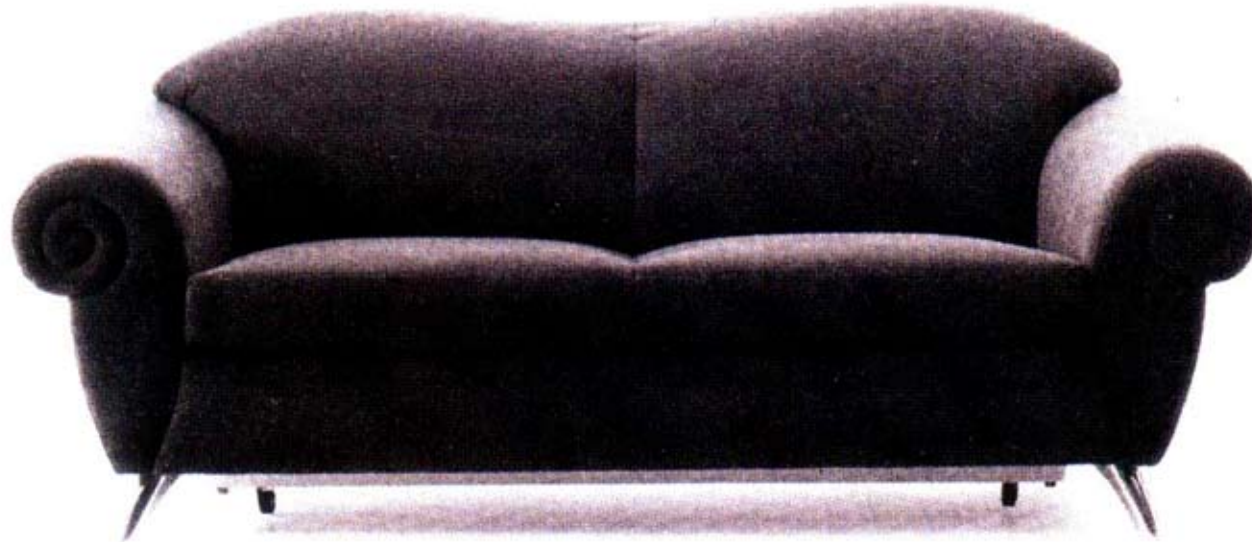
'Oasis', 2002, mixed media, collage on cardboard, 80X120 cm



*'12 Knives', 2002/2006, screenprint,
charcoal on paper, 54X38 cm*

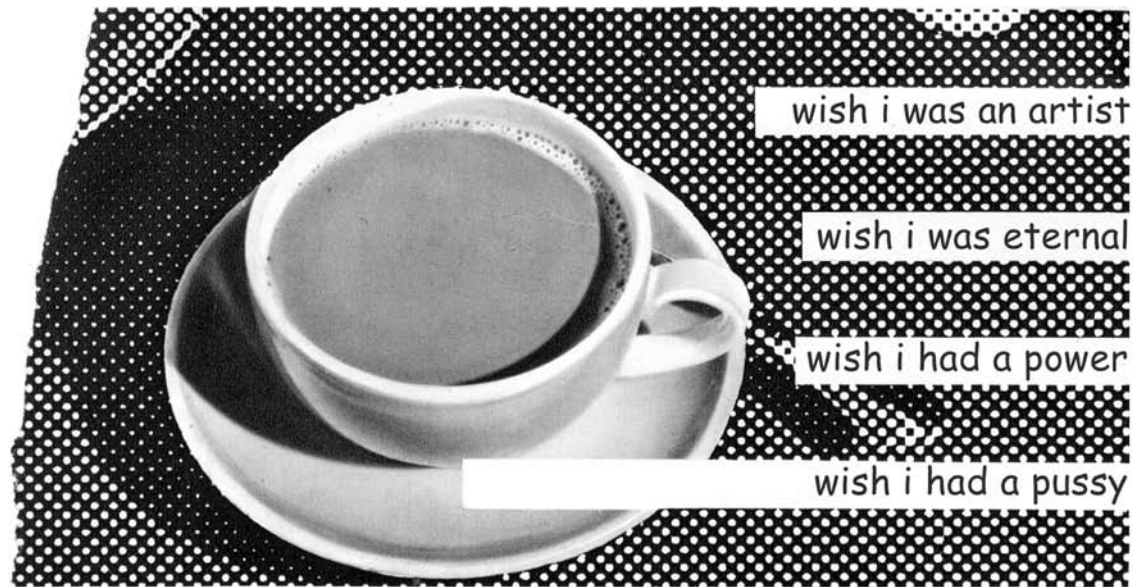


'Every Relation has its own Ideology', 2006, L-print on canvas, 90X120 cm



every relation has its own ideology

*'Every Relation has its own Ideology',
2004, screenprint on paper, 70X96 cm*



Don't Make a Wish

*'Don't Make a Wish', 2004,
screenprint on paper, 70X96 cm*



*'Walking through Wall', 2002,
screenprint on paper, 54X38 cm*

'...a photo series entitled 'Caucasian Manifesto' is to make commonplace the Caucasian myth and reality through images. Calling it a manifesto reflects the declarative nature of the work. The various stereotypes of the Caucasian character and lifestyle have been created over the centuries, and much impacted upon by the latest instabilities. A very interesting aspect of the Caucasus is the way an eclectic whole has been created by the blending of all sorts of influences. The images are ironic and exotic. Many topics are raised, such as how a patriarchal society maintains the myths to control a reality...'

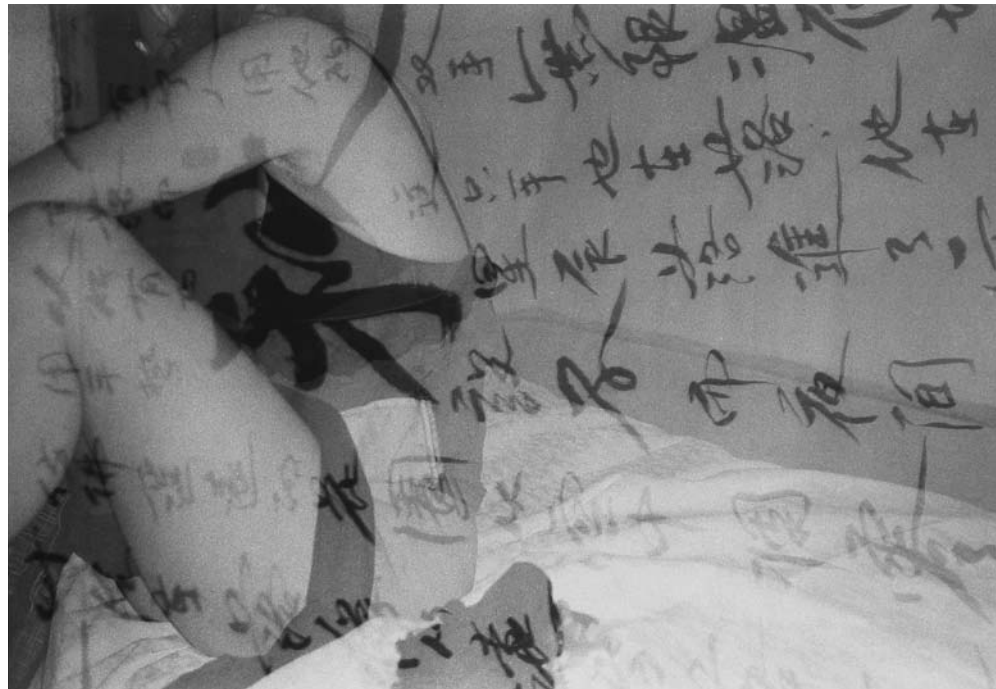
Magda Guruli,
excerpts from the catalogue
'Journey to Tbilisi',
2008, Nantes

*'Caucasian Manifesto', 2008, photo
series, L - print on aquarelle paper,
90X70 cm;*





'Caucasian Manifesto', 2008, photo series, 90X60 cm;



'Dragon's Touch', from the
photo series 'China Town',
2003, 30X40

*'Geisha', , 2003,
photograph, 60X33 cm*





'Sansara', 2003, photograph, diptych, 40 X 120 cm



'Weekend in the City', 2005, photograph, 70X110 cm



From the photo collection 'According to the Earth, According to the Sky', 2003, 40 X 60 cm

Performance/action

'Art is identical with life. Reality reveals when the immediate contact with a fact dominates over the ideologies and rules'.





'Am I You?', 2008, performance, Hwei Lan International Artists Workshop, Taiwan.



*'Circle', 2005, performance, ICA International Artists Encounter
'Europe artists, open your heart as a carpet', Art-Villa Garikula,
Central Georgia.*

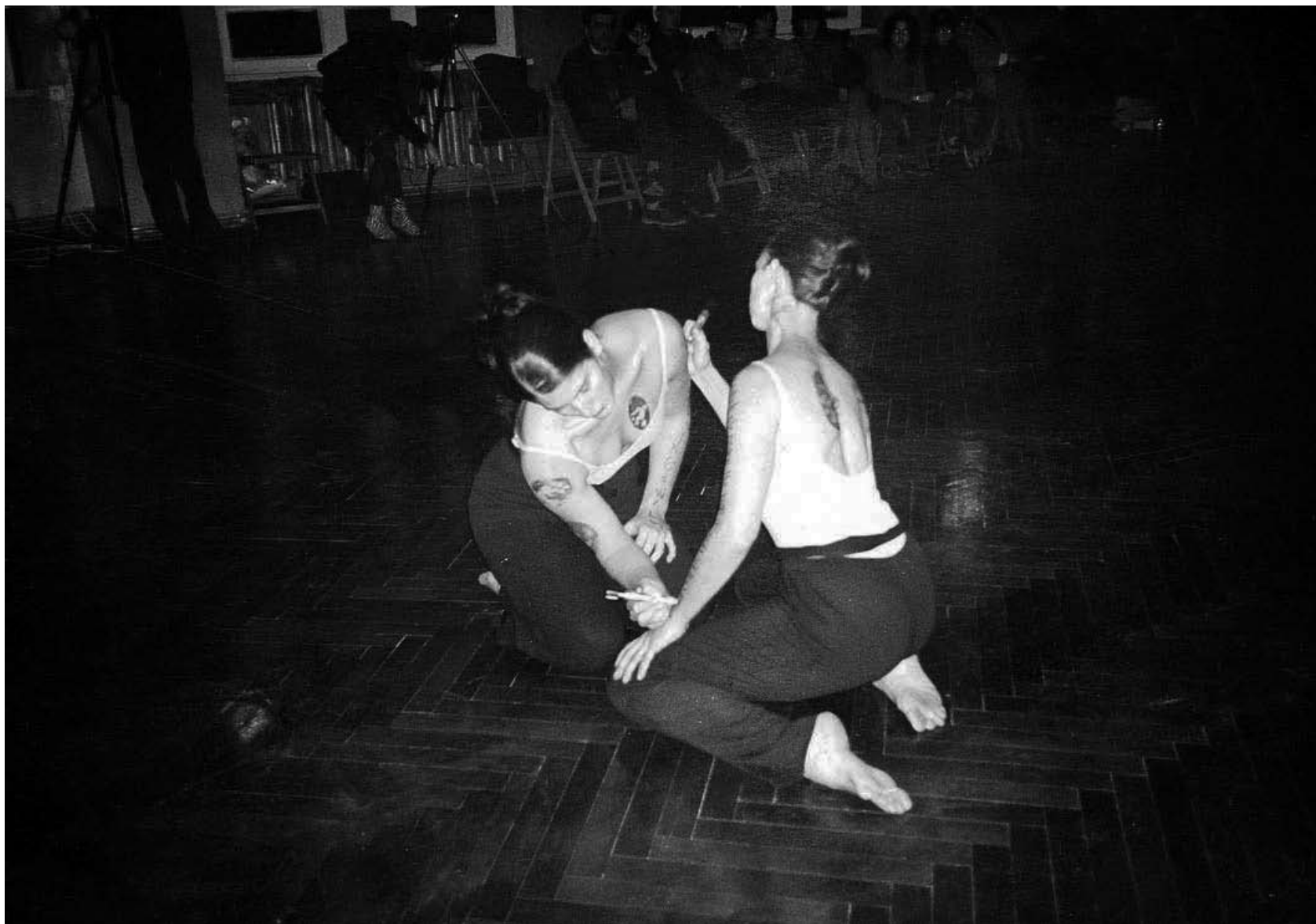


'As It Is', 2000, outdoor action, Tbilisi, Georgia

Hands mean action. Even remained at peace they are full of expression. A palm, fingers, nails, the hair covering them reflects an inner life of a subject. Through lines and signs of a skin we come in touch with past and future.



'Am I You?', 1998, performance, Mirzaani International Artists Workshop, Mirzaani Village, Eastern Georgia



'While observing a wall, I realized there was no wall', 1998, performance, ILiko Zautashvili and Core Performance Company, Atlanta, USA,. Djardji Balanchivadze Music Centre, Tbilisi

Video





'Sansaraloop', 2003/06, video projection/loop, 2'52"

'Double Bottom', 2005, video projection/loop, 5'45"

*It's not a position or an opinion.
It's not a question or an answer.
It's just a possibility of co-existence
of contrary emotional games peculiar to the human.*



Iliko Zautashvili

Multimedia artist, founder of many creative groups and institutional initiatives, author of numerous curatorial projects, lives, teaches and works in Tbilisi.

1952 Born in Tbilisi, Georgia.

1974 Graduated from Tbilisi State Art Academy.

1978 Post-graduated Diploma in art history and theory, TSAA.

e-mail: dragonzzstudio@yahoo.com, loop@caucasus.net

related sites (selected): www.iaab.ch, www.artbox.gr, www.rca.gr/ex/other/iliko.htm, www.cgcca.caucasus.net, <http://www.artedu.ru/ru/virtual/concept.asp>

1974-1976 Founder member of unofficial- action exhibitions, Tbilisi, Moscow.

1988 Founder member 'Total space' art group, Tbilisi, Tel-Aviv, Berlin, New York.

1989-1990 Art Project, Museum Friedericianum, Kassel.

1993 Founder member 'Sector for visual investigations', Tbilisi, Georgia.

1999 Founder member 'Inter Culture Association', Tbilisi, Georgia.

2003 Founder member 'Center for Global Coordination of Culture and Art', Tbilisi, Georgia.

2005 Founder member 'National Art Center', Tbilisi, Georgia.

2008 Founder member 'Centre for Visual Researches', Tbilisi, Georgia.

Grants

1996 'Mega Universe', supported by 'Open Society – Georgia' Foundation

1999 'Counter Culture', supported by 'Open Society – Georgia' Foundation

2000 'Attraction', supported by 'Open Society – Georgia' Foundation

2002 'Actual Dreams', supported by 'Open Society – Georgia' Foundation

2005 'Art for Freedom', supported by Tbilisi City Hall

Symposiums & Workshops

1998 Symposium & workshop, Spike Island, Bristol, UK.

Mirzaani International Artists Workshop, Georgia. /curated by Anthea Nicholson/

1999 'Wir Bringen den Stein zum Rollen', lithographic workshop, Tbilisi History Museum 'Karvasla'.

2002 International Art Symposium, Thessalonica, Greece. /curated by Dimitri Konstantinidis/

2003 Braziers International Artists Workshop, UK. /curate by Nicola Grey& Keran James/

2004 'Research without Frontiers' International Curators Symposium, Goethe Institute, Tbilisi,

Georgia. /curated by Nino Chogoshvili& Helen Hirsh/

International Conference 'Art-Caucasus – 2004', Tbilisi, Georgia.

International Symposium and Workshop 'Wind from the Caucasus', 'Art-Vila Garikula',

Georgia. /curated by Magda Guruli/

International Symposium 'Monkey's Right to Paint', Istanbul, Turkey. /curated by Bedri

Baykam/

- 2005** 'Consumption of Justice', international workshop symposium, Dyiabakir, Turkey.
 /curated by Beral Madra/
 'Outlaw', International Artists Workshop, Tbilisi, Georgia. /curated by Marianne Eigenheer/
 'Beyond Stereotypes', International Conference 'Art-Caucasus – 2005', Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2007** 'Nine Dragon Heads', 12th International environment Workshop and Art Symposium,
 Cheongju, Geoje, Seoul, South Korea;
 International Artists Workshop and Exhibition, Hweilan, Taiwan;

Residencies

- 2002** iaab, artists exchange program, Basel, Switzerland;

Biennials, Forums, Fairs

- 1996** First Tbilisi Biennale;
- 2000** 'Transition Zero', Gyumri Biennale, Armenia ;
- 2003** Caravan Sarai – Tbilisi 2003, International Forum of Visual Art and Art Events;
- 2004** 'Metamorph', Venice 9th Architectural Biennale;
 'Neo Geo', Art –Moscow, the Central House of Artists, Moscow;
 'Point of Intersection', Art-Caucasus 2004, Tbilisi, Georgia;
 'Life-n-Style' Art-Caucasus 2004, Tbilisi, Georgia;
 'Beyond Stereotypes', Art Caucasus 2005, Tbilisi, Georgia;
 'In the Shadow of Heroes', 2nd Bishkek International Contemporary Art Exhibition, Kyrgyzstan.
- 2006** Festival Est-Ouest, Die, France;
 'Art and Education', virtual conference, Art Moscow 2006
 'Visual Immortality' International Biennale for Contemporary Art, Shumen, Bulgaria.
- 2007** 'Interpretation of Dreams', 3rd Biennale of contemporary art Aluminum, Baku, Azerbaijan;
- 2008** 'Given Difference', 2nd Asian Contemporary Art Fair, New York, Manhattan, Pier 92.

Solo exhibitions, actions (selected)

- 1978** 'Reality', Merani Art Gallery, Tbilisi – prohibited.
- 1981** 'Wall', IFID Tbilisi.
- 1987** 'Fire Destructions', Action, House of Artist, Moscow.
- 1988** 'Concept as a plastic idea', Petrovski lines exhibition hall, Moscow.
- 1990** 'Drawings on the Body', Performance, Georgia Film studio, Tbilisi.
 'Playing with the wind in the mirror', Performance, Georgia Film studio,
 Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 1991** 'Light Darkness', Friedrich Gallery, Cologne.
- 1992** 'cote coeur, cote couleur', Freyming Art Centre, France.
 'Presence', Performance, Freyming Art Centre, France.
- 1993** 'The Lost City', action, Tbilisi.
 'Through Nature', Scheper Gallery, Amsterdam.

- 1994** 'Body context', photo and video action, Tbilisi.
 'Through Nature', R.A.S.P. Amsterdam.
- 1998** 'Am I you?', Performance, International workshop, Mirzaani, Georgia.
 'Birth in birth', video concept, Theatre Artistic Athevains, Paris.
 'No Wall', Performance, I.Z and Core Performance Company, Tbilisi.
- 2000** 'Iliko Zautashvili as it is', Old Gallery, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2001** 'Gauguin in Four Dimension', performance and video action, Club ;Basement;, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2002** 'Schwarzmeer', nt-areal, Basel, Switzerland;

Film and video

- 1990** 'Sosie', Scenario and art director, Tbilisi.
 'Sign', video documentary, Tbilisi.
- 1992** 'Sosie', Film at F.I.P.A. Cannes.
- 1993** 'The Lost City', video action, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 1995** 'Between wind and water', Video concept, S.A.V.I. and IBERVISION, Tbilisi.
- 1995** 'Private Life', Video, Tbilisi.
- 1998** 'Birth in Birth', Theatre Artistic Athevains, Paris, France.
- 1999** 'Where am I?', video, collaboration with N-Gallery, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2002** 'Time disappears in Time', video presentation, 'Frontstore', Basel, Switzerland.
 Video Art Festival 'Projected Vision', Mylos, Thessalonica, Greece.
- 2003** 'Sansara – loop', 7 min video. Braziers Workshop, UK.

Selected group exhibitions

- 1974-1975** First & Second unofficial action-exhibitions, Tbilisi;
- 1980** 'Contemporary Georgian Art', House of Artists, Sofia;
- 1986** 'Generation 80', House of Artists, Tbilisi;
- 1987** 'Non figurative art', Hermitage Gallery, Moscow and National Gallery, Tbilisi;
- 1988** 'Avant-garde 88', Tbilisi History State Museum 'Karvasla';
- 1989-1990** 'Russian-Soviet Avant-garde', Bodenschatz Gallery, Basel;
 'Georgische Kunstler', Korner Park Gallery, Berlin;
 'Red and White', Dijkstra Gallery, Amsterdam, and Arsenal Foundation, Warsaw;
 'Total Space', Mars Gallery, Moscow;
 'Georgia on my mind', Museum Friedericianum, Kassel & Dumont Kunsthalle, Cologne;
- 1991** 'A rest on the way to Egypt', Palace of Youth, Moscow;
 'DA, Gegen verbotene Ostkunst', Vienna, and 'Sovangard' Art Gallery, Berlin;
- 1992** 'Black market', Karvasla History Museum, Tbilisi;
 'Heat and Conduct', Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield & Arnolfiny Gallery, Bristol;
- 1993** 'Silk Road', British- Georgian Project, Tbilisi History State Museum 'Karvasla';
- 1995** 'Ein Dialog', Haus der Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Theodor-Hauss Academy, Gummersbach, Leopold-Hosch Museum, Duren, Germany;

- 1996** 'Mega Universe', T.M.S. Tbilisi ;
- 1997** 'Between Photography & Painting', IFA Gallery, Berlin;
- 1998** 'Trans-formation', UNESCO, Paris;
 'Spike Island International Art Show', Bristol;
 'couriered to ... belt', Belt, London;
- 1998** 'N-context', N Gallery, Tbilisi;
- 1999** 'Camouflage', Maison de l'Europe de Geneve ;
- 1999-2000** 'On the other Side of History', Appolonia, Strasbourg, La ferme Du Buisson, Paris, France;
 'Total Space II', Georgian – Israeli project, National Picture Gallery, Tbilisi, Georgia;
- 2001** 'Table', International Art Dinner, Bristol, UK;
 'Counter-Culture in Georgia 1960-2000', National Picture Gallery, Tbilisi, Georgia;
 'The Great Atrophy', Hay-Art Cultural Center, Yerevan, Armenia;
- 2002** 'S'il vous plait', Thun, Switzerland;
 'Landscape and Territory', Swiss-Georgian exhibition, N-Gallery, Tbilisi, Georgia;
 'Aspects of contemporary Photography of Southern Caucasus', Museum of Photography, Thessalonica, Greece;
 'Transmission', Gallery Priestor, Bratislava, Slovak Republic;
 'Vitae Curriculum', Tbilisi History Museum ;Karvasla';
 '7+7, More Transparent', Baku, Azerbaijan;
- 2003** Braziers International artists Show, Proof Gallery, London;
 'Something about Love', casino-Luxembourg, Luxembourg;
 'Beware Religion', Sakharov Center, Moscow, Russia;
- 2004** 'Aspects de la photographie contemporaine du Caucase du Sud', Centre d'Art Contemporain. Brussels;
 'New Resident', Tbilisi History Museum 'Karvasla', Tbilisi, Georgia;
 'Country of Artists', c/o BP, btc, SCP. Tbilisi History Museum 'Karvasla', Tbilisi, Georgia;
 'Double Bottom', Club 22, Goethe Institute, Tbilisi, Georgia;
- 2005** 'In the Shadow of Heroes', 2nd Bishkek International Contemporary Art Exhibition;
 'Georgian Art in Australia', Shepparton Gallery, Australia;
- 2006** 'Transfusion', Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal, Switzerland;
 'Atmosphere 41 Degree', National Center for Contemporary Arts, Moscow, Russia;
 'Atmosphere 41 Degree ', East-West Festival, Die, France;
 'Caravansarai - Station Paris', Heartgalerie, Paris;
 'Nuit Blanche', International contemporary art exhibition, Paris;
- 2007** Tbilisi State Academy of Arts, group exhibition, Bilkent University, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, Ankara, Turkey;
 'Atmosphere 41 Degree', the parallel exhibition of the 10th International Istanbul Biennale, Siemens Art Gallery, Istanbul;
- 2008** 'Voyage a Tbilissi', Musee des Braux-Arts de Nantes, France;
- 2009** 'Born in Georgia', Cobra Museum of Modern Art, Amstelveen, ND.

Selected Bibliography:

David Bukhrikidze, 'Art as a Hysteria', *Ckheli Shokoladi* Magazine, issue 44, 2008, Tbilisi, Georgia;
Teona Japharidze, 'Artisterium In a Common Space', *Amarta* magazine, issue 34, 2008, Tbilisi, Georgia;
Charles Merewether, 'Given Difference', for the Asian Contemporary Art Fair, 2008, New York, USA;
Beral Madra, 'Atmosphere 41 degree', catalogue, 2007, Istanbul, Turkey;
Magda Guruli, 'Atmosphere 41 degree', catalogue, 2007, Istanbul, Turkey;
Dimitri Konstantinidis, 'The route of three seas', 'maidan', almanac, 2005, Baku; Azerbaijan;
Iliko Zautashvili, 'The Transparent Walls of the Caucasian Labyrinth', Apollonia publication, 2003, Paris, France
Nino Danelia, 'Transmission', catalogue 2003, Tbilisi, Georgia;
Joerg Boder, 'Territory & Paysage', catalogue 2002, Geneva;
Amy Spurling, 'Landscape and Territory', 'Georgia Today', 11/17 October, 2002; Tbilisi, Georgia;
Anne Tronche, 'On the other Side of History', catalogue 2000, Paris, France;
Iliko Zautashvil, 'Irrational Games', Georgia/Caucasus PROFILE issue 1/1999, Tbilisi, Georgia;