

MEDIA RELEASE

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***A Celebration of Select International Artists
Amita Bhatt – Ivan Plusch – Olga Tobreluts***

August 19 through October 28, 2023

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present ***A Celebration of Select International Artists***, featuring *Amita Bhatt, Ivan Plusch and Olga Tobreluts*.

The most prominent of the three artists featured in this exhibition is **Olga Tobreluts**. Born in 1970 in Murino, Leningrad Oblast, Russia, Olga Tobreluts now lives and works in Budapest. An accomplished artist who works with photography, video, painting and sculpture, Olga is a pioneer of digital art movement in Russia and was one of the leaders of the Neo-Academism group of artists, "The New Academy", in St. Petersburg after the Soviet Union dissolved. This movement, through traditionally pleasant and refined aesthetics, addresses ideas of the "beautiful" the acquiescent-recreative and hedonism. Olga uses new media as a means of expressing her own system of poetics based on the dialectics of high and low academism: where the artist endeavors to strike a balance between high-style classical models and contemporary elements of abstraction.

Olga has had numerous solo museum exhibitions throughout the world, including in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Croatia, China, Spain, Singapore, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Finland. Her works have been exhibited at such prestigious institutions as the Tate Modern in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Modern Art in Moscow, the Ostende Museum in Belgium, the Modern Art Museum in Stockholm, the Ludwig Museum in Budapest, the Parkview Museum in Singapore, VISIVA Museum in Italy and numerous others. Her works have been acquired by significant art institutions including at the MoMA, New York, the State Russian Museum, the Ludwig Museum, Budapest, the Bornholm Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark, the Baron von Stieglitz Museum, St. Petersburg, Groningen Museum, the Netherlands, the Ibsen Foundation, Oslo, Germany Women Art Museum, Bonn, V & A Museum, London.

Olga Tobreluts' first solo exhibition in the United States, *Focus on Russia I* at Deborah Colton Gallery during the 2012 FotoFest Biennial where her works was featured also. In 2015, Tobreluts created an international debut of magnificent abstract paintings at Deborah Colton Gallery in her solo exhibition, *New Abilities*, which later went to New York City and was shown at many museums in Europe thereafter. Her most recent exhibition at Deborah Colton Gallery was *Pieta and Resurrection*. Many of these works were first exhibited at a Modern Museum of Art, in Debrecen, Hungary and then introduced to the United States at Deborah Colton Gallery.

Ivan Plusch, born in 1981, is a young Russian artist on the rise and part of the Nepokorionnye Group. He is based in Hungary and has studied in various art schools, such as the State Academy of Art and Design, the Roerich Art School and the PRO ARTE Institute.

Ivan is among a generation of artists who were still children at the time of the fall of the USSR. He was marked by the consequent sudden sociological and economic changes in his country in the early 90s. His work is heavily influenced by the signs of these changes, from the freedom of speech, hard fought and regained with difficulties by the people and by their collective relationship with society. be it under the sign of alienation or of liberation. However. the work of Plusch is

more involved than simply representing his sociological observations. He reinterprets the history of art, reinterprets the norms of social realism, particularly those of monumental sculpture, and integrates them into his paintings that he inserts in installations. He is comfortable with all mediums, working with sculpture as well as painting. Ivan Plusch is a complete artist delivering work that is part of the trends of thought of Post-Soviet art. Playing with the image of a happy future, from elements of the former communist regime, Plusch questions, on a larger scale, the relationship of humans with their environment.

Ivan Plusch has been exhibited worldwide, including in Hungary, Italy, France, England, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the United States and Germany. Museums that his work has exhibited at include the Budapest History Museum, Budapest, Hungary; Anikushin Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia; Museum of Moscow, Moscow, Russia; The Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia. His works are in the collections of Fondazione la Triennale Di Milano, Italy; Hermitage Museum, Russia; Kunst Im Rohnerhaus, Austria; Museum of Luther, Russia; Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Russia; National Center of Contemporary Art, Russia; Russian Museum, Russia. Plusch's works are in such prestigious private and public collections as the Prince of Spain and the Corning Glass Collection in the United States.

Deborah Colton Gallery launched Ivan Plusch's work in the United States at the 2015 Houston Fine Arts Fair, and then at the 2016 gallery exhibition, *Between: Daniel Kayne – Ivan Plusch*. In 2019, Ivan Plusch had his first solo exhibition at Deborah Colton Gallery, *The Promise of Eternal Life* and has been included in several group exhibitions since then.

Amita Bhatt received her BFA from the Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, India and her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland. Bhatt's work has been exhibited at noteworthy venues such as the Bluestar Contemporary Art Center, Walters Art Museum, The Station Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Project Row Houses, all in the United States as well as Museo Pedro de Osma in Peru. She has also been the recipient of several prestigious awards and recently served as a Grant Panelist on the National Endowment for the Arts. Her works are included in many important private and public collections.

Bhatt digs deep into world philosophies and mythologies to answer questions pertaining to our political as well as personal belief systems. Unafraid to explore uncomfortable territories, the artist mines from a range of sources to create hybrid creatures that are often symbolic of man's psychological condition in an angst-ridden zeitgeist. In exploring issues of identity and violence, Bhatt's research led her to the beginnings of mankind. Most ancient creation myths claim chaos to be the central truth marking the beginnings of the world. Should turbulence then be viewed as essential to new beginnings? Bhatt's characters are packed with irony, humor and indifference, and navigate intense color fields, all in search of wisdom and truth. They mirror the tumultuous times we live in, yet they know that there are deep Karmic mysteries that need to be understood and that HOPE in the end is what will sustain them.

Amita Bhatt debuted at Deborah Colton Gallery in 2017 the group exhibition *Visions* and since then has had several successful solo exhibitions at the gallery. To view an interview of Amita Bhatt, please visit our Video Library on our website.

Deborah Colton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography, performance and conceptual future media installations.