ARTISTS AND LETTERS

An exhibition
of professors
from
&
the Department
of Book,
Illustration,
Printed
Graphics
at the
1896
National
Academy
of Art,
Sofia

On the occasion
of St Cyril and
St Methodius' Day,
in celebration
of the Cyrillic
alphabet
and Bulgarian
and Slavic
literature
and culture

• • On the cover: ARTISTS AND LETTERS, typographic poster by ILIA GRUEV, CGD, 2025

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KAPKA KANEVA, BOYANA PAVLOVA and EMIL MARKOV

Typeset in Moderato, font designed by ILIA GRUEV
Text edit by ALEXANDER *SANCHO* MARINOV
Printed by IPRINT, Sofia

© Published by the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ART, 2025
ISBN 978-954-2988-00-7

The selection *Artists and Letters* presents works by professors at the Department of Book, Illustration, Printed Graphics at the National Academy of Art, Sofia. Out of the routine practice of artists using typography as a visualization of the author's text or as an expressive means for the needs of graphic design, Ilia Gruev, Regina Dalkalacheva, Krasimir Andreev, Kapka Kaneva, Boyana Pavlova and Emil Markov show works freed from any utilitarianism. The artists experiment with the Cyrillic alphabet, transforming it from a mere means to the objective of their expression. The result is an intriguing, diverse collection of calligraphies, typographics, font drawings, paper sculptures, light installations.





- SUPERSTITION, typographic poster based on a quote by Voltaire, CGD, 2012
- BUTT, typographic poster based on a quote by Walter Winchell, CGD, 2012

- • CAT, typographic poster based on a quote by Groucho Marx, CGD, 2012 (detail)

ILIA GRUEV (1976, Sofia) works as a designer of font systems and focuses his talent on the letter sign. He started teaching at the Department while working on his doctorate, dedicated to the problems of typography, and later became a leading lecturer on the subject. Ilia's contribution to the exhibition is a collection of humorous provocative posters where he plays with the ability of letters to express and depict, while using an entirely original typography of his own.







• • FROM *A* to *Я*, calligraphy, lettering, mixed media, 2015 (detail)

• MY CALLIGRAPHY DICTIONARY: *C*, mixed media, Chinese ink, 2019
• MY CALLIGRAPHY DICTIONARY: *A*, mixed media, Chinese ink, 2019

KRASSIMIR ANDREEV (1959, Pernik) is a true master of calligraphy and type, with world-class experience in the field of graphic design and logo design. As a lecturer in *Type and Calligraphy*, Krassimir is in his own element in this exhibition. His contribution consists of a series of sensual graphic works in which he imposes his handwriting on characters from authorial fonts he has developed himself.







• • KRYPTO/GRAPHIC – P.S.: *T*, mixed media, pencil drawing, CGD, 2023 (detail)

• KRYPTO/GRAPHIC – P.S.: *C*, mixed media, pencil drawing, CGD, 2023
• KRYPTO/GRAPHIC – P.S.: *X*, mixed media, pencil drawing, CGD, 2023

REGINA DALKALACHEVA (1964, Sofia) works in the field of art books, drawing, digital graphics and calligraphy. A leading lecturer in *Illustration* for many years, she is interested in the possibilities of experimental book forms outside the limitations of marketed book production, where she feels most free as an artist. She presents works from her series *KryptoGraphics – P.S.*, a curious amalgam of deeply transformed typographic signs and digitally manipulated drawings that the viewer can only perceive as a single whole.





- JUDAS after Amos Oz, paper sculpture, mixed media, 2015
- COSMOS after Witold Gombrowicz, paper sculpture, mixed media, 2018

- • SHUSH after Tanya Nikolova, paper sculpture, mixed media, 2024

KAPKA KANEVA (1978, Sofia) works in the field of paper sculpture. As a teacher, she is intrigued by the potential of spatial children's books to stir up interest in reading. For her illustrations and book covers designed for leading Bulgarian and foreign publishers, she always chooses her preferred material and technique. In the exhibition, she presents variations of paper titles where the experience of the viewer is determined by the particular lighting.

ARTISTS
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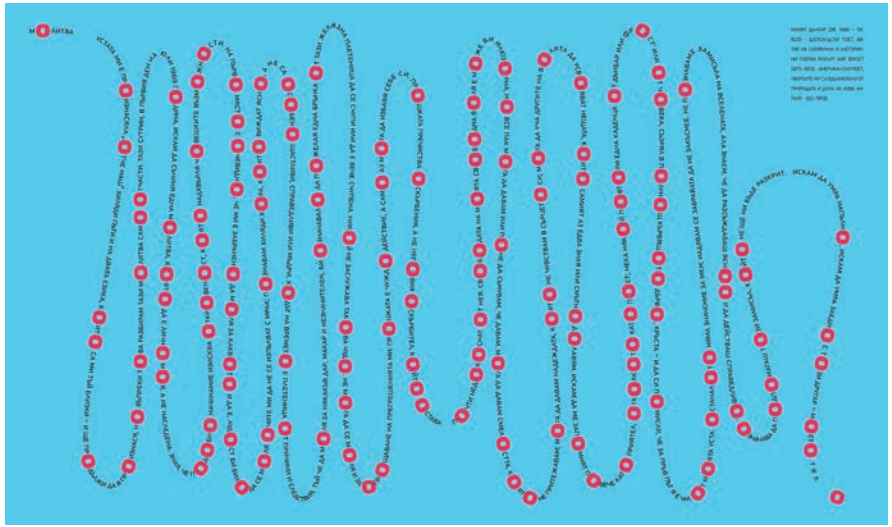
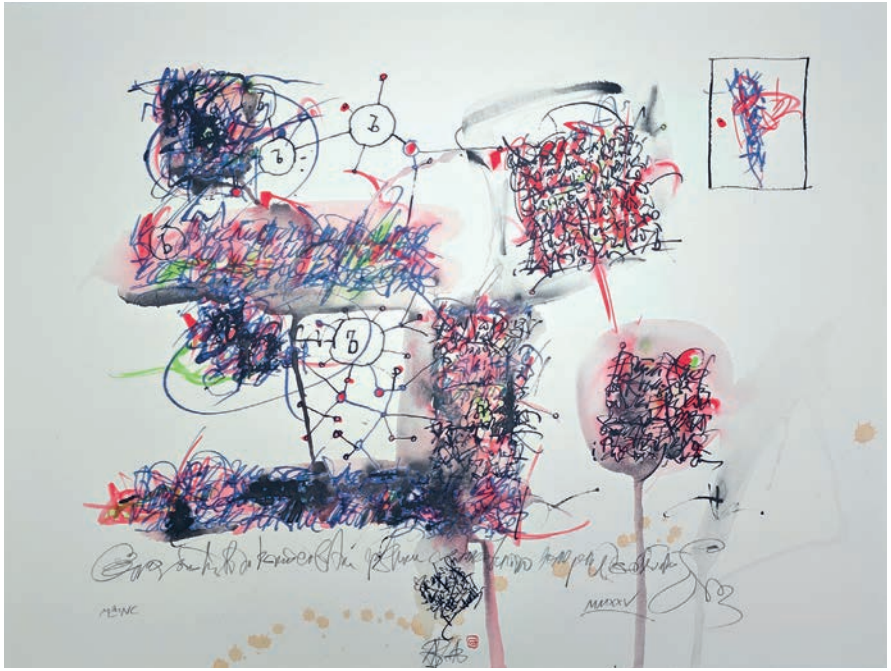


• PRAYER on *In Praise of Darkness* by Jorge Luis Borges, CGD, 2021



• • PEDRO SALVADORES on *In Praise of Darkness* by Jorge Luis Borges, CGD, 2021 (detail)

BOYANA PAVLOVA (1990, Sofia) is the youngest member of the Department so far. She has dedicated her research and work to the art of the book and graphic design. Her key interests lie with the expressive potential of typography and unconventional approaches to the composition of the text with added meaning and significance. In this format, she surprises us with an authorial typographic interpretation of texts by Jorge Luis Borges.



• • Ъ / III, asemic calligraphy, mixed media, 2025 (detail)

• Ъ / I, asemic calligraphy, mixed media, 2025

EMIL MARKOV (1960, Burgas) has worked in practically all forms of visual book art and design. He is an illustrator, applied graphic artist, and paper engineer, and has worked as the art director of the Spanish branch of *Oxford University Press* for many years. Emil is the heart and soul of the Department of Book, Illustration, Printed Graphics at the branch of the National Academy of Arts in the city of Burgas. For the exhibition, he shows a cycle of asemic calligraphies of the Cyrillic letter Ъ.

