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Raya Boteva, born 1988 in Sofia, lives and works in Brussels / MA Sint-Lukas College of Art and Design, Brussels

Rosie Eisor, born 1984 in Sofia, lives and works in Sofia / MA NABA Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti, Milan

Robin Renard, born 1985 in Tournai, lives and works in Brussels / BA Sint-Lukas, Tournai

_Bio

(EN)

Blood Becomes Water collective emerged in 2010 in Sofia, as a result of the meeting between Raya Boteva and Rosie Eisor. Four years later, Belgian illustrator Robin Renard joins the team, after several successful collaborations.

With the initial goal of publishing a series of art limited editions and derivative products, the team also organizes artistic and musical events. The members of the collective work in the field of illustration and graphic design, but sometimes extend their activities on different media, such as murals or installations.

The graphic vocabulary of the collective emphasizes fun, imperfect but bold and easy to remember drawings and designs, often including optic effects or patterns. Frequently addressed themes in their works may vary from visual errors, tattoos, symbols, death & cruelty, hope & failure, future & past, human and animal to simple non-sense suggesting the interpretation of the viewer.

(FR)

Le collectif Blood Becomes Water est né à Sofia en 2010, à la suite de la rencontre entre Raya Boteva et Rosie Eisor. Quatre ans plus tard, l'illustrateur belge Robin Renard se joint à l'équipe après plusieurs collaborations fructueuses.

Dans le but initial de publier des séries d'éditions limitées et des produits dérivés, la formation organise également des événements artistiques et musicales. Les membres du collectif travaillent dans le domaine de l'illustration et du graphisme, mais étendent parfois leurs activités sur différents supports, tels que peintures murales ou installations.

L'approche créative se caractérise par des dessins amusants et imparfaits, mais audacieux et faciles à retenir, comprenant souvent des effets d'optiques. Les thèmes fréquemment abordés dans leurs œuvres peuvent varier entre symboles et tatouages, espoir et échec, avenir et passé, humains et animaux avec une bonne touche de non-sens suggérant l'interprétation du spectateur.



2020

- BBW: Decade Dance, Intro Gallery, Sofia/BG
- Paños - Art carcéral chicano, Sterput, Brussels/BE
- Illustration Pop-Up Vol. 3, KO-OP, Sofia/BG

2019

- Illustration Pop-Up Vol. 2, KO-OP, Sofia/BG
- U SEE street art festival, SeeU, Brussels/BE

2018

- Libros Mutantes, La Casa Encendida, Madrid/ESP

2017

- Faction Zine Launch Party, Gaba bar, Sofia/BG
- Sprint: Independent Publishers Fair – curated by Dafne Boggeri, Spazio O', Milan/IT

2016

- Pop Up Zine Show, Zango Studio, Tbilisi/GE
- Artist's Book Exhibition, Tbilisi Book Days, Tbilisi/GE
- E² Fest: Chairs fraîches, Abattoir d'Anderlecht, Brussels/BE
- FanzineIST Festival, Istanbul/TR
- Salon Central VaPeur, Strasbourg/FR

2015

- Sprint: Independent Publishers Fair – curated by Dafne Boggeri, Spazio O', Milan/IT
- Volumes Independent Art Publishing Fair, Zurich/CH
- Hip Hip Zine Fair, Sofia University, Sofia/BG
- WIELS Art Book Fair, WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels/BE
- Libros Mutantes, La Casa Encendida, Madrid/ESP
- Zine Happening, Buurtcentrum, Ghent/BE
- COUP DE COEUR#, Guillaume Dappen Gallery, Basel/CH

2014

- BBW#9: Tattoos on animals and Alien Mustangs live, Fridge & Haspel, Sofia/BG
- Sprint: Independent Publishers Fair – curated by Dafne Boggeri, Spazio O', Milan/IT
- Moon Voyage 36, group exhibition curated by Snejanka Mihailova and Voin de Voin – Fridge & Haspel, Sofia/BG
- BBW Italian Summer mini tour – Gelati Fanzine Festival, Genova; Boss Gallery, La Spezia; Crack Fumetti Dirompenti X, Rome/IT
- Zines of The Zone Event #17 – Ogms gallery, Sofia/BG

2013

- Vse, co umim, je umeni – curated by Vera Mlechevska, Ceske Centrum Praha, Prague/CZ
- Sprint: Independent Publishers Fair – curated by Dafne Boggeri, Spazio O', Milan/IT
- The Revival – Hectoliter, Brussels/BE
- The Revival Pavillion – Sofia/BG
- One Night Show: Catastrophe in Sofia, Sofia/BG

2012

- Full Moon Saloon #12: Edizioni Straordinarie – curated by Dafne Boggeri, Spazio O', Milan/IT
- Zine Pages Fest – Seoul/KR
- Micro: independent publishing festival – Superground, Milan/IT
- ZINE*FAIR: 3rd Independent Publishers & Artzine Fair – Kunsthalle Wien/AT
- Sinestezija Festival: EXOTICA – Herceg Novi/ME
- Pizza, Pronto! – Sofia Design Week, Hip Hip Atelier, Sofia/BG
- Underground Performing Art Festival – curated by Yovo Panchev, Sofia/BG
- International Drawing Project – curated by Craig Atkinson, PR1 Gallery, Preston/UK

2011

- The Bulgarian Pavilion Exhibition - curated by Svetlana Kuyumdzhieva, Credo Bonum, Sofia/BG
- FANZINES!Festival - Mediatheque Marguerite Duras, Paris/FR
- Hip Hip Library: opening - Hip Hip Atelier, Sofia/BG
- One Day Independent Publishers and Fanzines Fair - curated by Rita Vitorelli and Catherine Hug, Kunsthalle Wien/AT
- Sinestezija Festival – Multi-location Contemporary Art Platform & Work-in-progress Exhibition, Herceg Novi/ME
- I've Zine The Darkness - Dieschonnenstadt Gallery, Halle/DE
- Hidden Exhibition - curated by Yovo Panchev, Otezt Paisi Festival, Plovdiv/BG



Workshops

2015

- Junkyard Funkyard - Bricolage Lab, Kulturforum, Belgrade, SRB
- Riso Print Zine - Hip Hip Library & Sofia University, Sofia/BG

2013

- Meaning of Interpretation – Sofia Contemporary festival, curated by Ovul Durmusoglu, ICA Sofia, BG

2012

- BBW x Artnewscafe at Night of Museums and Galleries, Plovdiv/BG

Art Residencies & prizes

2015

- 2nd Crystal Ruth Bell Residency winner - China Residencies, Red Gate Gallery - Beijing/CN

Concerts Events and Tours organized by BBW

2019

- May 25 - Tigers In Furs (IT) in Sofia
- Apr 30 - Bazooka (GR) in Sofia
- Apr 29 - Bazooka (GR) in Veliko Tarnovo
- Jan 12 - Total Rejects + Leo Fishhead (RU) in Sofia

2018

- Oct 17 - Tommy and the Commies (CA) in Sofia
- Sep 8 - Proto Idiot (UK) w/ Spalni Mesta (BG) in Sofia, BG
- Sep 6 - Proto Idiot (UK) in Belgrade, SRB
- Sep 5 - Proto Idiot (UK) in Craiova, RO
- Sep 4 - Proto Idiot (UK) in Bucharest, RO
- Sep 3 - Proto Idiot (UK) in Veliko Tarnovo, BG
- Feb 12 - Demon's Claws (CA) w/ Purple Caravan in Craiova, RO
- Feb 11 - Demon's Claws (CA) in Veliko Tarnovo, BG
- Feb 10 - Demon's Claws (CA) w/ Comasummer (BG) in Sofia, BG
- Feb 9 - Demon's Claws (CA) in Skopje, MK
- Feb 8 - Demon's Claws (CA) w/ Bone Rave (GR) in Thessaloniki, GR

2017

- Jun 15 - The Shivas (US) + The Black Swells (BG) in Sofia
- Apr 28 - The Black Needles (BR) in Sofia
- Apr 27 - The Black Needles (BR) in Veliko Tarnovo
- Feb 10 - Dragster (BE) in Sofia

2016

- Nov 14 - Bazooka (GR) in Sofia
- Jul 09 - Ken Strigfellow (US) + Names & Mokdad (BG) + Dead Man's Hat (BG) in Sofia
- May 09 - Jack Oblivian & The Sheiks (US) in Sofia

2015

- Oct 24 - The Black Needles (BR) in Sofia
- Oct 02 - Tonstartssbandht (CA) in Sofia
- Aug 20 - The Shivas + Comasummer (BG) in Burgas
- Aug 19 - The Shivas (US) + Comasummer (BG) in Sofia

2014

- Dec 27 - Alien Mustangs (GR) in Sofia
- Nov 03 - Bazooka (GR) in Sofia