

Nestan Mikeladze *Portfolio*

Biography *Works* *Exhibitions*

Artist Statement

Becoming alive

A straight line, a rough stroke; black alone, and all colors at once; sometimes canvas, sometimes clay, sometimes paper; concrete or abstract, intended or involuntary – this is my art. I have always been this way, full of contradictory expressions. We are never one and the same. Life itself – thought and action – reshapes me in an instant and reveals my ever-changing nature.

I move toward minimalism, and return to the chaos of colors. And then I repeat the same cycle, again and again, like an eternal return. Everything begins with many colors – uneven, chaotic. Slowly, freedom becomes too much. I lose my ground, and I get angry. I want order. I want calm. And chaos turns into order. Every cycle brings awareness. And confidence.

In the creative process, every medium is the need of that very moment. Independent of me, from some inexplicable source, a thought arises – and action follows. This is how I create my works: in different materials, in different formats, for different purposes.

Being, and life itself – every action and every decision, every "yes" and every "no" – is a creative process. In an artist's life, all of this overflows. It is a great part of everyday life, and in the end, a reflection of one's consciousness. Art is the discovery of life – a way to feel it, and to truly taste it. On this path, there are no rules. We may call it exploration, discovery, experimentation – I would call it becoming alive.

Series

Georgian script

Georgian Pavilion, 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia · 2026

All 9 works depict the letters of various Georgian scripts. Georgian script has three historical forms: the first and the oldest – Asomtavruli, the second – Nuskhur-Khutsuri, and the third, modern – Mkhedruli. The works present the letters of the Asomtavruli and Mkhedruli scripts.

Asomtavruli is among the oldest discovered Georgian scripts and its anatomy is unique. Its letterform is a combination of circles and straight lines which are always connected at right angles. However, there is one exception to this rule in the letter “J”. According to historian and scientist Elene Machavariani, it is formed by combining two letters, “I” and “Q”, which are the initials of Jesus Christ in Georgian (Ieso Qriste), and thus she considers it the monogram of Jesus Christ. Machavariani also believes that the letter “J” has been established in the Asomtavruli script since the spread of Christianity in Georgia.

Seven of the presented canvases depict both individual letters and words of the Asomtavruli script. The letter “J”, which carries a specific meaning, is presented in two forms, positive and negative.

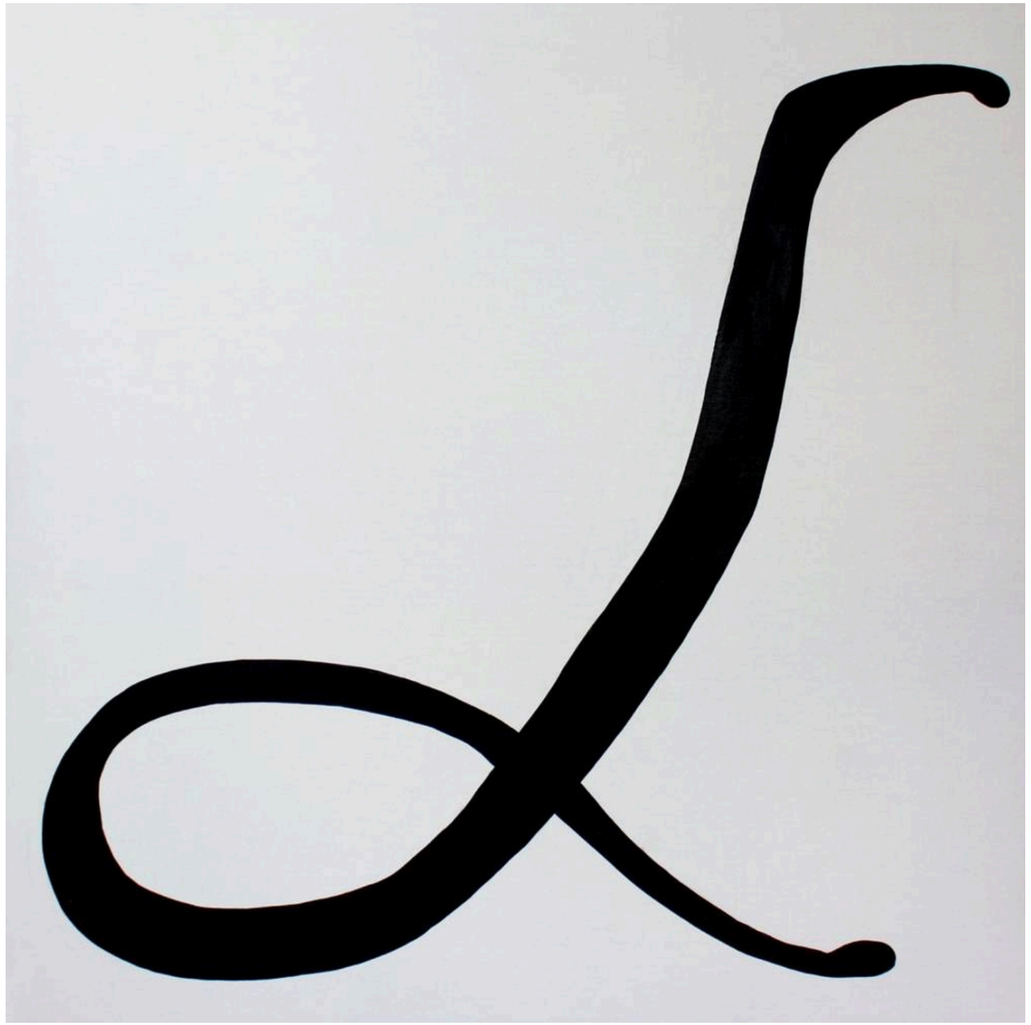
Three canvases presented diagonally from left to right are the visual expression of the idea I am currently exploring – “the gap between conscious intention and unconscious truth”. Are we ready for what our souls might reveal? Are we ready for the truth? The canvas in the middle of the diagonal is the word “Gap” written in the Asomtavruli script, while the first and the last canvases of the diagonal are the words “Conscious” and “Unconscious” written in the Mkhedruli script, respectively.



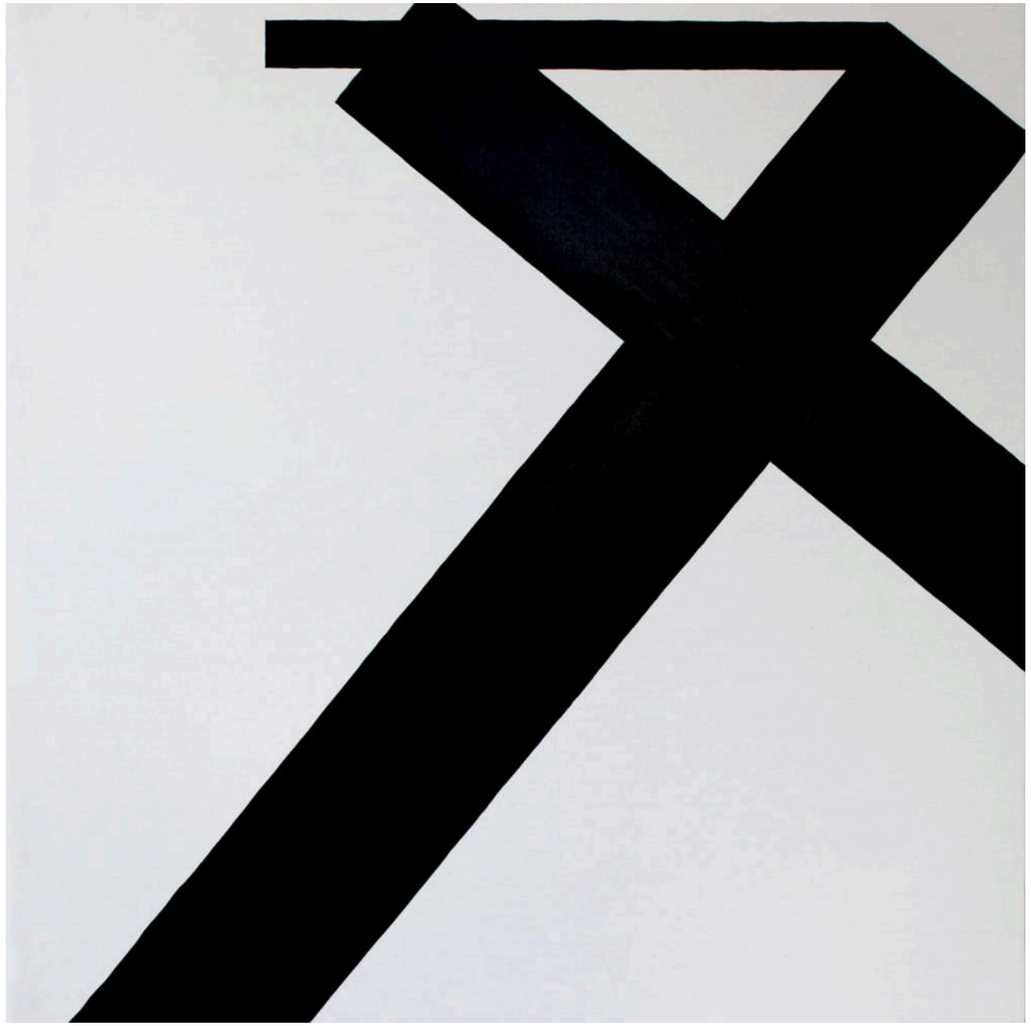
Nestan Mikeladze, “Georgian script”, exhibition view
Georgian Pavilion, 61st Venice Biennale, 2026



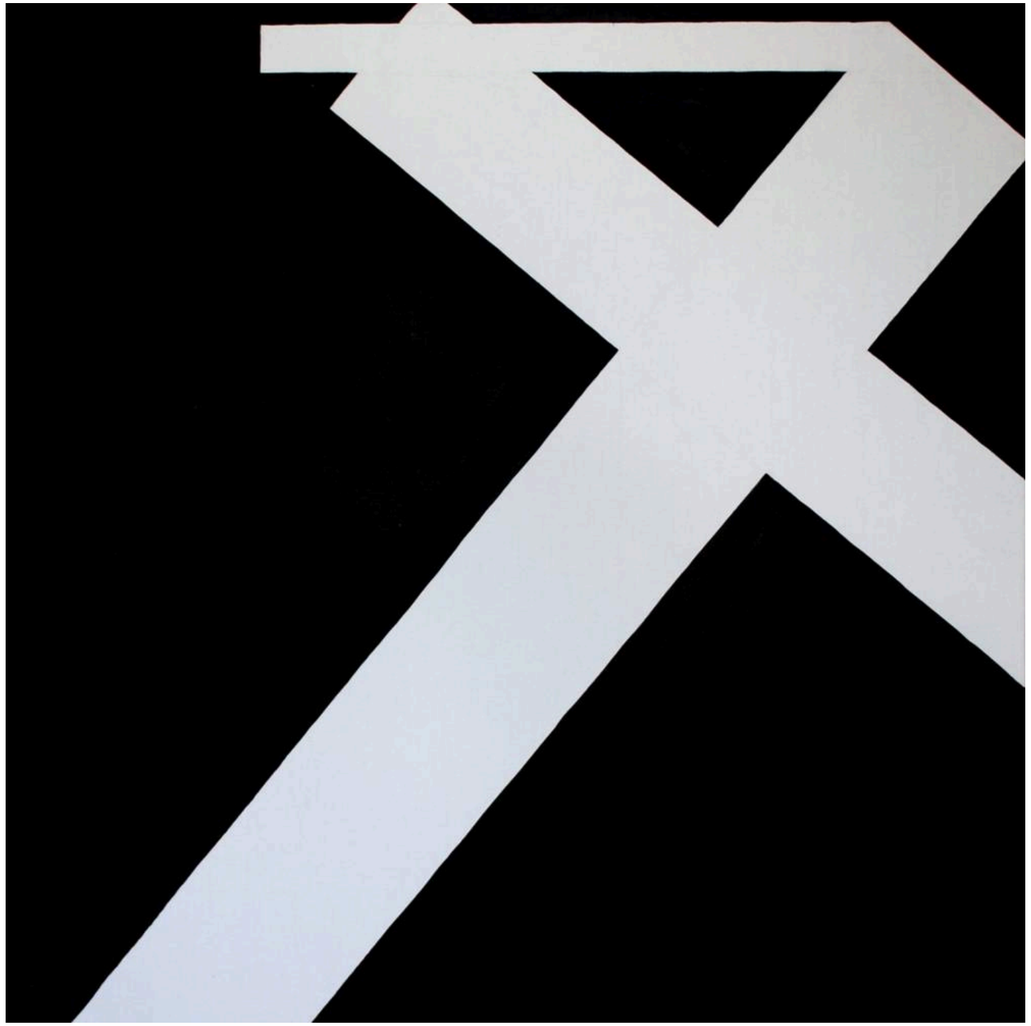
Nestan Mikeladze, “Mkhedruli word ‘Conscious’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Asomtavruli letter ‘Dz’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Asomtavruli letter ‘J’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Asomtavruli letter ‘J’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Asomtavruli letter ‘A’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Asomtavruli word ‘Gap’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Asomtavruli letter ‘Khan’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Mkhedruli letter ‘H’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Mkhedruli word ‘Unconscious’”
2025, Oil on linen canvas, 70 × 70 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Georgian script”, exhibition view
Georgian Pavilion, 61st Venice Biennale, 2026

Series

Riviera artworks and the mini clay sculptures

Residency and mentorship program, Cannes, France · 2025

Following the completion of the residency program this spring in the south of France, I've introduced new techniques, materials, and mediums into my practice. This has led to a new series of artworks and small clay sculptures. The artworks reflect recent explorations of form and color, along with a newfound freedom in expressing previously held-back ideas. The sculptures evolve around tactile and sensorial experience.

While the mini sculptures invite viewers to discover their own form – evoking thoughts or emotions that ask for attention – the works on canvas narrate the story of getting closer to the self!



Nestan Mikeladze, “Why spiral?”
2025, Oil on canvas, 72 × 72 cm



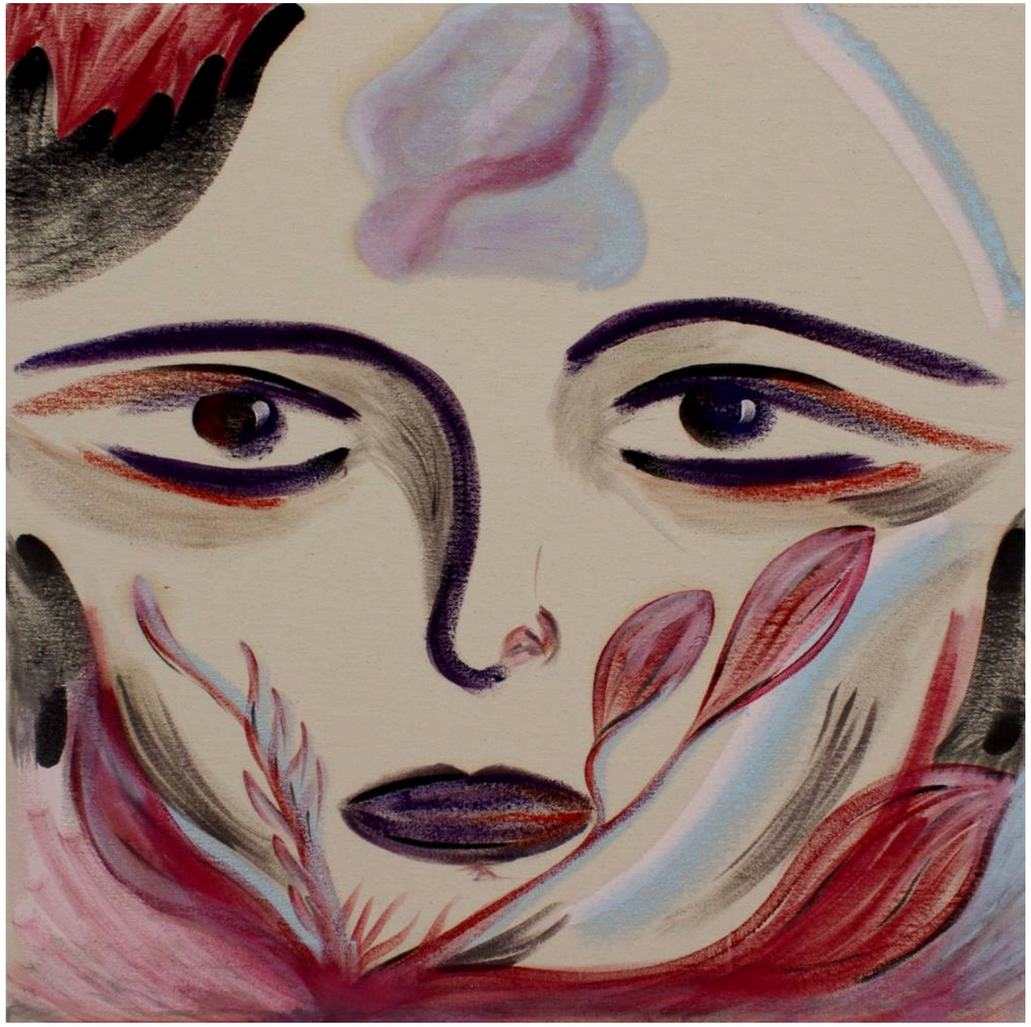
Nestan Mikeladze, “Pink streams of my mind”
2025, Oil on canvas, 72 × 72 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Do we need all this?!”
2025, Oil on canvas, 72 × 72 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled. Instinct”
2025, Oil on raw linen canvas, 50 × 50 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Study of face”
2025, Oil and oil stick on raw linen canvas, 50 × 50 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled. Long thought”
2025, Oil on raw linen canvas, 50 × 50 cm



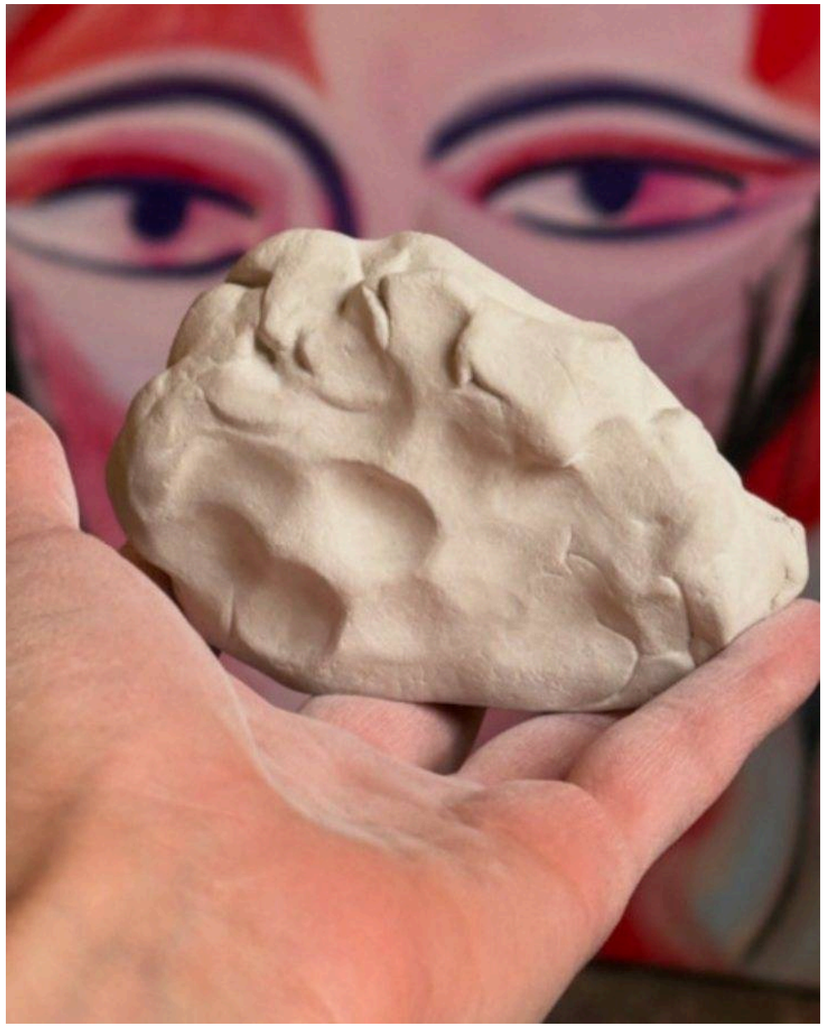
Nestan Mikeladze, “When you give birth, you are reborn!”
2025, Ink on linen canvas, 50 × 50 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2025, Oil on raw linen canvas, 50 × 50 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2025, Oil on raw linen canvas, 50 × 50 cm



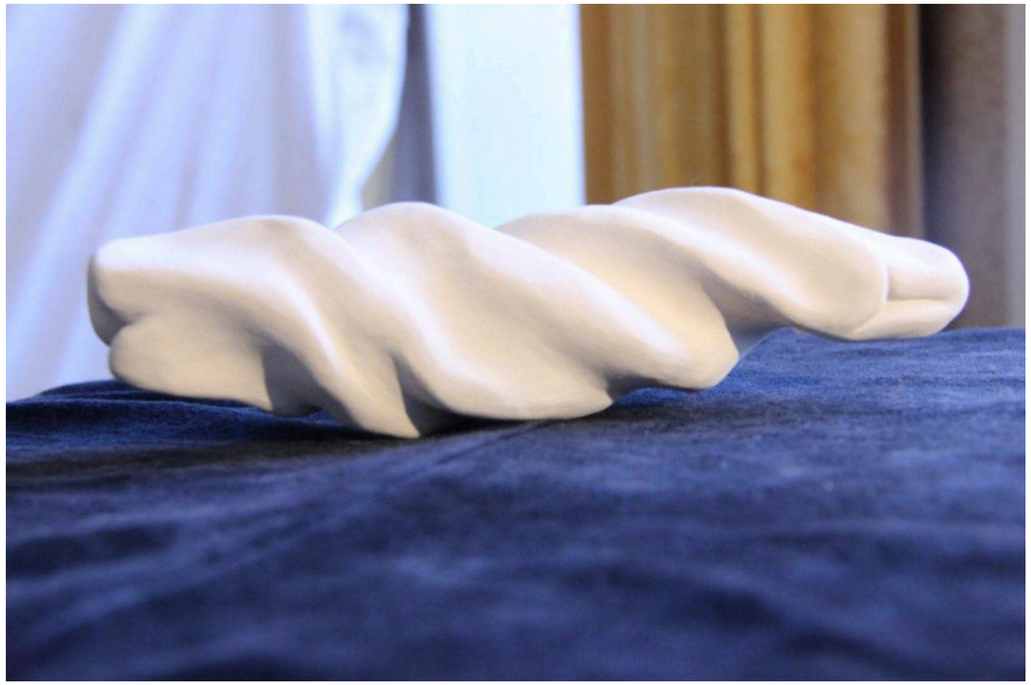
Nestan Mikeladze, “Mini clay sculptures”
2025, Clay



Nestan Mikeladze, “Mini clay sculptures”
2025, Clay



Nestan Mikeladze, “Mini clay sculptures”
2025, Clay



Nestan Mikeladze, “Mini clay sculptures”
2025, Clay

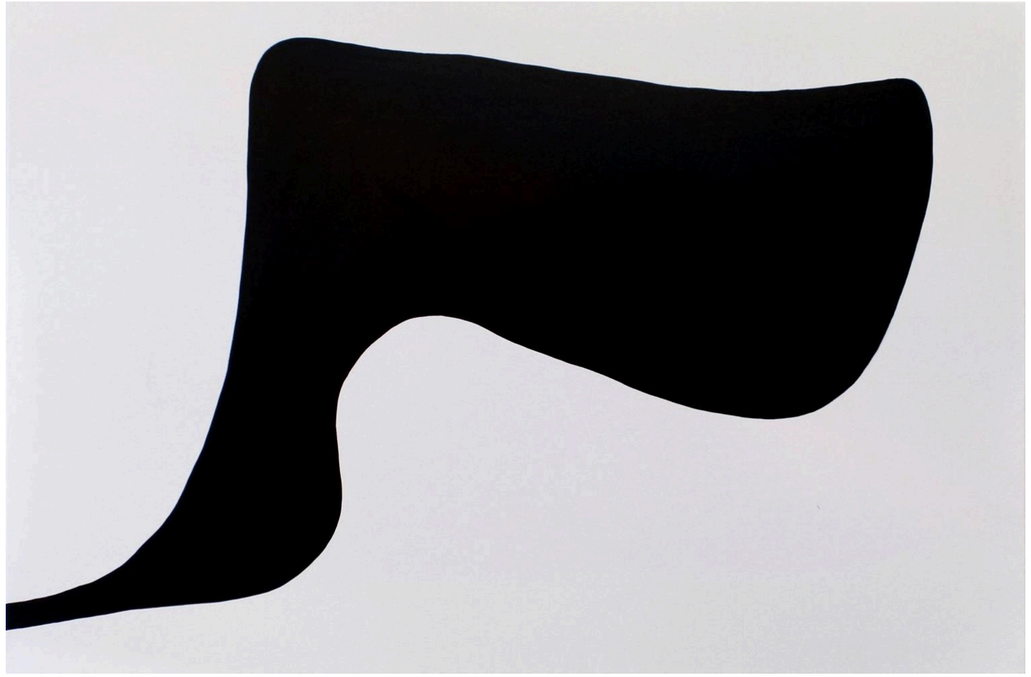
Series

Dasein

Caravan Art Forum, Kutaisi, Georgia · 2025

“Dasein” is German for “there being”. Inspiration for this series has been my inner longing for minimalism. It was important for me to embody what I had in my mind and observe what the realization of that would bring me as a human being and as an artist.

The series responds to the philosophical concept of “Dasein”, which is the individual’s mode of uncovering itself and thus disclosing other entities around itself.



Nestan Mikeladze, “Do not evaluate, observe!”
2024, Oil on canvas, 150 × 100 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Universe understands through you”
2024, Oil on canvas, 150 × 100 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “It takes a shock to grow up”
2024, Oil on canvas, 150 × 100 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Sad that it’s utopia”
2024, Oil on canvas, 167 × 137 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “If there is no god, then what is art?!”
2024, Oil on canvas, 167 × 137 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Sometimes if you can’t do what you want to do, what you come up with is better”
2024, Oil on canvas, 130 × 100 cm

Solo exhibition

About “DE INTUS“

Corridor, Tbilisi, Georgia · 2024

The exhibition features works in different mediums, such as paintings and installations. It should be appealing for the visitor to observe how her older works relate to her new ink works, as well as how the artist repeats previous shapes on new canvases. For the first time, the author creates installations using metaphorical forms from her dreams, with natural materials.

The name DE INTUS comes from Latin and means “from within”.

Nestan’s works over the years have been a reflection and creative expression of her inner emotional forms, which she created on canvas using a gradient color palette. It is vital to note that her technical abilities gradually developed imaginative shapes that resemble various objects. Every object in the artist’s work serves a specific purpose and has a narrative character; they tell stories and give clues to the observer. The artist avoids conveying direct messages and instead leaves room for the audience to make their own unique interpretation.

Curator
Kati Arsenishvili



Nestan Mikeladze ‘DE INTUS’ exhibition view



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untold”
2024, Oil on canvas, 167 × 127 cm



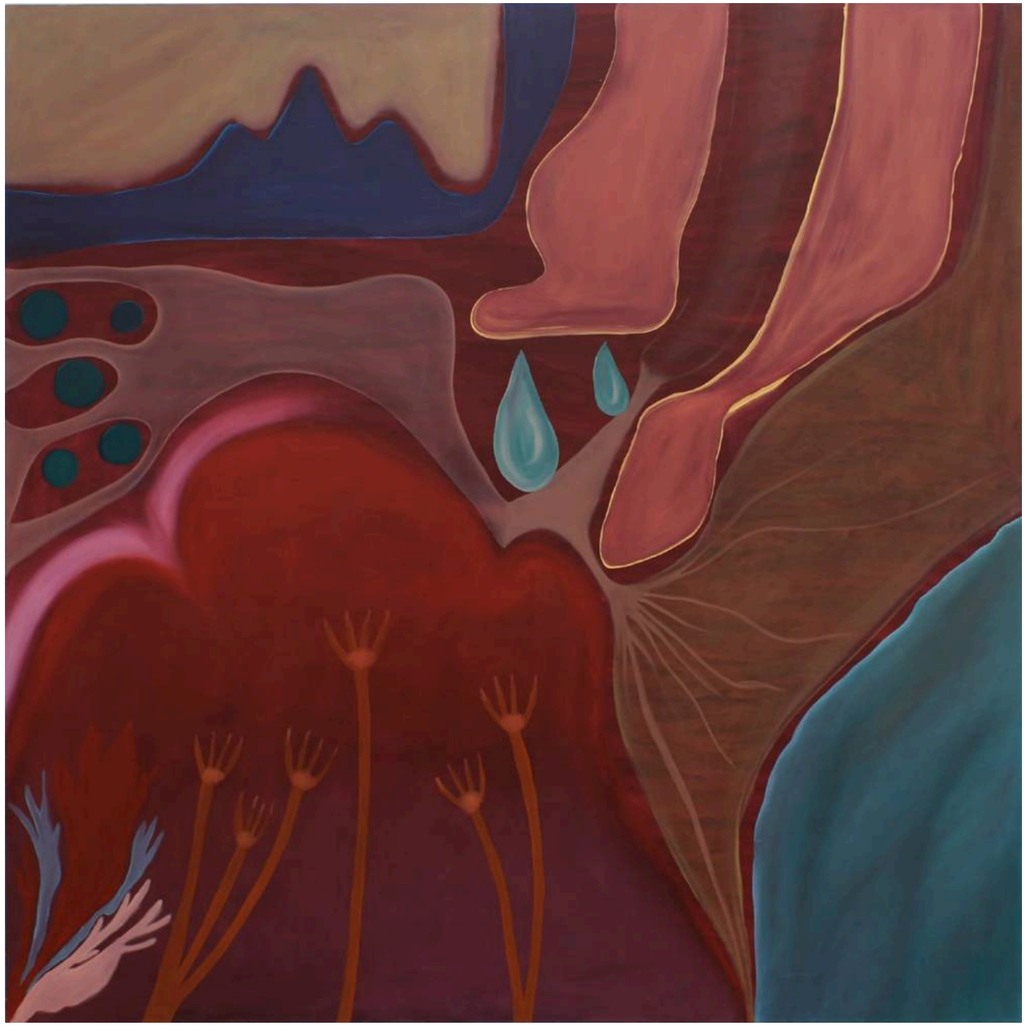
Nestan Mikeladze, “Dreams are real”
2024, Oil on canvas, 167 × 127 cm



Nestan Mikeladze ‘DE INTUS’ exhibition view



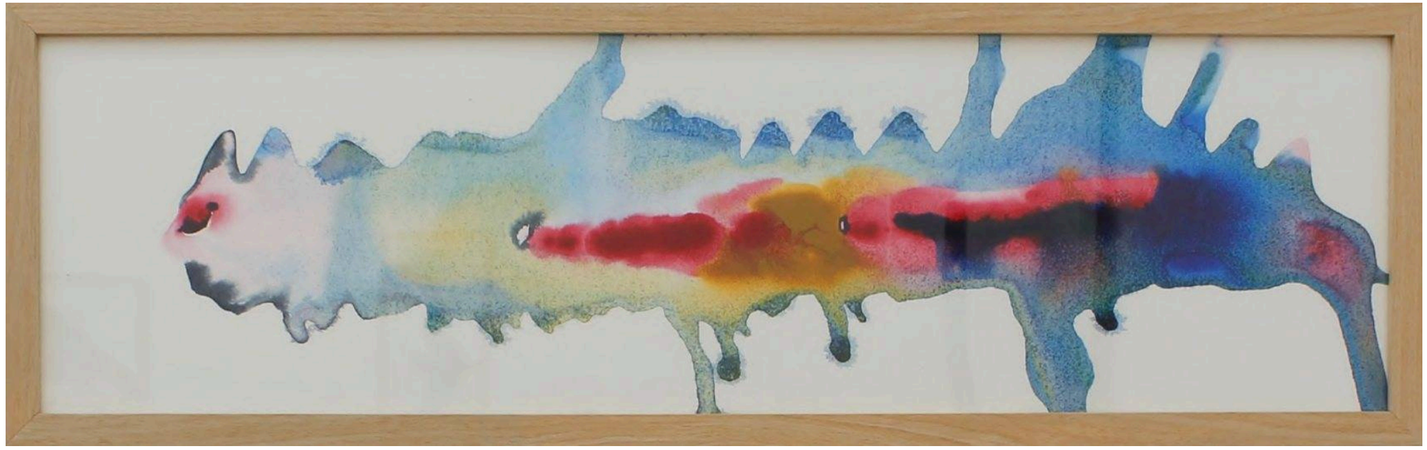
Nestan Mikeladze, “Nox”
2022, Oil on canvas, 150 × 150 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Child”
2022, Oil on canvas, 150 × 150 cm



Nestan Mikeladze ‘DE INTUS’ exhibition view
“Metamorphosis at this moment”, 2022, Oil on canvas, 200 × 150 cm, and “Aquarium with mirror”, 2024, Installation: glass, mirror, water, 160 × 40 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2024, Acrylic ink on mat board, 25 × 80 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2024, Acrylic ink on mat board, 25 × 80 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2024, Acrylic ink on mat board, 80 × 26 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2024, Acrylic ink on mat board, 80 × 26 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2024, Acrylic ink on mat board, 80 × 36 cm



Nestan Mikeladze ‘DE INTUS’ exhibition view



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2024, Acrylic ink on mat board, 39 × 52 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled”
2024, Acrylic ink on mat board, 32 × 47 cm



Nestan Mikeladze ‘DE INTUS’ exhibition view
“Bundle of hay”, 2024, Installation: hay, 200 cm height

Solo exhibition

About “EXODUS”

Ria Keburia Foundation, Kachreti, Georgia · 2023

“Faith – as a tool to confront your future potential” becomes an impetus to move and exit – Exodus. Faith, confrontation with the difficulties, movement onward, and reaching the point of actualization of an individual psychopathy. That exact human path is expressed on the presented canvases – from potential to the path and from the path to the point of actualization. To have faith in something that you don’t see and won’t be able to see (first canvas), to have faith in the energy accumulated within you and its manifestation in the ending point, which is depicted on the last canvas. From faith until the point of actualization is a long way, a desert to pass (second canvas). The social unconscious reveals itself on the way; you are in a crisis and contemplating whether your faith in your future is real or mere delusion.

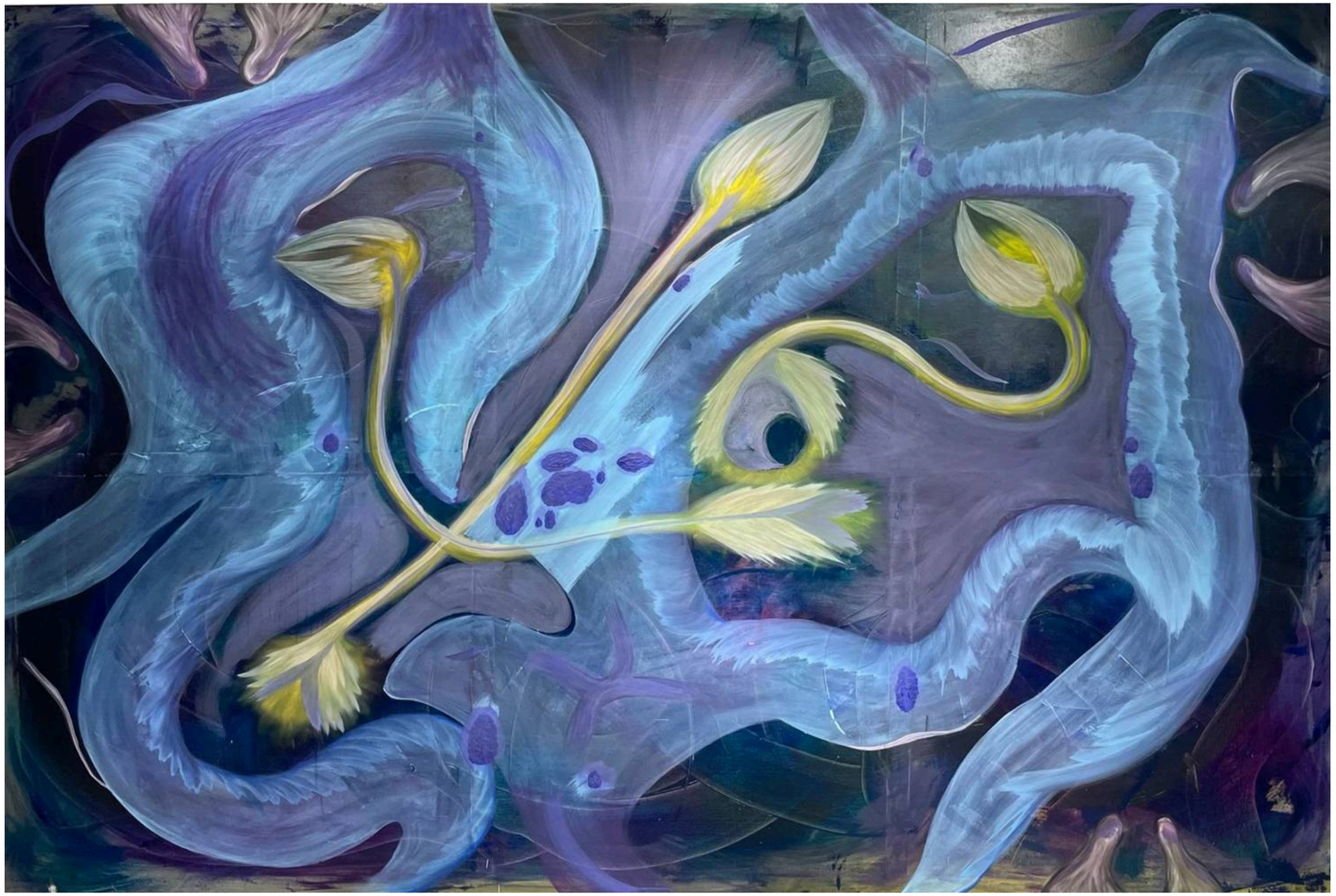
The exhibition makes us ponder the possibilities of faith as a tool. Departure from the microenvironment towards a better future, towards a purposeful life, having faith and silently yielding to your inner logos, instead of sabotaging yourself, and having a sense of the potential that you have within you.

The installation of the human hand is a symbol of an instrument to actualize potential.

Curator
Kati Arsenishvili



Nestan Mikeladze ‘EXODUS’ exhibition view, Ria Keburia Foundation



Nestan Mikeladze, “Potential”
2023, Oil on canvas, 200 × 300 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Desert”
2023, Oil on canvas, 200 × 300 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Land of milk and honey”
2023, Oil on canvas, 200 × 300 cm



Nestan Mikeladze ‘EXODUS’ exhibition view, Ria Keburia Foundation



Nestan Mikeladze, “Act”
2023, Sculpture: armature, iron net, papier-mâché, gypsum, acrylic paint, 160 × 45 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Act” (detail)
2023



Nestan Mikeladze, Three wallpapers – sketches of the three main canvases
2023, Ink and watercolor on paper



Nestan Mikeladze ‘EXODUS’ exhibition view, Ria Keburia Foundation

Solo exhibition

About “I WILL HOLD YOU”

Crosty Art Space, Tbilisi, Georgia · 2023

Working with various mediums, the artist explores the boundaries of her creativity through experimentation, which holds a crucial place in her artistic process. These experiments involve delving into the material’s structure and giving rise to captivating artistic forms on canvas. The installation on display is a tangible outcome of one of these explorations. Nestan’s artistic expression surpasses mere form; it encompasses a fusion of accumulated ideas. Color, employed in her artworks, becomes a powerful mode of communication, channeling energy that emancipates itself throughout her creative journey.

Her artistic vision revolves around social themes, and her art is a manifestation of deformities caused by social pressures.

“Life should be guided by our choices and desired scenarios, yet sooner or later, it is doomed to become a realization of prescribed scenarios. Comprehending the social pressures that surround us begets a desire for solitude in order to taste your life as if made entirely by your own choices.”

According to Nestan, she has experienced a profound “metamorphosis” in her journey of self-discovery and personal growth. However, she believes that true self-discovery is attained through the attainment of harmony and wholeheartedly embracing one’s own being. She acknowledges that, in the end, everyone undergoes a comparable transformation in their lives, yet the precise acknowledgment of one’s true self is a pursuit that everyone should aspire to.

The exhibition showcases artworks created using thin oil paint, which the artist describes as possessing an “organic potential” that harmoniously blends the realms of the conscious and subconscious, inviting viewers to perceive art in a new light.

Furthermore, the exhibition features an interactive installation titled “Hug,” which represents a three-dimensional symbol of the artwork “I will hold you.” Viewers are encouraged to engage with the installation, fully immersing themselves in the pulsating waves of vibrant pink energy radiating from the artwork.

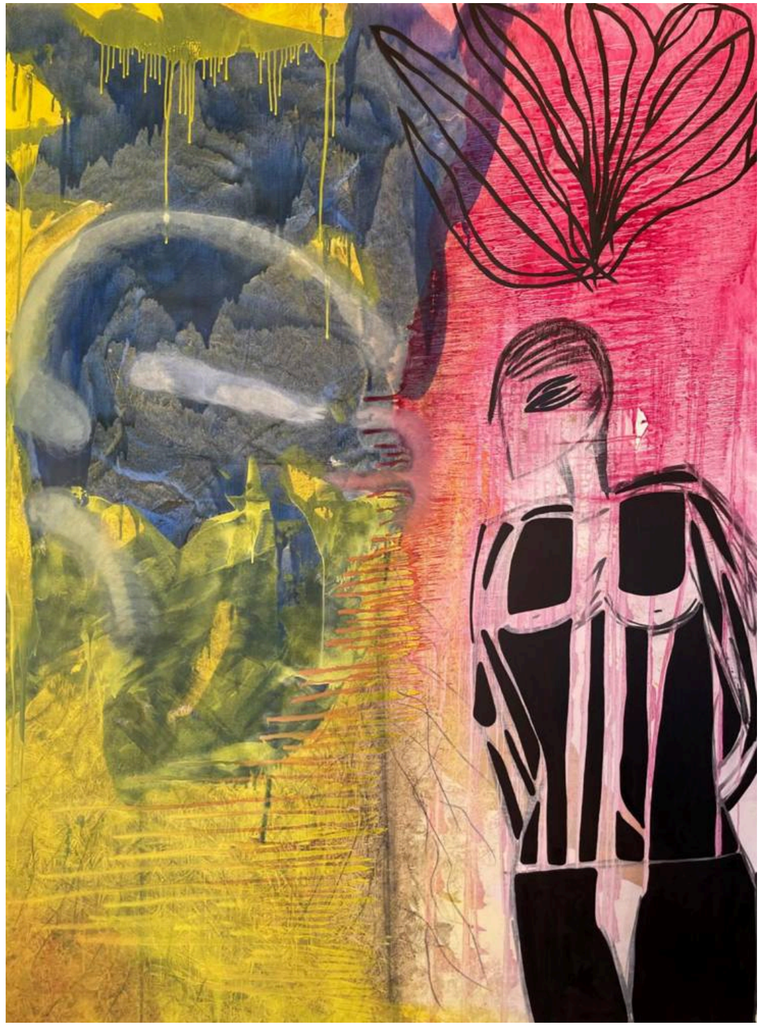
Curator
Kati Arsenishvili



Nestan Mikeladze ‘I WILL HOLD YOU’ exhibition view, Crosty Art Space



Nestan Mikeladze, “I will hold you”
2022, Oil on canvas, 250 × 165 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “End game”
2022, Oil on canvas, 200 × 150 cm



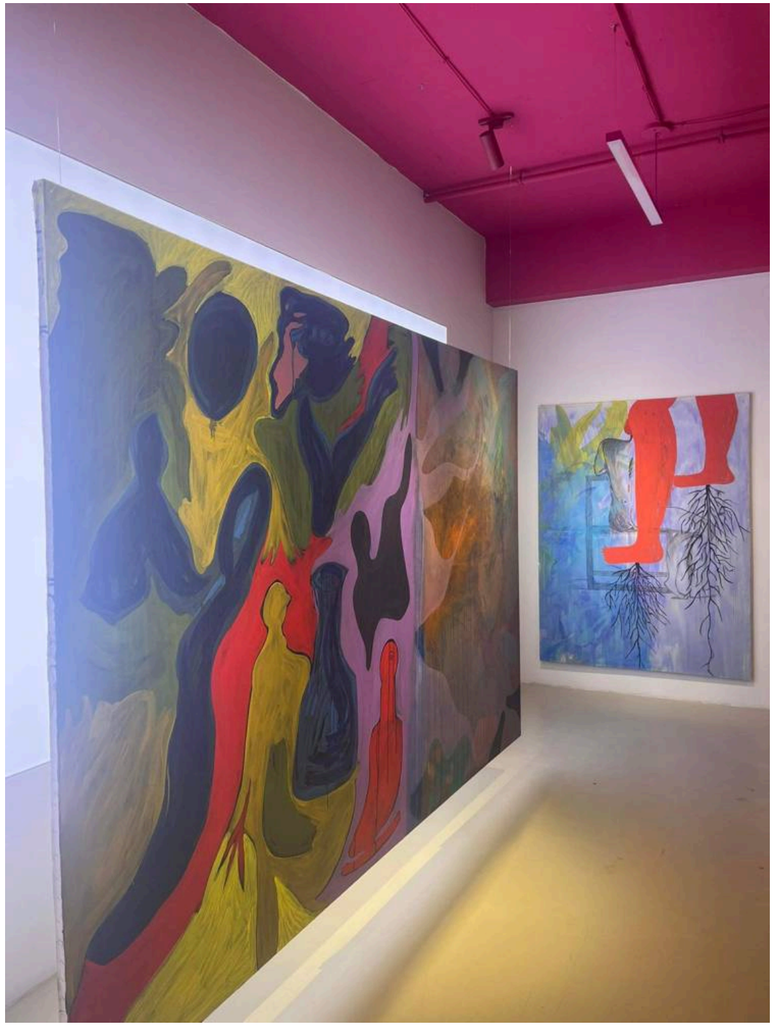
Nestan Mikeladze, “You will get strong”
2022, Oil on canvas, 200 × 150 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “The known and the unknown”
2022, Oil on canvas, 300 × 220 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Hug”
2023, Sculpture: armature, papier-mâché, gypsum, acrylic paint, 140 × 140 × 80 cm



‘I WILL HOLD YOU’ exhibition view
Crosty Art Space, 2023

Series

Something old and something new

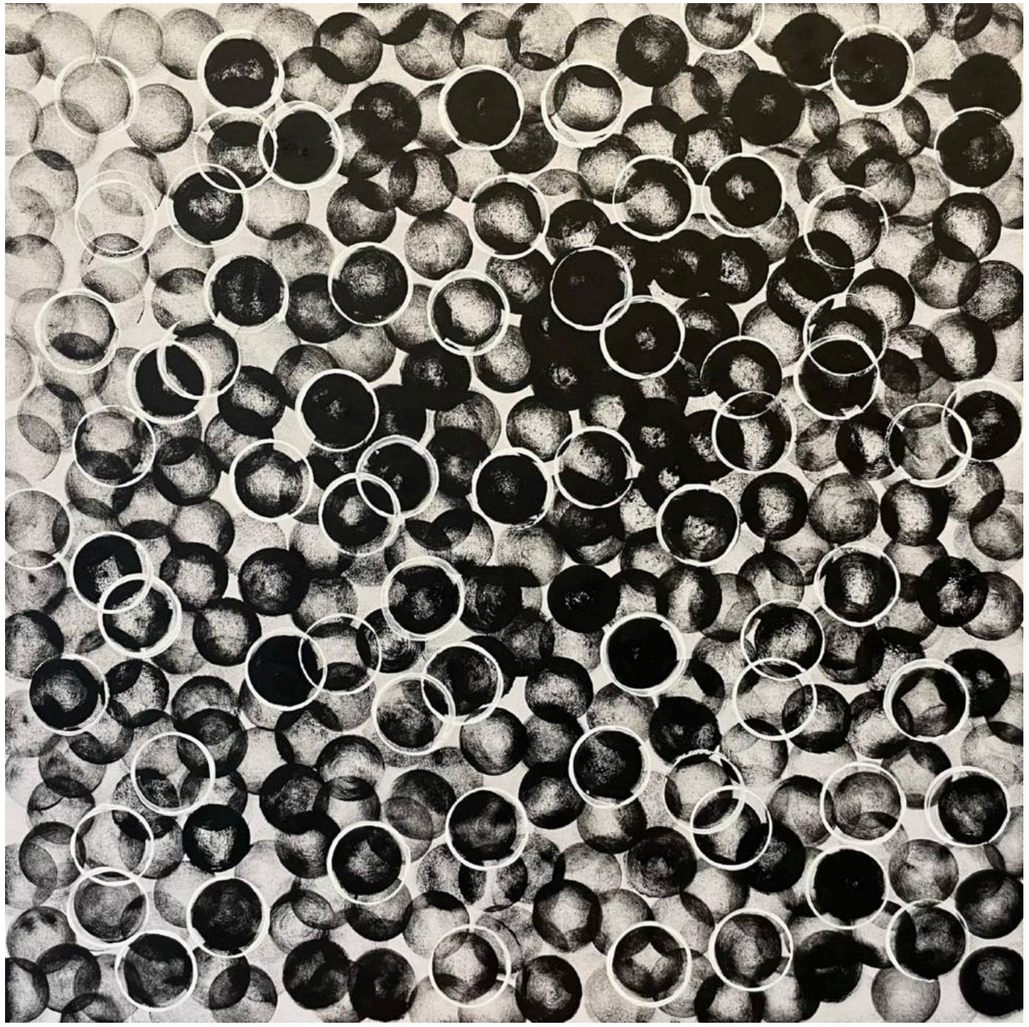
I planned the series “Something old and something new” for a reason. The aim was to redirect attention from color toward something new – toward forms, thoughts, and myself.

While creating the series, I moved through several phases of metamorphosis. Everything started as an automatic and unconscious process, like when you know (or think you know) what you are doing and you rely on familiar patterns and approaches. The lack of color drew me out of my comfort zone, but I did not immediately acknowledge it. I nevertheless continued and understood that my old ways were no longer valid. I started to explore new ones. But still, the discomfort caused by the lack of color distressed me. At some point, I felt that I had brought into my art all the constraints and boundaries I had in my life. Suddenly everything felt like imprisonment to me, as if I had been seized. I wanted to go back, back to my familiar patterns, in hopes of finding comfort and temporary safety. Imprisoned and sheltered by a false safety net, I did not feel free, and I exploded. Now I was free, but I did not know myself as a free person. Pieces of me were all over the place. And then the finding of myself began again.

Slowly and gradually, the turbulent water settled. I found myself twice, and both times were different, mirrored and opposed. I accepted it, and I felt real. I accepted myself and I accepted others, as I was and as they were.

Finally, I saw myself and me, everything within me and everything around me.

The other side of the whole experience was amazing. On the one hand, I had a constraint (black and white only), and on the other hand, I was free – free from regrets, free from thoughts, free from decisions. That was paradoxical at first glance.



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled. Something new”
2023, Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm



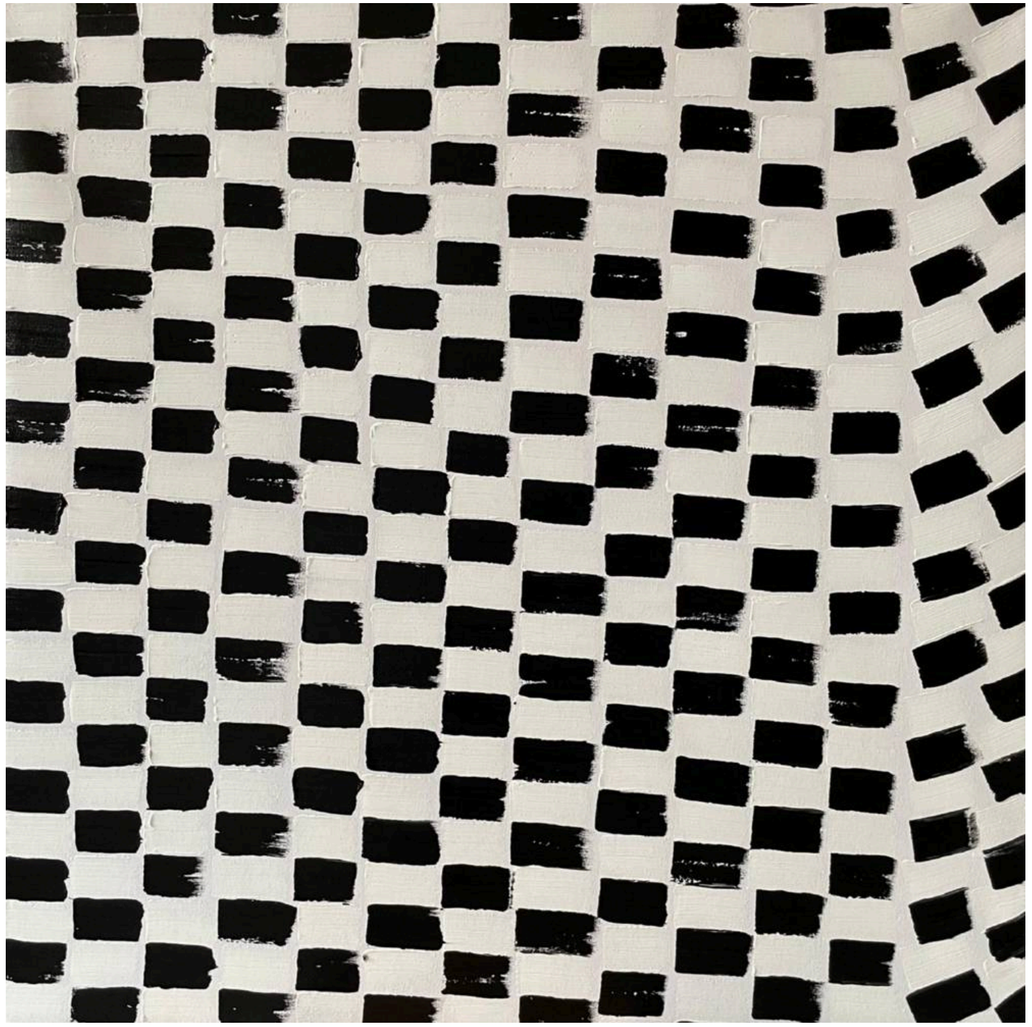
Nestan Mikeladze, “Mother. Maybe you love something”
2023, Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm



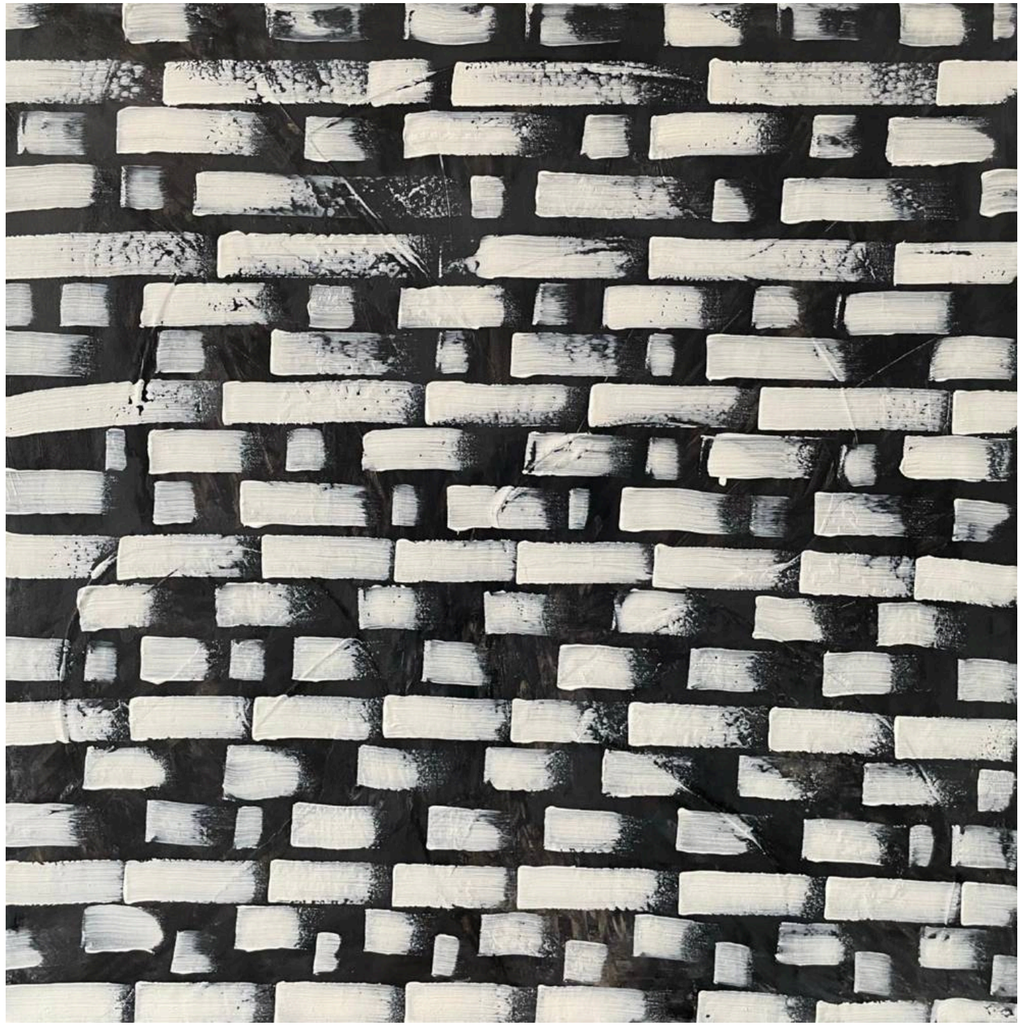
Nestan Mikeladze, “The Hour of Silence”
2023, Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Perplexed. Something old”
2023, Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Climax. I allowed myself”
2023, Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Untitled. Id”
2023, Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm



Nestan Mikeladze, “Black. Everything within me and everything around me”
2023, Oil on canvas, 100 × 100 cm

Bio

Nestan Mikeladze (b. August 22, 1986) is a Georgian artist based in Tbilisi. Her practice spans a range of media, including painting, sculpture, installation, and writing.

In 2026, she represents Georgia at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

Mikeladze's work has been exhibited worldwide, including in solo and group shows in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Paris, Madrid, Berlin, London, New York and Los Angeles. Her works are held in private collections in Georgia and internationally.

In 2025, Mikeladze participated in a mentorship program in Cannes, France. In 2023, she completed a full-time artist residency at the Ria Keburia Foundation, culminating in a solo exhibition. She has also received mentorship from Dr. Christianna Bonin, an art critic at Artforum and curator of Art Dubai Modern 2024.

Mikeladze's practice is shaped by an ongoing process of experimentation, through which she explores different materials, forms and modes of artistic expression. Her creative process is about giving body to something that cannot be articulated, but felt, and that cannot be simply planned, as it has to emerge through the process itself.

Selected exhibitions

- 2026, May–November – Georgian Pavilion, 61st Venice Biennale – Venice, Italy
- 2025, June – Caravan Art Forum – Kutaisi, Georgia
- 2025, April – Espacio gallery – London, UK
- 2024, September–October – Corridor – Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2024, June–July – “De intus”, Corridor – Tbilisi, Georgia (solo show)
- 2024, May–June – Davit Kakabadze Fine Art Gallery – Kutaisi, Georgia
- 2024, April – Tbilisi Art Fair – Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2024, March – WeSeeItems – Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2023, November–December – “Exodus”, Ria Keburia Foundation – Kachreti, Georgia (solo show)
- 2023, September – El Barrio Art Space – Manhattan, New York
- 2023, June–July – “I will hold you”, Crosty Art Space – Tbilisi, Georgia (solo show)
- 2023, May – Contemporary Art Festival “NOW” – Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2023, April – Rhisoma pro bono design lab – Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2023, March–April – VGallery – Madrid, Spain
- 2023, March–April – Galeria Azur – Berlin, Germany
- 2023, January–February – Daa Art platform – London, UK
- 2023, January – International Contemporary Art Fair Paris – Paris, France
- 2022, December – Las Laguna Art Gallery – LA, California
- 2017, June – Fabrika Space Tbilisi – Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2015, March – Tumanishvili Theater (emerging artists program) – Tbilisi, Georgia

Website: nestan.ge
Email: nestan.mikeladze@gmail.com · IG: @nestan.mikeladze
Phone: +995 592 523 023