

# PROPAGANDA

## **Oxygen Biennial 2021: Rites of Passage**

Curated by Ketevan (Keti) Shavgulidze and Ser Serpas

September – October 2021

Location: Dodo Abashidze, 10

Tbilisi, Georgia

Propaganda is pleased to present Oxygen Biennial 2021 - the 4th edition of the annual group show of Georgian artists, transformed into a regional scale biennial event. Initially aiming to summarize the critical narratives of the contemporary art scene in Georgia, Oxygen changed its format in 2020: entirely adapting its concept, subject, and structure to a new curatorial vision every year; and expanded its program to the international context, while further integrating itself into the regional dialogue of post-soviet countries.

### **The Biennial**

This year, the structure of the exhibition has aligned to its developmental culmination. Curated by Ser Serpas and Ketevan (Keti) Shavgulidze, the title of the Oxygen Biennial 2021 is “Rites of Passage.” The program will unite works by more than 30 artists from Georgia and abroad; Various collateral events, talks, group-specific activities, and showcases by several galleries in Tbilisi will occur throughout the exhibition dates.

### **Concept and Format**

Attuned to the postponed times, life via screens, and memories of mass art events, the exhibition reflects on the complex process of shifting one’s sense of belonging from one group identity to another; and subsequent actions or traditions that may take place – spectacles that would signify them. Anthropologist Arnold van Gennep recognized this stage as “rites of passage” in 1909; Where an individual and his whole being floats in a transitional phase – between binaries, in a detached and ambivalent yet critical state of undefinition. It is this particular liminal condition that we will meditate on; its personal, collective, and global dimensions.

Following the Resolution of the Government of Georgia of September 7, 2021 (№450, Article 1; paragraph 6 edit), from August 25, 2021, any entertainment, artistic, festival, and cultural events (except the events of theatrical and cinematographic nature) are prohibited. An exhibition that spoke about: functioning from the screen, semi-existence, floating in liminality, distancing from time-space, being harnessed to an image, moving towards the unknown, and turning into an etheric body - became an etheric body itself. One will learn the stories of the Biennial through the media following the hashtags #intheether #ქვეთერში.

For Media, photos, and press arrangements please contact:

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