

DIMITRINA SEVOVA
SAMODIVA –
WILD RECLAIMING SPACE
12 JUNE – 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Samodiva—Wild Reclaiming Space is based on Dimitrina Sevova's fieldwork in the ruins of the former women's ward of the Ospedale psichiatrico di Volterra complex, now overgrown and reclaimed by nature, and reflects her long-standing interest in the interconnectedness of body, mind, society, environment, and ecology.

Starting from the history of psychiatry, the project examines the construction of hysteria in the context of the rise of modern institutions and the social and economic transformations of early industrial capitalism. In the 18th and 19th centuries, psychiatric institutions not only provided care but also shaped the definition and regulation of deviance—women whose bodies, knowledge, or life rhythms challenged prevailing norms were often stigmatized.

The exhibition draws on feminist theories, including those of Silvia Federici, and is inspired by Félix Guattari's ecological thinking and transversality, looking for future enunciations of the collective unconscious. It views hysteria less as a fixed medical diagnosis and more as a cultural narrative shaped by projection, discipline, and shifting value systems.

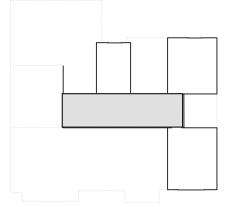
The title refers to the *Samodiva* (literally: she-wild), a (dis-)embodied archetype of femininity from Bulgarian folklore associated with forests, healing, and the ambivalent forces of nature, serving as a counterpoint to the pathologized woman.

In paintings, sculptures, and other works, the artist experiments with earth, minerals, and organic elements as transformative and symbolic forces. Pigments mixed with soil, wildflowers embedded into painted surfaces, and pyrite added to clay create subtle variations in texture and luster. These materials suggest states of transition and hybridity, while their forms draw on tropes from literature, art history, and mythology, serving as pathways into a holistic, animate cosmos.

Through these material and conceptual explorations, the project interweaves institutional memory, ecological processes, and symbolic imagination. Decay and transformation become quiet metaphors for resilience and renewal, and the exhibition thus opens a space inviting a reconsideration of care, memory, and resistance.

Text and curation: Jeannette Weiss

Room 1 Corridor



Dimitrina Sevova
From the series: *Die Nacht, wenn der Wind voller Weltraum uns am Angesicht zehrt und die Sehnsucht wächst* (inspired by Rainer Maria Rilke's *Duino Elegies*), 2025
natural graphite, riverbed sediments, clay, white chalk, dry pastels, natural binder, on cotton canvas
202 × 106 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
The Singing Faun, 2024
Hand-built, stoneware, engobed, fired
35 × 33 × 15 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
She Seduced Her, 2023
Hand-built, stoneware, Ming porcelain, fired
38 × 28 × 10 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Dancing Frieze, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
13 × 41 × 0.5 cm (overall, 6 parts, site-specific installation)



Dimitrina Sevova
Face of a Stone, 2023
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
14 × 40 × 25 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
The Little Witch - Missing Sophia, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired, additional firing for details with 24 karat gold leaf
38 × 38 × 33 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Blooming Hand Mirror, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
22 × 10 × 1 cm

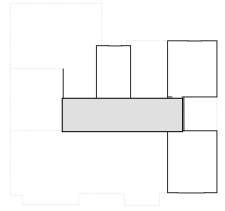


Dimitrina Sevova
Forest at Night I, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
26 × 33 × 20 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Forest at Night II, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed and fired
20 × 40 × 34 cm (overall, 2 parts, site-specific installation)

Room 1
Corridor



Dimitrina Sevova
Uncanny Mirror I, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
41 × 39 × 7 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Uncanny Mirror II, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired,
additional firing for details with 24 karat gold leaf
39 × 38 × 11 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Uncanny Mirror III, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, porcelain, glazed, fired,
additional firing for details with platinum
42 × 34 × 7 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Uncanny Mirror IV, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
39 × 29 × 6 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Uncanny Mirror V, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
36 × 29 × 14 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Catching the Specter in the Backyard of Ospedale psichiatrico di Volterra (a kind of landscape painting), 2025
Pigments, soil, dry pastels, gummi arabicum, on canvas
100 × 200 cm (overall, 2 parts)



Dimitrina Sevova
Deer Becoming Wolf, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired,
additional firing for details with 24 karat gold leaf
37 × 33 × 23 cm

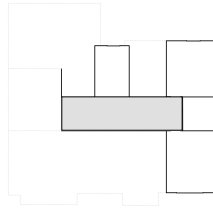


Dimitrina Sevova
Samodiva's Presence, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired, artificial hair
80 × 30 × 6 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Uncanny Mirror VI, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
40 × 35 × 5 cm

Room 1 Corridor



Dimitrina Sevova
Snake-in-a-Box (set of pill boxes guarded by a snake), 2023
Hand-built, stoneware, Ming porcelain, engobed
3 boxes (1 with a box in a box, snake):
10 × 3 × 6 cm
10 × 7 × 8 cm
25 × 19 × 20 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Memory of a Tree, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
24 × 9 × 5 cm
23 × 4 × 3 cm



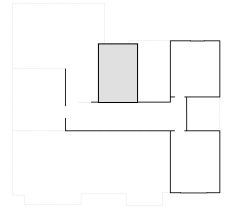
Dimitrina Sevova
Samodiva's Dress, 2025
Pigments, soil, dry pastels, gummi arabicum,
paper, on canvas
160 × 100 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Black Frieze, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
38 × 22 × 3 cm

Corridor

Room 2 Waiting room



Dimitrina Sevova
Forest Faun, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, multiply glazed, fired
150 × 60 × 15 cm
(overall, 6 parts, site-specific installation)

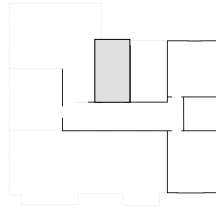


Dimitrina Sevova
The Gaze of Monstera, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired
27 × 22 × 4 cm

Waiting room

Room 2

Waiting room



Dimitrina Sevova
A Night in the Forest – the Samodivas Dance, 2026
lithograph, unique colour
70 × 50 cm
E/A, edition of 10



Dimitrina Sevova
Samodivas Dance, 2026
lithograph, unique colour
70 × 50 cm
E/A, edition of 10



Dimitrina Sevova
In the Middle of the Night, 2026
lithograph, unique colour
70 × 50 cm
E/A, edition of 10

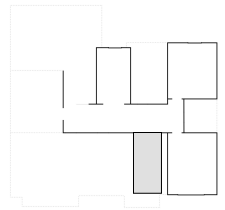


Dimitrina Sevova
Becoming Samodivas, 2026
lithograph, unique colour
70 × 50 cm
E/A, edition of 10

Waiting room

Room 3

Treatment room

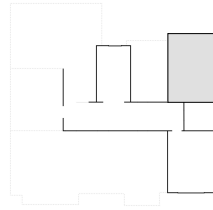


Dimitrina Sevova
The Scent of the Forest, 2025
Pigments, dry pastels, soil, acrylic binder,
on canvas
196 × 163 cm

Treatment room

Room 4

To the courtyard



Room with an installation in three parts: *The Memory of Oblivion*, 2026



Dimitrina Sevova
The Memory of Oblivion, 2026
Hand-built, stoneware, glazed, fired, chains
206 × 402 cm
(overall, several parts, site-specific installation)



Dimitrina Sevova
The Memory of Oblivion, 2026
Metal, chains, 7 photographs printed on silk, 7 ventilators
206 × 775 cm
(overall, 7 parts, site-specific installation)

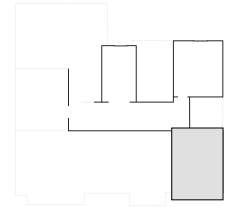


Dimitrina Sevova
The Memory of Oblivion. Reflections on the Gate - Ospedale psichiatrico di Volterra, 2026
Video essay, 24"

To the courtyard

Room 5

Treatment room



Dimitrina Sevova
Haunted Ecologies of Care I, 2025
Powdered soil, paper paste, pigments, binder, charcoal, graphite, flower imprints, on canvas
150 × 100 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Haunted Ecologies of Care II, 2025
Powdered soil, pigments, binder, charcoal, graphite, flower imprints, on canvas
150 × 100 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Nightly Encounter I, 2025
Pigments, binder, dry pastels, on canvas
100 × 80 cm



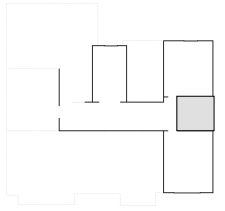
Dimitrina Sevova
Obsession, 2025
Pigments, binder, dry pastels, on canvas
80 × 80 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
Nightly Encounter II, 2025
Pigments, binder, dry pastels, on canvas
100 × 80 cm

Treatment room

Room 6
Bathroom



Dimitrina Sevova
Playing Molecules, 2023
Hand-built, stoneware, engobed, balls of porcelain
12 × 29 × 11 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
The Trickster and the Rabbit, 2025
Hand-built, porcelain (top hat), stoneware (rabbit), glazed, fired
36 × 36 × 25 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
A Skull in Homage to Holbein's Danse Macabre, 2023
Ming porcelain, glazed text, fired
18 × 18 × 18 cm



Dimitrina Sevova
The Trickster, 2023
Hand-built, stoneware, Ming porcelain, glazed, fired
26 × 30 × 25 cm