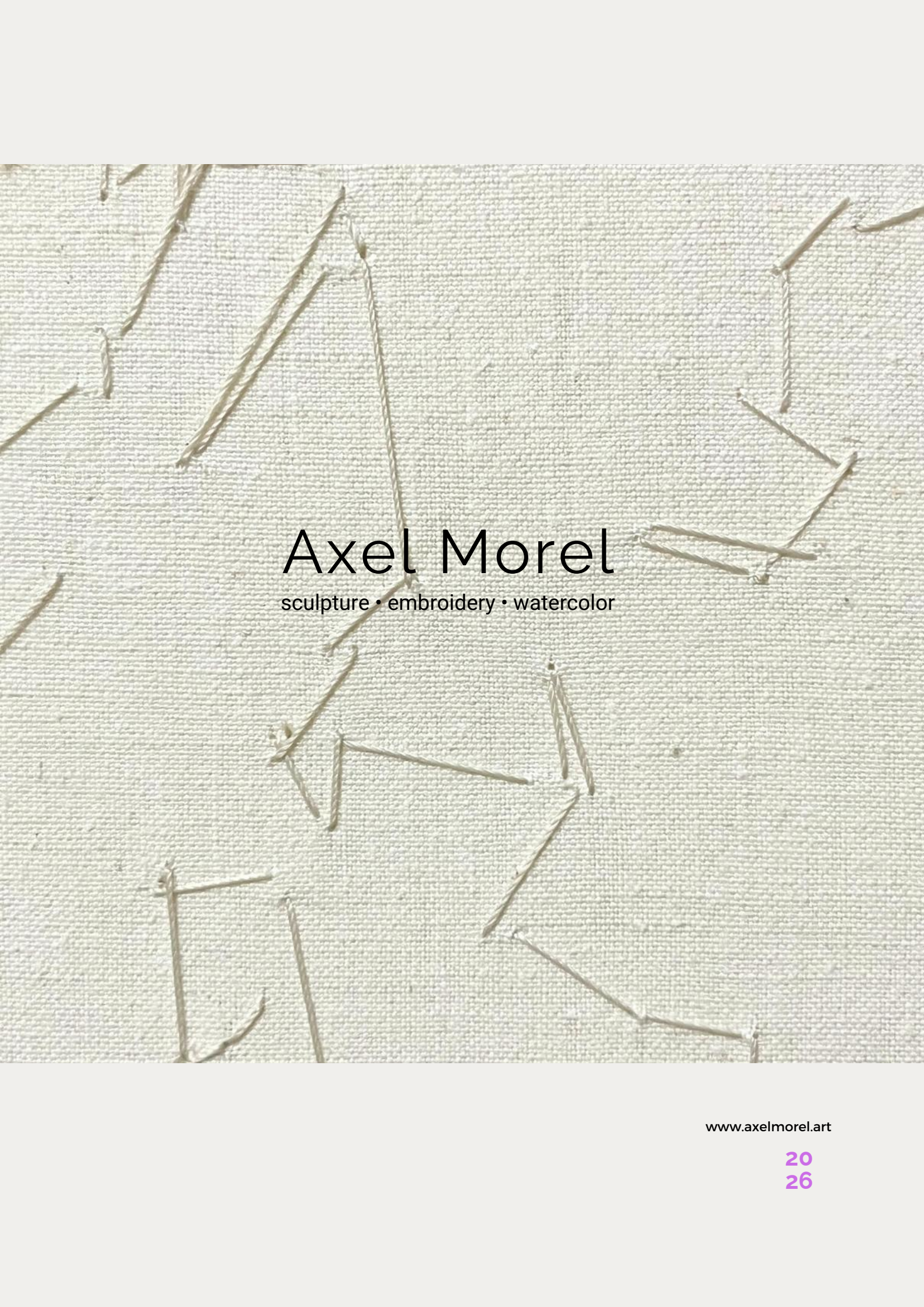




Axel Morel

sculpture • embroidery • watercolor

www.axelmorel.art

20
26

REFERENCES

"impermanence" & "resistance" are the two key words that qualify Axel MOREL's work.

Axel MOREL, a French-born European artist, explores the boundaries between **sculpture and volume embroidery**, developing a singular artistic approach that fuses tradition and innovation.

A graduate of the **Métiers d'Art**, he began his career as a costume designer and maker at the Opéra Bastille in Paris, while continuing to explore sculpture in all its forms. He also trained in gold embroidery, adding to his technical repertoire.

In his work, **Axel MOREL** transcends conventional techniques by integrating embroidery into multi-dimensional structures whether figurative or abstract. This innovative approach gives rise to pieces in which the thread, traditionally associated with the surface, extends and rises, **creating singular and moving organic and dynamic forms**.

Beads, glass tubes, silk or gold threads, sequins, linen, but also plastics, rubber, aluminum, bronze, ceramics or lurex, all materials are called upon!

Axel Morel works with different galleries in Europe, as the gallery Little Bird place in Sofia - Bulgaria, and his work is collected in prestigious private collections in France, Bulgaria, USA, China, Belgium...

VESTIGES

solo show

Triangular Tower gallery • Sofia

20.06>02.07.2024

In June 2024, he was given a carte blanche by the Culturama festival in Sofia, Bulgaria, on the theme of **water**.

He created a sort of cabinet of curiosities, where "**sea bones**" can be observed under globes, a sort of imaginary coral relics, subtle sculptures made of cellulose, glass tube beads and lurex. They are accompanied by embroidered **octopus** and photo-macros.



Sea bones (G) - 2024

41x37cm - pearls, cellulosic ceramic, wood, silver lurex thread



Vestiges - 20.06 > 02.07.2024

Triangular Tower gallery
Archaeological museum of Sofia



Sea bones (E) - 2024

41x37cm - mix medias (pearls, cellulosic ceramic, glass...)



Sea bones (B) - 2024

41x37cm - pearls, cellulosic ceramic, acrylic
(private collection)

It's like an ocean relic.
An empty shell, a bone
that could be the base
of an aquatic animal on
which a coral has lived
and disappeared.



Octopus - 2023 / Gold et Copper

12 x 9 cm - satin, polyester, glass beads, sequins
(private collections)



4HANDS I mirror #1

02.04> 02.05.2026

Installation *in situ* a collaboration
with Pinaree Sanpitak

Little Bird Place gallery
Sofia

COSMOS

solo show

Atelier 28 • Sofia

28.05>02.07.2025

The combination of different works as vanities, mind maps and sculptures, forms a kind of treasure that seeks to take us back to our childhood, when we invented improbable and fantastic worlds where everything was possible and we were the heroes/heraults.

Time inevitably passes, and our lives are impacted by world events, but these suspended moments of happiness can help us rediscover the **lightness** and carefreeness of childhood through wonder.



Vanity "Cesar" - 2025

Linen, cotton thread, glass beads, silver thread, lurex - 30x30cm

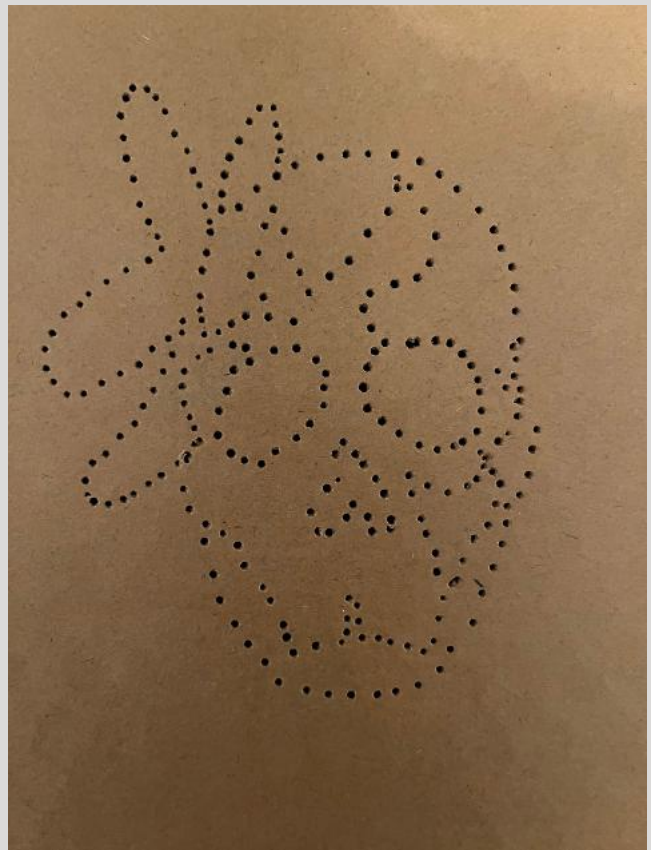
VANITIES

I use a variety of embroidery techniques, always leaving plenty of room for **improvisation**.

In this dialogue with the object and the material(s), I value the "**accident**", the unpredictable, the uncontrolled that makes the object unique and non-reproducible.

Embroidering "**vanities**" is a bit like conjugating infinity and impermanence. The object remains and reminds us, living but mortal, that nothing lasts, that everything passes away.

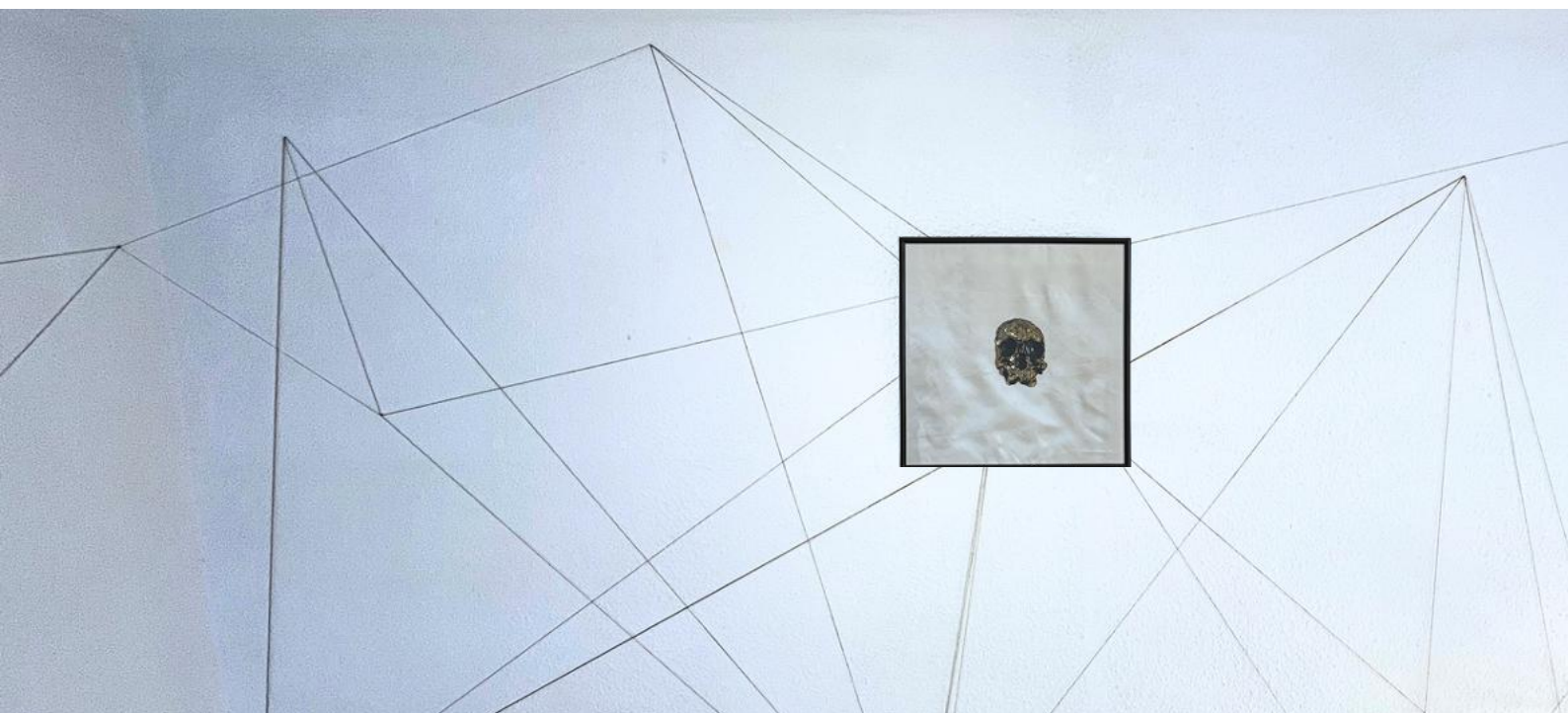
It's up to us to define **what to make of this passage**: a fear or an opportunity.





Vanity - 2023 > 2025

satin, polyester, glass beads, sequins



Cosmos -

29.05>01.07.2025

installation in situ and embroidery

Atelier 28 gallery - Sofia

MBMC MY BODY MY CHOICE

POWER PUSSY

group show

SEW 8 • queer festival

15>25.10.2025

SAF 3 • Sofair art fair

08>11.10.2026



MBMC Power pussy IV

08>11.10.2026

Sofia Art Fair 3

Little Bird Place gallery



MBMC Power pussy III

08>11.10.2026

Sofia Art Fair 3

Little Bird Place gallery



MBMC Power pussy I

14>25.10.2025

SEW 8 - Sofia

PENELOPE UNDER THE EYES OF THE SUITORS

SAF 2 • Sofia art fair
Atelier 28
02>05.10.2025





Penelope - 2025

Triptych satin, 50 x 200 cm (x3)
natural silk, coton, lurex, glass beads, 14 carat gold

Private collection

Photo Ivan Kolovos

Penelope at SOFIA ART FAIR #2

Triptych 50 x 200 cm (x3) - *private collection*

Diptych 50X70 cm (2) - *private collection*

Ulysses' mask

Photo Ivan Kolovos



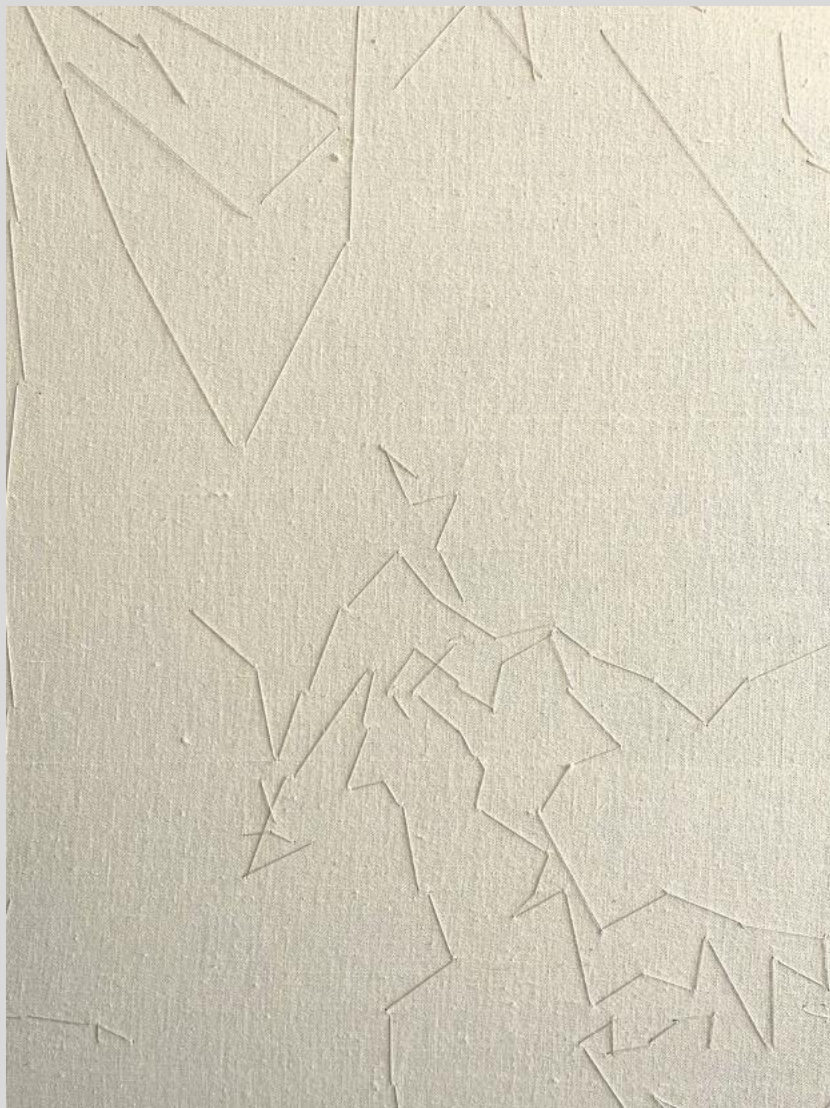
All that remains of **Ulysses** is his battle mask. It looks as if it were made of cracked earth from which lava still glitters, unless it is a leather mask or a death mask.



Penelope - *Ulysses's mask* - 2025

18 x 25 x 12cm - glass beads, cellulosic clay, linen, acrylic...

HERCULE & OTHER FIGURES



Hercule 1/12

"1.Lion"

02.06>31.11.2026

Non Sofia Gallery • Horizonta 2026

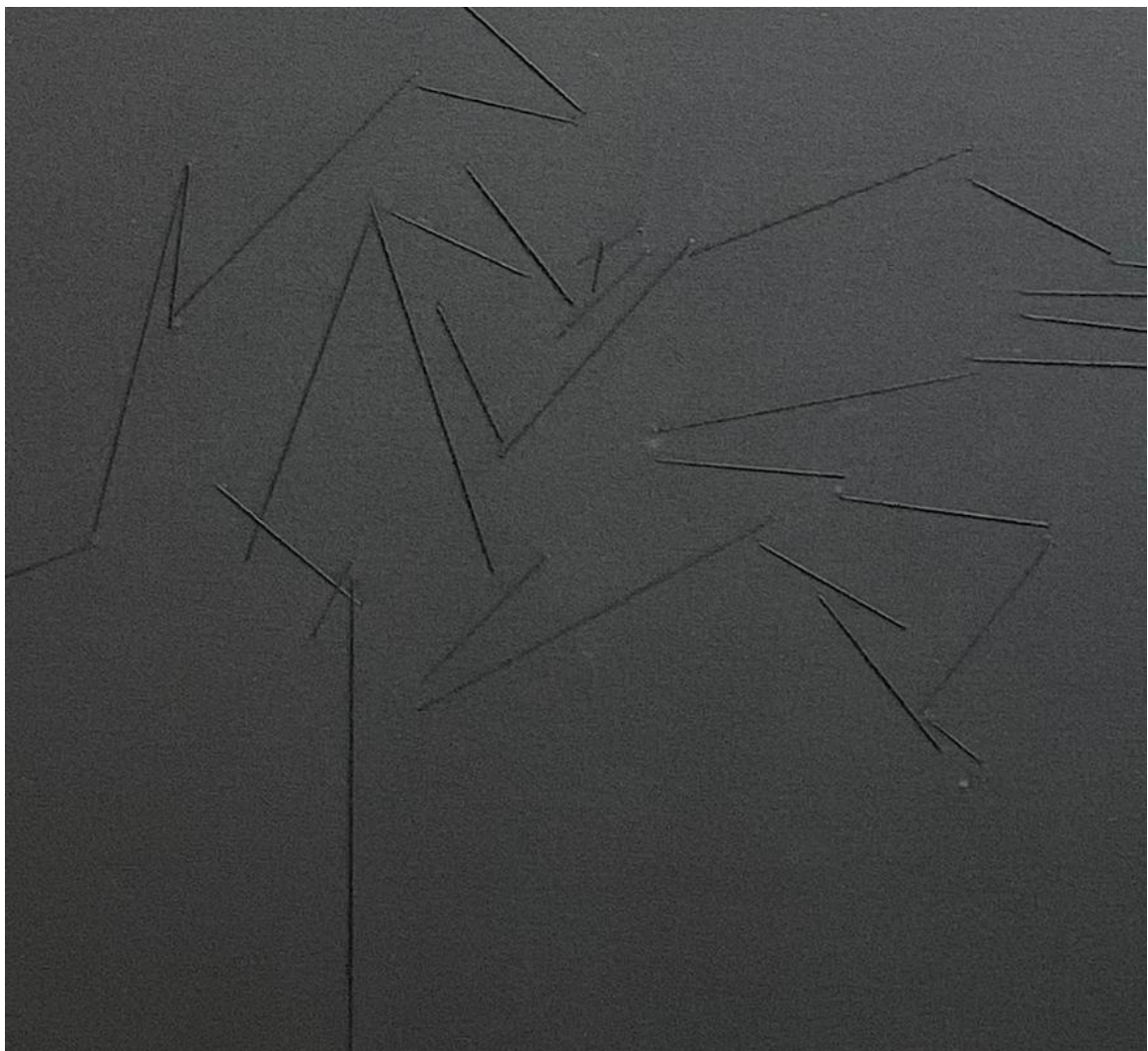
150 x150 cm - linen and glacé thread

HERCULE

group show

Atelier Trotoar • Sofia

08>18.10.2025



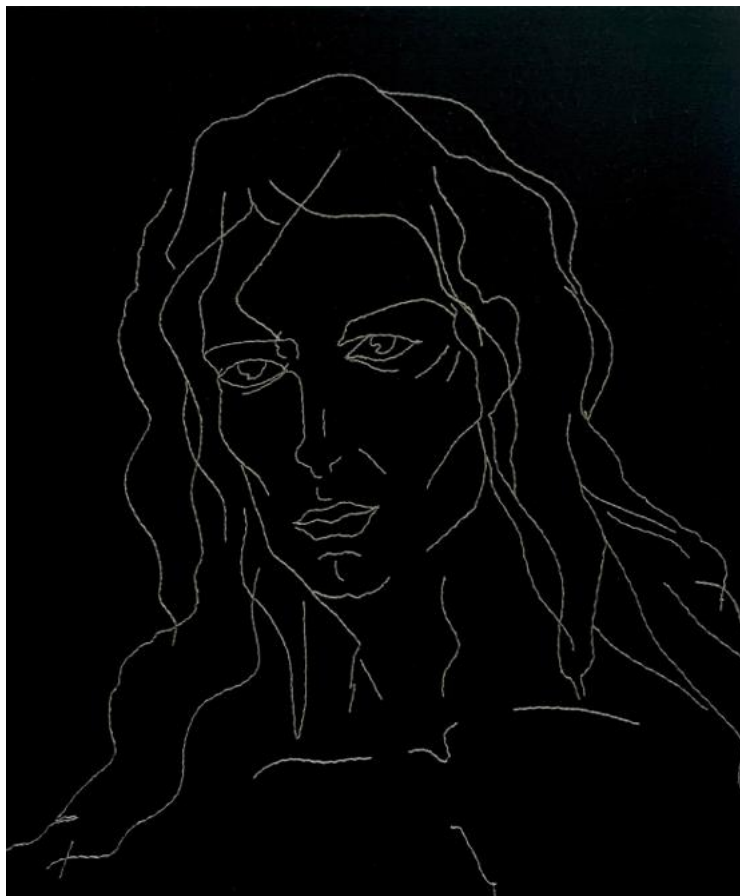
Hercule dark side 1/3

08>18.10.2026

Atelier Trotoar • Sofia

70 x70 cm - linen

HYLAS



Hylas the lover

08>11.10.2026

Sofia Art fair 3 • Little Bird Place gallery

65 x50 cm - polyester, cotton, lurex



Hylas ashes

08>11.10.2026

Sofia Art fair 3 • Little Bird Place gallery

30 x30 cm - polyester, cotton, lurex
(private collection)

DAVID

solo show

Atelier 28 • Sofia

28.05>02.07.2025

Variations in black and white offer a range of colors that allow Axel Morel to work subtly with **light** and **volume**.

He uses papers of exceptional quality, such as Hahnemühle, Baohong and Fabriano, and subtle watercolors - Daler Rowney, Lefranc Bourgeois and Faber Castell - to create both small papers (3x5cm) and very large formats (2.75x1.35m).

The work is **highly emotional**, letting the materials act, letting the paper live between oscillations and drips.





David I

COSMOS / Atelier 28 gallery - Sofia

29.05>01.07.2025

275 x135 cm - water color on Haobong paper 300gr
(private collection)

4 HANDS I mirror #1

solo show

Little Bird Place gallery • Sofia

02.04>02.05.2026

"For French artist Axel Morel, the work on the exhibition 4 HANDS I mirror began two years ago, when he acquired a small drawing by Valentina Trayanova. In it, the Paris-based artist depicted a little girl with a skull in place of her head – a figure that is at once unsettling, fascinating, and solitary. "For me, there was nothing frightening about this drawing. Quite the opposite – it awakened something deeply familiar: the image of that fragile, transitional stage where adolescence blurs the boundaries of identity," the artist explains.

Wanting to give material form to his dialogue with the work, Morel created a replica of it in his own signature technique – embroidery on textile. Although it depicts the same motif, the drawing becomes something else – an entirely new work, a dialogue between two artists. This is how the idea for the project 4 HANDS I mirror was born, in which he creates embroidered mirror versions of works by artists who touch him particularly. These works often explore themes such as intimacy and the limits imposed by identity and the body.

Taking on the role of curator, Axel Morel selects and invites the artists, studying their practices in order to find the best way to translate them through the means of embroidery and textile. His mirror embroideries are not mere mechanical reproductions of the original by other means, but the form of a deep and sensitive dialogue. The exhibition, presented at Little Bird, brings together 12 works by artists from Bulgaria, France, Canada, and Thailand, with the original works displayed alongside the artist's embroidered interpretations. The aim here is not the faithful reproduction of the original, but its deconstruction in mirror, where the image carries within it thoughts and experiences related both to the work and to its author.

At the same time, the choice of a medium as singular as embroidery allows for a new immersion into the universe of the chosen artist. Embroidery possesses an artistic presence outside of time – at once ancient and contemporary. Interpreting a work through this technique gives it an almost sacred status. It evokes the tradition of jewelry art as well as the beauty of handcraft, demanding time and know-how that the contemporary world is increasingly prone to losing."

Vessela Nozharova

Curator & Art historian

4 HANDS I mirror #1

solo show

Little Bird Place gallery •

Sofia

02.04>02.05.2026

Charmed by the works of artists whose work I love, I create **mirrored embroideries** with their permission. It's a kind of artistic "four hands" combining homage and technical challenges.

For this first exhibition of the project, hosted by the gallery Little Bird Place in Sofia, we decided to select 12 art pieces.

Each work represents the dialogue I had with the original artwork, and sometime we made a one piece.

21 artworks from **14 artist coming from 5 different countries** : Bulgaria, France, Canada, Afghanistan, Italia and Thaïland. Some of them are internationally known, others are not, but the main goal is to share incredible creations with the public.

However we also wanted to share with the audience, the exhibition and the hidden part of the creation with 3 NGO working with women, lgbtqia+ community and migrants.

This project has been supported by the **Bulgarian cultural fund.**



Adolescence - 2024
30X30 cm - embroidery



Axel Morel

+

Valentina Traïanova (France/Bulgaria)

Hortense Thibault-Briffaut (France)

Arthur Morel van Hyfte (Canada)

Pinaree Sanpitak (Thaïland)

Kokimoto (Bulgaria)

Lyuben Domozetski (Bulgaria)

Roméo da Duruna (Italy)

Boryana Petkova (France/Bulgaria)

Iskra Blagoeva (Bulgaria)

Lyubomira Valcheva-Nundloll (Bulgaria)

Nora Ampova (Bulgaria)

Laetitia Bourget (France)

Fati Khademi (Afghanistan)



Adolescence - 2024
30X30 cm - embroidery



Eden - 2023
30X30 cm - embroidery



N°17-23-BUL - 2023/2026
40X30 cm - embroidery



Twins - 2026
installation in situ in collaboration
with Pinaree Sanpitak



Silhouette - 2023
20X20 cm - embroidery



Proud bum - 2025
60X40 cm - embroidery



N°17-23-BUL - 2023/2026
40X30 cm - embroidery

4 HANDS I mirror #2 - Torso

solo show

Largo gallery • Varna

02.10>31.10.2026

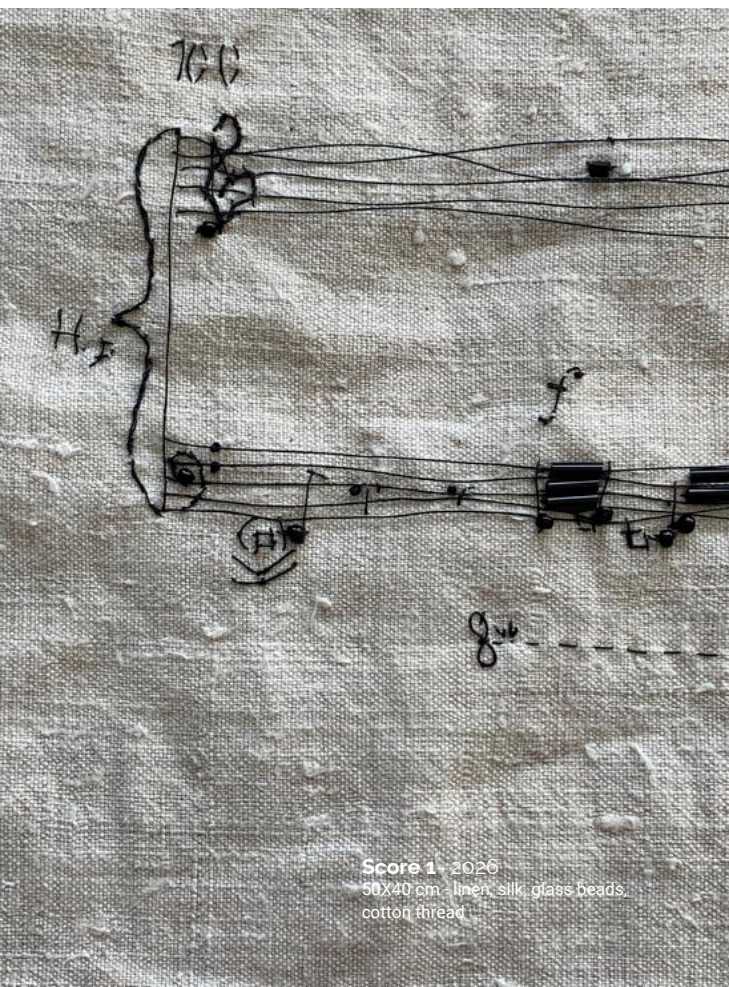
4HANDS I mirror #2 "Torso", is the second edition of an upcoming project, in which Axel Morel explores the right way to interpret or recreate an artwork through the unique techniques of embroidery.

Sometimes, it's a reinterpretation, with the original works displayed side by side (Mirror). Other times, it's a collaborative piece (4HANDS).

For the Buna Festival, I choose 5 artists with strong connections to my practice and the values I defend.

For this exhibition, I wanted to experiment the closer I can get to an imaginary male body or queer codes.

5+1 artists playing with the figure of the male / queer body.



Score 1 - 2026
50X40 cm - linen, silk, glass beads,
cotton thread

Axel Morel

+

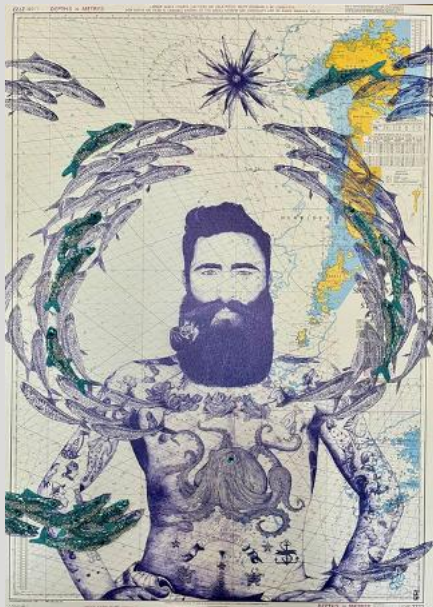
Kyryl Buhowski (Bulgaria)

David Chisholm (Australia)

Julien Jaffré (France)

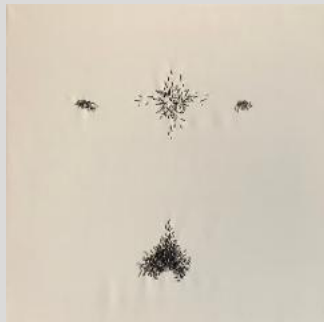
Nevelin Ivanov (Bulgaria)

Boryana Petkova (France /Bulgaria)



L'homme sardine - 2026

Print on canevas, natural silk JTF(c), glass beads, cotton thread, sequins - 70X50 cm



Never again- 2026

Natural silk JTF ©, cotton, cotton thread - 40x40cm



Never again- 2026

Cotton shirt with cotton thread, glass beads, sequins - 80x70cm



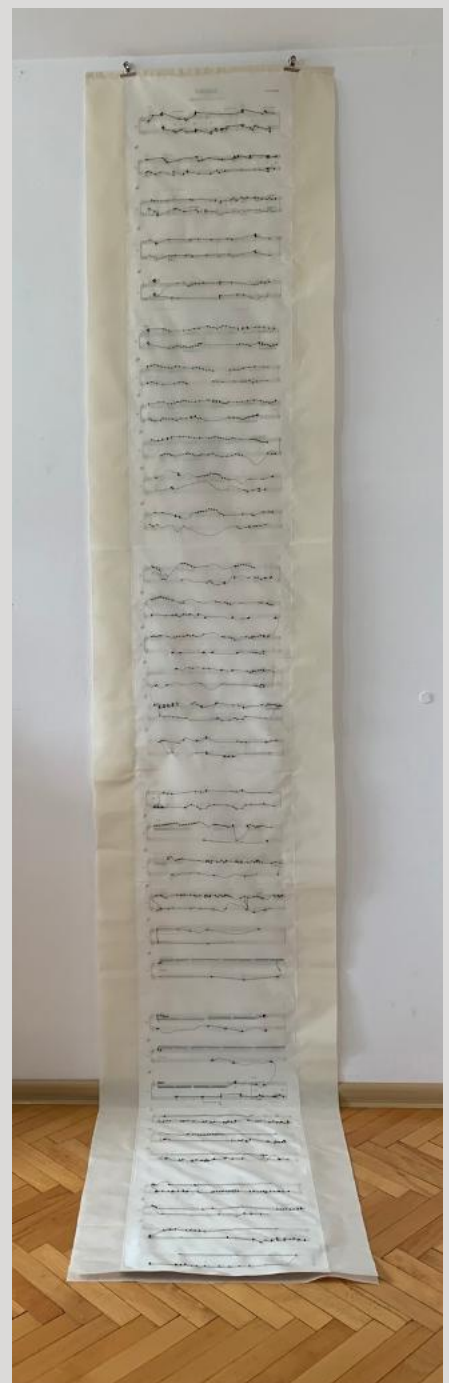
Score 1 - 2026

Cotton , silk, cotton thread, glass beads - 42x32cm



Happy pig - 2026

Natural silk JTF ©, glass beads, cotton thread, sequins - 40X40 cm



Cadenza - 2026

Natural silk JTF ©, ink on paper, cotton thread, glass beads - 140x63cm

COSTUMES

Creating stage costumes has always been a game for me!

It's a game of assembly that begins by translating an intention, a thought, an act into an object that tells a story, that shows, that offers itself to the gaze of others.

Whether in a public or private space, or on stage, the costume gives the wearer the **energy and force** of his or her message.

It's probably no coincidence that I started sewing **drag show costumes** in 1990!

My speciality in corsetry has guided my approach, which is centred on the **constrained body** that gives the line, sculpts the body and forces it to adapt and unfold in this new envelope.

I have already worked on more than 110 shows and performances.



a dress blue as the sky - 2023
for the godmother of la Rochelle Pride



Wasted Water Dress - juin 2024

Robe "reveal" en three parts - Festival Culturama
Coated cotton, polyester tulle, plastic straps



Museum dress - 2025

corset and dress for **Enigma**
performance during the exhibition 4 HANDS I mirror #1

EXHIBITIONS

• 2024

Vestiges

20.06 > 02.07

Triangular Tower gallery

Sofia archeological museum

Festival Culturama

• 2025

COSMOS

29.05 > 30.06

gallery Atelier 28 Sofia

CUT SEWN, SEEN

MBMC my body my choice

01.06 > 30.06

pride month Sofia

PÉNÉLOPE

02 > 05 october

Sofia Art Fair #2

MBMC II power pussy

15 > 25 october

SEW 8 • Sofia art week

• 2026

4HANDS I mirror #1

02.04 > 02.05

Little Bird Place - Sofia

Hercule (3/12)

02.06 > 02.10

Horizonta 26

Non Sofia Gallery

4HANDS I mirror #2

"Torso"

02 > 31.10

Buna 4

Largo gallery Varna

In form

13.10.26 > 18.01.27

German residency in Sofia

Doza gallery

Hercule + MBMC series

08 > 11.10

Sofia Art Fair 3

Little Bird Place gallery - Sofia

Fiori

08 > 11.10

Sofia Art Fair 3

Atelier 28 gallery - Sofia

Hercule dark side

08 > 18.10

Atelier Trotoar - Sofia

Mind Map III

03.11 > 02.12

37 gallery - Budapest

• 2027 & 2028

under construction

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