

**GULNUR MUKAZHANOVA**



***Iron Woman* (2010), Installation: nails, screws, metal wire, chain, 40 x 30 x 5 cm**

The sculptural installation *Iron Woman*, was one of the first works Gulnur Mukazhanova created after moving to Berlin from her native Kazakhstan. In this work, the artist undertakes a personal research of female identity in her Central Asian culture. Through a sculptural object made of metal nails and chains, taking the form of an intimate undergarment which the artist also models in a series of photographs, Mukazhanova explores a woman's body in the conflict zones of sensuality and ideology – at the intersections of personal and social environment, of ethnic vs. global culture, of modernity vs. tradition. Significations of sexuality move between the prohibited and the accessible, the fetishised and the mundane, the carnal and the sacred. Within this evocative object exists the duality of a very personal point of female resistance, alongside a loudly feminist cry against female oppression in its multitude of forms.

**BIO**

Gulnur Mukazhanova graduated from the Kazakh National Academy of Arts in Almaty (2006), and the Weissensee Art Academy in Berlin, Germany (2013). Her interdisciplinary practice encompasses textile art, photography, video, installation, and sculpture. Mukazhanova's art is a confrontation of two different cultures but also a dialogue between them. From her Central Asian roots she keeps a strong physical relation to traditional materials that are not only used for their aesthetics but have a symbolic and historic meaning. While living in Germany she has come to confront questions of feminism, globalization, and ethnology.

Mukazhanova has participated in international Biennales such as: *A Time for Dreams*, IV Moscow International Biennale of Young Art, Moscow, (2014); and the Krasnoyarsk Biennale, Russia (2015). Her solo exhibitions include: Artwin Gallery, Moscow, Russia (2016); *Iron Women*, Almaty, Tengri-Umai Gallery (2010); *Wertlosigkeit der Tradition*, Kazakhstan-German Society, Berlin (2010). Her work is held in international private collections: Fondazione 107, Turin, Italy; Krasnoyarsk Museum, Russia; La Metive, Moutier-d'Àhun, France.

Selected recent group exhibitions include: Focus Kazakhstan: Bread & Roses, MOMENTUM, Berlin (2018); *All the World's Collage*, Aspan Gallery, Almaty, Kazakhstan (2018); *Astana Art Show*, TSE Art Destination Gallery, Astana, Kazakhstan (2018); Focus Kazakhstan: Post-nomadic Mind, Wapping Hydraulic Power Station, London (2018); *Cosmoscow*, international contemporary art fair, Moscow, Russia (2018); *Interlocal*, in association with *Blue Container on the New Silk Road*, Duisburg, Germany (2018); Time & Astana: After Future, National Museum, Astana, Kazakhstan (2017); The Story Retells, Daegu Art Factory Daegu, South Korea (2017); *Expo 2017: Future Energy*, Astana, Kazakhstan (2017); *Metamorphoses*, Pörnbach Contemporary, Pörnbach, Germany (2016); *Did you know... ?*, Wild Project Gallery, Luxembourg (2016); *Cosmoscow*, Moscow, Russia (2015); *Dissemination*, Stadtgalerie Brixen, Brixen (Bressanone), South Tyrol (2014); *Nomads*, Artwin Gallery, Moscow (2014); *Synekdoche*, Freies Museum, Berlin, Germany (2013).

## CV

Born 1984 in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, based in Berlin, Germany

## Education

2009-2013 Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin, Germany

2006 graduated from the Kazakh National Academy of Arts, Almaty, Kazakhstan

## Solo Exhibitions

2017 "Yellow Matters" SOMA Art Gallery Berlin, Germany

2016 "Postnomadic Reality" Artwin Gallery Moscow, Russia

2010 "Iron Women", Tengri-Umai Gallery, Almaty, Kazakhstan

"Wertlosigkeit der Tradition", the German-Kazakh Society, Berlin, Germany

## Group Exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 Asia Now Art Fair, Paris, France  
Astana Art Show , TSE Art Destination Gallery, Astana, Kazakhstan  
“FIC – ФЕСТИВАЛЬ ИСЛАМСКОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ”(Festival Islamic Culture) Art Lane Gallery, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
DA!MOSCOW Art Fair, Moscow,Russia
- 2018 “All the World´s Collage” Aspan Gallery, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
Astana Art Show , TSE Art Destination Gallery, Astana, Kazakhstan  
Focus Kazakhstan: Bread and Roses, Kunstquartier Bethanie / Momentum, Berlin  
Focus Kazakhstan: Post-nomadic Mind, Wapping Hydraulic Power Station, Lodnon  
Cosmoscow international contemporary art fair Moscow. Russia  
“Strukturveränderungen” Kostbar Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
“Interlocal” The exhibition is part of a larger event “Blue Container on the New Silk Road” Duisburg, Germany
- 2017 "Time&Astana: After Future" National Museum, Astana, Kazakhstan  
"The story retells" Daegu Art Factory Daegu, South Korea  
Expo 2017 “Future Energy” Astana.Kazakhstan
- 2016 “METAMORPHOSES“ Pörnbach Contermprorary, Pörnbach, Germany  
“Did you know... ?” WILD PROJECT GALLERY Luxembourg. Luxembourg
- 2015 Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennale, Russia  
Cosmoscow international contemporary art fair Moscow. Russia  
“The Nomads” Artwin Gallery Moscow, Russia
- 2014 “Dissimination” Sity Gallery Brixen, South Tyrol, Italy  
“A TIME FOR DREAMS” the 4th moscow international biennale for young art, Moscow, Russia
- 2013 Viennafair Vienna, Austria  
Felt Festival in Felletin , France (Journées Nationales de la Laine à Felletin)  
"Recycling" HWK Leipzig, Germany  
„hochZeiten“ Schloss Belvedere, Pfingstenberg,Potsdam, Germany  
„A BIG SCHOW“ Freies Museum Berlin, Germany
- 2012 „...E BELLEZZA SIA ! „Turin, Italy
- 2011 „Refugium“ DIE ARBEIT, Berlin, Germany
- 2010 “IN DEFENCE. Artists from Africa, Asia, Europe, Russia, USA and Middle East”,  
Fondazione 107, Turin, Italy
- 2009 “STILLS-Attraction” Tengri-Umai Gallery, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
“East of Nowhere. Contemporary Art from Post-Soviet Central Asia” Fondazione 107 Turin, Italy
- 2007 52nd Venice Biennale, Central Asia Pavilion, Venice, Italy

## COLLECTIONS

[www.points-of-resistance.org](http://www.points-of-resistance.org)

FONDATIONE 107, TURIN ITALY; MOMENTUM, BERLIN GERMANY

