



SAPROMAT

PRESS KIT · SEPTEMBER 2026

Sapromat, short for “strength of materials” — a branch of mechanics.

IN BRIEF

Sapromat is an artistic collective founded in Sofia in 2019 by the set designers **Michaela Dobрева** and **Boris Dalchev**. It makes site-specific objects, installations and performances, as well as artistic research into the urban environment.

THE COLLECTIVE

The Sapromat collective works with a site-specific approach — every piece begins from a particular place, settling into the architecture and the surroundings and opening new points of view onto the familiar. Space is used in this way as material for a visual dramaturgical structure, and objects take on unsuspected “abilities”.

Viewers are invited to examine their own interaction with the work and to become active participants in it. The collective works in many directions and in a range of formats — artistic research, objects, installation, performance, interventions in the urban environment, digital techniques. Literary and dramatic works are to a large extent the leading conceptual inspiration for the duo. Collaboration with artists from other disciplines, and co-authorship, are a guiding principle of the practice.

FOUNDERS

Michaela Dobрева teaches computer animation in the Scenography department of the National Academy of Arts and is a doctoral candidate in Digital Arts. She holds a master’s degree in scenography and has worked on more than 20 theatre and dance productions. Her main interests lie in interactive and site-specific art. She curates the festival 180 Degrees — Laboratory for Innovative Art. In 2025 she became vice-chair of the Association of Scenographers in Bulgaria.

Boris Dalchev is a set and costume designer with more than 45 productions and performances behind him. He has worked in theatres in Sofia and across the country and has shown drawings and illustrations in solo and group exhibitions. He holds a doctorate from the Scenography department of the National Academy of Arts, where he is currently a chief assistant professor. In 2025 he joined the board of the Association of Scenographers in Bulgaria.

AWARDS

2026	Ikar Award for set design — <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</i> , National Theatre (Michaela Dobрева and Boris Dalchev)
2024	Ikar Award for set design — <i>The Hague</i> , dir. Galin Stoev (Boris Dalchev, with Kancho Kasabov — costumes)
2021	Certificate of merit from the Ministry of Culture for a contribution to Bulgarian culture (Boris Dalchev)
2021	Ikar nomination for environment and costumes — <i>Invisible Cities</i>
2020	Ikar nomination — <i>Phantasm</i>

SELECTED WORKS

2025	Beneath the Centre of Gravity Installation · Serdica Archaeological Complex (the Sofia Largo), part of the Literary Talks festival	2022	The Wardrobe Interactive installation · Toplocentrala and UBA, Sofia · after Olga Tokarczuk
2024	And All the Animals Are Screaming Visual environment · Toplocentrala RCCA, Sofia · dir. Mariy Rosen, produced by the Goethe-Institut Bulgaria	2022	Tales of the Bizarre Theatre performance · Toplocentrala, Sofia · dir. Mariy Rosen
2023–24	Inter-block Wanderings Audio walk · Sofia · with Konstantin Georgiev, in the Nine Elephants programme	2021	Invisible Cities Immersive performance · University Botanical Garden, Sofia · dir. Boyan Kracholov
2023	The Other Dream Visual performance · Toplocentrala RCCA, Sofia · after the novel by Vladimir Poleganov	2020	Phantasm Original performance · National Student House, Sofia · with Tsveta Doycheva
2023	Life. A User's Manual Installation · the NDK underpass, Sofia · after the novel by Georges Perec	2019	0 (zero) Installation · Telelink, Sofia · competition of Gallery +359
		2019	Unapparent Site-specific installation · UniArt Gallery, New Bulgarian University, Sofia

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2022	<u>Performing arts: Michaela Dobрева and Boris Dalchev of the Sapromat association Capital, “Rising Stars. Class of 2022”, Svetoslav Todorov and Tamara Valcheva, 18–24 February 2022 (in Bulgarian)</u>
2022	<u>Art and the Young — a conversation with the set designers Boris Dalchev and Michaela Dobрева Bulgarian National Television, Kultura.BG, Daniela Lalova, 8 March 2022 (in Bulgarian)</u>
2021	<u>Sapromat — art for an environment without borders Kultura portal, Rosena Ivanova, 5 July 2021 (in Bulgarian)</u>
2020	<u>Michaela Dobрева and Boris Dalchev of Sapromat: We have ideas for theatre outside the theatre Jasmin.bg, Marina Delivlaeva, 22 November 2020 (in Bulgarian)</u>
	<u>Sapromat association — profile Open Art Files</u>

IMAGES

Photographs of each project, with the photographers' names, are available at sapromatcollective.com/en/projects. Print-resolution files are supplied on request.

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