PRESS RELEASE

**The Song of Psyche: Corners of a Soul's Otherworlds**

**25 November 2023 – 12 January 2024**

*The Song of Psyche* presents a dialogue between two artists who have never met. Both are interested in the interconnection of what is physical, what is subliminal and what lies between. They approach this intersection from opposing angles to meet at the *Corners of a Soul's Otherworlds*.

Edward Bekkerman explores the subconscious and spiritual by condensing figures and forms into swirls and symbols. His vivid paintings trace the twists and turns of the human mind, whereas Nicola Turner's amorphous bodies assert a dark corporal presence as their indefinable limbs creep across surfaces and engulf objects.

By capturing uncanny aspects of the human condition they come together in what historian Denis Maksimov describes as "realms where the ordinary transforms into the extraordinary, and the mundane takes on an otherworldly allure".

Many will recognise Turner’s creations from site-specific interventions across the country at locations ranging from cathedrals to derelict buildings. She presents a new body of work interacting with the gallery space. This is Bekkerman’s first exhibition in the UK.

Both artists share a background in the world of theatre, making their joint exhibition a contemporary fairytale informed by the folklore and mythology still celebrated in different guises around the globe at this time of year.

**Notes to Editors**

Preview: Friday 24 November 2023, 6-9pm

Address: Shtager&Shch, Lower Ground Floor, 51-53 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SQ

Gallery open times: Wednesday-Friday 11am-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm

About the Artists

**Edward Bekkerman** (b. 1958, Russia) is an American artist who trained as a dancer with the Bolshoi Theatre before studying at the Arts Students League, New York. He has contributed to notable surveys of Russian art shown across Europe, Asia and the US. Solo shows include Osthaus-Museum Hagen, Germany; The State Russian Museum, St Petersburg and Moscow MOMA, Russia. His work is held in the permanent collection of the State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg; Museum of Miniature Art in Amsterdam, Moscow MOMA and in prominent private and corporate collections worldwide

<https://www.edwardbekkermanart.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/edwardbekkerman/>

Nicola Turner (b. 1967, UK) combines found objects and materials into microcosmos of human and non-human agents. She holds a BA Theatre Design from Central St. Martins, University of Arts London and an MA Fine Arts from Bath Spa University. This year she has created site responsive installations for the Od Arts Festival, Somerset and for the Norwich Art Path, a collaboration between the Sainsbury Centre, Norwich Castle Museum and the Norwich Arts Festival. In 2021 she won the Ashburner Sculpture Prize at Stone Lane Gardens, Dartmoor.

<https://www.nicolaturner.art/>

<https://www.instagram.com/nicolaturner.art>

About the Gallery

Shtager&Shch is a Central London-based contemporary art gallery specialising in emerging and innovative artists.

Working with contemporary artists from London, the UK and abroad, the gallery selects the most promising practitioners for experimental projects that challenge narrow definitions of art by medium or discipline.

<http://shtager-shch.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/shtager_shch>

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