

= Museum of Socialist Art , Sofia =

The Museum of Socialist Art ( Bulgarian : ????? ?? ????????????????????????????????????? , Muzey na sotsialisticheskoto izkustvo ) in Sofia , is a museum of art which covers the history of the communist regime in Bulgaria . It was established on 19 September 2011 amidst a controversy over the name , which was initially proposed as " Museum of Totalitarian Art " . The museum 's collection of large and small statues , busts , and paintings represents the period from 1944 to 1989 , from the time of introduction of communism to Bulgaria to the end of the totalitarian regime . The museum spread over an area of 7 @, @ 500 square metres ( 81 @, @ 000 sq ft ) in the Sofia suburb known as " Red Star is in three parts - a park with sculpture installations drawn from the communist period , an exhibition hall with paintings and easel representations , and a media or video hall in which films and newsreels related to the communist period are screened .

= = History = =

Many projects were mooted since the 1990s for establishing museums of communism in Sofia , Dimitrovgrad , and Haskovo , but none came to fruition . During the same period , many monuments of the Soviet regime were destroyed or dismantled . During the summer of 2011 attempts to create exhibits on the role of the communist regime in Bulgaria were made by a group of artists who painted " pop icons " on the Soviet army memorial in Sofia in June 2011 . At that point , the government decided to establish museums in Bulgaria and also to restore dismantled monuments . The establishment of the Museum of Contemporary Art , the Museum of Ancient Sofia , and the National Museum Complex ( renamed as " the Bulgarian Louvre " ) came to be established in Sofia as a result of that decision . At the same time it was decided by Ministry of Culture to create the Museum of Socialist Art in Sofia to enhance the city 's cultural ambiance and its position as a major tourist attraction , in conformity with similarly themed museums that had been established in many cities of Eastern Europe . It was also considered and accepted by the ministry that the museum would be a subsidiary of the National Gallery of Art . Vezhdi Rashidov , the Minister of Culture , himself a sculptor , took the initiative to see through the project of creating the museum for exhibiting the artistic heritage of the communist regime . The Government of Bulgaria fully supported the initiative and provided funds to the extent of 1 @. @ 5 million euros to establish the museum , hoping that the revenue from the sale of entry tickets would recover this cost in a period of 2 years . The remnants of the socialist regime were found from basement of very town in Bulgaria for installation at the museum before it formally opened on 19 September 2011 .

Amidst controversy , the museum 's name , originally planned to be " Museum of Totalitarian Art " , was changed to " Museum of Socialist Art " . The new museum was formally inaugurated on 19 September 2011 .

At the inauguration , which was held in the presence of Prime Minister Boyko Borisov , Mayor of Sofia Yordanka Fandakova , and many ministers , the Finance Minister Simeon Djankov stated : " We are closing one page of the Bulgarian history and communism is going where it belongs ? in the museum ... Bulgaria has already shaken it off and is moving forward " . The date of the inauguration also marked the formal occupation of Bulgaria by communists in 1944 . As journalist Georgi Lozanov noted : " Bulgaria must have a museum of communism that will tell new generations the story of a period that should never again become reality " .

= = Description = =

The museum , a branch of the national art gallery , has a display of socialist regime of 45 years ( 1944 @- @ 89 ) period of art symbols and other artifacts and archives with statues in the park . The museum covers an area of 7 @, @ 500 square metres ( 81 @, @ 000 sq ft ) in the Sofia suburb known as " Red Star " . It consists of three parts : a park in which 77 statues or sculptures drawn from the communist period , including a statue of Vladimir Lenin , have been erected ; an exhibition hall with 60 paintings and 25 easel paintings representations ; and a media or video hall in which

propaganda films and newsreels related to the communist period are screened . There is also a souvenir kiosk where communist period memorabilia are sold . The museum 's collection covers the period from 1944 to 1989 , from the introduction of communism to Bulgaria to the end of the totalitarian regime . At the entrance of the museum stands a large " five @-@ pointed star " which had earlier adorned the Party House in Sofia from 1954 to 1984 . The statue park , which is said to be the " most representative part of the museum " , features statues , busts , and figures of popular communist leaders and activists , of poets , sculptures of Red army soldiers , agricultural and industrial workers , and so forth .

Within the museum hall there are sculptures of communist leaders Todor Zhivkov , Vladimir Lenin , and Joseph Stalin . Some of the exhibits with artistic expression are attributed to many well @-@ known sculptors of the communist regime . Paintings made by artists during the communist regime are also on display , including depictions of the entry of the Soviet Army in 1944 , the creation of communist party branches , portraits , and landscapes . Most of the exhibits on display are of " trials of the partisan and resistance movement during World War II " , the creation of the socialistic pattern of society , and people 's contented life . Some of the paintings depict " Herculean @-@ sized laborers " . Many oil paintings extol the presumed theme of " eternal friendship " between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union . In the museum 's restaurant also there are portraits of Karl Marx , Lenin , Engles and Stalin which are evocative of incongruity .

In 2012 , an exhibition on " The Cultural Opening of Bulgaria to the World " , which was the creation of Lyudmila daughter of Todor Zhivkov who ruled in 1953 , and which brought into focus " a golden age of socialist culture " was also exhibited at this museum .