The Spanish Cat,
81.5 cm x 56.5 cm, Goldstein frame, newspaper-cuttings, paper, feathers

DOGU BANKOV

DON'T SHOOT THE WAITER BEFORE LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER – FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2013
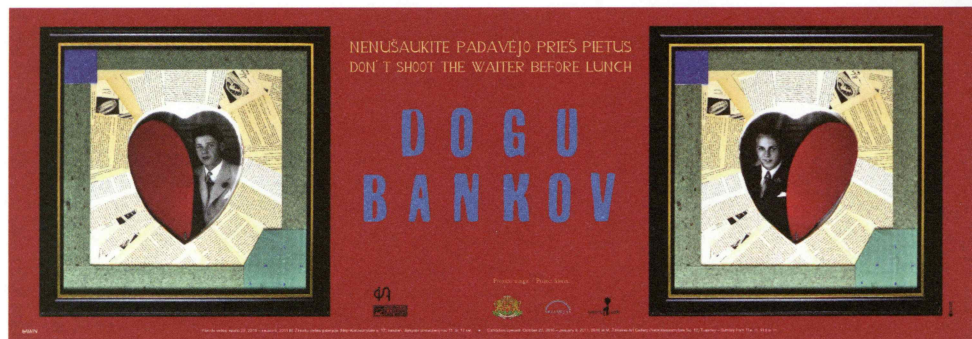
LAUNCH EVENT:
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER, 6 PM – 8 PM

In collaboration with artist Goran Ohldieck, M.K Ciurlionis National Museum of Art in Kaunas, Lithuania and Nottingham Trent University present the UK premier of *Don't Shoot the Waiter Before Lunch*.

The early years of Dogu Bankov's life are very hazy. In the few remaining manuscripts in existence that he submitted to the Bulgarian National Art Academy during his time there in the early 1900's, Bankov provides two different years of birth – 1884 and 1885. His country of birth is also a mystery. It is said that he was born in Bulgaria – or possibly Macadonia – but his family connections with Bulgaria suggest that he is more likely to be of Bulgarian origin.

EXHIBITION INVITE,
Don't Shoot the Waiter Before Lunch,
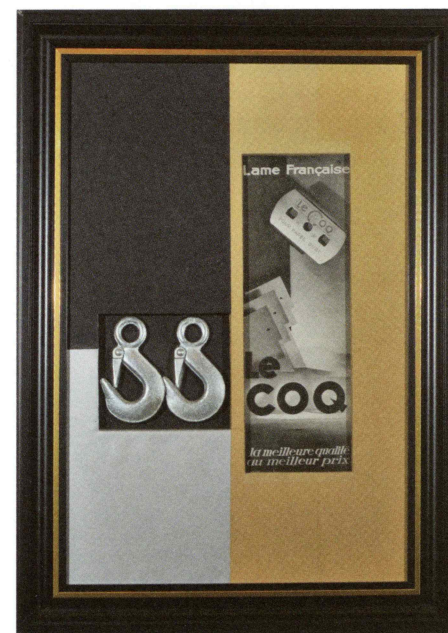designed by The National Museum, Lithuania

Hold Your Horses,
67.5 cm x 49 cm, Goldstein frame,
photo, paper, metal horses, newspaper

A Soldier's Dilemma,
81 cm x 56 cm, Goldstein frame,
photo, newspaper-cuttings, paper, fabric

L'Illustration,
63.5 cm x 46.5 cm, Goldstein frame,
advertisement (from 1932), metal hooks, paper

During the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a communist government in Bulgaria during World War II, many intellectuals and cultural workers left the harsh conditions in Bulgaria to settle in Paris.

Later a decree was sanctioned by the Minister of Culture in Bulgaria ordering those who left to be regarded as traitors. Following this sanction in 1989, the Bulgarian State Art Institutions tried to buy works by these artists – including the work of Dogu Bankov – only to be told that they had been destroyed.

Today Bankov's art creates curiosity concerning concurrent events in greater Europe; questions of individual and national identity, artistic authorship and historical certainty seem to become somewhat creatively unstable in the face of Bankov's work. Whether these are the 'real ones' remains unknown, but Bankov seems to be becoming increasingly relevant.

NACIONALINIS
M. K. ČIURLIONIO
DAILĖS MUZIEJUS

The Love Salad,
64 cm x 66 cm,
Goldstein frame,
photos, paper, fabric,
metal string

The work has two movable photographed heads.