

Project title : /Co/operation SADiS 2022 (Slovak Art Days in Split 2022)

Venue: SVEUČILIŠNA GALERIJA - UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY IN SPLIT , Ulica Ruđera Boškovića 31, 21000 Split

Exhibition opening: JULY 7 (THURSDAY) at 08:00 PM

Duration of the exhibition: JULY 7 – JULY 23, 2022

Opening hours: MONDAY to FRIDAY 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM / 05:00 PM to 08:00 PM

Organisator: o.z. KONTEXT (Klemensova 3, Bratislava - Slovakia)

Curator: Mgr. Branislav Zurko /SK/

Exhibition project manager: Helena Trze Jakelić /HR/

Project Coordinator /SK/: Mgr. Tomáš Savkanič, Mgr. art. Vladimíra Savkaničová and Mgr. art. Peter Valiska-Timečko ArtD.

Partners: Slovak Arts Council, Koniareň Gallery, Slovak organization of arts and culture, DIGGALLERY, Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica

Slovak Art Days is a project that brings the work of Slovak artists of the younger and middle generation to the galleries of European cities. Since 2012 it has exhibited in capitals such as Vienna, London, Amsterdam, Vilnius, Sofia. This year it was possible to bring this exhibition concept to Croatia. It is a country with a rich history and important cultural institutions, whose identity is an integral part of the wider European context. A unique European community stands on common civilizational foundations, but transposes into unique, distinctive expressions. The European Union as a whole is a unique socio-political project that influences the cultures of all the nations within. The cohesion and unity that overcomes all difference of opinion is an admirable phenomenon. Especially in times of increasing polarisation of society, it is the task of everyone who believes in the necessity of mutual cooperation to create the conditions for the convergence of the national cultures of Europe. This is the basic foundation on which the SADiS project stands.

The presentation of current Slovak art is only a small fragment in the European puzzle. The selection presented in the exhibition reflects the artists who have exhibited and collaborated in the last period (2021-22) with Koniareň Gallery - space for contemporary art based in Trebišov, Slovakia. The selection of authors is not and cannot be representative in terms of form, content or ideas. More than a spectacular and representative cross-section of the Slovak art scene, the project is about creating relationships within a related European space, presenting interesting artistic achievements to foreign audience and creating conditions for the development of cooperation between artists and professionals in the field of art and culture.

The artworks respond to current social issues in Slovakia and reflect historical and cultural discourse. The processing of the historical memory of the country, as well as the recording of current realities, are evident in the current selection. Individual testimony about the state of the world and culture and the subjective experience of one's own identity are also noticeable.

The exhibition presents 29 artists in the widest possible range of artistic techniques and formal, stylistic categories. The focus of the exhibition is on the medium of painting, in which the authors depict current social issues or personal and intimate problems with their own narrative value. Depicting the surrounding world from realistic and figurative positions to geometric and abstract positions (Katarína Balúnová, Dominika Brečková, Peter Dechet', Dominika Kováčiková, Adam Macko, Juliana Mrvová, Martina Rotlingová, Vladimíra Savkaničová, Natália Šimonová, Michaela Šuranská). The principles of graphic media are applied in the exhibition by several authors. The majority of the graphic-oriented artists work as teachers at the Department of Graphic Arts of the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica. It could be said that printmaking is understood as a medium that is expanded by additional overlaps into other media that offer greater freedom, spatiality and interdisciplinary overlap (Róbert Makar, Matúš Má'atko, Peter Valiska-Timečko, Martin Derner). Traditional graphic principles appear in the form of serigraphs by Igor Benca and Patrik Ševčík. Sculptural and object work is represented by (Marek Galbavý, Marek Halász, Ján Zelinka, Michal Machciník) and, last but not least, photography (Stanislav Piatrik, Martin Jombík, Ján Viazanička and Róbert Tappert).

Richard Kitta (also the co-author of this text) and Martin Kudla participate in the export exhibition (Co)operation / Slovak Art Days in Split. In their digital works there is a visible link to several artistic interdisciplinary projects, for all of them we should mention at least the activities of the DIG (Digital Intervention Group) initiative, which appear in the Slovak artistic context after 2010. Series of 2D/3D digital matrices "Split-Core!" follows the art project Camouflage (of Andy Warhol) reflecting the well-known series of the pop artist. On the one hand, it is a logical outcome of activities within the extensive project MMUAW 2.0 (Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art in Medzilaborce – with a crucial media art concept), on the other hand it is a revision of Warhol's work as a de facto multimedia artist and "strange" strategist. And this universal background of Warhol can be developed and worked with not only in the form of artistic appropriation or author's intermediate multiplication.

The ideals and values on which contemporary Europe was built are gradually being openly challenged. It is all the more important to create the conditions for mutual recognition, communication and rapprochement between national entities within the space of shared values, traditions and cultural roots that we call Europe.