

Project Title:

**Slovak Art Days in Koper**  
**SADiK 2023 - TRANSborder**

Venue: Skladišče Libertas cultural center, Kopališko nabrežje b.š., Koper, Slovenia, 6000

Exhibition Opening: July 6, 2023 (THURSDAY) at 7:00 pm

Exhibition Duration: July 6 - July 29, 2023

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Organizer: KONTEXT (Klemensová 3, Bratislava - Slovakia)

Curator: Mgr. Branislav Zurko, Mgr.art. Peter Valiska-Timečko ArtD.

Richard Kitta /SK/

Exhibiting Artists: Katarína Balúnová, Lucia Fabová, Marek Halász, Martina Chudá, Richard Kitta, Martin Kolčak, Dávid Kuriško, Michal Machciník, Eva Moflárová, Juliana Mrvová, Stanislav Piatrik, Rudolf Pier, Rastislav Podoba, Vladimíra Weiss Savkaničová, Simona Štulerová, Peter Valiska-Timečko

Project Manager: Mgr. Tomáš Savkanič

Project Coordinator: Mgr art. Vladimíra Savkaničová

Partners: Slovak Arts Council /main partner/, Municipality of Koper, Koniareň, Slovak Organization of Art and Culture, DIGGALLERY

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## **SADiK 2023 - TRANSborder**

Slovak Art Days is a project that brings the work of young and middle-generation Slovak visual artists to galleries in European cities and metropolises. The team around Koniareň Gallery - a space for contemporary art - strives to make a selection of Slovak artists from the young and middle generations accessible to the European audience of a chosen country each year. In recent years, we have increasingly aimed to create active collaborations with partners, galleries, art collectives, and academies, in addition to the presentation itself.

The Slovak Art Days project began in 2012 with the first series of exhibitions in galleries in Vienna, focusing on audiences in countries west of us (Vienna, London, Amsterdam). However, in subsequent editions, we have collaborated with countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The similar historical fate and cultural context of these countries have proven to be incredibly beneficial and inspirational for mutual cooperation and shared progress.

Slovenia is a modern European country that has undergone similar historical and cultural changes as Slovakia. It is a country with a rich history and significant cultural institutions, whose identity is an integral part of the broader European context. Slovenia and Slovakia are often mistakenly interchanged, and indeed, we share many similarities as nations. Despite these similarities and proximity, we feel a certain deficit in mutual

cooperation in the field of art and culture. Mutual understanding brings a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences that make us a unique European community based on common civilizational foundations but manifested in unique and distinct expressions. The European Union as a whole is a unique socio-political project that influences the cultures of all nations that comprise it. The cohesion and unity that transcend all differences in opinions are admirable phenomena. Especially in times of growing societal polarization, it is the task of those who believe in the necessity of mutual cooperation to create conditions for the convergence of European national cultures. This is the fundamental basis on which the SADiK project stands.

The presentation of current Slovak visual art is a small piece in the puzzle of cooperation with Slovenian culture. The collection of works presented at Skladišče Libertas in Koper is not and cannot be a representative selection of the Slovak art scene in terms of formality, content, or conceptual aspects. More than a grand and representative cross-section of the art scene, the project focuses on building relationships within the related European space, presenting interesting artistic achievements to international audiences, and creating conditions for the development of collaboration among artists and professionals in the field of art and culture.

Just like in previous editions, the selection is based on a central theme. The exhibition at Skladišče Libertas in Koper will present 16 artists from the young and middle generations in the broadest possible range of artistic techniques and formal, stylistic categories, with which the exhibition organizers have collaborated or previously collaborated with Koniareň Gallery. The focus of the exhibition is painting, which is represented by the largest number of artists and works (Lucia Fabová, Juliana Mrvová, Rudolf Pier, Rastislav Podoba, Vladimíra Weiss Savkaničová, Simona Štulerová). The works of Eva Moflárová move between object and painting. Sculpture and object installations are also well-represented (Katarína Balúnová, Marek Halász, Martina Chudá, Michal Machcinik), as well as conceptual photography (Stanislav Piatrik). The exhibition project opens with a performative performance - the creation of action graphics by Peter Valiska-Timečko and Stanislav Piatrik. The entire collection is concluded by works of media artists (Richard Kitta, Martin Kolčák, Dávid Kuriško) in a separate section, curated by Richard Kitta and DIG gallery.

Compared to previous editions, the exhibition's concept for the Slovenian audience is somewhat more flexible. This year's subtitle of the exhibition, "Transborder," suggests the crossing of boundaries in the broadest possible sense. Visual art, as the avant-garde of social movements and the litmus test of the social spirit, gives artists the opportunity to explore the theme in various forms and at different levels, from intimate lines that divide subjective experiences of individuals to societal issues that divide entire societies. The boundaries that artists seek, cross, build, demolish, redefine, and deny in their works are the boundaries within us, the inhabitants of this world. Boundaries are, above all, abstract constructs that begin in our minds and manifest in the organization of the physical world. The sooner we embrace this idea, the sooner we can perceive any dividing boundaries as a unique opportunity to build bridges.

The ideals and values on which contemporary Europe was built are increasingly being openly questioned. Therefore, it is crucial to create conditions for mutual understanding, communication, and bringing national entities closer within the space of shared values, traditions, and cultural roots we call Europe. We firmly believe that this event will contribute its share and enrich the cooperation between two neighboring nations.