



Another Time and Place

Janja Kosi
Neža Perovšek
Monika Slemc
Manuel Fabris
Romana Pehar
Dalea Kovačec



Exhibition of
Contemporary Art
from Slovenia



Vernissage: December 16th | 19:00 - 22:00

Duration: December 17th - 23th

Opening Times: Wednesday - Friday 15:00 - 19:00

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OFF THE HOOK is an annual exhibition project by DobraVaga Gallery in Ljubljana, bringing together local up-and-coming artists. Following exhibitions in Berlin and Budapest, we are presenting the third edition of the project in Vienna: *Another Time and Place*.

The exhibition is characterised by the return of the authors to the most basic perception of their environment, the awareness of the processes of remembering, and the search for those points in which perception and memory create new, virtual spaces. These offer the possibility for pausing and the idiosyncratic appropriation of a space and time that seems foreign to many.

Dalea Kovačec, Janja Kosi, Manuel Fabris, Monika Slemc, Neža Perovšek and Romana Pehar focus on their environment with a strong awareness of the fleeting nature of human perception and the fickleness of our memory, and with a pronounced ear for the peripheries that, as a rule, escape perception and reflection.

Another Time and Place exhibition moves and stays in place, gives birth to the new and directs attention to the forgotten, the unknown, that which remains on the periphery of our everyday, or which withdraws from a wealth of other impulses as something self-evident. Dalea Kovačec,

Janja Kosi, Manuel Fabris, Monika Slemc, Neža Perovšek and Romana Pehar focus on their environment with a pronounced ear for all these peripheries, and with a strong awareness of the fleeting nature of human perception and the fickleness of our memory.

In this sense, the notions of space and memory are never strictly separate – they exist codependently and create new, virtual spaces that are shaped and coloured by our perception each time. These spaces are the ones we domesticate, and by remembering, we try to get rid of the feeling of otherness that the space and time we find ourselves in often instil in us. As such, they've always been a grateful matter for artistic expression, and they remain so today. However, the circumstances in different historical periods that significantly impact perception itself and the way we process what we perceive are changing nonetheless.

The feeling of otherness, curiosity, and the fascination about the desire for memories (moving on the entire spectrum of more or less vitally important) not to be forgotten are intertwined as the impulses for the participating artists' works, even though all cases involve unsaid, undefined memories, fleeting impressions, or symbolism that is intuitively outlined through visual signs.

Through found video footage, Dalea Kovačec expands the field of our memories, which we record and store digitally, share with the world in this manner, and enjoy the (false) sense of security of our privacy and of the images with which we maintain our virtual autobiography. Manuel Fabris approaches communities in a similar way, getting to know them through images found in antiquarian books. By recontextualising such memories, he comes closer to these unfamiliar people and the implicit meanings of the gathered images, at the same time piling on new meanings, which arise from his own gaze, defined by his space and time.

Janja Kosi attempts to enter an unfamiliar environment unencumbered, orient herself through it and get to know it with a gaze directed at those details that remain hidden during purposeful movement within space. Her first instrument is a drawing, with the lengthy process of domesticating an unfamiliar space continuing through its multiphase materialisation. Romana Pehar focuses on spaces she visits often, but usually does not pay attention to due to their transitory nature. They are bus stops, airports, public means of transport that serve only as a point between start and finish. In her videos, she combines footage of her journeys with drawings and a virtual 3D object that remains the only constant on a background of fleeting images.

Space remains the central theme of the work of Monika Slemc and Neža Perovšek. The former focuses on landscapes as one of the primary painting motifs, but looks at them and at nature as such through the prism of digital manipulation and the tendency for filtering and the "beautification" of what is seen. The latter creates idiosyncratic landscapes by using cartographic elements, manipulating photographs and constructing compositions that unmistakably represent a certain place, yet the precise location remains concealed from the

viewer. Such visual encryption is the artist's retention of memories of visited places, the revival of the experienced atmosphere, without the aspiration for faithful representation.

The questions and challenges posed by the artists of the exhibition intertwine, support each other, and open up new ones, with each new expression seeming as an attempt to justify one's own perceptive processes and understanding of the perceived, in a world that is foreign to us in many views. A pause at the most basic parameters of our existence, at the mental spaces that reside somewhere between the physical world and our most remote memories, is a way of enabling that same world to become more familiar, or life in it at least a little more manageable.

Ajda Ana Kocutar

ARTISTS CVs

Janja Kosi (1994) is finishing her M.A. studies in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. She has spent part of her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (HGB). She has participated in several group exhibitions, including at the Simulaker Gallery in Novo Mesto, at DobraVaga and Equrna in Ljubljana, and at G2 in Leipzig. In 2019, she held a solo exhibition at the DLUL Gallery in Ljubljana.

Neža Perovšek (1996) graduated in 2019 in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, where she is now enrolled in an M.A. programme. In addition to painting, she works with graphic prints and occasionally photography as well. She draws inspiration from the environment, both natural and urban, often referring to maps and various elements of cartography in her work.

Monika Slemc (1994) is currently finishing her M.A. studies in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. So far, she has held solo exhibitions at the Meduza Gallery in Koper and at DobraVaga in Ljubljana, as well as participated in numerous group exhibitions (Museum of Contemporary Art, City Gallery Ljubljana, Equrna, Škuc, Alkatraz, DLUL Gallery, National Museum, Layer House). She lives and works in Grosuplje.

Manuel Fabris (1995) finished the School of Applied Arts and Design in Pula, then later graduated in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, where he is currently enrolled in an M.A. programme. In his work, he focuses on the technique and method of depiction. The lines between sketch and finished piece are not clearly defined. He often recycles older pieces, notes, which he adds to the next wave of images. In this way, he retains the originality, and the old paintings become current again, as well as enriched.

Romana Pehar (1992) is currently finishing her M.A. studies in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. She graduated in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cetinje,

Montenegro. She has also studied at Humboldt State University in the USA and at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. She has held solo exhibitions in Montenegro and Slovenia and participated in many group shows. She is active in painting, drawing and digital media. In her work, she explores spatial paradigms and the possibilities for the visual redefinition of the environment.

Dalea Kovačec (1993) is finishing her M.A. studies in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. She has also attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. She is a visual artist who operates in various media. She is currently focusing on the topic of memory and how or why autobiographical memories change. In Ljubljana, she has held solo exhibitions at GalerijaGallery, Kino Šiška and DobraVaga. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad (Poland, Belgium, Germany, Austria).

Ajda Ana Kocutar (1994) graduated in Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. In 2018, she concluded her two-year study programme at the School for Curatorial Practices and Critical Writing World of Art SCCA-Ljubljana with the exhibition *A Few Minutes Later.* at the ŠKUC Gallery. In recent years, she has been working as an external associate for the Museums and Galleries of Ljubljana, and has also been a part of the DobraVaga Gallery collective since 2017, preparing and moderating the *Z Umetniki Osebno* artist talks and working as a curator.

Curated by Ajda Ana Kocutar | Organised by Improper Walls, Kino Šiška, DobraVaga, Slovenian Culture and Information Centre SKICA

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