

NEW EDGE / SPRING 2015

#03

NEW EDGE



PROMISING / VISION / FASHION / ALTERNATIVE / CULTURE



03 / NEW EDGE / SPRING 2015

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NEW EDGE

NEW EDGE



SPRING.

As the Spring is blooming and expanding, we started to connect to each other in new ways, which means also through social media. Since New Edge Magazine joined Facebook, our new issue has changed as a result, utilising new possibilities this medium offers us: we are now open to collaborate with new people that will contact us and connect with us on this social network. We are really focused on that and we will continue to work in this new direction.

You can find us, connect with us and like us on:

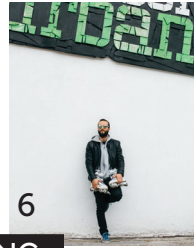
<https://www.facebook.com/newedgemagazine>

Welcome to the third issue of New Edge magazine. This is a free magazine that promotes, and draws attention to, all the good things in our environment.

Thank you for staying with us.

—Anja Korošec

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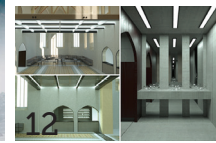
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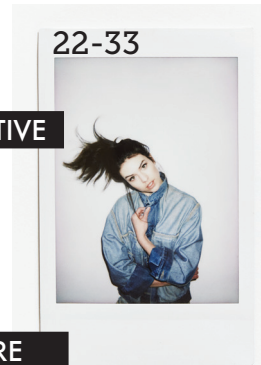
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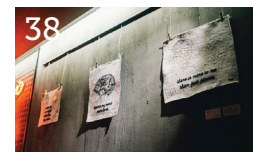
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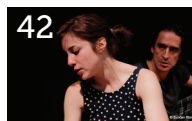
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PROMISING

ROLLERBLADING

HRVOJE ĆURIĆ



Text: Anja Korošec; Photos: Rok Tržan; Location: Urban Roof

How did you get involved with rollerblading?

I started rollerblading with ordinary rollerblades, and that looked very embarrassing at the beginning, because I was learning at home, where I crashed into the fridge, like I was the worst rollerblader. Then, when I already learned some basics, I started to work on tricks with ordinary blades and I started jumping over the fences. Soon after I got the skates, they have just built a new skate park in Celje, so I was able to test there all my new tricks. At first, I just wanted to skate, but when I was skating, I soon began looking for new and different challenges, like jumping over the stairs, jumping on the edges, I didn't want to ride just straight. So I also started to get to know the rollerblading culture through friends, and we were lending each other videotapes, which I was watching 3 times a day and from then on I am still rollerblading to this day.

What types of rollerblading do we know?

There are several different names for different types of rollerskating and rollerblading, the most widespread is the Freestyle rollerblading, and this is the one I am doing myself. Then we know In-line Hockey skating, aggressive in-line skating, acrobatic skating and some more. The difference between rollerskating and rollerblading is that the skating is on roller skates, and blading is on rollerblades, where all the wheels are in one line. The term aggressive in-line skating describes skating with turns, jumps, flips and a lot of adrenaline. For myself, I say I am simply a roller-blader and I do not want to be defined by category names, given to us by others.

How did you move from skating as a hobby to serious sport competitions?

In the early stages my parents were driving me to the competitions, although with a heavy heart – but they understood this as encouragement and they supported me. Then I took a two year pause from competitive rollerblading, since I lost contact with other rollerbladers. But all that changed when I met people from skating club Urban Roof and so I started to competitively rollerblade again, and now I also work there. I also took part in various local Slovenian rollerblading competitions where I have always ranked among the top three. My major achievement was classification into semi-finals in the Netherlands, where I competed with 300 best rollerbladers in the world.

You also teach others?

I run courses of acrobatic rollerblading, where I train kids, I show them the basics and I direct them, teach them how to fall ... I train them in a skating club called "Urban Roof" in Ljubljana. We are working hard to promote this sport and try to attract as many people as possible, to socialize with us, to have fun, and to be creative, and we also take care of our body in the process. Socializing is particularly important, since

it gives you psychological strength to persevere, which is necessary in this sport: namely, when you imagine some trick, you have to work very hard to achieve it and work it through. It should be like that with all the things. And this is most easily with the help of entertainment. I myself, when I teach, don't want to be too strict, but it is still necessary to have some authority. We provide a safe environment where children learn some basics of this sport, they are encouraged to come to us on their own, not only on the training session, but also to feel a desire for rollerblading on their own, spontaneously. It's important that they don't see this as an obligation, and that they can also watch us grownups how we are doing this sport, which can serve as additional motivation for them. I think we are slowly progressing and this sport is developing and maybe it is for the best to be done this way: to slowly build good foundations for this sport, for it to be more respected.

What differentiates you from others?

I have a long mileage and I'm trying to develop my own style, so that my tricks really look smooth. People say that I look like a "ballerina", which means that I have soft ride, and my movement looks like a sophisticated trick. Which requires a lot of effort and repetition. I'm a bit of a perfectionist, so when I start something, it must be done perfectly, but I also take that as a drive that motivates me, of course within some healthy boundaries.

Where do you see yourself in the future?

Definitely on rollerblades, but also in chemistry. I have studied chemistry and it is my second passion and I would like to build some product in that field, but rollerblading will always come first.

What is your motto?

That's simple: Do what you like, like what you do!



PROMISING

VIDEO ARTIST

VALÉRIE

WOLF GANG

<http://valeriewolfgang.com/>
<http://portfolio-valeriewolfgang.com/>



FREEDOM 2.0
experimental video poetry, Singapore

What are you currently working on?

I am currently in Portugal, I came here within the framework of student exchange at a Masters program at the School of Arts at University of Nova Gorica, where I'm working on a project called "Artist abroad". I explore how environment and change of environment impacts and influences artistic creation. Like when you go for a while somewhere else, in some artistic residence. I am also doing a video collection of poems, which will be presented on 14th of April in the Portuguese Center of the Arts. From 2012 on, I am self-employed in the cultural field as a video artist, and I want to continue in this direction. In December I am having a solo exhibition in the Center of Contemporary Art in Montenegro and in October I go for one month to the artistic residence in Vienna.

When did your love for video begin?

When I was a little girl, my father had a camera and filmed all the family matters, so I played with this camera too, because I thought it was

very fascinating what things you can record on it, although my father was a little mad at me since I didn't want to record the family affairs but went outside and filmed our neighbor's dog, so than he was kidding me why I record dog's buttocks. However, I found it very fascinating how film went from camera to tape and later on the screen. So we later also got a smaller camera that I had always with me in school and with which I filmed some funny sketches and various presentations for our prom. Since then I've always been interested in video and photography, and I decided to continue with that and I went to High School for Design. After high school I went to School of Arts at University of Nova Gorica, majoring in digital arts and practice, where I studied video and specialised on video films. In the third year I went on student exchange to Prague at the film academy FAMU, majoring in directing, where I also finished the studies. I continued to the second stage, because I became interested in experimental

film, video installations and in new modern developments in that area. So now I am in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal.

Projects?

I want to point out my video installation "Freedom 2.0", that I made in artistic residency in Singapore. This was the first artistic residence, where I was far away from Slovenia. The purpose of the trip was to create a project, so in these 3 weeks I was looking for different things that inspired me and I realized that this is a kind of a country where otherwise everything looks nice and clean, but behind this, there is a lot of restrictions and prohibitions, so it is prohibited to walk in certain areas and throw a bubble gum on the floor, etc. It inspired me that I filmed a video about finding personal freedom or about how much we actually really are free, because we are so limited with various opening hours and so on. It was an exhibition in a gallery on Institute for Contemporary Art in Singapore.

Then I had solo exhibition in the gallery "Inkubator" in Zagreb, which received a good response from the public. For the first time, I have combined different worlds, where I put on display videos that I filmed in Paris. The name of exhibition was: "Looking out through the window" and was set up in such a way that videos were projected on gallery walls and frames were put around the projected images, so that it appeared as if one were looking out through a window – it seemed as if, while you are in the center of Zagreb, you are looking out through the window and see Paris. Here I have combined different worlds.

I also exhibited in Serbia, Austria, Singapore, Luxembourg, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, USA, Portugal, Montenegro, etc. And I have received several awards, including recently in Thailand the "Top Pick Jury Award" for the video "A Message to Humanity", and many similar awards and nominations such as: Artward Award, Award of the Academy of Arts Rijeka, DigitalBigScreen, IRF Film Fest, Stuttgart Filmwinter, ESSL Art Award, Festival of Independent film, etc.

Where do you see yourself in the future?

Somehow, I want to settle down, but I always make plans in such a way that I continue traveling around. Whenever I think I'll find a steady or permanent job, it happens that I get some half-yearly arrangement abroad. So that I don't know where I am going to end up. I have a desire to go to Asia. I leave myself open possibilities. And I will always have a camera in hand.

How do you compare Slovenian environment with foreign ones?

In Slovenia, the title of "video artist" is unfortunately not established as it is in the rest of the world. We have only the title of "video maker" ("videast") and this produces an unsettling feeling, because you, as well as others, don't know if you are a director or a painter. Video in general is not as commercially popular in our country as it is abroad, and so such video events that are always advertised abroad, are not even mentioned here.

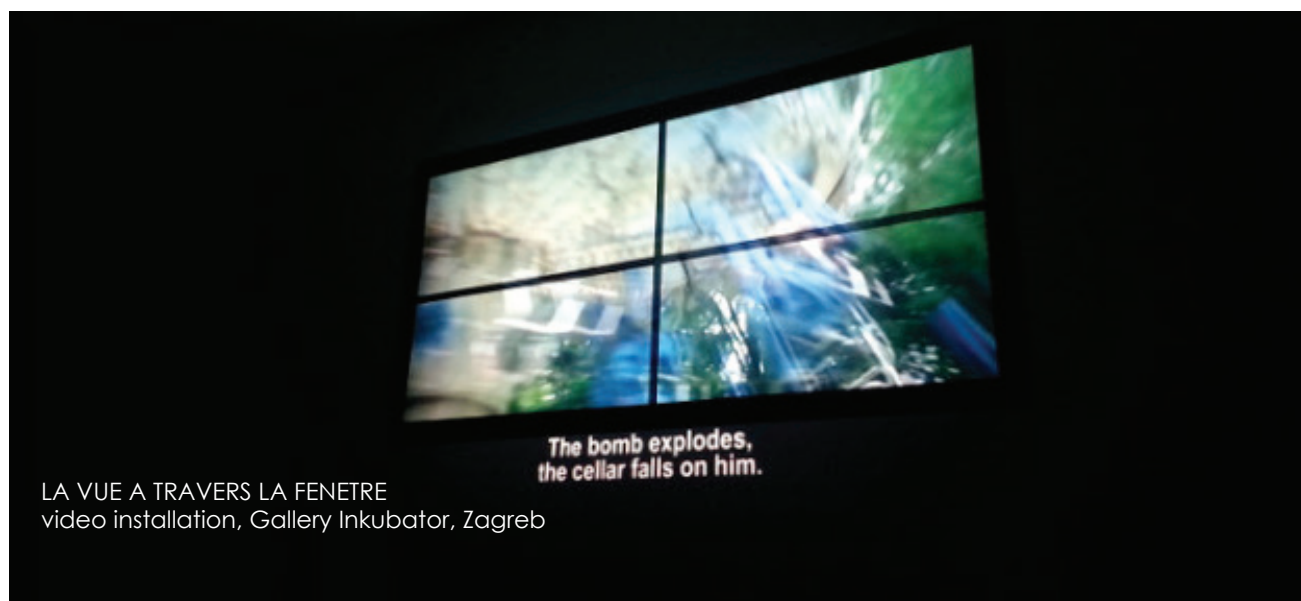
What differentiates you from others?

I am still developing my artistic expression and in my videos I am trying to stay "RAW". When I am editing my videos, I try to use an image that looks genuine, with true colors, so that you can feel things as if they were before. I also use clean sounds, without any gadgets, and I add music at the end of editing and don't do my work on the basis of, or influence from, the music that video includes. I'm trying to edit my videos visually and with feeling. I like to combine different worlds, touch the political themes and topical issues and I want to offer a veiled challenge to established views. I am fascinated by the contrast between nature and the city, between civilization and authenticity that is in all of us. Although it is already lost to a large degree, because we are all enclosed in our concrete box.

What is your motto?

You can do everything, if you want to.

People forget the second part of this motto, because if you decide that you want to do something, you will do it. This is the only thing that will drive you on. ■



LA VUE A TRAVERS LA FENETRE
video installation, Gallery Inkubator, Zagreb

PHOTOGRAPHY

Jan Pirnat has shared with us his story, about how he was, at two months of age, diagnosed with severe genetic disease: cystic fibrosis. In Slovenia, there are about three to four children annually born with this disease. Doctors at first announced to him and his parents that he will not live to see adulthood, but that didn't stop him and with incredible will and through his love of photography he managed to defeat his illness, and is now living his life in a full way. Jan Pirnat is definitely a person who can be a motivation and inspiration to all of us!



JAN PIRNAT

<http://janpirnat.com/>



Text: Anja Korošec; Photos: personal archive



When did you get involved with photography?

It all started when my brother got a camera, I used to play with it, because it was interesting to me, and I photographed flowers and because I'm from the village, I photographed a variety of natural motives. Later I accidentally lost his camera on vacations, and so, since I had to buy him a new one, but he didn't need it anymore, I decided that I can buy it for myself and so it all began. At the end of elementary school, I decided to go to photography class at design high school, where I regularly photographed, then after that tragical half a year at the hospital, I started to photograph even more seriously. I photographed motifs around me, and since I live in a natural environment, that means primarily natural and environment motifs. I quickly started to also photograph sports, because me and my brother were riding the bike, and other motifs around me. I also photograph portraits of people, weddings, fashion events and different things that help me to search for my inner expression and develop my photographing style.

What are the projects you are working on?

I recently photographed a professional skater Timotej Lampe Ignjič, whom I met in a skating club "Urban Roof", where we arranged our further collaboration, and later it happened that even "Burn", energy-drink manufacturer that represents him, published my photography of him on Burn's website. (see picture above)

How did your disease changed your life?

I found out about my diagnosis when I was 2 months old, so I don't even remember that. I remember that I have always had to eat pills and inhale, and to do something else than my brothers and colleagues, and over the years I realized what this is all

about. Photography has helped me as a solution and it is a big part of my life. I also do sports and I always keep myself busy. Photography has taken larger part in my life than any other activity, as for me, it represents such an activity in which you can concentrate and it occupies all your energy. With it, you can distance yourself from other things and you can forget about your worries. It motivates me to do new things, because it occupies all my time and you can always explore new things and learn something more.

What are your plans for the future?

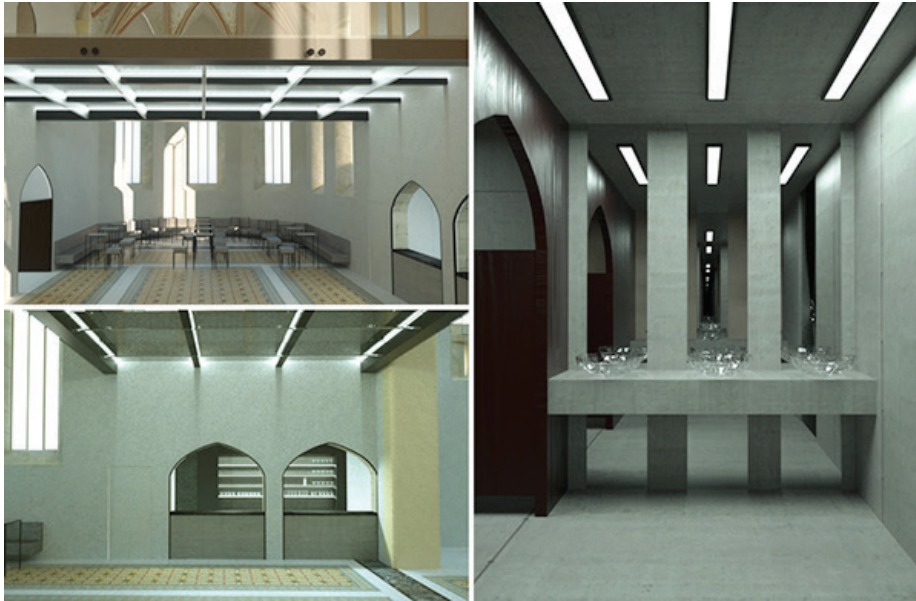
I have plans for the next year to try some workshop abroad. I want to go wherever they will want me there. I love warm places, although cold places tend to be fine as well. I would also like to photograph surfers, or other motifs in the water because I like to be close to the sea, although it is also really nice in the mountains. I would like to live from photography, I am able to earn money with it, but I still have to get the right people to take notice of me. I would like to pay even more serious attention to photography, and then we'll see what happens. I am most looking forward to shooting extreme sports, landscapes and people in general.

What differentiates you from others?

I try to keep my own style, I want to build on myself and my own work. In every photography I am trying to catch that special moment, its energy, that which represents something more, spontaneity of the moment.

What is your motto?

My tattoo says: "Être et Durer", which means: "To Be and to Last", which means that you should be doing things in the long run, trying not to harm yourself and that you're doing things your way on a solid foundation. ■



EHO.

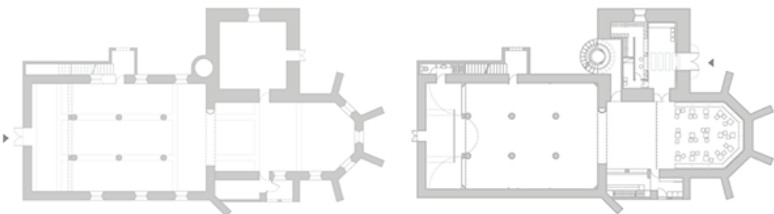
CENTER FOR URBAN CULTURE placed in the Gothic church.

St. Rupert's church is one of the most beautiful Slovenian architectural buildings. The challenge for the architect was to design a space that keeps the powerful energy, unique atmosphere and acoustic of the original structure, and adds new possibilities to the space so it will attract bigger, more diverse audiences.

The church now becomes a multifunctional space that can host variety of events like concerts, fashion shows, exhibitions, performances... and can also be transformed into a night club.

The goal was to preserve as much of the original space and its beauty as possible, all new elements are integrated with minimal interference into the old shell. Everything new is made of modern materials like glass and dark steel, so that it is perfectly clear, what was there before and what is added to the space with the refurbishment. Functional scheme of the building is reversed: the main entrance is now through the bell tower, so visitors can enter through the most visible and most beautiful façade, allowing all three floors of the tower that were private before, to be accessible to the public. Receiving space leads into the transitional space with a bar and sitting area, that transitions to the hall. The uniqueness of the main area are two stages, bigger main stage on the ground floor and smaller stage, made out of glass, that floats over the audience from the first floor. There is also a glass gallery/loggia placed between the walls of the presbytery, that is accessible from VIP room on the first floor of the bell tower. All that allows events to happen in two levels and gives the Center many different possibilities. ■

VISION



OVERWHELMED

ORGANISATION, DIRECTION & STYLING **Anže Ermenc**
PHOTOGRAPHY **Ruby Reya**
MAKE UP **Gox Miljic**
MODEL **Tadeja Ogrizek** @ Model Group





EARRINGS Olgafacesrok
TOP Karmen Koren
SHIRT Špela Nebec, Activator



HEADPIECE Olgafacesrok
COAT Sabina Špilak
TOP Valentina Barbarič, Activator
TROUSERS Vasja Brilj



EARRINGS Olgafacesrok
JUMPER Karmen Koren
SKIRT Valentina Barbarič, Activator

RAINCOAT www.MixerGarden.com
SHIRT Vasja Brilj
TROUSERS Vasja Brilj



DRESS Tjaša Zalar
BACKPACK Teja Jeglič Design





JUMPER Estera Lovrec
TROUSERS Teja Jeglič Design





BROOKLYN

PHOTO Jaka Vinšek
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Anja Korošec
STYLING Anja Korošec
MODEL Lea Mihevc @ RED model managemnet NYC
LOCATION AND SPECIAL THANKS Jaka Vinšek



TOP Joe Fresh
SHORTS American Apparel









BODY American Apparel
PANTS Joe Fresh





603

TOP Joe Fresh
PANTS Joe Fresh





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Photos: Anze Ermenc

Toni Mlakar

ANIMATION VISOŠKA KRONIKA Version 1.0

"Visoška Kronika Version 1.0" got its name from the fact that it is a first version of this project that I hope will get expanded into a longer second version or even an animated feature film. This is just the beginning, so animation Version 1.0 takes only 5 minutes, in which it presents a summary of the story. I am taking this project as a challenge, because I am doing all the animation work by myself and I'm interested in how it will turn out and I will learn a lot in the process. I am doing animation work from elementary school on and this work gives me great pleasure. This is an animation on which I work by myself so the work is quite time consuming, in the future I wish I would be able to have more illustrators on the team, so the work will be distributed among them.

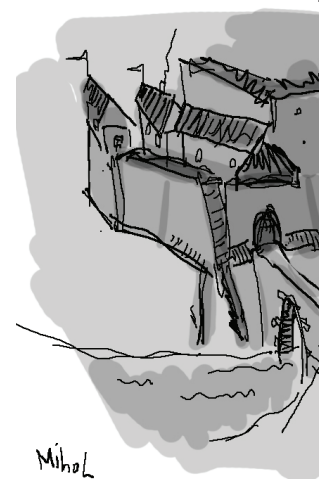
I started the project in such a way that I suggested the idea myself. I wanted to animate Škofja Loka fairy tales. Since there are many stories about Škofja Loka, it appeared to me that it would be nice, if each of them would have, they don't have its own visual representation, an animated cartoon. At the local castle's museum they heard about my idea and they seemed to like it. They said to me that they can pay me through their institution to do one animation or animated short film. I thought I would animate some short story, but Jana Fojkar, who is working on Loka Castle, proposed to me to do Visoška Kronika, because the school and nursery children who listen to fairy-tales in the castle, find this story the least memorable. Castle Museum director Jana Mlakar was excited about the idea and so I decided to do this animation, but not in a most basic way, where one image follows another, but a little better, advanced animation of the story. And this is also the reason why this work is taking so much time. The hardest part at the beginning of my work was to produce the scenario and visual representations of the story and its main characters from scratch. Later, when you have all the characters done and you just animate them, things moved much faster. I drew directly on the computer, from first sketch to the end. Each character needs a lot of images just to define how his mouth or eyes are moving.

The animation will be done and presented as integral part of Škofja Loka Castle Museum, for the children who come to the castle, to listen there to fairy tales and historical stories. First they will watch this cartoon animation of the story and will be later able to recognize elements from the story, when they will see them in the museum as exponents, for example a box and a room from the story: they will remember the scene from cartoon animation: "Wow, this was where they cut his finger off!" With this animation I want to bring this story closer to children, so that they could understand it better.

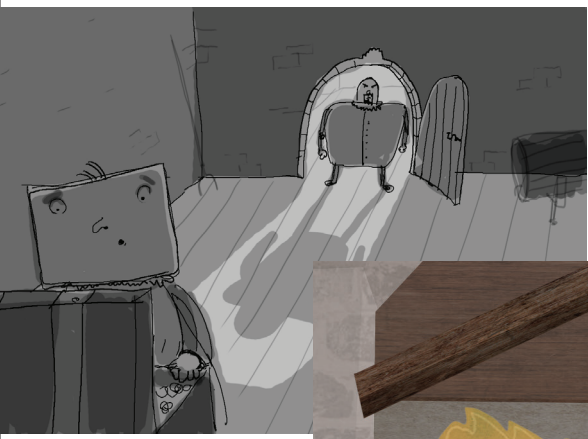
I want to send this animation to an RTV call for applications and apply to get a funding, with which I could get more illustrators on the project team and we could make an animated movie or feature film together. If there were more of us, we could work faster. I would be animating, and other illustrators would take care of the characters and background. Even characters could be better developed through animation with such a team. Version 1.0 is a brief summary of the whole book, abridged story in 5 minutes. Later, I predict it would take us three years of work with computers to make an animated movie, because the work on computers is much faster than in the past and mistakes can be quickly reversed. I love working on such projects and I like to have the freedom at my work. ■



Text: Anja Korošec, Illustrations: Toni Mlakar



ALTERNATIVE





MUSIC

ASTRID KLJUN

I'm working on a project called ARTDICTION, which means an "addiction to art". It is a nickname for my performance and it all started when I was part of an art event, which was an exhibition of paintings, where I sang and played the harp and worked with different people. This gave me the desire to connect more art forms into a single, unified art event myself. I developed this idea further and it has expanded into an obsession with art and violence: I proposed that we could solve our problems with art. We could realise this idea in such a way that we would take some horrifying event and take it to the streets and present it with the help of choreography to the people. Later I decided to produce videos that would be played and would be connected with other arts in some live series of events as part of my singing and a manifesto, which would tell the world that there are many problems around us, where something has to be changed, although this is not an easy thing to do. I would like to communicate the message about what is happening around us, for people to at least become aware of the cruelty around us. I would use modern choreography and at the beginning of the video I would clearly present where, when and how some horrible rape or tragedy happened, which would be followed by an inscription: THIS IS NOT OK. Art is a medium of communication that can declare and reveal that something that is going on around us is not OK and it can also influence us to solve it. Project is still in its infancy, so I will take the time to develop it to the state that it will be convincing to the public, as it should be.

WHAT'S UP ?

ART

BAD DAYS

We visited the exhibition of Anže Ermenc, titled "BAD DAYS", a part of series of exhibitions under the title "Introduce yourself ...", in which one member of the artistic group DOUM exhibits each month and is introduced to the public. Anže Ermenc is a creative person, lost between the present and dreams of the future. He's mostly preoccupied with with creative fields related to graphics and fashion. BAD DAYS is the title of his textile illustrations. This is a series of research motivated illustrations on textile that productively copes with and illustrates our wasted hours and lazy days. These cannot be avoided, as they are part of everyday life of every one of us, they can not be avoided. But why won't we look at them from a different angle?

He says as part of an illustration: "There is more to me than just pizza." - Anže Ermenc



NOGGIN



3D STOP MOTION NOGGIN



Noggin is a new creative endeavor for students Joanna Buttercase and Bhakti Mistry from Leeds College of Art. Being a filmmaker and art director respectively they have paired up on an ambitious project, where every single prop, set and character will be entirely hand made. The story is built on the interest both Joanna and Bhakti have in the modern idea of the left and right brain. Imagined as two characters in themselves, Esther and Beni embody the "left brain", in charge of logic and order, and the "right brain", controlling creativity and emotion. Existing in a higgledy-piggledy collage of a house, they work harmoniously to maintain a balance of productivity and creativity; of work and play. This balance though is soon interrupted by the inescapable arrival of modern technology, and Esther and Beni have to try and regain their balance, after everything they know is shaken up. The film is a light-hearted look at a very real modern problem, a humorous twist on an everyday occurrence and the modern battle of technology against "real life"; as imagined from inside our heads! If you've ever thought you spend too much time on your phone, ever felt like technology is taking over, or ever simply felt like phones/laptops/tablets are "just everywhere!", then Noggin will have something for you.



Photos: Jan Pirnat Photography



ART DOUM

Association of young designers and artists

Association of Young Designers and Artists was established in December 2013 with the aim of connecting and promoting creativity of young designers and artists, and at the same time to advance and popularize design and art in general. The guiding principle of the society is to organize the support for and artistic integration of young designers and artists, our association aims at development and advancement of the profession of design and art in Slovenia and also at the European level, the education of its members, and organizing various projects for the promotion of members. To this end, we organize exhibitions, workshops, lectures, courses, and we support creativity and interconnection between our members and cooperation with other associations and organizations in Slovenia and abroad. During more than one year of existence, the Society organized a number of exhibitions, events, workshops, round tables and gatherings at which young promising designers and artists could learn and connect to each other.

Our door is open to all who are older than 18 years and want to become active members of our Association. Our community has brought together many members. Members come from different areas of design, so you can share your knowledge between yourselves and help each other, which of course only helps to improve the functioning of our association and individuals within it. The Society operates as a community in which we help each other, share our experiences and socialize and support each other. This is our primary mission and identity.

In the exhibitions themselves, we want to maximize the present members of our society and our society as a whole. We strive that our events and exhibitions are carried out professionally. We take care that each exhibition individually receives a good promotion, in the form of posters, posts on social networks, on the website and blog of the club and by informing the media. Exhibitors are advised prior to the exhibition and are referred to the best and most convenient supplier, for the manufacturing of their exhibit materials. We also help and advise them regarding the selection, the concept and layout of the exhibition. During the show, we take care of photo documentation, which is reused on social networks, on our website and blog. In January, we officially started with the implementation of the project "Introduce yourself ...". The project was initiated because

of the desire to present to the public aspiring graphic designers, illustrators, photographers and other artists. This is a cycle of exhibitions of members of our artistic society. Each end of the month you can see the work of another designer, artist, photographer or illustrator. The cycle of exhibitions is taking place in Ljubljana's acclaimed and popular gathering place for young people, that is in the "Central station" at Trubarjeva street 23rd.

In addition to the cycle of exhibitions "Introduce yourself ...", the association will in the coming months prepare some interesting activities such as workshops, a product exhibition and "Schunder" talk to its members and also for all those who are lovers of design and art. In the future we strive to work to expand our program across Slovenian borders and to connect our designers with foreign young designers. We want to cooperate with various organizations within our area or from other areas. Most of all, we do not want to limit ourselves, because as a young society, we know that much is yet to be achieved.

Association of Young Designers and Artists (DOUM) currently implements the project "Introduce yourself ...".

This is a series of one-week exhibitions from January to June, at which at the end of each month, a new young designer or designer exhibits at the "Central Station" in Ljubljana.

DOUM presents:

Pirnati Jan 28. 1. - 4. 2. 2015

Nika Curk: 25. 2. - 4. 3. 2015

Anže Ermenc: 26. 3. - 2. 4. 2015

Pirate beeps: 22. 4. - 29. 4. 2015

Iva Trstenjak: 27. 5. - 3. 6. 2015

Quotelife: 24. 6. - 1. 7. 2015

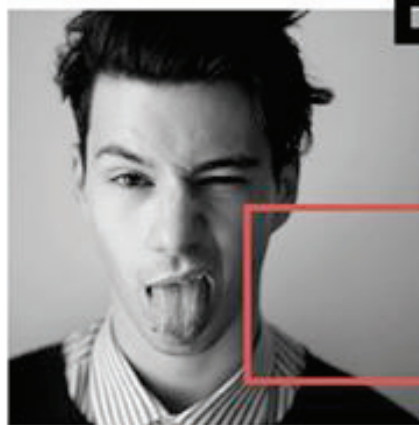
The exhibition is devoted to the presentation of designers in real space and time. At the opening of the exhibition each visitor has the opportunity to meet the designer in person, to speak with her or him a few words, and enjoy the "peculiarities" of the evening. Each of the designers is namely presented not only by his exhibits, but also with catering, which he or she prepares himself or herself and is peculiar to his or her tastes. As a souvenir, DOUM also gives each visitor a bottle with a photograph of the designer or artist and with his quote. ■

P



JAN PIRNAT 28.1. - 4. 2. 2015

R



ANŽE ERMENC 26. 3. - 2. 4. 2015

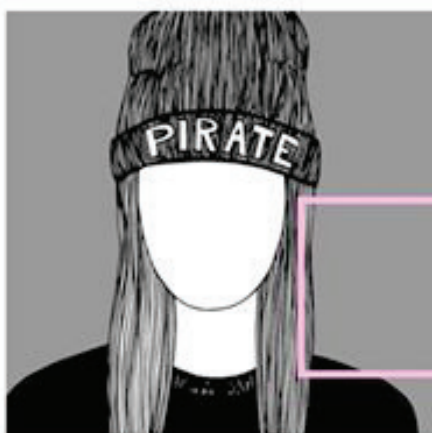
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NIKA CURK 25. 2. - 4. 3. 2015

S



PIRATE PIŠKA 22. 4. - 29. 4. 2015

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A



BAJKAFRAMES 27. 5. - 3.6. 2015

V



QUOTELIFE 24. 6. - 1. 7. 2015

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"PREDSTAVI SE..." je cikel enotedenskih razstav, ki jih organizira DOUM v prostorih Centralne postaje.

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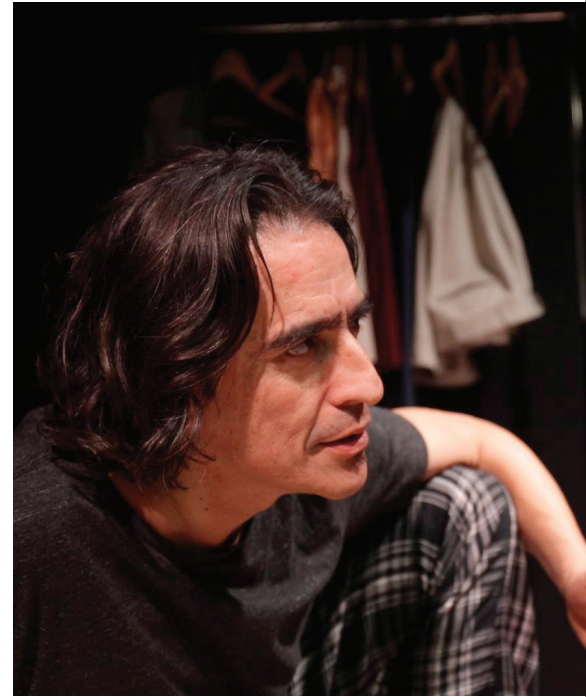
TEATER

POCKET TEATER STUDIO

In the heart of Slovenia's capital city Ljubljana, behind a black painted door, there's an independent theater, waiting to be discovered. It may be small in size, but its capacity is hardly noticeable when it comes to life. And it's also significant, for it to be so small. There is a whole concept behind Pocket and its size, reasons that are economical, biographical and theoretical. The latter is the most important one, as Carlos Pascual, its founder, explains. It's important for them to be small in order to keep up the connection between the audience and them – them being him and Pia Prezelj, the working force behind the studio. The closeness brings a sort of intimacy to the play, a feeling of intrusion as you watch, and that, as they say, is the key. "From my perspective, when I'm seeing you as an audience and there are just twenty people, I see your expressions and I know that you took your time to come here and just sit with us in our living room, which makes me more conscious of what I'm doing on stage. The quality of the performance expands exponentially and that, in turn, brings more people to see it," says Pia.

It's just the two of them, working side by side and what bridges up the age difference and communicational barrier, as Pascual is originally from Mexico, is their joint love for the craft. People do jump in, they say, to help with the technical stuff, the lights, the sounds, the organization. But they would love to collaborate with other people as well, host plays that don't necessarily involve them or the English language in which their plays are carried out. In fact, if someone were to knock on their door and ask if they can have a play they've written, performed in Pocket, they'd be thrilled.

And even though the word is hard to get out, the audience at times hard to approach with an invitation to the play, they're not giving up. As Pascual says about all performers: "We're survivors and we'll always find a way to get by." After all, they're doing what they love the most and that with a goal: to bring theater back to the people. ■



Text: Maja Podojsteršek, Photos: Sunčan Stone, in the photos are Pia and Pascual during rehearsals.



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INVITATION



Illustration: Lara Kobe Priganica

