

Prisotnosti *Presences*

Metka Krašovec and artists – former students of the
Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana

20 April – 30 June 2018

KIBLA PORTAL Valvasorjeva 40, Maribor, Slovenia



METKA KRAŠOVEC, PRISOTNOSTI / PRESENCES VII, 1988
acrylic on canvas, 145 x 180 cm, (RIKO collection, photo archive: Moderna galerija)

PRESENCES

Metka Krašovec and artists – former students of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana

Art is life.

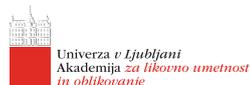
Being here, being now. Ontologically being-there.

Presence cannot be avoided.

Academy-trained painter Metka Krašovec, one of the most prolific and highly esteemed Slovene artists, received the 2017 Prešeren Award for lifetime achievement, for her outstanding and recognizable painting opus. In 1977 she was elected Assistant Professor for Painting and Drawing at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. As Associate Professor and later Full Professor at the same Academy, she continued to inspire generations of students until her retirement in 2008. More than guiding her students as a devoted lecturer and mentor, she used the medium of painting to explore the mystery of life's truths and values.

It is the livingness of art that guarantees an artist's actual life. Metka Krašovec has lived by this maxim her entire life. Her painterly presence, her typical and recognizable color palette, and the sheer volume and diversity of her oeuvre, continue to serve as a compelling source of inspiration to future painters. The present exhibition is a unique opportunity to observe an artistic "confrontation" between this dedicated professor and her former students, now acclaimed artists.

The exhibiton will be showing until 30 June 2018.



Join us for a discussion with artists – former students of Metka Krašovec – and current-generation students, organized in collaboration with the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, University of Ljubljana, on Friday, 1 June 2018, at 6 p. m.

Karmen Bajec
Viktor Bernik
Saša Bezjak
Gigo de Brea
Andrej Brumen Čop
Mitja Ficko
Dušan Fišer
Marija Flegar
Milan Golob
Marko Jakše
Anja Jerčič Jakob
Barbara Jurkovšek
Jurij Kalan
Maja Kastelic
Aleksij Kobal
Robert Lozar
Izar Lunaček
Boštjan Mesarec
Mojca Oblak
Rok Predin
Arjan Pregl
Irena Romih
Zvonka T Simčič
Matic Sonnenwald
Natalija Šeruga Golob
Katarina Toman Kracina
Petra Varl
Sebastijan Vojvoda
Marij Vrenko
Mojca Zlokarnik
Živa Žitnik

The group exhibition PRESENCES (named after the now famous painting series by Metka Krašovec from the beginning of the nineties) examines a kind of an internalized relationship, a group dynamics, emanating from intriguing, highly specific and quite individualistic communication gaps that are being bridged through a mutual collaboration between the mentor and her students. It is not about pedagogy, however; it plays no role in the conceptual dimension of this group art show, which is indeed shaped in part by the selection of one dedicated teacher, Professor Metka Krašovec, yet, on the other hand it is subtly connected to the curatorial concept, which places the exhibition *Presences: Metka Krašovec and selected artists*, at the very top of the visual art scene in Slovenia. Rather, it seems to be a matter of Socratic maieutics: the birth and emergence of a psychological interior, following and responding to natural impulses and – which is essential – the search for one's proper visual self (and one's visual expression) without the need for an anti-transmission of a subjective discourse, which tends to happen all too often within a pedagogic setting or practice.

Presences, therefore, is an exhibition that allows for a direct insight into a thirty-year long mentorship, the result of which is certainly evident to this day, but at the same time it is about the presence and actualization of the sanctity of "pure" art, which is beyond the subversive thirty-year mission, one that Metka Krašovec embarked upon to circle around the realm of painting, drawing, graphics and also literature; in other words, to unravel the knot of onomatopoeia, also known as – life.

— Nina Jeza, Artists and Poor's

"I am known as a notorious perfectionist, a force to be reckoned with. Complete focus, complete commitment, and at the same time a sense of complete ease, so that the flow can begin, before conscious will breaks everything down. It is my ambition – unfortunately I am not sure whether it was ever realized – to bring a painting to the point of making it resound. To make its silence resound. To achieve a state of inner silence, our innermost sound, just by looking at the painting. If I were to achieve this, it would mean getting close to perfection."
(Metka Krašovec)

Prisotnosti / Presences

Metka Krašovec and artists – a group exhibition

20 April – 30 June 2018

KIBLA PORTAL, Valvasorjeva 40, Maribor, Slovenia

Curators

Arne Brejc (Equrna Gallery) and Nina Jeza (ACE KIBLA)

Selection

Metka Krašovec, Arne Brejc, Nina Jeza

Exhibition set-up

Arne Brejc, Nina Jeza, Aleksandra Kostič

Technical crew

Simon Sedmak, Milan Grlica

Editing and design

Snežana Štabi, Dijana Božić, Petja Janžekovič

Partners

President, Kommunio

X-OP Association for Contemporary Art

Association for Arts and Audio-Visual

Production CODE BLUE

Artists and Poor's

ACE KIBLA Production

In collaboration with

Equrna Gallery

Academy of Fine Arts and Design,

University of Ljubljana



Karmen Bajec (1981, Šempeter near Nova Gorica) attended the Secondary School of Design and Photography in Ljubljana (fashion design) and later studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, from where she graduated under Prof. Metka Krašovec (BA, 2005) and completed her MA degree under Prof. Krašovec and Prof. Bojan Gorenc (2010). She completed the second year of her postgraduate study as an exchange student in Tallinn, Estonia. She is active as an art critic, painter, art teacher and illustrator. She lives and works in Stari trg near Lož.



Viktor Bernik (1971, Ljubljana) graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana in 1998, under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec and Prof. Bojan Gorenc, and later specialized in painting with Prof. Gorenc. He furthered his studies abroad, in the United States. Among others, he exhibited at the 5th Triennial of Contemporary Art and the 28th Biennial of Graphic Arts in Ljubljana. He is a self-employed artist who lives and works in Ljubljana.



Saša Bezjak (1971, Maribor) graduated in art pedagogy in 1999 from the Faculty of Education in Maribor under the mentorship of Prof. Darko Golija, and in painting in 2001 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana under Prof. Metka Krašovec and Prof. dr. Nadja Zgonik. In 2009, she completed her MA degree in sculpture with Prof. Lujo Vodopivec. Since 2002, she has been working as a self-employed artist. In 2013, she was awarded the title of Expert Adviser for the subject area of Special Didactics from the University of Maribor. Since 2006, she lives and works in Gornja Radgona.



Gigo de Brea (1963, Maribor). He graduated in painting in 1987 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec. He lives and works between Nova Gorica, where he teaches art education at the Secondary School of Economics and Commerce, and Novelo in the Karst region, where his studio is located. He paints exclusively in oils, and uses large-format canvases.



Andrej Brumen Čop (1967, Maribor) graduated in 1993 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec. Two years later, he completed his painting specialization at the same institute. At the invitation of Werkstatt Gallery, he spent a year studying in Graz in 1994, and later joined the Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies (ZDSLJU). In 1997 he received a scholarship and spent a few months specializing in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. With the support of grants, he also studied in New York in 2000, and for one month in Berlin in 2009. He lives and works in Ljubljana, where he teaches painting as Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana. Apart from painting, his interests include book illustration, book design, and other experimental forms of visual expression.



Dušan Fišer (1962, Ptuj) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, where he graduated in 1989 under Prof. Metka Krašovec. In 1991 he completed his specialization in painting with Prof. Emerik Bernard. He furthered his studies in Groningen in the Netherlands. He is a member of the Ljubljana Fine Artists Society. He lives in Ptujška gora. His works have been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions. Dušan Fišer is head of the Art Factory Majšperk and the Ptuj City Gallery. He is active as a stage set designer, professor, mentor and gallerist.



Mitja Ficko (1973, Murska Sobota) graduated in painting in 1999 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Prof. Janez Bernik and Prof. Gustav Gnamuš, and completed his MA degree with Prof. Metka Krašovec in 2002. He has been active as a self-employed artist since 2004. He lives and works between Mohorje, Ljubljana, and Leipzig, Germany.



Marija Flegar (1968, Ljubljana) graduated in 1999 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Prof. Gustav Gnamuš and Prof. dr. Jože Muhovič, and completed her MA degree in 2002 under Prof. Metka Krašovec and Prof. dr. Nadja Zgonik. She lives and works in Ljubljana. Her works have been exhibited in several solo and group exhibitions (Equrna Gallery, the Jožef Stefan Institute, exhibitions organized by the Slovenian Association of Fine Arts Societies (ZDSLJU) and the Ljubljana Fine Artists Society (DLUL), International Watercolor Biennial, Ajdovščina).



Milan Golob (1963, Ljubljana) graduated in 1987 from the Department of Physics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics in Ljubljana. In the following year he studied history of art at the Faculty of Arts (1987/88). However, he soon chose painting, and in 1993 he graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. In the 1995–2000 period he was the editor-in-chief of the *Likovne besede* (Art Words) magazine. His works have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions home and abroad. He has received several awards and recognitions, among them the Prešeren Award for Students for painting (1992), the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant – New York (2003), and a nomination for the Henkel Art Award in Vienna (2005). As a freelance artist he lives and works with his beloved wife in Radenci, while his studio is located in Kupšinci.



Marko Jakše (1959, Ljubljana) graduated in 1987 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, drawing attention to his works shortly after, through his use of ingenious metaphors of European civilization sediments, derived from the repository of the human unconscious. His painterly interpretation of motives, balladic or melancholic to some, and provocative to others, is alluring even to the unsuspecting observer.



Anja Jerčič Jakob (1975, Slovenj Gradec) She grew up in Velenje, where she also attended the Velenje Grammar School. She graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana in 2000. In 2004 she received her MA in graphic prints from the same Academy, and later an MA in painting (2007). She has been active as an artist since 2000, with a strong presence in the Slovene and international art arena. Her works are part of numerous public collections. She occasionally draws illustrations for children's books. She has been employed as Assistant Professor of painting at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana since 2016.



Barbara Jurkovšek (1981, Ljubljana) graduated in 2006 in painting and art theory at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, under Professors Metka Krašovec and dr. Jožef Muhovič. Later, she attended advanced studies at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Lecce in Italy. In 2009, she obtained her MA degree in painting with Prof. Krašovec at the Ljubljana Academy. She has held 36 solo and more than 50 group exhibitions and projects in Slovenia and abroad. She is active in the fields of painting, sculpture, graphics, calligraphy and scientific illustration. Her works explore the boundaries between art, science and kitsch. Her creative process is often inspired by insights from the fields of zoology, botany, paleontology and the evolution of modern man.



Jurij Kalan (1961, Kranj) graduated in painting in 1990 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana with Prof. M. Krašovec. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions since 1984, and has shown his work in around 15 solo exhibitions. He was a receiver of the Grohar Scholarship, the Kranj City Prize, the May Salon Prize, and the Bronze Aritas (2001) at the Slovene Triennial of Satire and Humor. He lives and works in Ljubljana and is active as a freelance artist.



Maja Kastelic (1981, Novo mesto) studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana (2000–2004), where she graduated *summa cum laude* under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec and published her graduation thesis (*Pravi umetnik / The True Artist*, Research Institute of the ALUO). She continued her postgraduate studies in philosophy and theory of visual culture at the Faculty of Humanities in Koper (MA, 2006–2010). She has been working in the field of illustration and picture books since 2012 (*Deček in hiša / A Boy and a House*, 2015). She has received numerous awards in recognition of her work. She has exhibited in selected venues home and abroad, and many of her works have also been published abroad. She illustrates for Slovene and foreign publishing houses, and lives and works in Trebnje.



Aleksij Kobal (1962, Ljubljana) is one of the most esteemed Slovene painters of the middle generation. His works have won him several awards and recognitions, among them the Prešeren Fund Award in 2016. He graduated in 1986 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana with Prof. Janez Bernik. He completed his postgraduate studies in painting in 1993 under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec. He lives in Ljubljana, working as a freelance artist.



Robert Lozar (1967, Novo mesto) graduated in 1993 under Prof. Metka Krašovec at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. In 1992 he received the Prešeren Award for Students (awarded by the Academy). Between 1995 and 2000 he was editor-in-chief of the *Likovne besede* (Art Words) magazine. He has worked as a self-employed artist since 1994. In 2006 he was granted a scholarship by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia. His studio is located in Butoraj.



Izar Lunaček (1979, Ljubljana) is an academy-trained painter from Slovenia, who studied under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec between 2001 and 2004. He also graduated in comparative literature and holds a PhD in philosophy from the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. He works as an illustrator and comic book artist. His comics were published in Stripburger, Slovenske novice, Delo and Mladina. He published several comic book albums. As an illustrator and caricature artist, his works have appeared in different newspapers and magazines. Three of the many books he has illustrated have received the Golden Pear, the sign of quality for children's books and youth literature in Slovenia.



Boštjan Mesarec (1974, Maribor – 1996) studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. His works have been exhibited in numerous high-visibility exhibitions, including venues such as the Equrna Gallery from Ljubljana. In 1995 he received the Prešeren Award for Students for painting. Boštjan Mesarec was fatally injured in November, 1996, during an underwater hockey training. He had a special relationship with the painting canvas, always demonstrating the highest respect for the surface, onto which he applied colors. He used to say that paintings need to be "embalmed". In his last period, he used a specific method to prime the canvases before painting, a method he developed and perfected on his own.



Mojca Oblak (1965, Ljubljana) completed her study of painting in 1988 at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. She continued her postgraduate studies in philosophy at the Faculty of Arts, University in Ljubljana, and later specialized in graphic arts, back at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (receiving her title in 1992). During her specialization years she also worked at the Radio Študent in Ljubljana, providing reviews for various cultural events. Between 1989 and 1999 she was a member of the editorial staff of the M'ArS art magazine.



Rok Predin (1980, Maribor) is an internationally acclaimed 3D animation artist and musician with a MFA in painting. Working as an animation director at Trunk Animations, he spent several years living in London. Among his most famous works are the videos he made for the Rolling Stones, and the live visuals for the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee at Buckingham Palace.



Arjan Pregl (1973, Ljubljana) graduated in 1998 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana under Professors Metka Krašovec and Bojan Gorenc. In 2001 he obtained an MA in fine arts under Prof. Gorenc. Under Prof. Lojze Logar he obtained his second MA in graphics in 2004. Arjan Pregl works in the fields of painting, graphic, illustration, design and writing. He lives and works in Ljubljana. In the eighteen years of his career as an artist he has had numerous solo and group exhibitions, including projects in Europe, America and Asia.



Irena Romih (1965, Celje) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana under the mentorship of Prof. Emerik Bernard in 1990. She worked as a designer at Rogaška Glassworks (1990–1994). Her work as a packaging designer has won her several awards. Between 1994 and 1996 she continued her specialist studies under Prof. Krašovec. Since then, she has worked as a self-employed artist in the fields of painting, illustration and animation. She is interested in the painting as an object, the role of the painting carrier and its borders, and the use of different materials (fresco on travertine, encaustic painting and egg tempera on wood, acrylic on terry fabric and plexiglass). She lives in Ljubljana.



Zvonka T Simčič (1963, Ljubljana) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana under the mentorship of Prof. Emerik Bernard in 1994. In 1996 she completed her postgraduate studies in painting at the same Academy, under Prof. Metka Krašovec. She is a visual artist (painting, video, installations, photography) and performer. Her works have been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions. The works of Zvonka T Simčič are highly unique because they convey an extraordinary combination of poetry and lyricism, as well as social commitment on the other side, both of which place them at the very top of contemporary artistic practices.



Matic Sonnenwald (1981, Murska Sobota). In 2000, he completed the Secondary School of Design and Photography, Ljubljana, and in 2005 graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec, receiving the Prešeren Award for Students in that same year. In 2008, he completed his MA degree in painting at the same Academy, under Professors Zmagaj Jeraj and dr. Tomaž Brejc. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions and projects home and abroad. He lives and works in Ljubljana.



Natalija Šeruga Golob (1971, Maribor) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, between 1992 and 1995. In 1999 she graduated in painting, and later obtained her MA degree in 2003. Ever since her first solo exhibition at the Celje Fine Arts Salon in 1999, she has been continuously present as part of national and foreign museums and galleries' exhibition programs. She was a receiver of the Prešeren Award for Students (1996), pursued advanced studies in Berlin (2007), and was a Henkel Art Award nominee (2008). In 2010 she received a working scholarship from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia. Her works appear in a number of art collections. She lives and works in Radenci.



Katarina Toman Kracina (1968, Ljubljana) studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, under Prof. Metka Krašovec, completing her MA degree in restoration in 2004. She creates in various techniques: painting, sculpture (small and miniature plastic), video, design, sewing, felting, crochet and combinations of the above). She works at Museums and Galleries of Ljubljana. Katarina Toman Kracina lives, works and occasionally creates in Ljubljana.



Petra Varl (1965, Ljubljana) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, obtaining her MA degree in 1997. She is active as a visual artist, creating drawings, graphic art, paintings, illustrations and ambient installations in galleries, as well as public and private spaces. Her works have been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions. Since 2000, she has been working at the Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Education, University of Maribor, as Associate Professor for drawing and graphic arts. She lives and works in Ljubljana and Maribor.



Sebastijan Vojvoda (1976, Pula). Between 2000 and 2004 he studied at the Department of painting, Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, in the class of Prof. Metka Krašovec. In 2005, he furthered his studies at the art academy in Gothenburg, Sweden. He graduated in 2006 under the mentorship of Prof. Zmagor Jeraj and Prof. Borut Vogelcnik, and later completed his MA under Prof. Bojan Gorenc. He has participated in various art projects as a designer, photographer and camera operator. His works have been shown in several solo and group exhibitions in Croatia and abroad. He lives and works in Poreč, Croatia, working as curator and head of fine arts department at the Center for education and culture.



Marij Vrenko (1963, Ljubljana) graduated in 1989 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Ljubljana, where he later also obtained his MA in restoration (1992), and finished specialization in painting under Prof. Metka Krašovec in 1993. Between 1991 and 1998 he was Assistant Professor at the same Academy, lecturing in technology of painting. He lives and works in Ljubljana.



Mojca Zlokarnik (1969, Ljubljana) graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana in 1993. She completed her postgraduate studies in painting under Prof. Metka Krašovec (1995) and later specialized in graphic arts under Prof. Lojze Logar in 1998. She attended advanced studies in Prague, New York, Paris, Bulgaria, Germany and during her many less formal journeys. Between 2001 and 2015 she was editor-in-chief of the Likovne besede (Art Words) magazine, where she now acts as assistant to the editor-in-chief and member of the editorial board. She is Associate Professor for the field of contemporary arts, with the status of a self-employed person in the field of culture. She has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world. Her works are included in many art collections. In 2016, she was nominated for the Norwegian Queen Sonia Print Award.

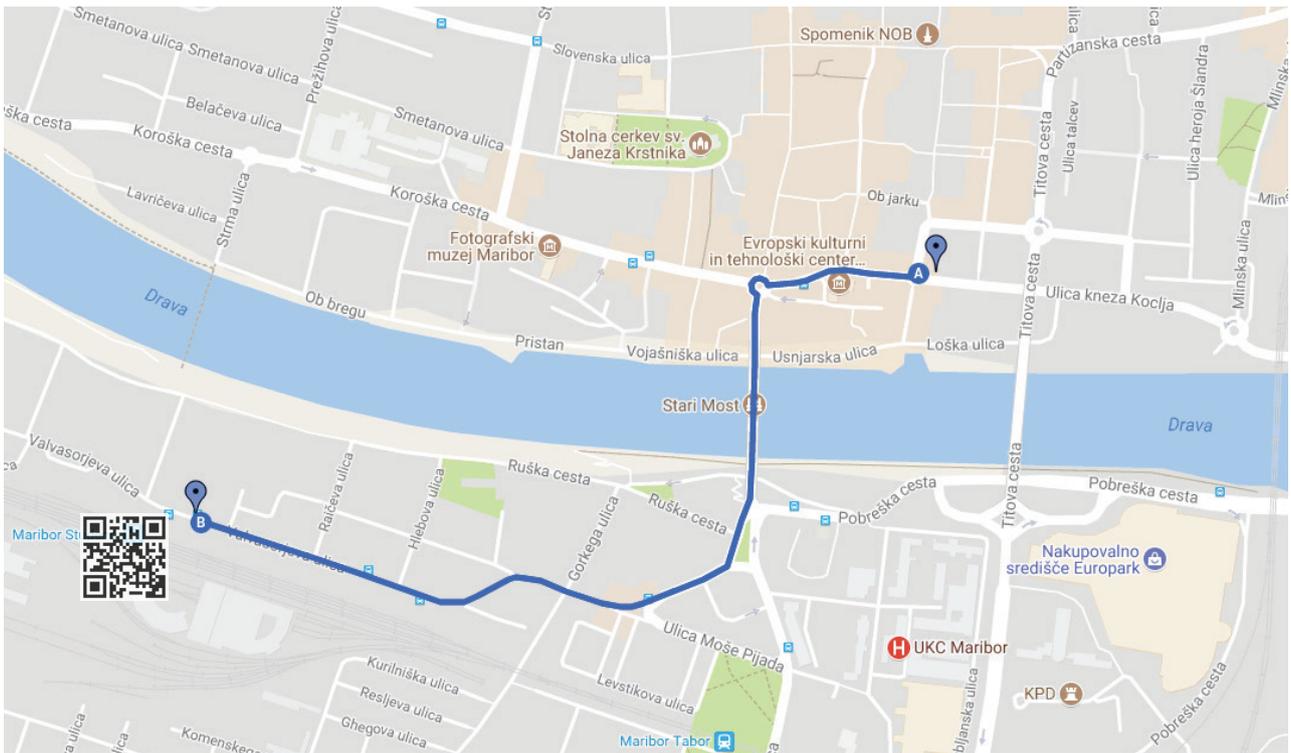


Živa Žitnik (1981, Ljubljana) graduated in painting in 2005 from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana, under the mentorship of Prof. Metka Krašovec. In 2007 she received the Prešeren Award for Students, earning her MA degree in painting a year later with her thesis titled *Za masko (avto)portreta / Behind the mask of the (self-)portrait*, with mentors Prof. Metka Krašovec and dr. Nadja Zgonik. She has exhibited her works in numerous group exhibitions in Slovenia, Italy, Germany, the UK and even New York, and solo exhibitions in Ljubljana (2006, 2010, 2011, 2016) and London (2011, 2012). She lives and works in Ljubljana.

Photo credits:

Photographs: artists' personal archives.

Saša Bezjak (photo by Ivo Borko), Andrej Brumen Čop (photo by Petra Žen), Anja Jerčič Jakob (photo by Jaka Babnik), Jurij Kalan (photo by Lado Štarkl), Aleksij Kobal (photo by Borut Krajnc), Robert Lozar (photo by Arne Brejc), Rok Predin (photo archive KIBLA), Irena Romih (photo by Tomaž Lunder), Zvonka T Simčič (photo by Iztok Zupan), Petra Varl (photo by Jaka Babnik), Mojca Zlokarnik (photo by Grega Mastnak).



KIBLA PORTAL, Valvasorjeva 40, Maribor, Slovenia

Tuesday–Saturday: 3 p. m.–7 p. m.
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Kommunio

President



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