

DALIBOR MARTINIS

I am addressing you Man to Man

1–23 July 2021

artKIT

Stations on the path to democracy

If D.M. wants to run in the elections for a representative in some Croatian representative body, for example, the Istrian, how to achieve this?

A visit to the electoral base and a meeting with potential voters if the potential Peoples' representative is shy and probably too old can only be realized symbolically. So, D.M. visits his electoral base, but meetings with potential voters are neither direct nor physical because he leaves only a leaflet with his image and the message *»I am addressing you Man to Man.«* Moreover, even the image does not match the D.M. we now know of, as it is a nearly 25-year-old photograph showing D.M. as a young, attractive, albeit rather an untidy man, who at the same time seems *»cool«* and like a person from a law enforcement poster. And, in the end, to make matters worse, the leaflet and the idea are as old as the photo itself. They date back to the late 1970s – a time when democracy and free elections in Croatia could only be dreamed of*.

The essence of democracy is in the process, and in art, in the artist's addressing his observer. It means that D.M., as long as he follows the procedure, honestly addresses his entire electoral base and turns to its *»electorate,«* he may have a chance to win the upcoming election. If he does not win, he at least has a chance to publish his program.

In 2003 D.M. was driving on local Istrian roads, stopping at bus stops along the way, and in each one left a leaflet with the image of D.M. and the message *»I am addressing you man to man«* on the walls in the waiting rooms-shelters. He left a bowl of candy here and there. These strange, almost always empty places sometimes look like chapels by the roadside, sometimes like gloomy bunkers or frightening caves, but always represent lonely waiting, anxiety, or boredom, thus becoming places of potential human contact. The electoral base is the area of Istria and a hundred shelters-stations along the roads of political agitation. Like the 25-year-old image of D.M. on the leaflet, these tiny houses also belong to another pastime, so the documentation of the contribution to building democracy is at the same time documentation of the existence of these small, secluded structures. Each bus stop has characteristics different from all the others (shape, method of construction, degree of abandonment, landscape that directly surrounds it). Each shelter is one of the sacred principles of democracy.

- Dalibor Martinis, 2003.

* The campaign *I am addressing you Man to Man* was first realized by Dalibor Martinis in 1979/80, leaving an anonymous leaflet (A4) with his picture and the same message in the mailboxes of residents of Zagreb. For the 2003 campaign, the author rewrote an identical leaflet.

The folder, signed by the artist, contains 100 photo sheets in a limited edition 5.

Muzej-Museo Lapidarium, Novigrad-Cittanova, 2021

Association for Culture and Education KIBLA KIBLA – artKIT, Maribor, 2021

**We The People (U ime naroda), film, b/w, 17', digital
Production: Omnimedia, 2013**

What is the meaning and the purpose of the »people« in the movies? Do they populate the streets, buses and trains, restaurants and the dance halls, just so that the movie characters could feel »normal«? What would the movie reality look like if the heroes would be erased and they would be its only inhabitants?

The film is a sort of metapolitical contemplation (using excerpts from famous movies and derivations from Guy Debord's texts) on the nature and »social« position of masses of individuals without individuality who surround the movie heroes, the only ones allowed to feel, suffer, or enjoy in the drama of life on film.

BIOGRAPHY

Webpage:



Dalibor Martinis is a transmedia artist and video artist. He has exhibited his work (videotapes, video / interactive and location-specific installations) at numerous international exhibitions, such as the Sao Paulo Biennale, the Dokumenta, the Venice Biennale, and film/video festivals in Berlin, Tokyo, Montreal, San Francisco, Locarno, Seattle, Bogota, Vienna, etc. His videos and films have been broadcast on various national televisions in Europe. He has performed numerous presentations, performances, and screenings. He has received donations from the Canadian Council (1978), Jaica (Japan 1984), and ArtsLink (USA, 1994 and 2010). He was a visiting professor at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb, and the Ontario College of Art & Design University. He is a professor emeritus at the University of Rijeka. Martinis has been awarded several international and national prizes (Tokyo Video Festival 1984, Locarno 1984, ALPE ADRIA Film Festival Trieste 1996, Croatian Society of Fine Artists Award (HDLU) 2009, T-HT Award 2013, Bogota Short Film Festival Award, 2014). His works are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art New York, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, ZKM Karlsruhe, the New York Public Library, the Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb, Kontakt / Banka Erste, etc.

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artKIT, Glavni trg 14, Maribor

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 4 to 8 p.m.

On the 1 and 2 July, the exhibition will exceptionally be open until 7 p.m.