

NATALIJA R. ČRNČEC

Loves

5 July–6 August 2021

MMC KIBLA / KiBela

Natalija R. Črnčec has been devoting herself to colour since the very beginning of her career. She explores it in relation to light and form in a way that, through variations in the repetition of patterns, spheres, and colours, forms spatial installations full of soothing energy and mystical charm. So far, she has created mainly in blue and red; this time, in KiBela she presents herself with the most colorful installation yet.

Loves is an installation of more than 3000 hand-painted spheres that comprise the spectrum of colors – from primary to undertones, branching into lighter and darker shades and softening the transitions between red and yellow, yellow and blue, blue and red. The spheres accompany the artist throughout her oeuvre, as their unity allows her to play with light, which rarely evenly surrounds the object's entire surface and thus transforms the color on it. She uses large, small, huge, and tiny globes. Sometimes she flattens them; other times, she transforms them into an irregular shape, most often leaving them in their perfection but always covering them with radiant paint.

The artist distributed thousands of spheres throughout the space in rhythmic levels and created a floating mass in the room that acts as organic form, frozen on its journey. The view of the integrality of shining spheres from afar evokes an association with a constellation of planets and stars unknown to us – a universe remade by the artist's will, which we can fully experience only when we enter it. When our body finds itself in it, and our gaze is directed to its edges, we too become part of the constellation. Surrounded by fluorescent »planets« powered by UV light, we can find our way through the maze or get lost in the micro-maps left on the spheres by the tedious application of color deposits. Islands of almost triangular shapes on the surface of the spheres form a network of lines drawn by the artist's already automated stroke. The tiny networks are meditative, the blackness of the space soothing, while the multicolored glow brings positive energy into the space, which returns to our lives after a long time of isolation.

Natalija often includes music in her spatial installations, which gives the viewers a holistic experience of traveling around her spaces and helps them direct their attention to the here and now. On this project, she collaborated with the artist JUNEshELLEN, who created an ambient musical accompaniment with her gentle approach. Together, they have created a dream world that calls for exploring and finding one's own interpretations.

The installation radiates a lot of warmth, which directly reflects the author's nature and extensive handwork. We also feel it in the title of the exhibition, which can be understood as a wish or a greeting to anyone who indulges in the glow of floating lights. At the same time, it can be understood as a dedication to the artist's love – colour.

- Deja Bečaj

BIOGRAPHY

Natalija R. Črnčec, born in 1972, graduated in 1996 from the Faculty of Education, a major in art pedagogy. She is a professor of fine arts at the Prva gimnazija Maribor and Il. gimnazija Maribor. In her work, she deals with the problematics of color and light, which she explores through the painting medium and spatial installations.

Selection of group exhibitions:

- *Kompilacija / Compilation*, Rotovž Exhibition Salon, Maribor, 2001
- *Sobežnosti*, Hladilnica, Pekarna Cultural Centre, Maribor, 2010
- *Moj dom / My Home*, Lubadar, Pekarna Magdalenske mreže, Maribor, 2011
- In parallel, Signal festival, *Sobežnosti*, Natalija R. Črnčec and Nina Šulin, VOID Gallery, Prague, 2015
- *Bitja v novejšem slovenskem kiparstvu / Creatures in Recent Slovenian Sculpture*, Maribor Art Gallery, Štanjel, 2016
- *Made in Maribor*, Trg Leona Štuklja 10, Maribor, 2016
- *Made in Maribor*, Dobra Vaga, Ljubljana, 2016
- In parallel, Light festival, *Sobežnosti*, Natalija R. Črnčec and Nina Šulin, Alberobello, Italy, 2017
- *V dihu utelešena linija / A line embodied in the breath*, Simona Šuc and Natalija R. Črnčec, Savinov salon Žalec / Savin's art salon, 2018
- *Sobiti / Coexistence*, Natalija R. Črnčec and Nina Šulin, Lighting Guerrilla, Barve, Cukrarna, Ljubljana 2018
- *Lijalent*, Dom Lizike Jančar, Maribor, 2018
- *Sobarvi / Cocolors*, Natalija R. Črnčec and Nina Šulin Salon of Applied Arts, Maribor, 2018–2019
- *Inventura / Inventory (Ž)*, UGM Collection in Koroška galerija likovnih umetnosti / Carinthian Gallery of Fine Arts, (2018/19)
- *Coexistence, Sobiti#2*, spatial audio visual installation, Natalija R. Črnčec and Nina Šulin Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Architecture, Vilnius, Lithuania, January 2019

Solo exhibitions:

- *Modro / Blue*, University Library Maribor, 1997
- *Zemlja / Earth* (production Zigota), Gustav Hall, Pekarna, Maribor, 1997
- *Podvodni svet / Underwater World*, Zigota, Pekarna, Maribor, 1998
- *Vstop v sliko / Entry into the Painting*, Zigota, Pekarna, Maribor, 1999
- *Dotik / Touch*, Mladinsko razstavišče Avla, Maribor, 2000
- *Ad hoc!*, KiBela, Maribor, 2003
- *Fluart*, Zigota, Pekarna, Maribor, 2006
- *Barva / Colour*, KiBela, Maribor, 2009
- *Rojenice*, Hladilnica, Pekarna Cultural Centre, Maribor, 2009
- *Barva / Colour*, Murska Sobota Gallery, 2010
- *Modra.si / Blue.si*, Mladinsko razstavišče Avla, Maribor, 2010
- *Likovni kritiki izbirajo / Art Critics' Choice*, Cankarjev dom, Ljubljana, 2012
- *Telo barve / The Body of Colour*, Maribor Art Gallery, 2013
- *Dar / Gift*, Minorite Church Maribor, 2019
- *Sipanke*, Dom kulture Gornja Radgona, 2020

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Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.