

Dalea Kovačec

REMINISCENCES OF HIDING II

10–29 May 2021

MMC KIBLA/KiBela

»By allowing the imagination to wander through the tombs of memories, we inadvertently recall the confused life of the smallest corners of the house, in the near animal sanctuary of dreams.« (Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*)

Dalea Kovačec, an artist of the younger generation, presents a spatial installation in the KiBela art space, the second iteration of the *Reminiscences of Hiding* series. In her artistic practice, the artist conceptually focuses on the development and complexity of human perception, more precisely, on the relationships between memory and technological media in different social contexts. She is interested in the processes and automatisms of memory construction, the fluidity and possibility of its manipulation, and the consequent conflict that arises when juxtaposing unreliable subjective memory in relation to the collective. Her practice is based on extensive research work, with the research element always informing and dictating the work process and determining the artistic medium.

Reminiscences of Hiding II is a spatial installation that indirectly recreates the experience of the past, more precisely, childhood. The artist puts concepts such as growing up, fear, security, time flow, and the development of human perception at the center of reflection. In this process of memory reconstruction, Kovačec is interested in the relationship between the physical changes of a space or object in relation to the physical and psychological changes in its perception over time. The artist builds a space of memory or memory of space here and now when she creates a hiding place from oversized chairs over which painted sheets are stretched and surrounds it with the otherwise incomprehensible sound of adults' voices. By forming the installation in such a way, the artist creates a conflict between the safe and the dangerous, the known and the unknown, and the understandable and the incomprehensible.

This moment of conflict is an aesthetic moment. It is, in fact, an abstract interspace into which the viewers enter when they begin to face the imperfection, arbitrariness, and unreliability of subjective memory. Conflict arises further in the relationship between the abstract sound of adult quarrels and children's drawings. The voices of adults, incomprehensible to children, and children's drawings, incomprehensible to adults, thus point to the non-conductivity or our inability to translate experiences over time. In this case, drawing and sound are not only in the opposite relationship, when there is a misunderstanding of both, but they are somehow connected when they are misunderstood in their way.

An essential element of the *Reminiscence of Hiding II* project is its processuality, which begins with the artist's research work. It is actualized with the involvement and experience of other participants. Namely, the artist introduces participatory practice on two levels: by involving kin-

dergarten children, who draw on sheets in creative workshops, and the spectators in the gallery space. They are not just passive observers but an integral element of a work of art that Kovačec translates to the immaterial field. Therefore, the installation operates on an experiential level. Its physical elements are only carriers of the message, which is translated into an (individual and collective) experience in a playful and accessible way.

Participants in the exhibition: Jelka kindergarten, Palčki unit, Ljubljana (2019); Tezno kindergarten, Lupinica unit, Maribor (2021) and Ivan Glinšek kindergarten, Kosarjeva unit, Maline group, Maribor (2021).

BIOGRAPHY

Webpage:



Dalea Kovačec (1993) is completing her master's degree in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. She graduated in 2016 with a thesis entitled *Prikrojeni spomini/Altered Memories*. As part of a study exchange, she attended the Academy in Warsaw (2015/16). In 2018 she received the UL ALUO Award for special achievements, and this year she is nominated for the OHO Group Award. She has participated in several group exhibitions abroad and at home and has presented herself independently with the exhibitions *Zaprta atelje/Closed Atelier* (DobraVaga Gallery, 2021), *Reminiscences of Hiding* (GalerijaGallery, 2019), *Until the End of Memory* (Kamera Gallery, Kino Šiška, 2019), *Altered Diaries* (DobraVaga Gallery, 2018).

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MMC KIBLA/KiBela, Ulica kneza Koclja 9, Maribor
Opening hours: Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.