

Suzana Brborović and Lucijan Prelog

THERE IS SOMETHING CAUGHT IN HERE

15–27 February 2021

MMC KIBLA/KiBela

The exhibition *There is something caught in here* brings together entirely new canvases by Suzana Brborović and works from the series *Gods en Vogue* by Lucijan Prelog. This juxtaposition of works puts forward a multifaceted dialogue between two particular art languages that have evolved, (re)formed, and communicated with each other in the same physical space. For the past five years, the artists have shared an art studio in Leipzig, Germany, while their dialogue has already been established during their studies in Ljubljana. Thus, in KiBela, one of the possible visual dialogues underpinned with artists' visual vocabulary, and curatorial gestures emerge. However, on the viewer's level, this dialogue is repeatedly (re)constructed anew when he or she intervenes by watching, reading, and thinking, which is always conditioned by one's situated knowledge.

The title itself dictates the conceptually otherwise loose frameworks. The word caught is not about anxiousness, lack of freedom of expression, or conceptual (over)load, but about the dialogue between two painting languages. The artistic practice of both Suzana Brborović and Lucijan Prelog can be classified as post-media painting. In both cases, they examine the visual or what is visibly constructed, in their case and this time, emphasizing artistic elements and pure artistic language of translating digital into the painting surface.

In Suzana Brborović's recent works, what stands out the most in her new works is the conscious deviation from precise and predetermined conceptual postulates to a relaxed, energetic and fresh painting gesture. In previous works, the artist has, in the manner of geometric abstraction, tackled the notions of urban landscapes and architecture as a carrier and, on the other, as a reflection of complex social, economic, and political changes. Now her once extremely precise and complex painting softens and relaxes. The sharpness of older works' lines retreats into the background, into the network systems that deepen the painting space, while a more expressive, layered, and vibrant painterly gesture enters the foreground. The painting space is flat in some areas. At the same time, the closer the viewer gets, he or she is awestricken by the formal translation of spatial layering into a multifaceted texture of color application.

Exactly this material multifacetedness is one of the essential elements that link Suzana Brborović and Lucijan Prelog's works. Prelog uses thin PVC panels, which he designs into pixelated silhouettes of video game characters from the '90s. Prelog applies paint to the flat surface in thin layers, sprays it, and mechanically intervenes in it by scratching. He supplements color reliefs with stickers with motifs from popular culture, with which the artist builds the textuality not only formally but also in content. The flatness of Prelog's works stems from the spatiality and the corporeality of the figures in the

mentioned video games. At the same time, it is also influenced by the flatness of mass images and new technological mediums. Prelog's works also subtly indicate the artist's interest in imperfection and deconstruction. It is reflected not only on a formal level in the artist's treatment of the painting surface, seemingly worn out and in which the fundamental building element is a pixel, as well as the inscriptions that Prelog cuts into a PVC plate, but also in a certain degree of melancholy and nostalgia after a specific long-gone space and time.

The exhibition *There is something caught in here* invites the viewer to participate in an artistic dialogue, in which he or she intervenes with his or hers subjective language and free associations.

BIOGRAPHY

Suzana Brborović (1988) is an academic painter. After graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Ljubljana in 2013, she studied painting in 2014–16 as part of the master's program (Meisterschüler) at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig. In 2019 she received the Rihard Jakopič Award for special projects and fine arts achievements for younger artists. In her painting practice, she has so far focused mainly on the stories of architecture. She is interested in the power of the painting medium and the boundaries between digital and painting-generated gesture.

Lucijan Prelog (1982) lives and works between Leipzig and Ljubljana. In 2013 he completed his studies in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Ljubljana. During his studies, he also received an award for exceptional artistic achievements in 2010–11. A member of the music alternative/industrial/noise group *It's everyone else* creates objects strongly marked by popular culture that permeates his life.

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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.