

UROŠ WEINBERGER

Projectories

28 January–26 February 2022

MMC KIBLA / KiBela

The solo exhibition of the renowned Slovenian painter Uroš Weinberger entitled *Projectories* presents a selection of large-format paintings created between 2020 and 2022. The project spans over several years, and the artist adds new works with every exhibition. As we have already seen in Weinberger's previous works, these works are also a direct response to the current social transformations conditioned by economic and political motives, the development of new, even more sophisticated technological tools of surveillance and classification of »bodies«, the environmental crisis, and the global pandemic. His art is visionary, and the lucidness of the eerie iconography, which characterizes his canvases, is unparalleled not only as regards meaning, but also as regards the prediction of future scenarios.

Uroš Weinberger's monumental neon paintings had predicted the current extremely complex global situation and zeitgeist even before the radical escalation of the situation brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though it might have appeared so, his works were never fiction inspired by apocalyptic science fiction scenarios, but rather a reflection of reality, of the smoldering state of the world that seeped into the media reality through the cracks between spectacle and the commercialization of the gaze, and the virtual and physical worlds. The artist defines his works as technological, surreal, and imaginary landscapes; however, they stop being futuristic and imaginary as soon as we are faced with a radical turn of events on the global scale – they then become abstract images of the present.

It is a fact that Uroš Weinberger is one of the artists skilled in mastering the image and communicating it to the public. The artist's thoughtful framing and composition of scenes inhabited by human and non-human entities, and relationships emerging between them, are enhanced in all their toxicity by his choice of color palette and canvas size. Weinberger's paintings thus confront the viewer with the raw state of the world while at the same time affirming the communicative and subversive power of the painting medium.

Through the visual experience of the artist's works, the viewers can ask themselves the fundamental questions about the nature of the future, the future of nature and the role of man in a post-technological world. In fact, with his specific artistic language, the artist problematizes the use of high-tech tools for the extraction and exploitation of natural resources, the discipline of »bodies« and movement, the management of population and mass phenomena such as birth rate, morbidity, work capacity, migrations and public safety, as well as the economic and biological segregation of »bodies«.

Uroš Weinberger's exhibition places emphasis on the question of what it means to be human under the conditions defined by late capitalism, globalization, climate change and

the conflicting postulates of dictatorship and the emancipatory potential of contemporary technology. In doing so, the artist (re)appropriates various tools and iconography from science, popular culture, mass media, and collective practices to raise awareness and develop relative survival strategies and to explore the human fascination (positive and negative) with apocalyptic scenarios that are enabled and exercised by the above-mentioned means of repression and control.

- Živa Kleindienst

BIOGRAPHY

Webpage:



Uroš Weinberger obtained his undergraduate degree (2003) and Master's degree (2005) in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. In 2001, he received the Prešeren Students Award; in 2018, he was the recipient of the highest artistic recognition for important works of art of the University of Ljubljana. Artistic residencies: National Academy of Art in Sofia, Bulgaria (2002); Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia in Berlin, Germany (2009); Schafhof – European Centre for Art, Upper Bavaria, Freising, Germany (2013). He is the author of the following art series: *Transsubstantiations; Human Error; Control-Delete; Info vs. Info; Generation Z; Blur Techno; Displaced world, deplasiran svet.; The Final Countdown; Hand, Job, Paper, Work.; Attention, family values!; Seven Sisters; Oase des Wusts; die Drohnen; Projectories*. His major presentations include *Time without Innocence*, Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana (2019); *Anthropocene*, Ann Street Gallery, New York, USA (2018); *After Hiroshima*, The B#S Gallery, Treviso, Italy (2017); *NordArt 2016*, Büdelsdorf, Germany (2016); *MIG 21*, KIBLA PORTAL, Maribor (2016); *Uroš Weinberger: Projectories*, Nova Gorica City Gallery (2021). He lives and works as a freelance visual artist.

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Opening hours: Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.