

Nika Rupnik

SPACE OF PLAY

2–29 June 2022

artKIT

Nika Rupnik draws the art of her artistic practice mainly from the urban environment, whereby she treats and depicts the city as a temporary installation reminiscent of stage set design. Her multi-layered urban vedutes are permeated with a subtle, cold atmosphere with a sense of alienation that arouses the social, economic, and politically characterized space of an urban and digitalized landscape. Resultant from this context, the artist ponders the relationship between the intimate and the public, and the situatedness of an individual in the urban environment, even though her landscape is always uninhabited. Rupnik expresses herself primarily through drawing, painting, graphics, and photography, the diverse formal and aesthetic characteristics of which allow a space experiment for experimentation.

This is the artist's first solo exhibition in Maribor. For the artKIT gallery, she conceived a space specific installation *Space of Play*, creating a space that constantly changes with each viewer's movement. The artist constructs the space by layering images of architectural and urban structures on floating objects. The installation's elements are therefore drawings, distinctly gentle and fragile in their artistic expression, creating a sense of transience and melancholy. The multilayered spatial-visual memory, which the artist recreates in experimental graphic techniques and light projections, gives the impression of infinite depth, creating a multiplicity of relationships between the viewer and artwork is established in the interplay of lines, surfaces, shadows and light. In Nika Rupnik's artistic practice, »situatedness« in the space is fluid; at the same time disappears and re-emerges as a fragile reality we (too) often take for granted. In her installations, the artist focuses on phenomenological research and on the viewer's bodily and subjective aesthetic and situational experience. seem to be in motion, populated by what Claire Bishop calls »decentered spectators« who enter the space from different entry points, and every interaction that rises is indeed an act of play.

BIOGRAPHY

Nika Rupnik graduated in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana in 2012. During her studies, she furthered her knowledge in the field of printmaking at the Winchester School of Art (UK). Since 2017, she has been self-employed in culture as a painter. She also works as an illustrator, set designer and art pedagogue. She runs workshops focusing mainly on experimental printmaking techniques. She has presented her work in solo exhibitions: *Structure* (Layer's House, Kranj 2022), *Beware, the Bad Dog* (Night Window Pešak Ljubljana, 2020), *Feng Shui* (Kapsula, Ljubljana 2017), *Format: Light* (with Tanja Milharčič, Zelenica, Tovarna Rog, Ljubljana 2017; Kosovelov dom, Sežana 2018), *Cityjet* (Kiosk Kino Šiška, Ljubljana 2014) ... She has participated in many group exhibitions at home and abroad, including *Fresh Fish* (DobraVaga, Ljubljana 2021), *Fresh Fish. Drawing* (DobraVaga, Ljubljana 2020), *Crossroads – Illustration Exhibition* (K18 Gallery, Maribor 2020), *Independent Biennial: Allstars* (DobraVaga, Ljubljana 2017), *War and Us / War and Peace* (Hiša kulture Pivka / Pivka House of Culture, Pivka 2016; Kapsula, Ljubljana 2017), *Graphic Spring* (Centre of Graphic Arts, Maribor 2015; Academy of Fine Arts, Sarajevo 2015).

Nika Rupnik
Space of Play
2–29 June 2022

artKIT, Glavni trg 14, Maribor
Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.