

ARTISTS FOR ARTS EDUCATION 6 (ERASMUS+)

5–18 September 2021

HDLU Zagreb in cooperation with MMC KIBLA

MMC KIBLA / KIBLA PORTAL

The Erasmus+ project Artists for Arts Education 6, through the linking of the Croatian Society of Artists and educational institutions, encourages students to acquire special knowledge in a mentorship program outside of formal education by creating their own concepts and works of art.

The project provided two weeks of mobility to eighteen students from the Secondary school of Applied Art and Design, Pula and the School of Applied Arts, Rijeka, who learned about the history of Maribor and its important role as one of Yugoslavia's industrial giants, which lost its power over time and gradually started closing the doors of large factories. Regarding the topic of industrial heritage, students, with the help of professional artists from Slovenia, reacted to the parallels between work and the working class in the past and today.

Two installations were created under the mentorship of the artist **Borut Popenko**. Amra Levak and Gaia Komšo assembled a well thought out floating labyrinth made of pipes, that with a constructivist note, refers to a complicated inner system of machines and alludes to the intertwining of different segments, which enable a smooth and successful work process in every factory. Sara Pecija, Valentina Romaško and Ariana Grubišić drew inspiration from a more exact source – the textile industry. In an enclosed and narrow space, they recreated a work-laden corner, which warns of the dangers of working in a factory and prevents the visitor from moving freely when entering, as they are surrounded by obstacles and warning signs. A cramped and chaotic installation was also created by Donna Bulić, Lana Polonija, Karlo Mrvoš and Riana Marškić under the mentorship of the artist **Polona Poklukar**. The installation also includes videos by Nina Bulešič and Roza Kosanović, mentored by the artist and Professor of Fine Arts, **Aleksandra Farazin**. The installation showcases a mold of a worker, whose role and position has not significantly changed over the century in terms of substitutability and requirements set by the ones in charge.

Academic sculptor **Metka Kavčič** passed on her knowledge of welding and creating iron structures to Maja Maržič, Maja Mičić and Lina Cukrov. The girls tackled this challenging technique and material for the first time and created three sculptures, each with its own historical connection to the role and importance of the past working culture. At the same time, their work also looks to the future, as in addition to the factories' past, it also explores their potential – a haggard work boot still defies time, an unfinished car raises the question of the automotive industry progress in Maribor, if it still ran and the railway, seemingly expanding to infinity, seeks hope for redevelopment.

In addition to installations and sculptures, a series of black-and-white analog photographs entitled *In Search of a New Meaning* was created. Under the mentorship of photographer **Gregor Salobir**; Anton Radić, Katarina Paus, Rebecca Macovazzi and Ana Pašić captured the deteriorating factory legacy and lonely shop windows in Maribor – a city that used to be an industrial powerhouse.

Deja Bečaj

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Artists for Arts Education is a project of the Croatian Society of Artists (HDLU) within the Erasmus+ project. Project partners: KID KIBLA (Slovenia), NEXT - verein fuer zeitgenoessische kunst (Austria), VSI ARTKOMAS (Lithuania) and Kunstakademie Bad Reichenhall (Germany).