

ARTISTS FOR ARTS EDUCATION 6 (Erasmus+)

5–18 September 2021

HDLU Zagreb in cooperation with MMC KIBLA

MMC KIBLA / KIBLA PORTAL

Educational trajectory

The purpose of the Erasmus + workshops was multifaceted, as the students deepened their knowledge of contemporary art, got to know Maribor artists and collaborated with mentors and colleagues. The most important experience was undoubtedly the whole process; from the initial idea, its development to the final production of their work of art and its presentation in the form of a group exhibition.

Based on the introductory meeting, at which the mentors introduced themselves, the students decided on an artistic field that they wanted to explore as part of their two-week education in Maribor. The starting point, which was common to all groups, was the industrial heritage.

Delovna skupina Aleksandre Farazin in Polone Poklugar

The two artists joined their groups and thus created together. They started with a discussion about the ideas and by collecting suggestions of students and mentors. Simultaneously, they learned (renewed their knowledge) about the concept of contemporary art and its practices. The artists presented how their practice fits into the field of contemporary art, whereas students then explored the possibilities. During this process, the latter realized that art nowadays does not want to be simply admired, but tries to address current life issues, draw attention to the problems of society, culture and politics, communicate directly and oppose and expose social responses.

They further consolidated and combined ideas and outlined the concept of working together. They chose the materials and created a plan on how to provide these materials and other necessary conditions. The mentors and students determined the way of working and their homework. The students were persistent, curious and active. They independently incorporated new knowledge and insights into their own practical work, establishing excellent working and mutual relations. Although some individual tasks were assigned to female participants during the process, the final product was a joint effort. A video was also shown as part of the final installation. This was the first time the students got acquainted with this form and explored the possibilities of this kind of practice.

Metka Kavčič Working Group

The mentor initially invited the students to watch the documentary film *Fabrika Maribor*, thus acquainting them with Maribor's rich industrial heritage. The female students immediately began collecting ideas and suggestions for works that were historically related to the role and importance of the industry. Each individual decided to create their own piece of work and were introduced, for the first time, with the shaping of iron and sheet metal as well as methods for processing them - welding, cutting, grinding, twisting, joining...

Maja Maržić drew her idea from a demonstration of the construction of the railway through Maribor, which, due to its geographical location, enabled the industrial prosperity of the city. She has created a detail of the railway junction that is expanding and gives hope for the redevelopment of the city. Maja Mičić designed a worker's shoe out of a metal sheet as a remnant of a personal story. Lina Cukrov gazed to the future and considered the possibility of further developing the former Maribor Car Factory (TAM). She created a futurist car from a sheet of metal.

Borut Popenko Working Group

At the introductory meeting, the students were acquainted with the topic of industrial cultural heritage in Maribor and together with the mentor considered various approaches to spatial layouts, reviewed a lot of pictorial material and through discussions looked for suitable solutions for their art projects. Due to different conceptual approaches, they split into two groups.

The first group focused on building a space in which one can enter. When choosing the material, the students decided on a square-shaped building block, which they multiplied into space. In addition, they chose various materials that are associated with the past period of the fifties (wallpaper and fabrics with characteristic patterns, tools) and warning boards that warned of the dangers at work. The basic idea that followed was to show the workspace of a textile factory, which is collapsing on itself due to wear and tear.

The second group focused on the bypass building, where the basic building block was a water pipe. According to the original sketches, the students assembled a varied asymmetrical construction, to which they adjusted the volume, artistic proportions and the relationship with the space by adding pipes. As the mentor of the group Borut Popenko wrote: "As a counterbalance to the large organism of straight and strict lines, they added a varied and soft core, which is reminiscent of a heart of this abstract composition. They also focused on the shadow drawing that the building reflected on the nearby walls and the slight elevation of the building from the ground, which caused a feeling of the sculpture hovering in the space. By choosing the material, shape and placement in space, they have created a post-futuristic building that flirts with the past of industrial cultural heritage as well as the future in terms of simplicity and practicality of construction and usability in different situations."

Gregor Salobir Work Group

By using the Maribor textile factory (MTT) as an example and with the help of photography, as a medium, they shed a light on the past textile industry in Maribor. During the walks they captured the current state of the former industrial areas and after visiting the studios of two fashion designers, they predicted the future of fashion design in Maribor. The work locations varied and were constantly changing. What started at the KIBLA PORTAL and at various urban points continued on the GT22 premises in Mišnica (darkroom), where students developed their photographs. At the same time, the participants got to know various artists from the Maribor art scene. During the work process, they blurred the line between analog and digital and renewed and consolidated their knowledge of photography and its processing. They transformed theoretical knowledge into practical work in the field and together created a coherent photographic exhibition entitled *In Search of a New Meaning*.

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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).