

# Janja Batič

## MY ILLUSTRATED LIFE

13 September–12 October 2024

artKIT

### **“Precious everyday life”**

Janja Batič's visual diary is an extraordinary work of art that spans various artistic media. The viewer is offered glimpses of everyday life in digital drawings, embroidery, cushions and spatial installation as the final medium in the artist's media palette.

The creative core of her work is characterized by an intimate homeliness that is interwoven with her own perspective. The focus of her gaze opens outwards from the drawing surface, creating an interweaving with her own gaze, while she captures a part of herself and positions herself within the motif – she is always present in the motif, even if only in a fragment. The spatial installation is an exception. The artist is conspicuously absent from this homely setting, which is filled with objects that belong to her: red slippers, a green sofa, embroidery lying on the table waiting, and the artist's cat sleeping in her place, also waiting. The entire room is permeated by the presence of the artist and one has the feeling that the room itself is waiting for her arrival and as soon as she comes, life will go on with her, who is the creative source and origin of everything. The red slippers are symbolic in nature, as the artist often uses the perspective of different types of shoes, socks or bare feet as a motif. Sometimes she also leaves other parts of her presence visible, hands, palms, lower body, elbows, etc. But the slippers and the shoes testify to the most visible personalized symbol of the artist's presence and also to an absence in the case of the spatial installation.

Her works radiate a special gentle warmth, something we are all very familiar with, something we can feel close to. When we look at them in their entirety, we take in a wonderful palette of colors and scenes, an infinite number of places, perspectives and glimpses of daily life. But the artist's works also quickly touch us even more deeply. Her art leaves an impression on us as it evokes our own intimate experiences and memories from our lives. This unique warmth that her works radiate invites us in a special way to enter her world and embraces us in its homeliness. The artist's works are captivating in the way they are presented, in the sincerity of her choice of the moment depicted and in the beauty of the gift of direct experience and of life itself.

The artist switches between the media that serve as her means of expression, combining the modern technique of digital drawing with the traditional technique of embroidery. Just as she switches between media, the digital images are transformed from digital drawings into traditional yet modern handmade embroideries and evolve into a spatial installation through further transformation through the media. A new digital image is created every day, but it takes about a week for the artist to complete an embroidery, including setting up the frame, the base and the embroidering itself. While highlighting stylized realistic scenes, stylized shapes and simplified images, she focuses on the essence of the moment. The color is applied evenly to the surfaces. This is evident in the style of the works, in which the places and spaces depicted

are open and incomplete and the movement is slowed down. The evenly colored surfaces thus speak of the restraint of temporality and at the same time lend the pictures a touch of eternity.

The view of the everyday is unique. We select motifs, glances, views, colors, perspectives with our eyes and our hearts, we see things that others do not see and thus experience them in a unique way. Captured and enclosed by our gaze. However, the creative gaze does not always suggest new motifs or new concepts. Motifs can also repeat themselves, because they are our places, our surroundings, our people and the home of our constancy, the homeliness that surrounds us and accompanies us through our familiar everyday lives. But within the repetition there is always variety. Everyday life is made up of fragments of visual impressions, a mosaic of an infinite number of tiny snippets of sensations, glances, places, people and objects that surround us at every moment.

We create in order to be able to experience life anew again and again. For the first time in the moment in which we perceive and experience it. And then again in retrospect, in a time-lapse of time fragments, through which the experienced moment sinks into our hearts differently, but can still be savored and experienced many more times. Between the space in which we are and the space into which we go lies the space of the observer, the creator himself and the source, for life emerges from us.

Janja Batič's art awakens in us the memory of the known, the familiar, our own memories, our time and our life, what we have lived and what we are living now, through endless images and the infinite eternity of our precious everyday life.

Of all the places we could be, of all the memories we can remember, of all the glimpses that life offers us, we will never be able to grasp the totality, but only fragments of moments and only a few fragments of time that seem timeless. And of all the possible decisions we can make every day, we decide anew every day where, with whom and next to whom we want to be.

— Nina Šardi

# BIOGRAPHY

Website



**Dr. Janja Batič** (1977) is Assistant Professor of Art Education at the Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Education, University of Maribor. Her research interests include art education, teacher training and visual and multimodal literacy. She interweaves her scientific and pedagogical work with artistic creation, focusing on various artistic media. Recently, she has been working intensively with digital drawing and embroidery.

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Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.