

Tirana Art Lab

Performative Exhibition #2

Komuna e Parisit Revisited

A performative exhibition with Rena Raedle & Vladan Jeremic and invited colleagues Valentina Bonizzi, Raino Isto, Filip Jovanovski

Curated by Adela Demetja

Opening: October 5, 7 pm

Opening hours: October 6 - 12, from 4 - 8 pm

Location: Rruga Gjin Bue Shpata, Pallati Nr. 5, Tiranë

(At Stadiumi Dinamo, next to Best Western Nov Hotel)

Tirana Art Lab, for the last five years, was located at the ground floor of a five-floor domicile in the neighborhood Tiranë e Re next to the street named Komuna e Parisit. Few or none of the inhabitants of this growing district are aware today of the historical connotation and importance related with the name Paris Commune. Therefore the second performative exhibition is developed under the title **Komuna e Parisit Revisited** and among other things aims at reflecting on the importance of the ideas of the Paris Commune and what it represents in the context of artistic, urban and social struggles.

The Paris Commune marks a historical instance of political subjectivization of the working class, at a time when new bourgeois art institutions as the academy and art salons flourished in Paris. Gustave Courbet was one amongst many cultural workers and artisans who solidarized with the communards and took over important functions in the 72 days lasting workers-led self-government of Paris. The practice of him and his fellow artists was an early example of the avant-garde principle that art and life needs to be brought in one, and that artists need to become a political subject on the side of the working class. Do these practices have any significance in contemporary Albania and other European peripheries and on which level could they be re-actualized? What kind of artistic practices can be relevant in the context of social movements?

The performative exhibition brings artistic practices by **Rena Raedle & Vladan Jeremic** and invited colleagues **Valentina Bonizzi, Raino Isto, Filip Jovanovski** and discusses the function and use value of an artwork within social surroundings, modes of participation and possibilities of artists' organization. The exhibition is a work in progress that will undergo different changes and transformation through out the entire duration.

Performative Exhibition is a format initiated by Tirana Art Lab – Center for Contemporary Art with the intention to disclose exhibiting and to make public through performativity not only the process of artistic creation and curating, but also find ways to include in the exhibiting process the means of production behind and beyond the event itself. The concept of **Performative Exhibition** aims to find new ways of exhibiting and curating which break with the temporary / unique features of the contemporary art exhibition and propose enduring ways of working and being together.

Rena Raedle & Vladan Jeremic are Belgrade-based artists whose research-oriented work comprises drawing and text, video, photography, installation and intervention in public space. In their collaborative practice Rena & Vladan explore the relation between art and politics, unveiling the contradictions of today's societies and developing transformative potentials of art in the context of social struggles. They engage with current debates and struggles in collaboration with social movements and disseminate their art works through reproduction in various media. They have recently exhibited at Brooklyn Museum, NY (AgitProp!, 2016); 56th October Salon, Belgrade (2016); Museum of Contemporary Art, Ljubljana (2016); EKKM, Tallinn (2016); District, Berlin (2017); Autostrada Biennale, Prizren (2017); Politics of Dissonance in the framework of Manifesta 12, Palermo (2018); MMOMA, Moscow (2018); < rotor > within Steirischer Herbst, Graz (2018); Galleria del Progetto, Politecnico di Milano (2019); Intercultural Museum, Oslo (2019) and MoCA Skopje (2019).

With the support of Goethe-Zentrum Tirana.

PROGRAM

Tuesday 8th October 2019, 7 pm
Filip Jovanovski
This building talks truly
Artist talk and discussion

Filip Jovanovski will present his performative project "This building talks truly", which got the Golden Triga award at the Prague Quadrennial in 2019. The performance and installation represents a condensed archive of experiences and testimonies, bonds and relations collected and created during a community project initiated in 2015 in the cinema of the Railway Residential Building in Skopje.

Filip Jovanovski is a visual artist and civil activist. He graduated from the Faculty of Architecture, Skopje in 2010 and completed his postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts Department, Skopje in 2012. Filip Jovanovski explores different media and their interdisciplinary connection – theatre, video, film and spatial installations. His artworks are transformations of political and social categories into spatial pictures.

Wednesday 9th October 2019, 7 pm
Raino Isto
Metapictures and Albanian Socialist Realism
Presentation and discussion

Raino Isto will be talking about the fascinating picture of Sali Shijaku's *Zëri i Masës* [*Voice of the Masses*], completed in 1974. He proposes that by reading *Zëri i Masës* carefully, we can discern some of the open-ended relationships between pictures and 'reality' in Albanian Socialist Realist art, recognizing some of the tensions and freedoms that were opened up in the process of viewing art, and listening to others speaking about it.

Raino Isto is an art historian, independent curator, and artist based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His research focuses on the intersection of historical consciousness and collective fantasy during late socialism and neoliberal capitalism in the former East. Raino received his PhD from the University of Maryland, College Park, and was recently a postdoctoral fellow at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. His articles have appeared or are forthcoming in the *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, *Third Text*, *Extrapolation*, *Science Fiction Studies*, and the *Getty Research Journal*. He is an editor at *ARTMargins Online*, and currently teaches at Mott Community College.

Wednesday 10th October 2019, 7 pm
Valentina Bonizzi
Notes to a deputy
Artist talk and discussion

How can art offer a model or simply a space of reflection for the development of micro sustainable socio-economies? How do we exist inside the law, and what will be told of it in the end? These are the questions that unravel the work that Valentina Bonizzi did between 2017 and 2019 in Tirana, working *in between* the project developed at the Centre for Openness and Dialogue and the city of Kamza together with the activist group ATA.

Digging into archives and communities, Valentina Bonizzi's work highlights issues of social justice in relation to the politics of time in specific contexts. She works with a variety of media such as film, photography, literature, sound, and actions in public spaces. Bonizzi holds a Master from Glasgow School of Art and a Ph.D (AHRC funded) from DJCAD, University of Dundee.

Saturday 12th October 2019, 7 pm
Rena Raedle & Vladan Jeremic & Invited colleagues
Komuna e Parisit Revisited
Intervention space