

# **Psychogeographical Research (2003-2006) & The Monument Series (2007)**



Cover of the exhibition catalogue *Psychogeographical Research*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, 2009.

## Psychogeographical Research

### Series of works 2003-2006

One could argue that the term *psychogeographical research* is contradictory in itself. It is disputable in how far the playful spacial practices that were used by the surrealists and later on taken up by the Situationists can be conceived as a scientific method, as the notion of *research* might suggest. There are contradictory positions within the Situationist movement and its successors, in how far and in which way unconsciousness, chance, disorientation, play, which all of them were important elements in the spatial practice of the *dérive* (as described by Ivan Chtcheglov in *Formulary of a New Urbanism* and later revised by Guy Debord in *Theory of the dérive*), can be a *tactical* (Michel de Certeau) method for altering the everyday life.

In the series of works *Psychogeographical Research* we renew certain methods of psychogeography performing them in a directed and rational way to test the strength or failure of techniques that have been recuperated a million times since by advertisement, artists and lifestyle and PR practitioners. For example, OUT PRAXA represents kind of a deformed quotation of the situationist *dérive*. We explore the re-actions between the body/mind and the surrounding materiality. OUT PRAXA performs both the detachment from functional (architectural, urbanist,...) space and the habitation of it. OUT PRAXA is a conscious act of negation of the conventions of everyday discourse and repetitive behaviour in life. We try

a renewal of situationist techniques and in the same time perform the negation of their revolutionary character. SENDI is a *dérive* within the market places of the underclass economy that represent already a *détournement* of the consumer goods of the first world. The ambitious aim is nothing less than to find a non-spoken language that resists the inversive tricks invented by the communication guerrilla. SENDI is a perversion of tactical media optimism. HoRRorkatze is a constructed character, a horrific terrorist of negation that attacks in mostly undocumented interventions the functionaries of behaviour- and life management. Through non-action this character resists against the mantra-like principle of participation in the "social real-consensus" (see Polygonal Theory).

Although there is no documented evaluation of the psychgeographical research, the further development of our work was considerably shaped by the results of it. Very important was the discussion with Sezgin Boynik, who contributed the article "Who needs psychogeography?" to the exhibition reader. In our later works, we developed the techniques of the Situationists into a more focused method with explicitly political ends. Mostly we use the *dérive*, less as a state of being and acting, but as a rationalized tool to detect the contradictions in the course of social development within the small details and encounters of the everyday life.

The series of works *Psychogeographical Research* consists of:

**Horrorkatze macht Terror** (2003)

Horrific terrorist cat's interventions website.

<http://www.modukit.com/horrorkatze/machtterror/index.html>

**Potsdamer Reloaded** (2003)

Video of intervention at Potsdamerplatz, Berlin.

Excerpts from the video: <https://vimeo.com/114077644>

**SENDI** (2003)

Video of intervention at the flea market and Chinese market in Belgrade.

Excerpts from the video: <https://vimeo.com/114021961>

**Out Praxa** (2004)

Video documenting OUT PRAXA at Fruška Gora Mountain, Vojvodina, Serbia.

Excerpts from the video: <https://vimeo.com/112934969>

**Novi Život - New Life** (2006)

Photo book, documents of OUT PRAXA at the Danube river banks.

[https://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/novi\\_zivot](https://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/novi_zivot)

**Related publications:**

OUT1, Zine, 24 pages, Novi Sad, 2004, <http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/out1> ,

Psychogeographical research, booklet, 20 pages, Novi Sad 2007,

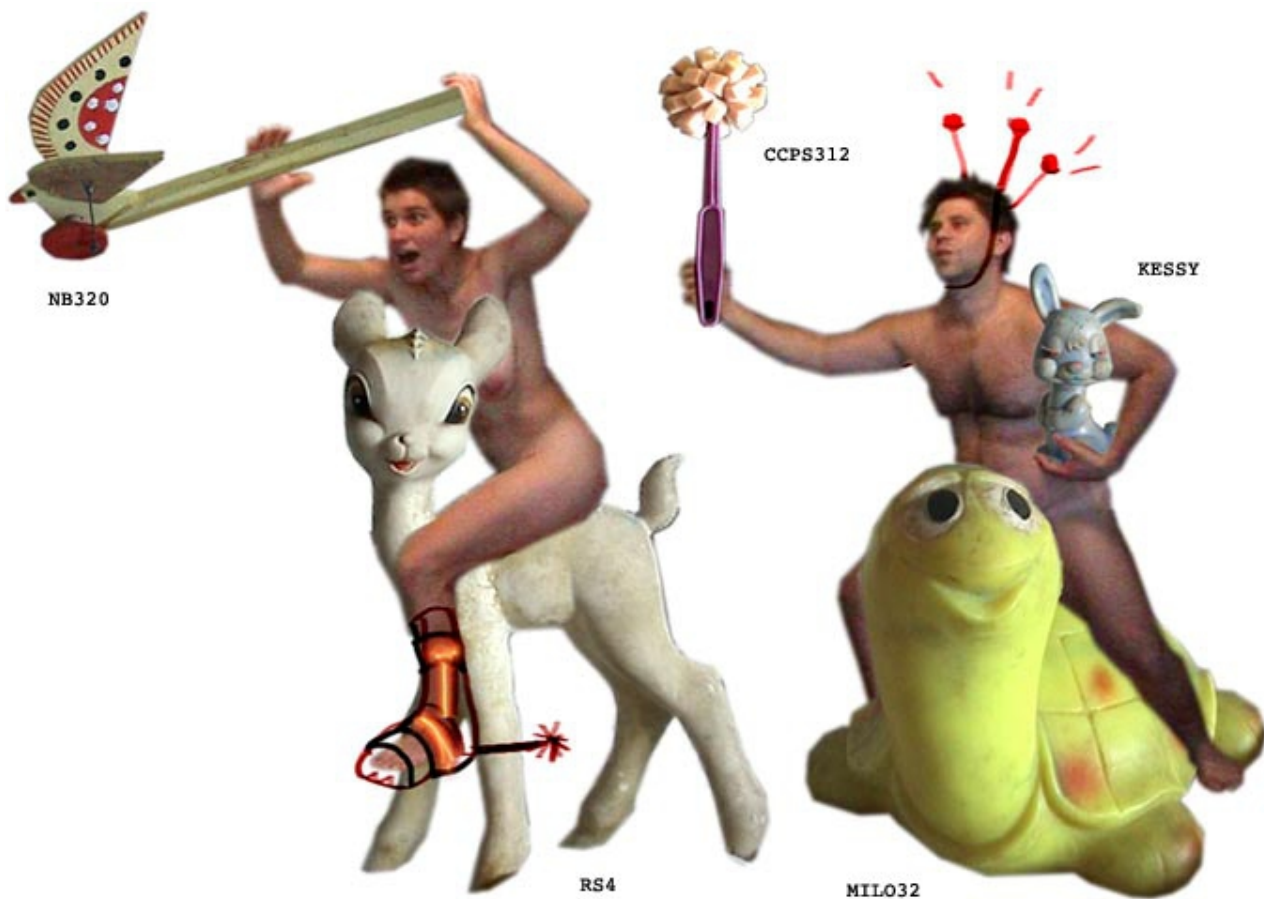
<http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/psychogeography>

**Exhibition catalogue/reader:**

*Psychogeographical Research*, 144 pages, English and Serbian, Novi Sad, 2009.

Published by the Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia at the occasion of the exhibition under the same title. With texts by Sezgin Boynik, Suzana Milevska and Gordana Nikolić.

[http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/psychogeographical\\_research](http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/psychogeographical_research)



Horrorkatze macht Terror, interventions. Photo collage from the website, 2003.

## HORRORKATZE MACHT TERROR

There exists a quasi-consensus about a world that is constructed by cultural determinations as gender, nationality, religion, education, discourses and social positions. This "reality" forces us to identify ourselves with certain categories that function as units in a system of power. It is based on the dualism of exclusion and inclusion and only if we represent a certain identity we can achieve an active position within this construction (for example claiming the rights of a particular group). Doing so, we in fact reproduce the essential mechanism of power.

In our practice we try to develop a subject that is not based on identity and therefore is not bound to repetitive behaviour. This subject is a temporary expression of relations (that we might partly be able to follow) and doesn't represent any discipline of the society. It has no shape but is created through immediate interaction with other people and in direct touch with the environment. It grows out of encounters or situations that are not mediated, not expected and not exposed on the public stage... (From the booklet *Psychogeographical research*, Rena Rädle and Vladan Jeremić, Novi Sad 2007)

The work consists of:

### HORRORKATZE MACHT TERROR

HoRRorkatze is a horrific terrorist character of negation that irritates its surrounding in a manner that is unacceptable. Of course these interventions are not documented. There is only a description of the weapons HoRRorkatze uses while attacking, which seem rather playful and friendly.



### **Horrific terrorist cat's interventions website**

<http://raedle-jeremic.net/horrorkatze/machtterror/index.html>

Year: 2003

### **Potsdamer Reloaded**

The only video documentation of HoRRorkatze's *playful and friendly participation* at the FakeFire / FriendlyFire action at Potsdamerplatz, Berlin

Year: 2003, Berlin

Duration: 5 minutes

Camera: Martin Wrede, Karsten Asshauer

Editing: Rena Rädle

Excerpts from the video: <https://vimeo.com/114077644>

Players: Karsten Asshauer, Martin Wrede, Mindaugas Gapsevicius, Ricarda Wallhäuser, Matthias Roth, Marzia Belvisi, Vladan Jeremić, Rena Rädle

### **SENDI**

SENDI is a sensor, receiver, emitter, projector and trigger of all kind of signals existing at a certain location. As SENDI is not limited to a standardized language, it is also a communicator of signals that we don't understand. From which parts SENDI can be constructed, depends on the location and the people. During their psychogeographical research Rädle and Jeremić collect all kind of things and information they consider helpful for the construction of SENDI.

Intervention at the flea market and Chinese market in Belgrade and video documentation.

Year: 2003, Belgrade

Duration: 10 minutes

Camera and editing: Rena Rädle

Excerpts from the video: <https://vimeo.com/114021961>

The intervention HORRORKATZE MACHT TERROR, the videos Potsdamer Reloaded and SENDI belong to the series of works titled *Psychogeographical Research*.

### **Related publications:**

OUT1, Zine, 24 pages, Novi Sad, 2004, <http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/out1>,

Psychogeographical research, booklet, 20 pages, Novi Sad 2007,

<http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/psychogeography>

### **Exhibition catalogue:**

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[http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/psychogeographical\\_research](http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/psychogeographical_research)



Intervention *Horrorkatze macht Terror*, video still from *Potsdamer Reloaded*, Berlin 2003.



*Sendi*, intervention at the Chinese market, video still, Belgrade 2003.





Video still from *OUT PRAXA*, 2004.

## OUT PRAXA

The video *OUT PRAXA* and the photo book *Novi Život / New Life* belong to the series of works titled *Psychogeographical Research*. *OUT PRAXA* at the Fruška gora mountain and Danube river banks is an exercise that represents kind of a deformed quotation of the situationist *dérive*. We explore the re-actions between the body/mind and the surrounding materiality. *OUT PRAXA* performs both the detachment from functional (architectural, urbanist,...) space and the habitation of it. *OUT PRAXA* is a conscious act of negation of the conventions of everyday discourse and life that lead to endless repetition of the status quo. We try a renewal of situationist techniques and in the same time perform the negation of their revolutionary character.

The work consists of:

### OUT PRAXA

Video documenting *OUT PRAXA* at Fruška Gora Mountain, Vojvodina, Serbia.

Year: 2004

Duration: 10 minutes

Excerpts from the video: <https://vimeo.com/112934969>



## Novi Život - New Life

Photo book, documents of OUT PRAXA at the Danube river banks.

16x16 cm, 42 pages, Novi Sad, 2006, [https://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/novi\\_zivot](https://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/novi_zivot)

## Related publications:

OUT1, Zine, 24 pages, Novi Sad, 2004, <http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/out1> ,

*Psychogeographical research*, booklet, 20 pages, Novi Sad 2007,

<http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/psychogeography>



Video stills from *OUT PRAXA*, Novi Sad 2004.



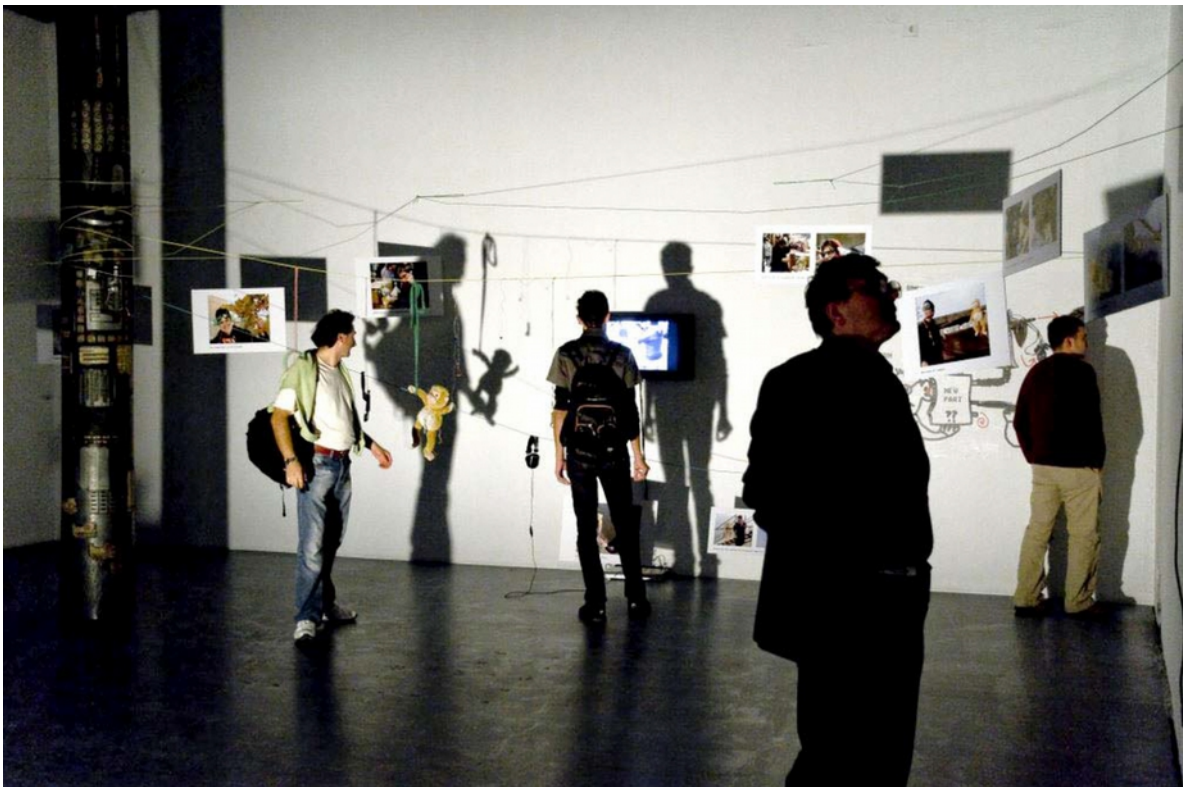


Photo book *Novi Život - New Life* and video *OUT PRAXA*. View from the group exhibition *Schutzraum. Politik, Ästhetik, Medien, Thealit*, Bremen, September 2013.





Video *Potsdamer Reloaded* and *Sendi Installation*. Solo show *Psychogeographical Research*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia, 2009.



*Sendi installation* at the Exhibition *Psychogeographical Research*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia, 2009.





Exhibition view of the *Monument Series*, Solo Exhibition *Psychogeographical Research*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, 2009.

## Monument Series - Unforgettable Moments in the Life of New Belgrade Workers

The photomontages tell a story about workers' destiny in times of harsh economic transition. The surroundings in which the monuments are staged are located in New Belgrade. This part of the city of Belgrade was built from scratch after the liberation from fascist occupation and the founding of Yugoslavia. New Belgrade represents a typical modernist mass housing project, designed to accord the measures of the human being. The photo-collages present six figures in exaggerated size that mirror the grandeur of the surrounding buildings and reference the idea of a state order that had put the working women and men in the center of its self-understanding.

This manner of representation stands in tension with the actual life situation of the portrayed men and women. They are faced with the new order of a liberalized economy, where the collectivity of the workers is replaced by the pathetic individuality of small entrepreneurs and consumers.

6 Photographs, 100 x 70 cm , 2007





**At this location Ankica decided to take a loan  
for a vacation in Tunis.**

**Novi Beograd, Blok 12**



**At this place Filip sold his last pirate CD.**

**Novi Beograd, Blok 63**





**At this school the women working at Metro's cash desks were dreaming about a career abroad.**

**Novi Beograd, Blok 23**



**At this place Milosh decided to move back to his mother's flat.**

**Novi Beograd, Blok 28**





**At this place Aleks got to know that he lost his job.  
At the same moment he got 50 free SMS on his mobile.**  
Novi Beograd, Blok 28



**At this place Ivan swore to himself to resign to his boss  
and to open his own business.**  
Novi Beograd, Blok 62





Exhibition view *Reality Check*, Trøndelag Senter for Samtidskunst, Trondheim, Norway, 2010.