



Still from the video **Workers' Collective**. Distribution of the newspaper in front of the main gate of the Mining and Smelting Basin of Bor (RTB). 5 min, editing: Rena Rädle, camera: Rastko Popov, Bor 2013

# Workers' Collective

*Workers' Collective* is an artistic transformation dealing with the experience of the historical workers' self-management in Yugoslavia. We edited a special issue of the Mining Company's newspaper *Bor Collective* (Borski kolektiv) and distributed it to the workers in front of the RTB gate.

*Bor Collective* was first time issued in 1947, with the establishment of workers' self-management in the RTB Mining Company. Though still published under the same name, today *Bor Collective* represents the voice of the RTB director and management floor instead of the workers. We used samples of the historical newspaper and photo archives of the Bor People's Library to assembly an updated version of the first number, now under the programatically changed name *Workers' Collective* (Radnički kolektiv).

The work consists of:

**Newspaper Workers' Collective:** [http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/radnicki\\_kolektiv](http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/radnicki_kolektiv)

**Video documentation of the distribution** in front of the gate: <https://e.pcloud.link/publink/show?>

**Documentation of the discussion** with workers at the library: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpOGirLg91o>

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*Bor Collective*, issue from 1947 and issue from 2012.  
 Special edition **Workers' Collective**, 16 pages.  
 Rena Rädle and Vladan Jeremić in collaboration with Saša Lović, Bor 2013

Texts cut out from the original newspapers are updated striking through and replacing certain words, old political slogans are contrasted with new ones. A collage of historical and contemporary practices of workers' self-organization is printed on a double page. It shows photos of the election of the workers' councils after the socialization of the mine and images of the mass protests during the last decade, when many branches of the mining company entered the privatization process and stopped production.

Another photomontage refers to a form of workers' protest that emerged after many remained without wages or pension. Fighting for the existence of themselves and their families, the workers blocked the national highway with mining trucks and protested with loafs of bread pinned to their placards. There is also a comic strip problematising the position of the union leaders. Ironically, the sentences scribbled onto the pictures of the workers' spokesmen resemble the typical phrases of the Mine Company's management. And there is a double page edited by a musician and former worker at RTB with a collection of workers' humour and poetry.



Photomontage, double-page from **Workers' Collective**

Almost thousand newspapers were distributed to the workers in front of the copper mines' gate during shift change. They were invited to the discussion at the People's Library of Bor the same evening. The discussion centred amongst others on the fact that the so called democratisation of the society did not lead to an increase but to the total loss of workers' control in the management of their factories. Another problem that was raised was the corruption of the big trade-unions by the political establishment that controls the privatisation process and the reform of workers' rights legislation.

A few weeks after the discussion, the president of the Independent Workers' Union Bor went on hunger-strike to protest against corruption in the privatisation process of the Mining Company and the directors' attempt to press the workers join his newly founded trade-union under threat of dismissal.





Still from the video **Workers' Collective**



Video still: Distribution of **Workers' Collective**



Video still: Distribution of **Workers' Collective**



Documentation of public presentation of the newspaper **Workers' Collective** at the People's Library Bor and discussion with Dragiša Trujkić, president of the Independent Workers' Union Bor, Milan Rakita, sociologist and Ivan Radenković, philosopher.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpOGirLg91o>