

# Press release

Place de la Maison Carrée, 30000 Nîmes, France. Téléphone : 00 33 4 66 76 35 70. Fax : 00 33 4 66 76 35 85  
E-mail : [info@carreartmusee.com](mailto:info@carreartmusee.com)



## **PERSONAL CUTS**

### **ART SCENE IN ZAGREB FROM 1950S TO NOW**

#### **Exhibition 17 October 2014 – 11 January 2015**

**Participating artists:** Gorgona Group, Josip Vaništa, Julije Knifer, Ivan Kožarić, Dimitrije Bašičević Mangelos, Tomislav Gotovac, Goran Trbuljak, Sanja Iveković, Dalibor Martinis, Mladen Stilinović, Vlado Martek, Boris Cvjetanović, Igor Grubić, Andreja Kulunčić, David Maljković and Božena Končić Badurina

The exhibition *Personal Cuts* connects the works of fifteen artists and one group; it presents a brief personal history of the radical tendencies of modern and contemporary art in Croatia. The exhibition focus is conceptual tendencies, in the broadest sense of the term, starting with the neo-avant-garde from the periods of 1950s and 1960s, the 'New Art Practice' of the 1970s and expands to include some art of today that has a strong conceptual background. "Conceptual Art" in Zagreb is understood differently to the "western canon" and covers an enormous range and means of expression, a wide array of works and practices. The artists moved towards new materials, media, methods and behavior they shifted their interests from objects to the 'conduct' of making art in search of a redefinition of the role of the artist towards social, political, and economical realities and within the places they were (and are) living.

The title "Personal Cuts" (appropriated from a video work by Sanja Iveković) refers to these autonomous artists who have each, for particular reasons, dismissed an objects-based practice in favour of an arts practice that engages an essential social morality and who have established a very personal relationship with society, politics and art of both the past and the present.

The exhibition presents the most important aspects of the changes that happened during a variety of historical phases; it explores, contextualises and presents these to an international public. It tells of artists working in a country between East and West, who lived in communism (and in neo-liberal capitalism) and behaved as if they were living in a parliamentary democracy. It tells of their exceptional contributions and strategies, their individual successes and the historical lineage that has linked them for more than sixty years.

Different artistic positions appeared in the late 1950s when artists surpassed modernism, which was the mainstream in then Yugoslavia, and affirmed themselves through anti-art (The Gorgona Group: Julije Knifer, Josip Vaništa, Mangelos, Ivan Kožarić), happenings and experimental film and performative arts (Tomislav Gotovac). The exhibition represents works of institutional criticism (Goran Trbuljak), urban interventions, language works (Mladen Stilinović, Vlado Martek), pioneers of video art in 1970s (Sanja Iveković and Dalibor Martinis). It follows social and political changes during the time of communism (Boris Cvjetanović) as well as at the time of transition, which introduced many new topics: failed economies (Andreja Kulunčić), social and political amnesia in relation to the communist past (David Maljković), homophobia (Igor Grubić) and interrelationship between museums and their visitors (Božena Končić Badurina).

Within this movement there was significant politically subversive behaviour and activity and it is essential that the work of these artists be observed from a current perspective. They created a vital art scene in Zagreb, which was not the reflection of propitious social and political circumstances but rather an expression of individual talent, intelligence, sensitivity, Eros, education, a sense for social contacts, persistence, resourcefulness and a good deal else.

**Curator :** Branka Stipančić, art historian, exhibition curator (Zagreb)

Carré d'Art–Musée d'art contemporain open every day except Monday, from 10 am to 6 pm.



**Contact for this exhibition :**  
**Delphine Verrières-Gaultier - Carré d'Art**  
Tel : +33 (0)4 66 76 35 70 - Fax : +33 (0)4 66 76 35 85 - E-mail :  
[communication@carreartmusee.com](mailto:communication@carreartmusee.com)

