

PRESS RELEASE

**ART STAYS, 15<sup>th</sup> Festival of Contemporary Art, Natur - al(l)**

Ptuj, 18. 5. 2017

The **Art Stays festival of contemporary art** is returning for its **15<sup>th</sup> edition** with a rich programme and many new features. It is the most important festival of contemporary art, especially fine arts in Slovenia and one of the most important in this part of Europe. **Ever since 2003** it brings the latest in art. Be it the well-know artists with their work hanging in museums and guests at biennales, or those most promising talents - they all are invited to Ptuj. **More then 600 artists** participated at the festival during the last 14 years.

**The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the biggest Slovenian festival of contemporary visual art Art Stays with the title NATUR-AL(L) will focus on artists who deal with the issues of nature, the consequences of humanity mistreating it, and a dire future, which might be just around the corner.**

The festival will fulfill the squares and buildings of the old city center with works of top artists creating in a variety of media: painting, sculpturing, photography, installations, video, performance and music. It will be accompanied by film screenings in interesting locations, and contemporary art workshops (Art Stays Summer Academy). **This year's edition will feature over 150 artists.**

The festival program is directed and curated by **Jernej Forbici** and **Marika Vicari** in collaboration with international galleries, museums, and a team of international curators, this year **Italo Bergantini, Gaia Conti, Dušan Fišer** and **Carlo Sala**.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS** are the exhibitions, dedicated to the title **NATUR- AL(L) presented in Ptuj, Kidričevo and Majšperk.**

**An homage to Joseph Beuys** exhibition in Dominican Monastery will present, for the first time in Ptuj, Beuys's projects concerning ecology issues as Difesa della natura, Grasello, Olivestone and others.

A retrospective exhibition entitled **WOOD**, dedicated to the Austrian sculptor **Johann Feilacher** and curated by **Marika Vicari and Jernej Forbici** also at **Dominican Monastery** in Ptuj will open the festival on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Large sculptures created in his "*secluded outdoor studio where he appears to have made an arrangement with his materials. It is as if the trees have agreed to reveal essential secrets in exchange for being transformed into the higher state of being art.*"

A group show entitled **CANONE INVERSO/INVERSE CANON** will be presented by **Italo Bergantini and Gaia Conti** at **Miheličeva Gallery**. Presenting the artists: **Matteo Cremonesi, Sebastiano Guerrera, Claudio Marini, Luigi Menichelli, Cinzia N.Rojas, Svetlana Ostapovici, Luca Piovaccari, Giuseppe Ripa, Daniele Rocci** and **Gabriele Rossi**. The show will deal with the musical pose that sees the repetition of the same structure but in different shades.

The intricate and contradictory relationship between man and landscape is at the center of the **GROUND AND CEMENT** exhibition at the Ptuj City Gallery. The **most important festival exhibition**, curated by Carlo Sala, presents a selection of more than sixty works by international artists, who have used photography, from the beginning of the twentieth century to this day, to study the landscape and the various forms of its deviations. Artists: **Lewis Baltz, Olivo Barbieri, Gabriele Basilico, Bernd & Hilla Becher, Lapo Binazzi (UFO), Silvia Camporesi, Vincenzo Castella, Giovanni Chiaramonte, Philip-Lorca diCorcia,**

**William Eggleston, Olafur Eliasson, Walker Evans, Hamish Fulton, Lee Friedlander, Mario Giacomelli, Mario Gabinio, Jochen Gerz, Luigi Ghirri, Guido Guidi, William Guerrieri, Lewis Hine, Jenny Holzer, Roni Horn, Axel Hutte, Francesco Jodice, Ugo La Pietra, Richard Long, Boris Mikhailov, Paolo Monti, Ugo Mulas, Joel Meyerowitz, Eadweard Muybridge, Walter Niedermayr, Dennis Oppenheim, Gina Pane, Luca Maria Patella, Albert Renger-Patzsch, Thomas Ruff, Alessandro Sambini, August Sander, Sebastião Salgado, Stephen Shore, Vittorio Sella, Ger van Elk, Carleton Watkins, Wilhelm Von Gloeden, Wim Wenders, Edward Weston and Marco Zanta.** Works are coming from the private collection of **Dionisio Gavagnin, Treviso.**

A new special venue of over 2500m<sup>2</sup> will host an exhibition **BIG IS BEAUTIFUL**, curated by Dušan Fišer and Jernej Forbici showing almost 50 Slovenian artists with large scale landscape paintings from the 1960 until today. A deep overview of Slovenian Contemporary landscape painting. **Artists: Aleksij Kobal, Emerik Bernard, Franc Novinc, Janez Hafner, Herman Gvardjančič, Metka Krašovec, Dušan Kirbiš, Joni Zakonjšek, Jure Zadnikar, Gani Llallosi, IRWIN, Mirko Rajnar, Boris Jesih, Karel Pečko, Marko Jakše, Uroš Weinberger, Mitja Ficko, Gregor Pratneker, Ira Marušič, Miha Štrukelj, Robert Lozar, Jurij Kalan, Jernej Forbici, Viktor Rebernak, Apolonija Simon, Albin Lugarič, Nikolaj Beer, Zmagor Jeraj, Simon Kajtna, Jože Slak Doka, Mito Gegič, Tina Dobrajc, Polona Petek, Andraž Šalamun, Sergej Kapus, Uroš Potočnik, Dušan Fišer, Živko Marušič, Sašo Vrabič, Dominik Mahnič, Igor Banfi, Suzana Brborovič, Jasna Samarin, Maruša Šuštar, Silvester Plotays Sicoe** and others.

A painting solo exhibition **ARCHI NATURE** of the Italian artist **Walter Trecchi**, curated by **Marika Vicari** will be on display at **Magistrat Gallery** in the Town Hall. He focuses on cities and their continually changing profile on mutant landscapes, mirror of an architecture that plagues our society before even changing our horizons.

An intimate and multimedia show will be a big surprise at the **Ivan Potrč Library**. The Japanese artist **Noriko Obara**, winner of Art Stays in residence award at Arte Laguna Prize 16.17 will prepare a new site specific project especially made for the Festival and will develop her "landscapes of lights".

Two exhibitions will be also hosted outside of Ptuj: **FIELD OF VISION** curated by **Marika Vicari** in the **FO.VI Gallery** in Strnišče is therefore a journey into nature. **Annalu, Elisa Bertaglia, Riccardo Costantini, Silvia De Bastiani, Leo Ferdinand Demetz, Gabriele Grones, Arkadiusz Karapuda, Michael Kos, Ina Loitzl, Olga Schigal, Marika Vicari** and **Cyryl Zakwareski** will invite us to open up new interesting reflections of the relationship of nature, man and his glance to the world.

A solo exhibition **NATURA** by a Slovenian painter **Marko Tušek**, curated by **Dušan Fišer** will take place in the **Art Factory** in Majšperk.

## **OTHER EVENTS & PROJECTS**

**Site specific intervention and performance UNLAWFUL PURPOSE OF BY-STANDING THE EXCEEDING CATASTROPHE CAUSED AND ABANDONED BY MAN / JAŠA**

**2011-2017** will close the festival on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 on an industrial waste site Halda, near Kidričevo. The well known Slovenian artist **Jaša**, who presented Slovenia on the last Venice Biennale will offer an unique experience of large size landscape intervention, classical music and hot air ballons.

We continue our traditional collaboration with the Ptuj Town Cinema and CID presenting **ART STAYS KINO** with interesting films and videos of **Robert Smithson, Nancy Holt, Gordon Matta - Clark, Martha Rosler, Dan Graham** and **Paul Ryan**. We will present also **TRANSLATION(S) INTERNATIONAL VIDEO ART PROJECT**, curated by Zoran Poposki and Laurence Wood. This year the project dedicated to **Bodies in Transit** will present a selection of video works by **A4C, Justin Ascott, Damon Ayers & Tessie Word, Lynn Book, Jessica Ledwich, Chooc Ly Tan, Zoran Poposki** and **Laurence Wood**.

Concert and a multivision of **Lado Jakša**, a big concert of Slovenian band **PATETICO**, screenings of **Robert Smithson** and **Nancy Holt**, lectures and talks by **Carlo Sala, Noriko**

**Obara, Jaša, Italo Bergantini** and others will fulfill your stay in Ptuj and complete the program.

The city will be also animated by public art interventions, from the Slovenski square that will be covered with green grass and plants, to the garden of the Castle Courtyard to the video mapping project made by **MOVIMENTO Creative Label (Federico De Benedictis & Simone Pucci)**. Installations and sculpture made by international artists in residences and by the children in collaboration with **ART STAYS** and **CID** during the workshops of the Summer Academy, including engraving workshops by **Giancarlo Busato** and Art recycling workshops by **CID**.

The Festival will start on Friday, 7th July 2017 with the opening of the exhibitions in Dominican Monastery: solo show of Johann Feilacher and Hommage to Joseph Beuys. The concert of a famous Slovenian band PATETICO will follow on a stage in Slovenski trg. The Festival will continue until 15th July on different venues in Ptuj and nearby. Exhibitions will be open until 5th September in more than ten exhibition spaces.

**You are kindly invited to spend a part of this summer with us in Ptuj, with over 30 events at the 15th Festival of contemporary art Art Stays!**

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