

THE GREAT CELEBRATION - EUTHANASIA

In 2011 Art Klinika is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its work.

The ten-year survival and activity of Art Klinika was marked by a series of actions, reaction, performances, simulations and taking a stance toward current events on the local social and political scene.

How is Art Klinika celebrating its anniversary?

Art Klinika is currently on crossroads, faced with a series of external and internal problems. The great celebration is an occasion to raise the question is it possible to continue in the same manner or is it necessary to establish a new paradigm of action. For that reason the celebration begins from the current state, without embellishments and with a privileged thematic focus.

How can one describe the current state?

The current state can be characterised as *lack: of money, engagement and interest* in all segments that should enable the functioning of an art and a wider cultural production, as well as *indifference of the media*.

- on the financial level: lack of money for carrying out programmes, maintaining the space and acquisition of adequate technical and other equipment.

- on the level of production: unwillingness of young artists to become active in greater numbers in independent and critical art projects;

- on the level of reception: weak interest of the audience to follow and participate in programmes coming from the independent art scene beside secure, recognised and affirmed cultural and art productions;

- on the level of media: segment of art production is usually neglected and it remains "invisible."

In 2011 Art Klinika is:

1. Under a lawsuit
2. on the market
3. at the 52nd October Salon in Belgrade

Lawsuit: In 2011 Art Klinika faced a lawsuit by the Budget Inspection and will probably face next a lawsuit of the Municipal Directory for Culture demanding a refund of 500,000.00 dinars – with interest 750,000.00 dinars – the amount for realising programmes given by the Municipal Directory for Culture to Art Klinika in 2009.

Art Klinika is sued for spending the money for different purposes (not true) and that it handed in a report about their work late (not true).

Market: Art Klinika's appearance on the market is a continuation of their previous activities in the field of thematising cultural policies, the questions of their existence and activities and their critique. By appearing at the market Art Klinika renders the supply character of culture and art in today's world ironic; on the other hand, it re-semantises it in a local context as a search for art market and its place in the society. This action is a form of combat with kitsch, trash and bad taste we are covered with in our everyday life, and at the same time education and building of good taste.

The 52nd October Salon (OXAL): The participation at the significant art manifestation in Belgrade is an opportunity to summarise and appraise the ten-year activity of Art Klinika; it is the end and the beginning, a symbolic act of self-cancellation and rebirth. An invitation to participate at the Salon is perceived as a form of euthanasia opening a possibility for new life. For that reason, the presentation of Art Klinika at the October Salon is conceived in two segments: *in statu moriendi* – turned to the past; *in statu nascendi* – turned to the future, the possibility of rebirth.

Team-in-charge of Art Klinika

Toward the Audience

With the programme motto for 2011 "Toward the Audience," and a subtitle Trampling Art we are dragging ourselves out of the basement, coming out to light and opening a new field for art activity. We are becoming grocers of art and raising the questions of its place in our society.

We are organising exhibitions and various programmes on a stand, selling paintings, drawings, prints, books, t-shirts and

other art products. And surprises.

Cheap or cheapest, we are bargaining, bartering, discussing every week expecting distinguished guests

Simultaneously we are conducting a survey how much is art present and sought after in the citizens' everyday life.

During the course of three months, from the beginning of August until the end of October 2011, every Saturday from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. Art Klinika went to Liman market. Beside the regular sale of prints, drawings and books, a series of exhibitions was carried out. The Black Book – created as a document for the 15-year old performance of the project "Reconstruction of Crime" – as well as canvases made within the workshop On the Same Assignment in collaboration with the children and teachers from SOSO "Milan Petrović" Novi Sad were exhibited by the artists Gyula Santa, Aleksandar Dimitrijević, Milan Nešić, Tadija Janičić and Miloš Vujanović.

As the programme segment of Art Klinika's performance at the 52nd October Salon, Art Klinika moved its Great Sale of Art and exhibition to the Belgrade market Zeleni Venac.

Art Klinika at the 52nd October Salon

„It is Time for Us to Meet“

The participation of Art Klinika at the 52nd OXAL took place in two segments: one was performed in the exhibition space of the Salon in Museum May 25, and the other took place on the market Zeleni Venac.

The exhibition at the Salon was conceived through the multiplication of Shock Gallery in the museum space. The work of Art Klinika was presented in three different places and perceived through different time visions.

1) The first Shock Gallery is white and it presents the work of Art Klinika thus far. It was organised as a crowded archive space in which all the material documenting the previous activities of Art Klinika is exhibited.

The archive is comprised of:

The documentation collected in dozens of registers containing correspondence, contracts, programmes, reports,

Posters, exhibition catalogues, press clips

Published books (LED ART Documents of Times, Five-year Plan, Biannual 2007-2008)

Photo and video documentation, films

Files about previous members and collaborators of Art Klinika, as well as its active members

2) The second Shock Gallery is black. The floor is filled with ashes collected after burning the art works in the action of Art Klinika. Museum from the Ashes, performed in September 2008 as part of the exhibition *Sketch for a Future Dialogue*. This gallery represents the current state (there are lawsuits on the wall in which the Budget Inspection is currently suing Art Klinika).

There is a continuous communication with the space of Art Klinika at 5 Grčkoškolska through a computer, and a broadcast of events or absence of events in it.

(This segment was not realised at the exhibition because of unwillingness of organiser of the Salon to deal with this problem seriously).

„WE ARE STEPPING OVER THE THRESHOLD“

On November 9, on the Day of Remembrance of the victims of Fascism, Art Klinika, in collaboration with Women in Black, performed an art-protest action "We are Stepping over the Threshold" in memory of the victims perished in 1995 in Srebrenica. The wooden threshold with a brass plate and engraved number 8372 marking the number of victims was provisionally placed and "stepped over" in Srebrenicka Street.

To step over a threshold means "to leave a trace", or to move from one difficult situation to another. Threshold functions as a border between the holy (sacral) and profane, the place where significant transformations take place, but also as a place of fracture. Stepping over it opens a path to new life. The act of stepping over a threshold often symbolises a crossroads when basic standing points are changed and an important turnaround takes place.

Etymologic and semantic play of the same root and proximity of meaning of the term limen (threshold) and limes (border) tells that the man who stops at threshold is "limited" if he does not dare to step into reality of the new and the uncertain. Anthropologists have noticed that people, in their mythic/symbolic perception, experience limen (threshold) as a place of the separation of two opposing worlds and consider that stepping over it leads to a new form of existence. So it is no wonder that often all the human religiosity and rituality are interpreted with human aspiration to "step over the threshold."

With the symbolic statement "We are stepping over the threshold," we want to remind that the right to life and dignity of victims depends on our memory and respect, so they can easily be lost if we don't step over the threshold and penetrate outside of our own closed existence and borrowed, thoughtless stances that are thwarting us. By stepping

over the Srebrenica threshold (limen), we show with only one step that we have fled immobility and security of silence about crime – into the dynamics of facing the crime, and thus courageously stepped into the difficult reality.

The threshold at Srebrenicka Street has to remind us of the crime that took place in Srebrenica and it represents a new way of thinking about guilt and responsibility. Stepping over it is a sign of transformation and readiness to accept *the truth* and live with it.

The country we live in, after the war in former Yugoslavia, has never left “the home threshold,” so it didn’t have the experience of stepping over it.

With this action, Art Klinika and Women in Black want to invite you to a factual and thus a symbolic stepping over the threshold and send a message that without facing the past the space for a cleaner and more dignified future cannot be conquered.

Art Klinika: <http://www.artklinika.rs/>

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