

PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPANTS:

Johanna Chromik, a graduate in cultural studies and communication sciences, was born in Poland in 1976 and raised in Germany. As the new Artistic Director of *viennacontemporary*, she may look back on long-standing experience in the international art market. After holding positions in New York, Los Angeles and Berlin, Chromik took over as the director of Austria's premier art fair in January 2019. Through her activity as an independent art consultant, Chromik has managed over the past years to build a relevant network of international collectors by drawing on her in-depth expertise and planning talents. Between 2016 and 2018, she co-developed the concept for Salon Berlin of the Museum Frieder Burda, where she was in charge of programme and partner management. From 2010 to 2013, this art expert first served as director of KOW gallery before managing König Galerie from 2013 to 2015, both in Berlin. In her capacity as Sales Director, she handled international fair presentations as well as co-operation projects involving leading exhibition venues, e.g. Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Jeu de Paume, Paris, or DOCUMENTA 13.

Vasa J. Perović is the co-founder of Bevk Perović Arhitekti, a multiple-award winning architecture office (the 2007 Mies van der Rohe Award, among others), based in Ljubljana and Vienna. Their recent projects include the plan for the upcoming Slovene National and University Library building (NUK 2), and the Islamic Centre in Ljubljana, constructed in 2017. Vasa J. Perović has been a collector for over 25 years. His VJP Collection of Contemporary Art and Design includes global names of contemporary art and design from the 1970s to the present. It contains works by over 150 artists from Europe, the US, South America, and Asia. The VJP Collection of Contemporary Art and Design is very private and highly unusual, yet without the ambition to be eccentric or exaggerated. On the contrary, its design and art works offer a potential scenery for a 21st century monastic order: meditative, intelligent, compelling, and slightly erotic.

Dorotea Fotivec graduated in museology and English from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. Since 2015, she has been collaborating with the Marinko Sudac Collection, in particular with the Institute for the Research of the Avant-Garde in Zagreb, where she participated in over 90 projects hosted by 35 museum institutions around Europe. Highlighted projects: *Gorgona* monograph (2018), *Non-Aligned Modernity. Eastern-European Art and Archives from the Marinko Sudac Collection* exhibition (2016), and activity within the annual project *Artist on Vacation*. The Marinko Sudac Collection which currently contains over 10,000 works of art and related documentation is considered the largest private and the most complete avant-garde art collection in the region.

Barbara Čeferin is a former photojournalist and photo editor, who for the past 15 years has been the owner of the first and, until now, only private gallery in Slovenia dedicated exclusively to fine art photography, representing photographers from both Slovenia and around the world. Since 2004, she has been curating or co-curating more than 100 exhibitions in the venue of Galerija Fotografija gallery and elsewhere. From 2009, the gallery regularly participates at art fairs, such as Viennafair, Paris Photo, fotofever, MIA, Art Paris, Art London, and photo basel over the last 4 years.

Tadej Pogačar is an artist, curator, lecturer, and the artistic director of the P74 Gallery, based in Ljubljana. In 1984, he graduated in ethnology and art history from the Ljubljana Faculty of Arts. In 1988, he graduated with a degree in painting from the Ljubljana Academy of Fine Arts, where he also completed his postgraduate studies in 1990. He is the founder and director of the P. A. R. A. S. I. T. E. Museum of Contemporary Art, established in 1990 as the Museum of Contemporary Art and renamed in 1993. Tadej Pogačar is an internationally renowned artist who has been exhibiting regularly at home and abroad.

Piera Ravnikar is highly regarded for her active contribution to the local contemporary and urban arts scene for the past 15 years. She has been successfully involved in collaborations with artists of different profiles and in collective projects in the field of contemporary visual arts and culture. Piera Ravnikar is proud that she has been a part of Kino Šiška's pioneer team, and has worked at the Centre for Urban Culture as artistic manager of the visual programme for almost 10 years. With the support of a dynamic team at Kino Šiška, she revitalised the local arts by implementing exciting new projects and ideas. She also initiated many new concepts—like DobraVaga Gallery, which quickly became one of Ljubljana's most esteemed spaces for art and dialogue. She is now working for her own private initiative RAVNIKAR GALLERY SPACE, and is also active within projects, such as MENT Ljubljana, Independent Biennial, Independent Platform NYC, and SKALINADA AIR. Piera Ravnikar holds a master's degree in modern history from the University of London and a European diploma in cultural project management from the Association Marcel Hicter in Brussels.

Dorian Batycka is an art critic and sometimes curator. He contributes regularly to magazines like *Hyperallergic*, *Spike Art Quarterly*, and *Selections*, where he often covers intersections between art, finance, and scandal. Raised in Canada but based in Berlin since 2015, he remains peripatetic and travels frequently. He has been called both the Sarah Jessica Parker of art criticism and the Joe Rogan of the alt-left, neither of which he feels apply but both of which he found funny nonetheless.

Ana Berlin studied theatre, film and media, and political science at the University of Vienna and Université Paris Nanterre. She began her professional career with stints at Burgtheater, kunst-buero, Galerie Hubert Winter, and MAK Museum of Applied Arts, before taking on a teaching position at the Sorbonne for six years. She later founded the public relations agency a b c (Ana Berlin Communications) in Vienna in order to fill, as she sees it, a need in the city. Nowadays, Ana Berlin and her team work for clients in the fields of the creative industries, architecture, art, design, and film in Austria and abroad.

Dušan Josip Smodej is a producer, artist, and curator, based in Ljubljana. He studied photography at the FAMU in Prague, which he completed in 2018. Since 2009, he has been actively working as a producer in the fields of contemporary art, music, and youth activities. He is the president of the Fotopub Contemporary Culture Association and managing director of the Fotopub festival, which was named one of the best photographic institutions in the world by *The Guardian* in 2018.

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