

Petra Matic

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EXHIBITIONS

- **Naša zemlja/Our Earth**
Obrat Gallery, Slovenia — 2024
- **Briefly on Africa in Croatia**
with THE NEW ART SCHOOL MODALITY
Lagos Biennial, Nigeria — 2024
- **Some Sort of Tenderness***
Delfina Foundation, UK — 2024
- **Nesvrstani Zagreb/Non-Aligned Zagreb**
Galerija VN, Croatia — 2023
- **Dead Dove: Do Not Eat, documenta fifteen**
with AN OFFICE
RuRuHaus, Germany — 2022
- **Delo Lab, BIO26-Common Knowledge**
with ZUZANNA ZGIERSKA, MAXIME BENVENUTO,
JOSÉ TOMÁS PÉREZ VALLE,
AND MATEJA MLINARIČ
Museum of Architecture and Design,
Slovenia — 2019

CURATORIAL

- **Crno-bijelo/Black and White**
Zagreb, Croatia — 2023-Current
- **Pasar ilmu/Knowledge Market/Pazar znanja**
Croatia, Italy — 2021-Current
- **Škola promjene/School of Radical Education**
with ANA ŠKEGRO, JASNA JAKŠIĆ,
and RENATA FILČIĆ
Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb — 2023-24
- **Živa škola/Living School**
Živi Atelje DK, Croatia — 2024
- **Zajedno/Together**
Croatia — 2023
- **Hope Dies Last, They Say...**
with MAXIMILIAN LEHNER
Nova BAZA, Zagreb, Croatia — 2022
- **Tahsan Shahriar Exhibition**
with ŽELJKA SUŠIĆ
Typhological Museum, Zagreb, Croatia — 2020

LECTURES AND PANELS

- **Solidarity and Propaganda**
Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb — 2024
- **Racialization and the contested cultural politics of non-alignment**
Institute of Economics Zagreb,
Croatia — 2023
- **Teaching Migration(s) Globally**
University of Glasgow, UK — 2022

GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- **IMMA**
Dublin, Ireland — 5-6/2025
- **Gudskul**
Jakarta, Indonesia — 12/2024-1/2025
- **Global Cultural Relations Fellowship**
Goethe Institut Brussels, Morocco — 2024

→ theMuseumsLab Fellowship

DAAD, HAUS DER KULTUREN DER WELT
and SAVVY CONTEMPORARY,
Germany/Ghana — 2024

→ Central and East European Curator in Residence

Delfina Foundation/Kunsthalle Praha,
London, UK — 2024

→ We Are The Nearby Faraway: Rethinking Regionalism, Reworking Solidarity, 1/2/8 Research Forum

with ARIJIT BHATTACHARYYA, ALFONSE CHIU,
and HENDRA GUSTI
Pact Zollverein, Essen, Germany — 2023

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **“Studentske veze Zagreba i Palestine”**
Radnička prava — 2024
- **“Briefly on Africa in Croatia”**
Substack — 2024
- **“Mali san o zajedništvu”**
Novosti — 2024
- **“Alternative Economies of Collectivity”**
interview with RUANGRUPA [EN]
Kulturpunkt — 2023

PRESS

- **“Skupaj živimo že 70 let”**
RTV Slovenia — 2024
- **“Interview for Večer”**
Večer — 2024
- **“Hidden Legacy of the Non-Aligned Movement in Zagreb”**
Gazeta Sasha — 2023
- **“Ljute me zaborav i brisanje sjećanja na Nesvrstane u Zagrebu”**
Nacional — 2023

ART EDUCATION

- **Film School**
Cinema Club Zagreb
Croatia — 2024
- **FESTAC '77: Witnesses, Art Histories, and Documents**
The New Art School Modality
Chicago/online, USA — 2023
- **becoming lumbung**
RUANGRUPA, INTERNATIONAL SUMMER
ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS SALZBURG
Austria — 2021

EDUCATION

- **Cert. EU Funded Project Management,**
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED ARTS ALGEBRA,
Zagreb, Croatia — 2022
- **MA Museology and Heritage Management,**
UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB,
Croatia — 2020

Arhiv Nesvrstanih/ Non—Aligned Archive

The Non—Aligned Archive is a digital repository dedicated to preserving the memories of Global South communities in the former Yugoslavia, dating back to the 1950s. This archive curates photographs, documents, and testimonies from African, Asian, and Abya Yala diasporas in Croatia and the surrounding region, safeguarding the identities of these often overlooked communities. Initiated by Petra Matic’s research in 2019, the archive addresses an urgent need to document the resilience of these diasporas, whose significant contributions remain largely unrecognized by Croatian institutions. By intertwining digital archiving with memory and human rights, this project emphasizes diversity and inclusivity in Croatia, while also connecting with similar global archives. It fills a critical gap in Croatia’s contemporary art scene, amplifying marginalized voices and tackling underrepresented conversations on race, racialization, and identity.

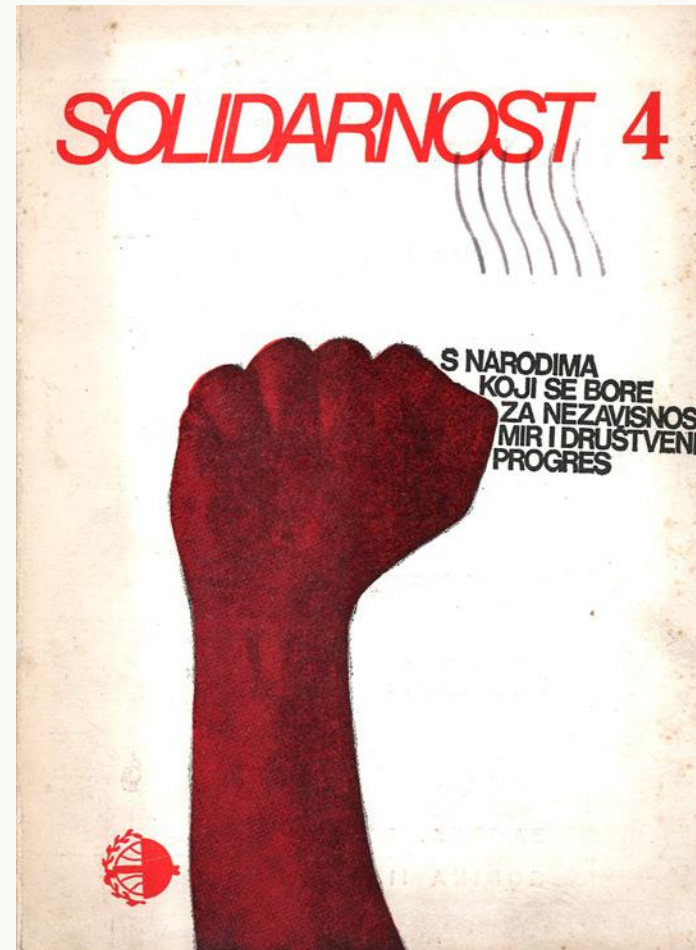
2024 — CURRENT

COLLABORATORS:

Stella Maria Varga, Sandra Wahesh,
Rea Drvar, Nancy Abdel Sakhi

SUPPORTED BY:

Kultura Nova Foundation, City of Zagreb



Arhiv Nesvrstanih / Non-Aligned Archive



UNION NATIONALE
DES ÉTUDIANTS DE SYRIE
BUREAU EXECUTIF

الاتحاد الوطني لطلبة سورية
المكتب التنفيذي

PRÉNOM *Mohamed Hisham* الاسم: *محمد هشام*

PRÉNOM DU PÈRE *Abdulrazak* اسم الأب: *عبد الرزاق*

NOM *Nawala* الكنية: *ناولو*

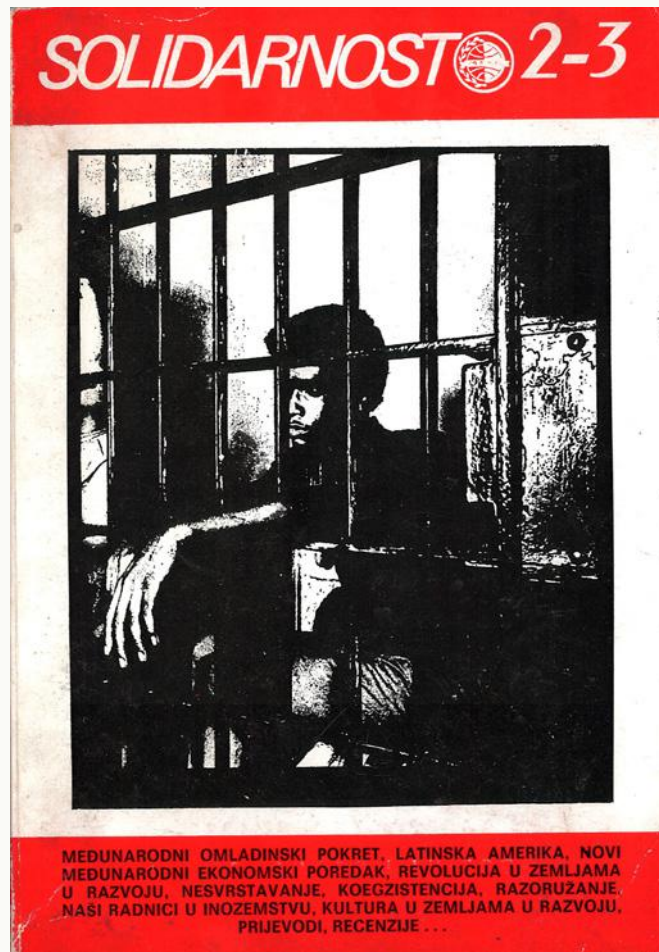
BRANCHE *Jugoslavia* الفرع: *يوغوسلافيا*

DIVISION *Stoguel* الوحدة: *ستول*

الرشيد

الانشاد الوطني لطلبة سورية
الانشاد الوطني لطلبة سورية

Arhiv Nesvrstanih / Non—Aligned Archive



Naša zemlja / Our Earth

Our Earth is a short science fiction film that envisions a utopian future shaped by the First World Peace, born from the international solidarities of the Non-Aligned Movement. The narrative begins in a dystopian past, where the planet is ravaged by violence, inequality, and environmental collapse. In response, global communities unite, using technology and strategy to resist oppression. A pivotal moment arrives when an alien signal brings hope, uniting the world in resistance. The film then turns its focus to the world at peace, exploring how decentralization, open borders, and global cooperation became essential tools for addressing planetary challenges. Though the First World Peace is not without its flaws, it marks the beginning of a new era—offering a vision of a more connected and resilient future.

2024

RUNTIME:

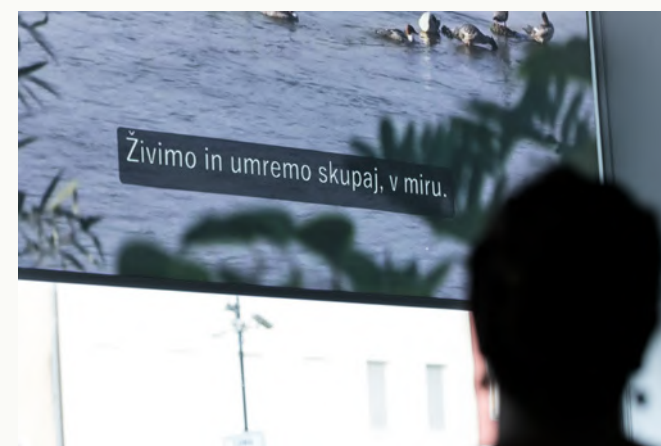
03:41

COMMISSIONED BY:

Pekarna Magdalenske mreže



Naša zemlja / Our Earth



Grad koji ima mir / The City That Has Peace

The City That Has Peace is a documentary film that traces the rise and fall of Zagreb's International Student Friendship Club. The film reflects on themes of solidarity, war, and community, as seen through the experiences of Sam Bushara and Mohamed Al Younis. It follows their journey from arriving to Zagreb as young students from former colonies to their involvement in the vibrant, multicultural youth centre that formed around the Club. The story culminates with the Club's eviction and destruction by arson during the 1990s war. The fall of the Club is symbolised by the solitary, flawed statue of Croatia's first president, Franjo Tuđman. Looking back on their journeys, the former students reflect on the tenderness and unity they encountered in Zagreb, but which are no longer there.

2023

RUNTIME:

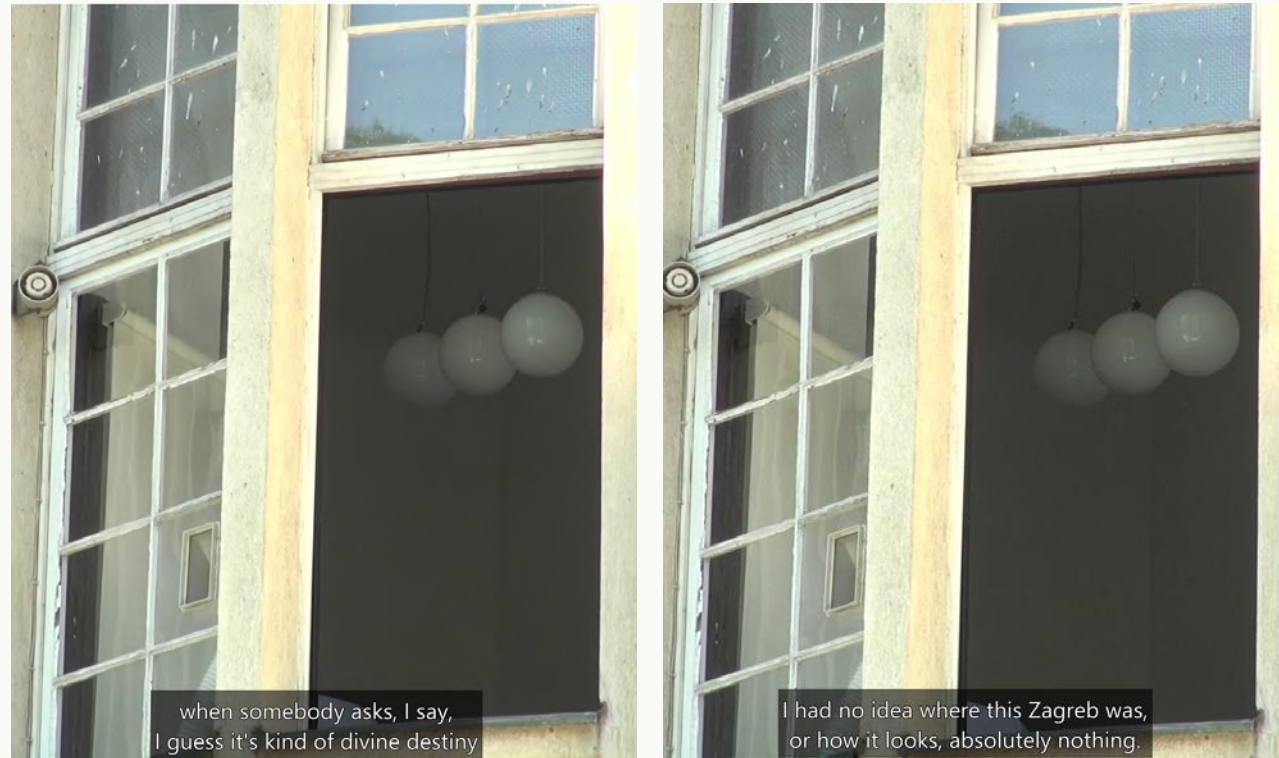
08:41

COLLABORATORS:

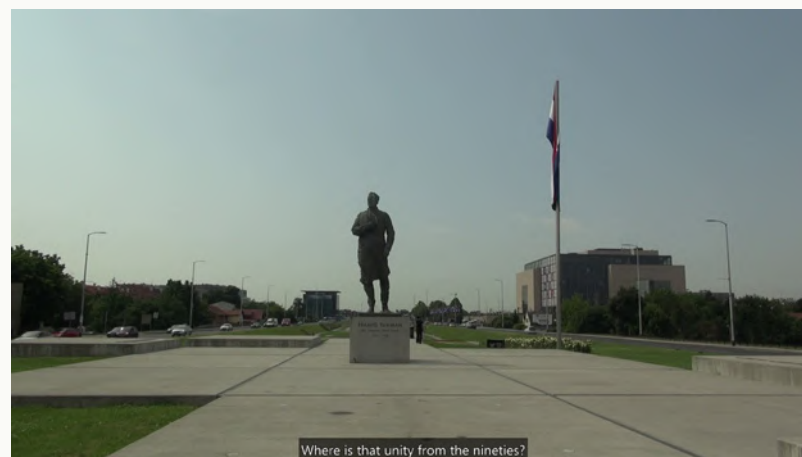
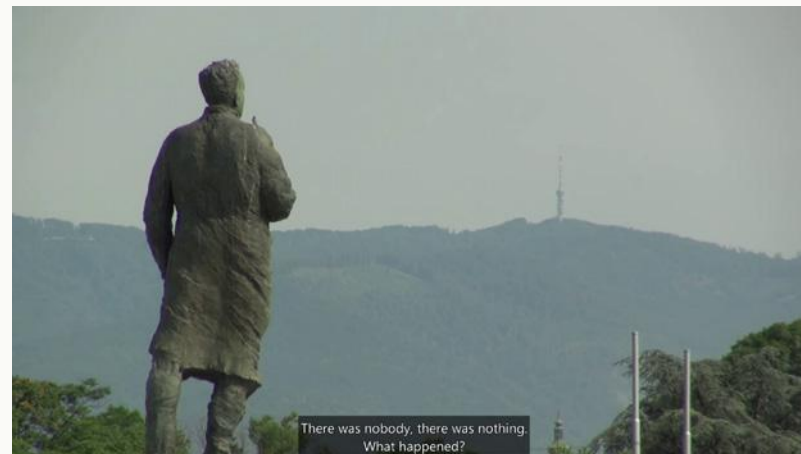
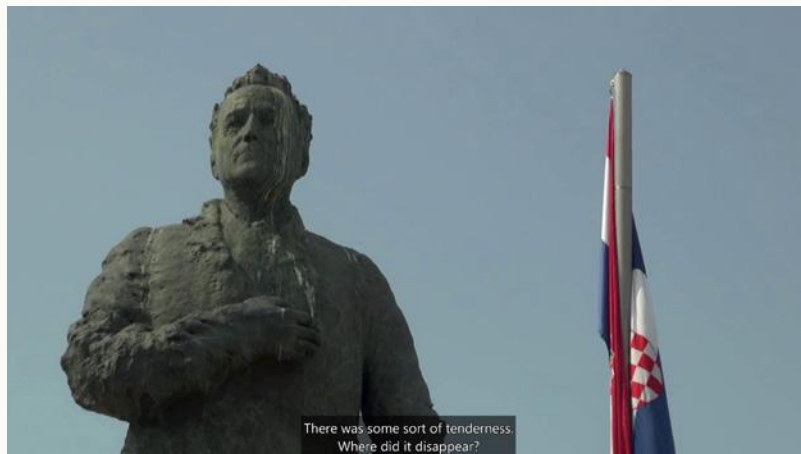
Sam Abdalla Bushara, Mohamed Al Younis,
Antonija Kren

COMMISSIONED BY:

Trešnjevka Cultural Centre



Grad koji ima mir / The City That Has Peace



Zajedno / Together

Zajedno: Following the Traces of the Kurdish Student Union explores the history of the Kurdish Student Union in Zagreb, active from 1966 to 1990. In collaboration with interdisciplinary Kurdish–Syrian artist Bahzad Sulaiman, the project delves into the legacy of Kurdish students and the contemporary experiences of Croatian citizens of Southwest Asian origin. Bahzad Sulaiman’s artistic residency in Croatia includes workshops and meetings with local artists, anthropologists, and former international students. Kurdish folklore dance workshops, held in Zagreb, Split, and the village of Šidski Banovci, revive the traditions once promoted by the Kurdish Student Union. Through this artistic research, the project reimagines the Kurdish community’s contributions to Croatia’s cultural landscape, creating new connections across history and geography.

2023

COLLABORATORS:

Stella Maria Varga, Zeleno Maće Association, queerANarchive

SUPPORTED BY:

Clubture Network



Zajedno / Together



Živa škola / Living School

Living School is a free educational art program aimed at young people, using community and art as powerful tools for activism and collective healing. Hosted at the historic Živi Atelje DK, the program sparks collective creativity through shared resources and active participation. Workshops cover themes such as identity, sustainability, and heritage, offering hands-on activities like wild clay ceramics, glassworking, and upcycling. The Knowledge Bazaar encourages skill-sharing through the Indonesian pasar ilmu method, blurring the line between teacher and student. Rooted in the legacy of sculptor Vera Dajht Kralj, the program cultivates trust and collaboration, culminating in a multilingual public presentation that showcases the participants' shared journey and artistic achievements.

2024 — CURRENT

COLLABORATORS:

Stella Maria Varga, Živi Atelje DK

SOMETHING

City of Zagreb, Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb



Živa škola / Living School



Crno—bijelo / Black and White

Black and White is a nomadic book club established in 2023, inviting the community to critically engage with themes of antiracism, identity, and postcolonialism through collective reading and analysis. Led by expert advisors, the program encourages dialogue and the sharing of lived experiences, with a focus on inclusion. The book club has featured notable guests like Dr. Sunnie Rucker—Chang, critical Roma theorist Jelena Savić, former Palestinian ambassador Majed Marouf, and anthropologists Tomislav Augustinčić and Damjan Roce. Hosted at various venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Anti—Fascist Network Zagreb, and Živi Atelje DK, Crno—bijelo serves as a space for shared knowledge and collective learning. Its adaptable format invites participants to shape discussions and select literature, fostering a shared commitment to anti—colonial strategies and social justice.

2023 — CURRENT

COLLABORATORS:

Stella Maria Varga

SUPPORTED BY:

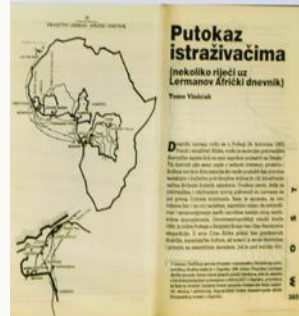
City of Zagreb, Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb



Crno—bijelo / Black and White



književni časopisi



- "možemo biti ponosni da je u poznatoj Stanleyjevoj afričkoj ekspediciji pred kraj 19. st. sudjelovao i jedan naš zemljak" (Matišić 1990:37)



an office

an office is a collective of over 20 members from diverse countries including Mexico, Costa Rica, Romania, Italy, and Hungary. Formed during ruangrupa's "becoming lumbung" course at the Salzburg Summer Academy of Fine Arts in 2021, the group reimagines traditional notions of institutional spaces and their purposes. By transforming the concept of an office, they explore themes of togetherness, belonging, and community engagement, often interacting with passers-by through site-specific installations and performances. an office has been presented in two editions: Dead Dove: Do Not Eat at documenta fifteen in Kassel (August 2022) and Practices of Belonging at the Fotograf Festival in Prague (September 2022). These events foster dialogue around hospitality and invite audiences to reconsider their relationships with space and community in an increasingly globalized world.

2022

SUPPORTED BY:

Romanian National Cultural Fund



an office



an office



Delo Lab

Delo Lab is a collaborative research platform developed for the Ljubljana Design Biennial BIO26|Common Knowledge, commissioned by the Museum of Architecture and Design Ljubljana in 2019. Under the guidance of Bureau d'Études, the design group explores the reconstruction of collective memory to forge new narratives and foster community healing. In an era marked by information crises, community archives and shared resources provide invaluable sources of knowledge. Delo Lab breathes new life into a newspaper archive, encouraging community members to enrich its collection with previously untold stories. Readers contribute their own narratives which are integrated into a broader collective history, deepening the understanding of shared experience. Ultimately, Delo Lab serves as a catalyst for dialogue, memory, and cultural connection within the community.

2019

MIXED MEDIA

200 cm x 415 cm x 220 cm

COLLABORATORS:

Zuzanna Zgierska, Maxime Benvenuto, José Tomás Pérez Valle, Mateja Mlinarič

COMMISSIONED BY:

Delo and Museum of Architecture and Design Ljubljana



