

Izvor Pende, Slaven Tolj, Marijana Pende

Point of Interrupted Departures

curated by Daniele Capra, Michael Stoeber

11 May – 24 November 2019

Venice, Arsenale Nord, Tesa 100

The MOMAD Museum of Modern Art Dubrovnik presents, under the high patronage of the cities of Dubrovnik and Venice, the group show *Point of Interrupted Departures* to coincide with the 58th Venice Biennale. The exhibition gathers the works of Croatian artists **Izvor Pende**, **Slaven Tolj** and **Marijana Pende** in the location of Tesa 100 at the Arsenale Nord. The show celebrates the relationship between the two cities after strong social, political and artistic connections lasting for centuries.

Point of Interrupted Departures analyses how the artistic process is the result of a dynamics characterized by the departure from the known, that is the creative trigger, and then by the actions of afterthought and changing of direction, which involve a deviation of the intellectual drive towards other goals, towards other approaches and methods of research never undertaken before. The practice of the three artists is a succession of attempts, continuous departures and free negotiations from the psychic and conceptual point of view. The artwork is in fact the result of an articulated polygonal chain drawn by the artist, in which her/his research is progressively carried out further and further from the initial purpose, in continuous cycles of action and interruption.

The abstract paintings presented by Izvor Pende imply figuration, which however goes well beyond the purely figurative. Pende has ventured into the exploration of multiple layers of pictorial spaces and in the presented series of paintings widened his range of his colours, providing additional depth and perspective. The struggle for the successful form had always been the utmost priority for the artist, not the reproduction of specific contents. For him, the creation is part of a long process, involving drawing as an important base. The seemingly figurative of his abstract compositions in the Arsenale makes the viewer search for the familiar and recognizable, while never reaching and grasping it fully.

Slaven Tolj, an artist formed in the tradition of *Arte Povera* and the *Croatian New Art Practice*, implicates difficult subjects such as death and loss, closeness without a palpable body, disappearance of people, fading of the city the way we know it. In his multi-media and video performance works, present in the Arsenale, it is the experience and the having-lived-through-things that are the key determinants of the body of the artist's work that constantly changes, and ages, and is renewed once more, never ceasing to question the viewer and inciting him to ponder and reflect on this own life and meaning.

The artistic practice of Marijana Pende stems from the drive to explore the perceptive and emotional potentials of sculpture, as well as the social and economic implications of the materials used. Works from the serie *Looking forward to seeing you*, created specifically for the exhibition in Venice, emerge from the combination of coloured and functional acrylic with other more material and seductive elements which are results of intense experimentation. In *Looking forward to seeing you*, Pende presents a possible relationship, a surprising dialogue between counterparts, and it is up to the spectator to listen to it carefully, word after word.

Izvor Pende studied since 1998 at the Fine Art Academy in Düsseldorf. In 2002 he was in the masterclass of Professor Karin Rissa, where in the same year he obtained the Art Academy prize. In the beginning of his artistic career Pende focussed primarily on figurative painting. Although the abstract pictures that the artist paints today are no less figurative, Pende has expanded successively into a whole new exploration of the pictorial space, expanded the range of his colours by harmoniously combining them. In 2017 the artist started an artistic dialogue with the German painter Daniel Richter in the collaboration project *Swimming Together*, where the co-produced exhibition of their works toured museums in Croatia (MOMAD Museum of Fine Art of Split in 2017, MSU Museum of contemporary Art of Zagreb and MMSU Museum

for Modern and Contemporary Art of Rijeka in 2018). Izvor Pende participated in numerous exhibitions in Croatia, Germany and the USA. The works of the artist are part of private collections, such as the Gabriele Henkel-collection, Düsseldorf, and British American Tobacco-collection, Hamburg. He lives and works in Dubrovnik.

[Instagram](#) @izvorpende

Slaven Tolj is one of the most famous artists on the Croatian contemporary art scene. His radical and minimalist practice involving performance, photography, ready-made, situations and objects deals with specific social facts and historical events. At the beginning of his career, in the 1990s, he focused on the situation in his own country, on the collapse of Yugoslavia, the war in Croatia, especially on the siege of Dubrovnik, his home town. Later, in the post-totalitarian context, he develops a broader scope of research that includes topics related to globalization and multiculturalism. Tolj staged a number of performances as well as actions and participated in numerous exhibitions in Croatia and abroad. In 1988, Slaven Tolj founded the Art Workshop Lazareti, one of the most active places of contemporary Croatian art practice, focusing on the interaction between contemporary art and social change which has significantly influenced the visibility and affirmation of the contemporary Croatian visual art scene. He is the director of the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rijeka and the artistic director of Rijeka - European Capital of Culture 2020. He lives and works in Rijeka and Dubrovnik.

[Instagram](#) #slaventolj

Marijana Pende graduated in sculpture and installation with Roberto Pozzobon and contemporary music with Nicola Cisternino at the Fine Art Academy in Venice in 2008. She was invited to a residency at the German Kulturamt Frankfurt in Frankfurt am Main. Pende exhibited her works at Gallery Prsten, Croatian Association of Artists in Zagreb and at the Museum of Modern Art of Dubrovnik. She took part at the show *Atelier Aperti* at 51. Biennale di Venezia with the best students of Fine Art Academies of Italy, and in several shows as *Classroom #01* at Museo Madre, Naples; *Refuses* at Arsenale in Venice; *Emotion to cohabit*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Palazzo Forti in Verona and Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb; *Triennial of Croatian Sculpture*, Glyptothek, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb (in 2012, 2015, 2018). Marijana Pende had solo show at Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rijeka, Glyptothek Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb, Museum of Contemporary Art of Istria in Pula, Museum of Modern Art of Dubrovnik, Palazzo Costanzi in Trieste, Museum of Fine Art in Split. She lives and works in Dubrovnik.

[Instagram](#) @marijanapende

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11 May – 24 November 2019

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

free admission

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www.interrupteddepartures.com

[Instagram](#) #pointofinterrupteddepartures

@izvorpende, #slaventolj, @marijanapende

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