

Vesna Bukovec & Ana Čigon: Remembering for Tomorrow

4. – 30. 4. 2025

The second exhibition of the International Feminist and Queer Festival Red Dawns, taking place in April and organised in collaboration with the Association for the Promotion of Women in Culture – City of Women, features two of the key artists who have been working independently and together in many fields of art in Slovenia for more than two decades. Social criticism, more specifically, feminist art, is an important foundation of Vesna Bukovec's and Ana Čigon's artistic practice.

Since 2021, the artists have been developing the *Work in Progress* project together with curator Tia Čiček. Within it, the role of remembering is to bring ways of better understanding one's own relationship to work and community. For the artists, remembering, which is meant in the broadest sense and is here the process of returning attention to the past to uncover and connect overlooked stories and their actors, is an important tool in the search for alternatives to the neoliberal paradigm.

Vesna Bukovec and Ana Čigon are (have been) involved in various ways and with diverse roles both in the International Feminist and Queer Festival Red Dawns and The Festival of Contemporary Arts – City of Women, two renowned non-governmental actors with a long history in the field of feminism in culture and art. The exhibition entitled *Remembering for Tomorrow* – besides highlighting the relevant contribution of both artists to the recognition of the importance of feminist themes in society and foregrounding their input to the development of the field – is also a dedication to their activist work. The overview of the works in the exhibition, however, is only the tip of the iceberg, as their production is truly extensive. This will be particularly evident in the compilation of shorter videos by both artists, which include artist videos, animations and performance documentation. Serious but also humorous, the videos reveal how feminist engagement can also be a catalyst for social change through connecting, sharing reflections, dreams and flirtatious smiles. The importance of laughter is also reflected in their work in the burlesque-cabaret collective *Fem TV*, for which Vesna Bukovec, in addition to editing the videos, has created a distinctive visual image, while Ana Čigon also impresses with her singing performances.

In addition to presenting their feminist contribution to contemporary art, the exhibition of Vesna Bukovec and Ana Čigon is also a celebration of the work of the Red Dawns and City of Women festivals and the links between them, to which the artists themselves have undoubtedly contributed greatly. In the spirit of the recently passed 25th anniversary of Red Dawns and the current 30th anniversary of the City of Women Association, the exhibition is a contribution to the historicization of a certain period and the mapping of collaborations in the context of feminist art in the local space; it is an act of remembering those events, concepts, struggles and persons that give us the strength and knowledge to build feminist future.

Ana Čigon (1982) is an artist working in the fields of video, film and performance. She holds an MA in video (The Academy of Fine Arts and Design, University of Ljubljana) and in interface cultures (University of Arts Linz, Austria). Her projects deal with social and feminist themes, such as the underrepresentation of women artists in art history, LGBTQI+ issues, critique of European refugee policy and neoliberalism, etc. She often incorporates elements of humour and irony in her works and does not limit herself to a single media in her production process. In recent years, she has also been working in film and has participated in collective performance projects with her co-authors, in the *Fem TV* collective, among others. She has had solo exhibitions at the Alkatraz Gallery, Kapelica Gallery and Skuc Gallery in Ljubljana; Kibela and GT 22 Maribor, Celje Art Salon, Simulaker Novo Mesto, Stacion – Center for Contemporary art Priština, etc. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including ISCP (International Studio & Curatorial Program) in New York, USA, Istanbul Modern in Turkey, MSMU – Museum of Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, and MG – Museum of Modern Art Ljubljana, etc. She is the winner of the OHO Award (2009), a finalist of the Henkel Slovenia Prize (2010) and a finalist of the Vordemberge-Gildewart Foundation Prize (2010). In the field of film, she has received five awards. www.anacigon.si

Vesna Bukovec (1977) received her BA and MA in sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design, University of Ljubljana. She is a socially critical artist who expresses herself in various media, with her focus being drawing, in addition to video. She has presented her work in a number of solo exhibitions (Centre and P74 Gallery, 2003 and 2005; Miklova hiša Gallery, 2009; KAPSULA, 2010; Cankarjev dom (Art Critiques' Choice) 2011; Alkatraz Gallery, 2012, 2016; Domžale Gallery, 2013, 2023; House of Culture in Pivka, 2015, 2019; Simulaker Gallery, 2006, 2018, ArtKit Gallery, Ravne Gallery, 2019; GONG Gallery, 2020; Savin's Art Salon, 2021; Skuc Gallery 2007, 2022; raum AU, 2023; Ivan Grohar Gallery, 2024) and group exhibitions at home and abroad. Since 2015, she has been associate of DIVA Station at SCCA-Ljubljana, curating exhibitions, video programmes and is member of the programme team of the festival of experimental audiovisual practices V-F-X Ljubljana. Between 2016 and 2022, she designed the visual identity of the City of Women festival and the designed Reflections publications. For a short time, she was part of the *Fem TV* collective and documented the Red Dawns festival. She is self-employed in culture and active also in the field of web and graphic design for cultural NGOs. www.vesna-bukovec.net

Production: KUD Mreža/ Rdeče zore, Association for the Promotion of Women in Culture – City of Women • Graphic design for the Red Dawns festival: Lenča Malec • Curatorial team: Ana Grobler, Sebastian Krawczyk, Iva Kovač, Urška Kleindienst • Translation: Ana Makuc • Proof-reading: Sonja Benčina, Thanks to: Center for Contemporary Arts SCCA-Ljubljana



KUD MREŽA/ ALKATRAZ GALERIJA, Masarykova 24, 1000 Ljubljana, E-mail: galerija.alkatraz@gmail.com, www.galerijalkatraz.org
Phone: +386 (0)1 434 0345. Alkatraz Gallery's programme is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, Municipality of Ljubljana - Department for Culture. KUD Mreža/Galerija Alkatraz is a member of Asociacija, the association of non-government organisations and independent creators in the field of culture and art in Slovenia