

Memory Lane

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MagiCCarpets
Lab852

"Memory Lane" is an audiovisual installation presented at Jelsa Art Biennale within an abandoned local ambulance building in Jelsa, Croatia. Exhibition and its concepts are based around abandoned Belgrade children resort on Hvar Island, Croatia. After the escalation of war between Serbs and Croats this building has been shut down and later totally abandoned and left to ruin.

Following my own practices and focus on introspection and growth I talked to ex residents, staff and few of those who were born and lived within the complex of resort about their lives there, experiences with local community, about their past and how it shaped their present. I've chosen to work closely with one woman who was born and grew up in resort up until her 9th year, at which time war broke out and she was forced together with her family who also lived and worked in resort to abandon it and move back to Belgrade.

Works:

- "Sea Elegy" - Drawing
- "Sea Elegy" - Audio instalation
- "Fragile borders" - Glass instalation
- "У земљи чуда" - Object
- "Дјеса" Participative work





In a form of interview, I asked various questions and recorded all answers of her story and memories about resort. These recordings are later edited as an audio work titled **"Sea Elegy"**. She spoke of her childhood memories, what it meant to live in resort, and how it felt leaving it without much explanation of what's happening. Also, she is mother of two and she spoke of what it now means for her to have a family and what are to her the virtues of children that are to be nourished and praised. Her voice would echo through exhibition room as visitors had opportunity to view the installation and also participate within it.

Work **"Djeca"** (Children) participative work inspired by unfinished sentences method used in psychotherapy. Visitors were invited to choose and finish sentences referring to their childhood by writing them on the walls in the exhibition room. From infantile questions to deep reflections one by one sentences were filling up the sterile pastel green walls of ambulance room, which now became a sort of sanctuary for childhood memory.



BACIŠ SMEĆE U KANTU, DVO NESTANE. ISTINA ME ŠOKIRALA

"Special se tog dubin,
vrijedi dugo, vrti se, gdje traje dugo,
nema plana i ne postima na vrijeme,
tako full time dugo,
stajuća opija."

Small text below the quote, possibly a signature or reference.

Original text in Cyrillic script, likely the source text for the translation exercise.

Translated text in Cyrillic script, corresponding to the original text above.

Plain text of the poem written in English, corresponding to the quote above.

Translated text in English, corresponding to the original text above.



Drawing **"Sea Elegy"** was positioned on the wall little higher than standard, something to be looked up to. This drawing was done by reference to a photograph from the person that was interviewed. Photograph was taken 3 months before her departure from Jelsa to Belgrade. Underneath the drawing there was a shattered black and transparent glass installation titled **"Border"**. This glass was a warning, form of caution. As stories about childhood often can be shaped as innocence and purity this glass referred to it's fragility and need for attention and care. Glass was taken directly from resort, washed and installed. Black protective glass was belonging to the room of the director of the resort, while the rest was all around the building. If so desired, in order for viewer to get closer to the drawing they would have to step on across the shattered glass, both referring metaphorically to time and circumstances that passed and also crating the cracking noise that is present and direct sound and visual reference to Belgrade resort in Jelsa.





In the center of the room was an object "У земљи чуда" („In wonderland "), a book "Alice in wonderland " written in Cyrillic, letter no longer red by Croats. Book was found within the ruins of resort. Most likely belonging to some of the children who studied there.



All together these works created audio visual installation available for visitors to view, comment and reflect on their own experiences of the place that was once there and also have a private evaluation of their own "home", of their own childhood story.





PUT SJEĆANJA

„Put sjećanja“ naziv je izložbe koja za svoju bazu ima nekadašnje Beogradsko odmaralište i oporavilište u Jelsu, Hvar. Cjelokupan proces zasniva se na putovanju i upoznavanju mjestilana, onih koji su tu odmarali, radili ili kratko boravili. S fokusom na priče pojedinaca o iskustvima iz odmarališta kao i pitanjima djetinjstva i analizu trenutnog mentalnog stanja odmarališta, gradila se ideja o realizaciji finalne izložbe, simbolično postavljene u obližnjoj ambulanti. Prikazani radovi kroz multimedijalnu postavku grade ideju nekadašnjeg objekta, sistema i kolektivna koji je tu živio. Projekt također u svojoj osnovi daje univerzalnu priču o značaju narvoja djetinjstva i utjecaja okoline u kojem se ono formira.

MEMORY LANE

„Memory lane“ is the name of the exhibition that has as its base the former Belgrade resort and convalescent home in Jelsa, Hvar. The whole process was based on traveling and getting to know the locals, those who grew up, worked, or stayed there for a short time. With a focus on the stories of individuals about the experiences from the resort as well as childhood issues and the analysis of its current state, the idea of realizing the final exhibition, symbolically placed in a nearby clinic, was built. The works shown through a multimedia exhibition build the idea of the former building, system, and collective that lived there. The project also basically gives a universal story about the importance of childhood development and the impact of the environment in which it is formed.



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