

ART STAYS **19**

08. 07. -
18. 09. 2021

Ptuj, Slovenija

STRUCTURA

Press release

Art Stays announces 2021 programme

19th Art Stays Festival – STRUCTURA

Opening Weekend: Thursday 8 July – Sunday 11 July 2021

Exhibitions: Thursday 8 July – Saturday 18 September 2021

ART STAYS, the **Ptuj Festival of Contemporary Art**, has been a well-established European event for many years, presenting projects and works by both emerging talents and established artists. This year's 19th edition of the festival, which dates back to 2003, bears the name **STRUCTURA**.

While the last edition entitled *No more silence* has been a remarkable and adventurous journey into the world of sound, words, and silence, which began from the conviction that we must urgently give voice to the fragility of our world to rethink the future, today's *Structura* reveals a desire to review things from another perspective, starting from the depth, from the composition of grammar which we first define and assign and then apply in reading everything around us.

Like trees connected to the cycle of life, but suspended between reality and imagination, we have travelled through contradictory images, volumes, forms, structures capable of generating processes, dependent on the time of growth and spatial development. Structures which, at a closer look, seem to emerge, get lost or acquire different identities as they are transferred into another space. We come across a reversal of perspectives and vision, an imaginary journey through the metamorphosis of forms and definitions of structure.

Structura, directed by **Jernej Forbici** and **Marika Vicari**, was born from the intention of wanting to reflect not so much on the nature of the individual, but on the reciprocal behaviour of various elements placed together, be they men or artistic operations, capable of experiencing different conditions and metamorphoses of the world in forms of coexistence, transformations or deep interdependence between things, men, and our planet.

The main exhibition *Structure 01*, hosted in the halls of the Ptuj City Gallery, represents the structure through an international and multidisciplinary dialogue between the monochrome works of **Duša Jesih** and **Julia Mangold**. Artists **Hebert Hamak** and **Dušan Fišer** investigate the behaviour of elements, space, and colour in forms and different structures, while **Matej Andraž Vogrinčič** and **Radenko Milan & Roman Uranjek** instead reflect in a dichotomous manner on uniqueness and multiplicity. The Israeli artist **Gal Weinstein** challenges Israeli mythology by sweeping the utopian structures of the last century out from under the carpet, and the young Azerbaijani artist **Faig Ahmed** tells the ancient Azerbaijani tradition in the texture interrupted by a colourful spatial form. **Mohammad Al-Hemd** transforms Western elements into a vision of local ideals and symbolic representations of Middle Eastern culture.

The exhibition is curated in collaboration with **Studio La Città** from Verona, **Riccardo Crespi** from Milan, **Montoro12** from Brussels, **Galerija Fotografija** from Ljubljana, and **Arte Laguna Prize** from Venice.

The Dominican Monastery features a unique sculpture exhibition, *Structure 02*, where works by the established Georgian artist **Tamara Kvesitadze** will be presented for the first time in Slovenia, alongside new fascinating works by **Sasha Frolova**, **Johannes Nielsen**, **Annalu**, **Tomaž Plavec**, and **Milojka Drobne**. Through different constructions and compositions of matter, this exhibition, created in collaboration with the **Galerie Kornfeld** from Berlin and **Punto sull'Arte** from Varese, ensures a unique and exceptional experience.

The distinguished chambers of the historic Ptuj Castle will host a selection of small unpublished bronze works by the Japanese artist **Kyoji Nagatani**, as well as medium and large inflatable latex works by the Russian artist **Sasha Frolova**, reinforcing the intent of Art Stays to reflect on structures and paths and determine the relationship between ancient and contemporary art.

Structure 04, Sincron Gallery Reloaded, is a unique international programmatic path, consisting of works of art, writings, words, faces, settings, and different atmospheres. For the first time in the renowned Miheličeva Gallery in Ptuj, the Italian curator **Afra Canali** from the **Kanali d'Arte Gallery** opens an exhibition dedicated to the beginnings of Italian constructivism and cine-visualism of the American, European, and Asian spheres, while laying emphasis on the importance of archives.

The Ptuj Public Library will host an interesting exhibition featuring young artists who derive from three vastly different environments: graduates from **Ljubljana's** ALOU, from **Singapore's** McNally School of Fine Arts Faculty of Fine Arts, Media & Creative Industries of LASSALE College of the Arts, and from Shenkar - Multidisciplinary Art School of **Ramat-Gan** in Israel. Exhibition is dedicated to structures, experiments, and mediums of the young international art. Among the invited artists are **Rok Horvat**, **Tomo Stanič**, **Adi Brown**, **Einav Zeichner**, **Lilach Yaron**, **Neta Chavy**, **Nitsan Zimra**, **Noa Berant**, **Ron Yosef**, **Roni Binder**, **Tair Uria**, **Valeria Modalvski**, **Teo Annjee**, **Nur Fazera Binte Makrof**, **Edmund Kerk**, **Wee Xuan Bevelyn**, **Tasfia Hasin Nawar**, and **Danial Shafiq Bin Mohd Fauzi**.

Organic forms that can be read on several structural, emotional, or physical levels become the subjects of the latest unpublished works, which the Austrian artist **Ina Loitzl** will present at the Magistrat Gallery in the Ptuj City Hall. Whereas geometric abstractions, concepts of space, perspectives, and construction are the fields of action and representations in the works by artists **Suzana Brborović**, **Ana Skobe**, **Doroteja Dolinšek**, **Janja Kosi**, **Katja Pal**, and **Maruša Meglič**, which have been selected by the curator **Doroteja Kotnik** for this year's exhibition at the FO.VI Gallery in Kidričevo.

The extraordinary *Baroque performance* by **Sasha Frolova**, conferences, workshops, and a new project of video mapping by **Movimento Creative Label** will rejuvenate the streets and historic buildings of Ptuj, in addition to site specific installations in the city centre created by the ART STAYS Art team, concerts, and musical experiments that will altogether complement the articulated program of the festival. **The 19th** edition of **ART STAYS** involves all the main public and private historical, artistic, cultural, political, and social institutions of the ancient city of Ptuj, while offering structures and different paths of a unique dialogue evolving around articulated perspectives and metamorphosis.