

ARTISTIC PRODUCTION AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN CONTEMPORARY CIVIL SOCIETY IN WIDER EUROPE

**5-8 JUNE 2017**  
**CARAVAN MEETING / LJUBLJANA / SLOVENIA**

# FLANDERS BALKAN express

## VENUES

OF THE FLANDERS—BALKAN EXPRESS CARAVAN MEETING

**STARA MESTNA ELEKTRARNA – ELEKTRO LJUBLJANA**, Slomškova 7

**AKSIOMA GALLERY**, Komenskega 18

**METELKOVA CITY**, Metelkova street 6

**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART METELKOVA**, Maistrova 3

**GRAFFITI TOUR MEETING POINT: FOUNTAIN AT GORNJI TRG**, Gornji trg 1

**DVORANA TABOR (HALL OF SPORTS SOCIETY TABOR)**, Tabor 13

ORGANISATION: **BUNKER, LJUBLJANA, BALKAN EXPRESS NETWORK, FLANDERS ARTS INSTITUTE**

**bunker**

NETWORK  
**BALKAN**  
express

**FLANDERS**  
ARTS INSTITUTE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

 **Flanders**  
State of the Art

# FLANDERS BALKAN express

A 4-DAY WORKSHOP IN LJUBLJANA FOR 40 PARTICIPANTS FROM THE BALKANS, EASTERN EUROPE AND FLANDERS

## MEETING PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 4 JUNE arrival of participants

---

**19.30–20.30** / Dinner in Stara elektrarna

**21.00** / Performance, Hall of Sports society Tabor, Tabor 13, Ljubljana  
Beton Ltd.: ICH KANN NICHT ANDERS

DAY 1, MONDAY 5 JUNE

---

**12.00–13.00** / Lunch in Stara elektrarna

**13.00–15.00** / space: Stara elektrarna

Introduction / **WELCOME BY ORGANISERS AND SHORT INTRODUCTION OF CARAVAN MEETING AND THEMES** (10 minutes)

Opening keynotes: **Artistic production in a contemporary European context**

**Rok Vevar**, publicist, researcher and artist, Slovenia

**Pascal Gielen**, professor of sociology of art and politics at the Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts ARIA  
(Antwerp University, Belgium)

Q&A and debate / moderator of the day: **Bojan Djordjevic**

**15.00–15.30** / Coffee break

**15.30–18.00** / Space: Stara elektrarna

**AFTERNOON PLENARY / SUSTAINABLE CREATIVITY – Artist-run and artist-centered**

**New ways of working, new organisational forms**

Artists develop new ways of working to deal with financial issues and fair practice, with production and presentation pressure (“never say no”) and to develop new and different relations with audiences and civil society.

Rethinking artistic practices needs to be translated into new organisational forms and different relations with the government and private sector, other artists, art organisations and other sectors. Working together and sharing, creating time and space for development and reflection, building relations with other domains and with contemporary society as it is today. It's not only about funding and sharing production and administration jobs; it's about rethinking the position and role of artists and the arts on all levels.

Different contexts in regions and countries will lead to different ways of working and organisational forms.  
What can we learn from each other?

Introduction by the moderator: **Bojan Djordjev, Walking Theory, Serbia**

Presentations of different cases and their contexts:

**Sarah Van Hee**, artist, Manyone, Belgium

**Michiel Vandeveld**, artist, Bâtard festival, Belgium

**Dragana Alfirević**, Nomad Dance Academy, Slovenia

**Natalia Vatsadze**, Bouillon Group, Georgia

**Albert Heta**, Stacion - Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Kosovo

**Bojan Jablanovec**, Via Negativa & Lab, Slovenia

**Sonja Soldo**, Pogon, Croatia

**19.00** / Dinner in Stara elektrarna

**20.00** / Evening artistic programme, optional **Concert by Tuur FLORIZOONE, accordion** in PRULČEK BAR ([tuurflorizoone.be](http://tuurflorizoone.be))

## DAY 2, TUESDAY 6 JUNE

---

**9.00–9.30** / Space: Aksioma project space

Exhibition: **Jennifer Lyn Morone TM INC** (introduction to the theme)

**10.00–11.45** / Space: Stara elektrarna

**MORNING PLENARY / SPACES OF PRODUCTION: Public domain in digital space**

Digital space as public space for production and presentation of artistic work. Artists address the public and private questions around digital space, about the social dynamics of digital space and how media can be modelled and used to exchange, share and collaborate between artists and citizens.

Introduction by moderator: **Evi Swinnen, Timelab, Belgium**

Participants:

**Luja Šimunović**, Kontejner, Croatia

**Klara Petrović**, Kontejner, Croatia

**Ekmel Ertan**, Amber Platform, Turkey

**Iza Pavlina**, multimedia artist, Slovenia

**Dorotea Škrabo**, multimedia artist, Croatia / Slovenia

**Jurij Krpan**, Kapelica Gallery, Slovenia

**13.00** / Lunch in Stara elektrarna

**14.30–18.00** / Space: Metelkova mesto

**AFTERNOON PLENARY / SPACES OF PRODUCTION: Making public domain in the city**

Concepts such as “urban” and “public” are viewed from an expanded perspective: how is urban space subdivided by politics? By what mechanisms and under what conditions is a public sphere created and what exactly becomes “public”?

How do artists and citizens use urban space for public activities (squads, interventions)? How do inhabitants and artists contribute to the analysis and understanding of the planned space (city planning, corporate investment, gentrification) and how can they contribute in making space public? How do citizens and politics react to artistic actions in open space?

Guided tour through Metelkova City by **Jadranka Plut** and **Sebastian Krawczyk**

**Introduction** of the theme: **Aidan Cerar**, urban sociologist, Slovenia

It is quite unwanted to have the buildings empty. For the owners it presents lost profit, for local administration it symbolises a fail in city policy and for local inhabitants it is just a threat, usually in terms of security and hygiene related issues. Squatting such building is one of the ways to bring it back to life. Some squats supply the marginal groups with the needed space, others generate value, attract tourists or provide space of cutting edge artistic activities. But which squats should be kept and which shut down? Who benefits from the squats and who should decide on their future? What is better for the daily life of the citizens, squats or a replacement which sometimes comes in a form of shiny new residential buildings or economically more prosperous creative industries.

Introduction to the discussion by moderator: **Tjaša Pureber**, researcher, Slovenia

Participants:

**Tile Vos and Wannes Cré**, Het Bos, Belgium

**Benjamin Vandewalle**, artist, Belgium

**Evi Swinnen**, Time Lab, Belgium

**Jadranka Plut**, Mreža Association, Metelkova City, Slovenia

**Mirjana Dragosavljević**, Cultural Centre Magacin, Serbia

**Miha Zadnikar**, Metelkova City, Slovenia

**19.00** / Dinner in Stara elektrarna

**20.00** / Artistic programme, optional **Concert by Tuur FLORIZOONE**, accordion in STARA ELEKTRARNA ([tuurflorizoone.be](http://tuurflorizoone.be))

## DAY 3, WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE

---

**9.30** Coffee / Space: Stara elektrarna

**10.00-13.00** / Space: Stara elektrarna

**MORNING PLENARY / Art and culture in neoliberal and nationalist times**

Introduction to the theme by **Pascal Gielen**, professor of sociology of art and politics at the Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts ARIA (Antwerp University, Belgium)

Since the financial crisis started at the end of 2007, a lot of governments have cut cultural and artistic budgets. Inspired by the critical social theory of Herbert Marcuse (1964), these policy decisions are understood by Gielen within an ideological framework as 'repressive liberalism'. That is a (cultural) politics that on the one hand proclaims individual freedom, stimulates cultural entrepreneurship and embraces the creative city and active citizenship, but on the other hand develops a large-scale decentralised control apparatus that strongly restricts individual, artistic freedom and activist citizenship. Within this cultural policy, inspired by neoliberalism and neonationalism, creative labour itself is 'instrumentalised' as a tool of repressive tolerance. (Pascal Gielen)

Moderator: **Rarita Zbranca**, Alt Art, Romania

Participants:

**Marta Keil**, theoretician, Poland

**Filip Jovanovski and Ivana Vaseva**, AKTO festival Skopje, Macedonia

**Katarina Stegnar**, Beton Ltd., Slovenia

**Teja Reba**, City of Women Festival, Slovenia

**Michiel Vandeveld**, artist, Belgium

**Geert Opsomer**, RITCS, Belgium

**Aleš Mendiževc**, Radio Študent, Slovenia

**13.00-14.00** / Lunch in Stara elektrarna

**15.00–17.30** / Meeting point: Fountain at Gornji trg

**Graffiti tour through Ljubljana**, by sociologist **Sandi Abram**, Slovenia

The Ljubljana Graffiti Tour sees the facades of Ljubljana as a huge canvas where past and present social and cultural changes are depicted. The tour will immerse us into an ever-evolving mix of graffiti and street art, exploring the creativity in relationship with art and political ideologies. The journey through the streets will offer also a look “beyond the facades”, namely, it will touch upon the question of how urban cultures are intertwined with information-communications technologies, new urban economy, and urban planning.

**19.00** / Meeting point in Stara elektrarna **Reservation is mandatory.** (please reserve your place with Alma R. Selimović)

Artistic dinners, hosted by 4 different artists / **Kitch: Kitch Vegan Dinner** / **Neja Tomšič: Tea for Five: Opium Ships** /

**Beton Ltd.: Ich kann essen und trinken** / **Olja Grubić: Dinner at Olja's home**

## DAY 4, THURSDAY 8 JUNE

---

**9.30** Coffee / Space: Museum of Contemporary Art Ljubljana, Metelkova

**10.00–11.00** / Closing lecture

**Svetlana Slapšak: ON THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN THE SOCIETY – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

When culture was separated from democracy...and why it never came back?

We have a tendency to consider and theorize culture as something belonging to a given society, but preserving its independence – as a wishful thinking, at least. The socially integrated culture does not seem credible, and we sometimes blame totalitarian societies for a violent integration. Too often we forget that a society with culture integrated to politics (and reverse) existed, at least for a very short time and in the measure of our acquired knowledge and interpretation: of course, this „culture“ was not defined or named as culture, it was just...integrated, in the Athenian democracy in the 5th ct BC. Its most famous and still present phenomenon was theatre, which we since several centuries duly censor by proclaiming it „universal“ instead of understanding its concrete democratic role and function. Finding continuities – non-repressive examples of integrated culture in a democratic society is not an easy job, perhaps it is just another utopian project. Historical perspective might help.

**11.00–13.00** / WHAT COMES AFTER?

Round up and steps towards sustainable relations

Report and recapitulation of the week

Discussion about further development of collaborations between participants and their organisations

Moderators: **Tamara Bračič Vidmar** and **Dirk De Wit**

**13.00** / Lunch in Stara elektrarna

**14.30–18.00** / Free time or optional programme:

Creation of smaller groups to visit various artistic spaces in Ljubljana: arts spaces Glej Theatre, Kino Šiška...

Gallery Kapelica: exhibition

Modern gallery, exhibition: **The Heritage of 1989. Case Study: The Second Yugoslav Documents Exhibition**

**20.00** / Performance in Stara elektrarna:

**Beton Ltd: ALL WE'VE LOST WHILE WE'VE GONE ON LIVING**

---

**FRIDAY 9 JUNE** Departure of participants

---