



Global City – Local City

CityLAB Maribor: TOWN, INTERRUPTED

November 25 – December 1, 2012

Organised by Bunker, Ljubljana

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1. Welcome to CityLAB Maribor

Bunker kindly welcomes you to CityLAB Maribor, which will thematically revolve around the city's post-industrial identity struggle and its impact on the inhabitants, especially on youth. You'll feel at home in the petite city centre in no time; it merely takes a short stroll to figure out how to get from one end to another and to detect the best coffee spots around. The majority of the program will take place at different locations, scattered around the city centre in walkable distance. The program of CityLAB Maribor will merge with the festival Drugajanje, a contemporary arts festival organized in collaboration with secondary school in Maribor – II. gimnazija Maribor. The main focus is placed on performing arts, especially contemporary theatre and dance.

Even though the CityLAB Maribor program does indeed delve into somewhat serious themes, the program was nevertheless set up in search of that fine balance between inspiring content, hard work and entertaining social time.

2. Conceptual outline: TOWN, INTERRUPTED

With no more than 95.000 inhabitants, Maribor makes for the smallest urban entity visited in the Global City – Local City's framework. Its narrow city centre, covered with nothing but bars and clothes shops, makes it look like a laid-back and cute little town, but the general and rarely outspoken feeling around Maribor, the city where everybody knows your name, is that the time stopped and has been standing still ever since the fall of the industrial era. Somewhat like Beckett's Godot, Maribor is also in timeless waiting while its inhabitants kill time in content-stripped bars and simulate the illusion of change, based on nothing but the changing interpersonal dynamics in their social networks. Everybody knows everybody in the city, which no one really knows. In this respect, the city's identity is easier to define as that-which-is-not, rather to assert what exactly Maribor is: it's not a village, but it's not really a city either; it's not completely provincial, but it's not urban either; it's not outspokenly xenophobic, but it's not tolerant either: it's not multicultural, but thanks to a large number of Erasmus students, it's not completely mono-cultural either. Maribor is simply unwilling and unable to decide what and who it is.

The thematic focus of the Maribor LAB will therefore inevitably strive to disclose the consequences, realities and symptoms that arise from Maribor being a small urban settlement, which heavily shapes the dynamics of its tight social networks, tight clans and tight family structures. In a way, Maribor seems impenetrable in its narrow illusion of auto-sufficiency and unwilling/unable to seek distance from its own reality, convinced that its timeless universe is functioning flawlessly. The municipality is facing a serious threat of bankruptcy. There is practically no existing civil dialogue between the NGO sector and

the municipality, which means that the autonomous field of non-governmental arena is slowly dying. The municipality is run by a sheriff mayor – a deer hunter and a policeman among many other things – currently facing 11 criminal complaints in court. There are no jobs and there is very little money circling around, yet bars and night clubs are packed. The greater its misery, the more glamour Maribor puts on to hide it.

All of the above will thus be implicitly or explicitly present as the context of the CityLAB Maribor program, which will place the Maribor youth into focus. Thus the problem of the apathetic and disengaged young people without any future is one of the crucial problems of the city, because it points to a highly concerning lack of collective political will, of the crucial force constituting the public domain, of the common space articulating the future, of the ethical engine pushing to remember its industrial as well as urban heritage. Since the young people of Maribor merely reflect the disengaged timelessness of the city, the focus will be two-fold: one dimension will be pursued by presenting the status of young people in the city, but the other dimension will be articulated in a seemingly incoherent manner with the ambition to delineate the scattered symptomatic shapes of the city. Both, its lifeless mainstream neatness and the young people in it merely constitute two sides of the same coin.

However, it should be noted that the abovementioned issues are nevertheless being addressed gradually and persistently by many of those involved in the CityLAB Maribor program and others, adopting the grassroots approach on micro-level when trying to push youth and the city to interact with one another and to start building something sincere and engaged between the two. Thus recently we have seen certain answers to the abovementioned problems starting to emerge on the horizon, addressing the issue of disengaged youth in the disengaged town; these answers may either take the form of new contemporary art contents introduced in some Maribor schools through non-governmental and public school partnerships, or critical thinking workshops implemented in secondary schools, aimed at encouraging youth to apply reasonable doubt in their beliefs and to thus question cornerstones of their own intimate realities once again. Instead of adopting the bottom-down approaches to resolving the town's alienation from its young inhabitants, the main emphasis in such alternative approaches lies in allowing the youth to gain insight into different creative practices and manners of expressions by the help of contemporary artists from a range of art fields. It is through the creative encounter of an individual on the one hand and its collective (spatial, historical, cultural and social) existence on the other that identity starts to emerge. The city needs young people to rearticulate its identity and young people need the city to affirm their own identities; forming a creative, sincere and engaged interaction between the two is where the true challenge lies.

3. Program CityLAB Maribor

We will start the CityLAB Maribor week with **an informal get-together on Sunday, 25 November**. If you're up for a drink or two, some home-made snacks and a laid-back Sunday evening, meet us at 8 p.m. in the hotel foyer. We'll go to a cute little family-run snack bar Isabella.

Monday, 26 November		
TIME	PROGRAM	VENUE
11.00-12.00	WELCOME / Introductory session <i>Alma R. Selimović, Sodja Zupanc Lotker, Miha Horvat</i>	Gustaf Hall, Pekarna <i>Optional group departure for Gustaf Hall at 10.30 from the hotel foyer</i>
12.00-14.00	WAS IST MARIBOR? / Socio-cultural-historical lecture on Maribor and its discontents <i>Borut Wenzel</i>	Gustaf Hall, Pekarna
14.00-15.30	LUNCH	
15.30-16.30	NOSTALGIAS OF ANOTHER MARIBOR / Tour guidance around Maribor according to a map of subjective memory <i>Igor Irgolič Furgula</i>	Departure point: in front of the hotel entrance
17.00-18.30	TOWN, INTERRUPTED / Breaking down the CityLAB Maribor theme <i>Ajda Šoštarič, Urška Breznik</i>	Živa dvorišča, Orožnova
18.30-20.30	Optional mingling at Živa dvorišča or free time	Živa dvorišča, Orožnova
20.30 →	Dinner in son:DA's Garage	son:DA's Garage

Tuesday, 27 November		
TIME	PROGRAM	VENUE
10.00-12.00	DISCUSSIONS	Temporary Art Space <i>Optional group departure at 9.30 from the hotel foyer</i>
12.00-14.00	AN-OTHER PERSPECTIVE / Maribor through the eyes of its foreign residents	Temporary Art Space
14.00-15.30	LUNCH	
15.30-19.00	Creative potentials /art gallery tour around Maribor <i>Miha Horvat</i>	Meeting spot: in front of Temporary Art Space
19.00→	Dinner	Živa dvorišča, Orožnova

Wednesday, 28 November		
TIME	PROGRAM	VENUE
9.00-10.30	Dance workshop <i>Sita Maria Ostheimer</i>	Plesna izba Maribor <i>Optional group departure for Plesna izba at</i>



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		8.30 from the hotel foyer
11.00-13.00	YES WE CAN'T! / Conversation about Maribor and its power structures <i>Boris Vezjak and Primož Premzl</i>	Živa dvorišča, Orožnova
13.00-18.00	FREE TIME	
18.00-18.45	VIDEO:PERFORMA / Festival opening (one of the featured artists is Tania El Khoury)	Gallery Media Nox
19.00-20.00	DRUGAJANJE My name is Janez Janša / film	Udarnik Cinema
20.00-21.00	DINNER	Udarnik Cinema
21.00-22.30	DAMIR AVDIĆ ALIAS BOSNIAN PSYCHO / concert	Udarnik Cinema
22.30 →	After-party & film night	Udarnik Cinema

Thursday, 29 November		
TIME	PROGRAM	VENUE
9.00	Departure from the hotel foyer	Hotel Foyer
9.30-10.00	WELCOME TO THE CENTRE OF ALTERNATIVE AND AUTONOMOUS PRODUCTION <i>Karolina Babič</i>	CAAP
10.00-11.30	MARIBOR: ANTHOTOPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE / lecture <i>Vesna Vuk Godina</i>	CAAP
11.30-11.45	COFFEE BREAK	CAAP
11.45-13.00	ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS - Lotte van den Berg (25 min) - Julian Hetzel (15 min) - Mai SÖöt (15 min)	CAAP
13.00-13.15	Organized bus ride to the centre of Maribor	Departure in front of CAAP
13.15-14.45	PERFORMA festival: performances at the main railway station	Train Station
14.45-15.00	Organized bus ride back to CAAP	Departure from the Train Station
15.00-17.00	BALKAN EXPRESS NETWORK ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: SUSTAINABILITY	CAAP
17.00-17.15	A walk to II. gimnazija Maribor	
17.15-18.30	ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS - Valters Silis (15 min) - Christine Umpfenbach (15 min) - Marcia Lanca (15 min) - Via Negativa (15 min)	II. gimnazija Maribor
19.00-20.00	DRUGAJANJE La quiescenza del seme / performance <i>Silvia Costa</i>	II. gimnazija Maribor
20.30-21.30	DRUGAJANJE	II. gimnazija Maribor

	The Debt of Rakef Saška / The Debt of Republic of Slovenia / performance <i>Saška Rakef</i>	
22.00→	Dinner & Balkan Style Party	Baščaršija

Friday, 30 November		
TIME	PROGRAM	VENUE
10.00-11.45	ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS - Katrina Neiburga (15 min) - Eva Snorraddottir and Eva Kaaber (15 min) - Mihkel Ernits (15 min) - Maija Hirvanen (15 min) - Tania El Khoury (15 min) - son:DA (15 min)	KIBLA
11.45-12.15	CityLAB Maribor EVALUATION <i>Sodja Zupanc Lotker</i>	KIBLA
12.15-13.30	Bus ride to Slovenj Gradec	
13.30-15.00	Hearty rustic lunch on the way	
15.00-16.30	exhibition SOFT CONTROL, guided tour	Koroška galerija likovnih umetnosti
16.30-18.00	Bus ride to Maribor	
18.00-19.30	exhibition SOFT CONTROL, guided tour	KIBLA
20.00 →	Dinner and Goodbye party	KIBLA

4. Present artists

25. 11. 2012 – 1. 12. 2012

Valters Sīlis, Maija Johanna Hirvanen, Christine Umpfenbach, Márcia Alexandra Neto Lança, Katrīna Neiburga, Eva Rún Snorradóttir, Eva Björk Kaaber, Mihkel Ernits, Mai Sööt, Tania El Khoury, Via Negativa, son:DA

25. 11. 2012 – 29. 11. 2012

Sita Maria Ostheimer

25. 11. 2012 – 27. 11. 2012

Anna Konjetzky

26. 11. 2012 – 1. 12. 2012

Julian Hetzel

26. 11. 2012 – 30. 11. 2012

Lotte van den Berg

5. Background info: who is who?

PARTICIPATING INITIATIVES/ORGANISATIONS

BUNKER

Bunker is a non-profit organization for the realization and organization of cultural events. Bunker produces and presents contemporary theatre and dance performances, organizes different workshops and other educational programs, carries out various research methods in the field of culture and brings together one of the most noted international festivals, the Mladi levi festival.

<http://www.bunker.si/eng/>

son:DA

Over the years Metka Golec and Miha Horvat created their own artistic language centred around the signal-to-noise ratio and the illusion of connectivity through modern day technology. Their installations, which they combine with graphical interventions, consist of broken wires, incompatible plugs and

sockets, wrongly connected cables and stripped hardware. The line between parody and today's networks has never been as thin reality of.

(Peter Tomaz Dobrila _ e-agera _ 2005)

<http://sonda.kibla.org/>

ŽIVA DVORIŠČA/LIVING COURTYARDS

The living courtyards initiative aims to bring life back to the forgotten and degraded spots of Maribor by inhabiting them with living contents, allowing the audiences to establish direct contact with these long-forgotten surfaces by transforming each of them into a scene. The program of reviving the degraded spots in Maribor under the auspices of Živa dvorišča/Living courtyards thus encourages artists to set up public space interventions, dance, street and site-specific theater, music, intermedia and art installations. Permaculture, recycling, do-it-yourself, and other creative workshops are organized as part of the project, striving to draw in as many inhabitants as possible, bringing them back to the city and the city back to them.

<http://www.ziva-dvorisca.si/>

KIBLA

Kibla is the first presentation and production institution in Slovenia dealing with multimedia and intermedia art and a yearlong cultural programme. Ever since its beginning, Kibla has been involved in the process of intermedialization and digitalization of culture and art by encouraging experimental and specific projects in the intermedia field, introducing creative and practical use of sophisticated technologies in the cultural field whose final (and at the same time utopian) goal is functional support of working nets that digitalize, present and decentralize cultural Slovenia and Europe.

http://www.kibla.org/en/?no_cache=1

PEKARNA MAGDALENSKE MREŽE

Pekarna magdalenske mreže is a non-profit and non-governmental private institution for the support to civil-social initiatives and multicultural cooperation, formally established in 1996 by three different existing associations, which squatted ex-military bakery two years before, in 1994. Institution is located in ex-military bakery which turned to the biggest alternative cultural centre in north-east Slovenia.

Pekarna - magdalenske mreže Institution originates from the concept of creative and emancipatory physical and mental space, initially meant for activities of production, promotion of production and informal education in all areas of art, culture, youth work, civil society and active citizenship.

<http://www.pekarna.org/web/?siteLang=en>

CAAP CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE AND AUTONOMOUS PRODUCTION

CAAP as a community centre is the final result of the European Capital of Culture strand *Urban Furrows*; it functions as an incubator of responsible economies, new social enterprises, innovative social and ecological practices, promoting creative use of community spaces. It is a creative, explorative and interactive arena, a safe haven for self-organisation of communities in alternative manner, intertwining of diverse services and a platform for professional support. As a space of/for numerous encounters, CAAP is open to everyone striving to collaborate and to bring new ideas into being.

<http://brazde.org/>

BALKAN EXPRESS NETWORK

Balkan Express is a platform that connects people interested in collaboration in and with the Balkans involved in contemporary art and complementary socially engaged practices. It gives space for reflection on the new roles of contemporary arts in a changing political and social environment. It builds new relations; encourages sharing and cooperation and contributes to the recognition of contemporary arts in the Balkans and wider. BE organises retreats, training sessions, professional visits and meetings in order to deepen the understanding and involvement in pressing social issues and to enhance collaboration in the field of socially engaged contemporary art.

LECTURES:



Borut Wenzel is one of the legends of autonomous landscapes in Maribor and a highly visible participant in the progressive town stream of individuals. A pioneer of independent arenas and a mobilizing force of the civil society field through various initiatives, interventions, actions and projects, Borut Wenzel was one of the first squatters of the former military bakery, Pekarna, which was squatted by artists and activists in 1994 and has maintained its functioning until now. Wenzel is one of the few very rare heart-and-soul NGO people in Maribor, working in everything from

festivals to exhibitions, from graphic design to management, from concerts to youth workshops. He will be presenting the cultural-historic components that had shaped the present day Maribor on one hand, while delineating the struggling horizon of the autonomous NGO field and alternative youth culture in Maribor on other. We will also take a look around the diverse and alternative youth centre Pekarna, the once successfully squatted military facility, which Wenzel was a part of. At 6,000 m², Pekarna has become the largest independent cultural center in northwest Slovenia, hosting public performances, workshops, studios, youth projects, and international exchange. Borut Wenzel has been the conceptual, strategic and operative engine of Pekarna for several years, keeping it alive as autonomous scenery and maintaining the civil dialogue between the non-governmental arena and the municipality.



Ajda Šoštarič is a freelancer, working on several social, educational and art projects in Maribor and beyond in a rather alternative manner. Ajda's approach to youth work stems from the premise "Personal is political", striving towards social engagement of young individuals in the context of their everyday lives. Together with Urška Breznik, she gives classes of critical literacy for secondary school students, teaching them how to deconstruct their pre-existing beliefs and how to apply reasonable doubt to everything that seems natural and pre-given in their world. Ajda also organizes classes of Sadza batik textile painting for the youth, which is an African technique used as an artistic tool for exploring the social and political dimension of Europe's perception of Africa. In collaboration with Alma R. Selimović, Ajda has performed a comprehensive research with around 600 Maribor youngsters about their relationship towards culture and the city and will present her findings at CityLAB Maribor.



Urška Breznik, educator involved in youth and community work, especially fostering inclusion of marginalized youth and deconstructing their prejudice against Others through critical literacy workshops, seminars, information activities for youth and volunteering. Urška works with a wide range of young people in the Youth informative and counselling centre INFOPEKA, which strives to collect, edit and distribute current, accurate, dependable and useful information on daily basis and free of charge. Various types of information are acquired from different sources, and distributed further to young people, aged 15 – 29, and other members of the community (parents, teachers, youth workers...).



Igor Irgolič, informally known as Furgula, is a local eccentric whom everyone knows and who knows everyone. He's been around and involved in the life of Maribor as a regular visitor of happenings and events for decades and is thus able to tell the subjective "off the record" version of the town's little histories. Furgula is an antique shop owner and was in his youth also a self-acclaimed tailor with huge success: he invented pants that at one point everyone in Maribor had worn. Furgula will take us around town to explain his account of what went on in the city, bringing out the forgotten, at times indecent and at times funny, but most certainly nostalgic side of Maribor.



Boris Vezjak, professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Arts is the most meticulous, structured and determined commentator of the public sphere and its symptoms in Maribor. Far from politically correct, his blog regularly tackles the unspoken and unseen issues of the city, disclosing the often overlooked side of Maribor, which may not be always fully appreciated by the city power structures or its inhabitants. The uncompromising enfant terrible of the academic arena does not shy away from dissecting and publishing everything that goes on in the public space, demanding questions as to who, what and why. Some may agree. Some may disagree. But no one passes by him without an opinion.



Primož Premzl, a gallery owner and author of numerous books on art history in relation to Maribor, collector of old postcards of the city and – most importantly – socially-engaged artists, who has created many entertaining public interventions in response to certain incomprehensible actions of the city authorities. Primož Premzl will present some of his creative answers to decisions and statements given by the local authorities.



Vesna Vuk Godina, the notorious anthropology professor, famous for her dramatic lectures, which at times resemble engaged performances with often controversial and opinionated views. Godina draws on concepts and influences from a range of sciences and presents at times disputable, at times outrageous, but always highly entertaining lectures with valuable insights in contemporary individual/social life. Godina is also a visible public personality, a columnist and

commentator of the present-day issues, offering original and often brilliantly articulated views. She will present an anthropological account of Maribor and the formation of – if such a thing exists – its subject.

6. Travel

All the artists will be met at the arriving stations (train station, airport) by a representative of the Maribor CityLAB holding out your name. The driver will take you to the hotel.

All the producers coming to Maribor please let us know your arrival and departure times and we can help you organize your local travel.

Upon arrival to Maribor you will receive a detailed map with all the locations.

7. Your hotel & other practicalities

Hotel Orel***

Volkmerjev prehod 7

SI - 2000 Maribor

T: +386 2 250 67 00

F: +386 2 251 84 97

E: orel@termemb.si

Check-in: after 2 p.m., Check-out: before 11 a.m.

TAXI SERVICE IN MARIBOR

By far the most budget-friendly taxi service in Maribor is Mikro taxi, but you might want to book it well in advance, because they're normally very busy. When ordering a taxi, always ask how much time you should expect to wait.

MIKRO TAXI +386 41 444 222

TAXI ŠTAJERKA +386 70 868 410

TAXI PLUS +386 2 2517 151



8. Lunch and dinner

Since the program schedule is quite tight and leaves little space for free time, we have generally decided to give the participants free space for lunch (except on Friday when we will have lunch on the way to Slovenj Gradec). You will receive per-diems for lunch, other meals will be provided by the organizers.

Dinner will be served at evening event venues for most days, apart from Thursday, when we will be having dinner at a Bosnian restaurant Baščaršija. Drinks are paid individually by each participant.

RESTAURANT SUGGESTIONS

Below you'll find some restaurant suggestions you can choose from. They're all scattered around the tight city centre, which means that they are very close by to all the city-centre venues we'll have our activities in.

Slovenian food is heavily influenced by Balkan, German and Italian cuisine but there are restaurants in Maribor that proudly offer authentic Slovenian food.

NOVI SVET (for those who love fresh sea food)

Slomškov trg 5
2000 Maribor

ROŽMARIN (prestigious restaurant, coffeehouse and wine bar offering Mediterranean specialties)

www.rozmarin.si
Gosposka ulica 8
2000 Maribor

PRI FLORJANU (French cuisine, wonderful wine, modern atmosphere)

www.priflorjanu.si
Grajski trg 6
2000 Maribor

ISABELLA (soups, great salads, *panini*, organic beer and excellent wine selection)

www.isabella.si
Poštna ulica 3
2000 Maribor

BISTRO ARTY (home style dishes, fresh vegetables, good coffee and wine)

Slovenska ulica 20
2000 Maribor



HappyHiša MARIBOR www.happypek.com

Glavni trg 14
2000 Maribor

GALA ŽAR (Serbian grilled food)

Loška ulica 10
2000 Maribor

RESTAVRACIJA IN PIVNICA ŠTAJERC (home brewed beer and homestyle dishes)

www.stajerc-mb.si

Vetrinjska ulica 30
2000 Maribor

WINE SHOP/BAR VODNI STOLP MARIBOR (excellent wine bar)

www.vinotekamaribor.si

Usnjarska ulica 10
2000 Maribor, Slovenia

LEON - Snack & Coffee Shop (fresh fruit juices, sandwiches, salads)

www.prileonu.si

Trg Leona Štuklja 3
2000 Maribor

9. What to bring

It normally gets really cold in the end of November in Maribor and you are therefore advised to bring the warmest clothes your wardrobe can manage; a scarf and a pair of gloves are a must. The temperatures will probably be around zero, and even though we will try to keep everyone warm with a glass of home-made brandy here and there, only proper winter clothes will be able to scare the cold away.

10. Contact info

Maribor CityLAB team:

MariborCityLAB coordinator: **Janja** Buzečan +386 41 644 409

MariborCityLAB coordinator: **Alma** R. Selimović, +386 31 694 559

MariborCityLAB curator: **Ajda** Šoštarič, +386 31 642 959

Emergency number: 112 (police, fire brigade, ambulance)