

CULTURAL CENTRE OF BELGRADE AWARD AT THE 58TH OCTOBER SALON

The Cultural Centre of Belgrade Award at the 58th October Salon is given to the artist Vuk Ćosić (Ljubljana, Slovenia) for his video work *Unboxing Duchamp's Boîte*. The award implies a solo exhibition at the Podroom Gallery of the Cultural Centre of Belgrade during the 2022/2023 season. The Award Jury consisted of Svetlana Petrović, curator of the Art Gallery of the Cultural Centre of Belgrade, Zorana Đaković- Minniti, programme editor at the Cultural Centre of Belgrade and Tijana Savatić, associate on the Cultural Centre of Belgrade's project *Visual Arts and the Young*.

Ćosić's work stands out with the quality of relating the originally local and international contexts in a measured and thoughtful way, and then also the current moment and the history of (avant-garde) art. His value derives from the fact that he primarily addresses the visitor of the exhibition who was formed and grew up in Belgrade, and not the hypothetical individual, often assumed in the world of art. In that sense, this work is characterized by a contextual specificity with full meaning, which places the local environment in a broader, global perspective through the author's personal impressions.

The work *Unboxing* is the process of unpacking a facsimile of one of the versions of Duchamp's *La Boîte-en-valise*, i.e., Box in a Suitcase (a 1968 G-series facsimile designed by Mathieu Mercier). The artist performs this process with constant comments which contextualize the subject of unpacking within the personal biography of the artist. The camerawoman is his daughter, and the work was realized in the form of a home video. While unpacking the box-work, the artist narrativizes personal, family and social contexts in a witty and often self-ironic way, talking about memories from his youth spent in Belgrade (where he has not lived since 1991), relating references of the culture in which he matured and global historical artistic authorities such as Marcel Duchamp and the Surrealists.

Vuk Ćosić is internationally known as a media activist, theorist and early internet art historian, and one of the first artists to use visual works using the ACSII code, an acronym for "American Standard Code for Information Interchange". He is one of the founders of Ljudmila – Ljubljana Digital Media Lab, one of the first institutions of its kind in Central and Southeast Europe (founded in 1994). Ljudmila is also significant in that it has served as a resource for several generations of artists who have re-examined digital media and created innovative hardware and software solutions. Ćosić is also a co-founder of the Nettime and Syndicate mailing lists, on which, through a discussion, art histories were generated online in the 1990s.

He has participated in group exhibitions at venues such as ICA, London; Beaubourg, Paris; ICC, Tokyo; Kunsthalle, Vienna; Digital Artlab, Tel Aviv; ZKM, Karlsruhe; Ars Electronica, Linz; Walker, Minneapolis; Postmasters, NYC; Friedricanum, Kassel; New Gallery, Graz; IAS, Seoul; Moca, Oslo, and was the representative of Slovenia at the Venice Biennale in 2001. He has worked independently and within groups of media artists, such as the ASCII Art Ensemble.

The team of the Cultural Centre of Belgrade congratulates the awarded artist and hopes for good cooperation in the process of preparing the exhibition!

Belgrade, August 18, 2021