



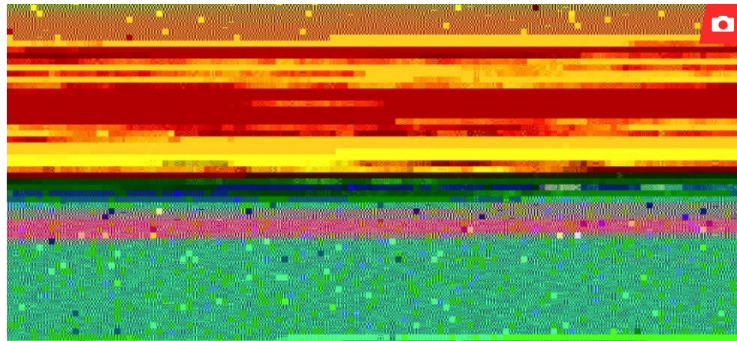
## PICTURE AS A VIRUS

# MLU Osijek: Topics are Zuckerberg as a trophy hunter, "female" Pietà and virus pills

At the Slavonian Biennale, the authors were invited to show through a visual medium what we are most afraid of at the moment, and what is invisible.

By: Patricia Klé Terbovcé Posted: December 15, 2020 7:37 am

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Mark sixteenth  
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The topic of image and virus has been most impressively dealt with by David Maljković in the late 90's in his work "Independent Form". This one, today one of our most represented authors on the international scene, painted white squares over his earlier paintings, which, he explained, spread like a virus. After that, he set out to act further, by his own admission, "relieved".

"Image as a virus" is the theme of the 27th Slavonian Biennale. The image is understood here in a broader context, as a "living picture", so all media are included, both video and photography ...

The Slavonian Biennale has existed since 1968, changing concepts, from a revival of art by local, Slavonian authors, to a broader context. This year is one of the strongest releases, if not the strongest.

The jury was chaired and the topic was chosen by **Krešimir Purgar**, the curator is **Valentina Radoš**. The exhibition can also be viewed at the Museum of Fine Arts Osijek and online until the end of February.

In addition to the current pandemic, the title draws on WJT Mitchell's work "What do Pictures Want". Purgar finds many, somewhat provocative, in any case interesting inspiring parallels between the picture and the virus. I agree with everyone, I would not completely agree with him for only one of the theses, and that is that nations and areas are hit harder, and some weaker", while for images" we cannot predict whether they will anchor themselves in the imaginary of a culture or not". In fact, I would say that it is quite easy to predict for the picture where and in what culture it will go well.

### Artistic predictions

As the pandemic arrived, cultural sections often wrote about those artists whose works "predicted" the current situation: is there a more current painter than **Edward Hopper**, who lived in the first half of the 20th century and painted abandoned spaces and isolated individuals? whether more current scenes, the question arises, from the emptied city squares as painted by **Giorgio de Chirico**, a more current depiction of the relationship than the masked lover, as painted by Magritte. Is there a more current book than EM Foster's, "The Machine Stops" from 1909, in which he writes that in the future "the clumsy system of public gatherings has long since been abandoned." Of course, we can go a step further, look for depictions of viruses in abstractions, and lack of physical closeness in video works.

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The Biennale invited artists to present, through art as a visual medium, the moment in which what we are currently most afraid of is what is invisible.

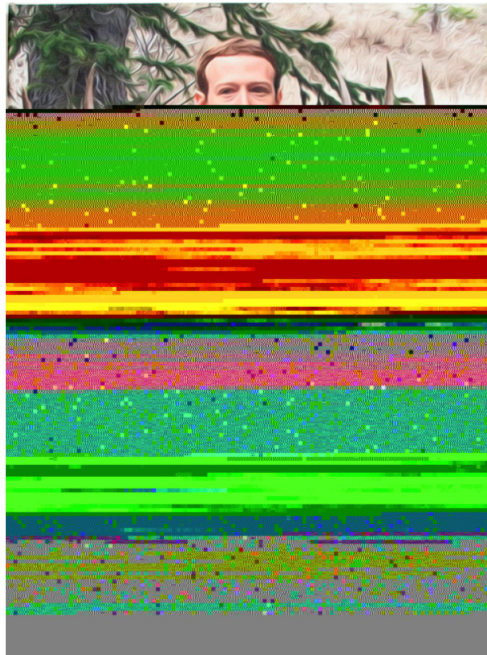
It is not, of course, a question of direct answers, some works were created even before the pandemic started, and if they had any idea, we can only speculate, because from today's perspective it seems that a premonition was present, and artists are who they are, or at least they should be, more intuitive.

Almost two hundred artists applied, of which thirty-five were selected, an interesting combination of names, from South Korea and Great Britain, to several local, Slavonian authors. The works of artists that we often see are not exhibited, so that is already a change. They also used the opportunity to promote new names, for example, they are exhibiting **Ene Gilih's** "Corpus Anima", the motif is classic, "Pietà", but both are the protagonists of a woman. The work of another Osijek artist, **Ana Petrović**, is interesting, about whom we wrote a lot when her work "Pick's Smoke" raised dust, and she exhibits the video "Cutting", which also won one of the awards.

### The Grand Prix goes to Tel Aviv

The Grand Prix was won by a Tel Aviv artist, **Shir Handelsman**, a 31-year-old who has an interesting career behind him, was a musician, then earned a master's degree in philosophy, to turn to art. In the award-winning video "Redemption", strong-voiced singer Jeffrey Francis performs Bach's song of the same name, and is overpowered by the machines in the plant in which it is located.

To the South Korean artist **Taeyong Ahn**, in addition to art, the professions are psychology and dance. His digital installation, "The Girl in the Flower Garden with the Covid-19 Era and Tablets" is a reflection on today's situation, but through a kind of visual vocabulary of flower-power aesthetics.



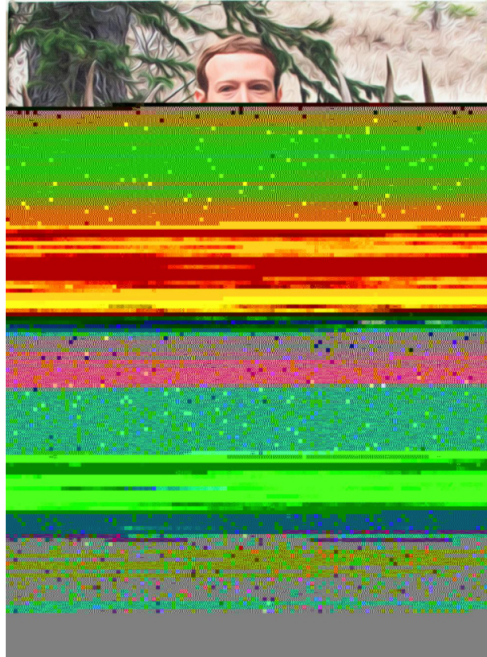
Taeyoung Ahn "Girl in a flower garden with the COVID-19 era and tablets"  
© Slavonian Biennale

Of the foreign exhibitors, let us mention the British artist **Bob Bicknell-Knight**, who deals with the themes of surveillance, utopia, dystopia, consumerism, digitalization. He made the painting "Mark's Sixteenth" for Osijek. This is the 16th picture in a row, the theme of which is **Mark Zuckerberg**, the theme is the moment when the founder of Facebook said that he would eat only those animals that he catches himself, because that is his challenge.

He shows it next to the "trophy" as the dead animals are seen by the hunters who killed them, and then photographed next to them.

In the pandemic period, the artist **Marija Ančić** somehow came to the fore, who this year had a solo exhibition in Split, animations in GIF that she usually publishes on her blog, and related to feelings of anxiety, fear, insecurity. In this exhibition, the work "Dangerous Living" shows a woman with oversized scissors in her hands. Exposes, then, and **Viktor Popović** is the author of the work "Untitled (Archive Zencisca)" which is, unfortunately, this is

something the general public have passed under the radar, and participated in one of the most important fairs of contemporary art, the Armory Show in New York. The topic is the abandoned complex Zenčišće near Jelsa.



Ena Gillh: Corpus anima  
@ Slavonian Biennale



Viktor Popović  
@ Viktor Popovic



Ana Petrović  
@



#Slavonian Biennale #MLU Osijek #Image And Virus

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