



Baptiste Debombourg, "Turbo", 2007. Courtesy of the artist and galerija10m².

DADADA, CONTEMPORARY ADVENTURE IN SARAJEVO

Located in the heart of Sarajevo, the galerija10m² devotes this unique space to art and experimentation. An exercise in style for the young artists it welcomes from the Balkans or elsewhere.

"May my entire liberty be excused." – Antonin Artaud

"Art is what makes life more interesting than art." – Robert Filliou

"I am my own government." – Gustave Courbet

Our programme is to support diverse artistic practices and intentions, all mixed mediums of contemporary production, at the local and international levels, whether it is a matter of emerging or established artists. The galerija10m² was set up in 2004 in the Stakleni Grad, in the middle of Sarajevo, for the purpose of affirming and defending the existence of creative liberty, with limited financial means but nonetheless with much energy and professionalism, and certainly with no less idealism.

This is a space of experiments and exhibitions, of comparisons and encounters, of endeavors and excesses, but equally a space of constraint, namely the limitation of its surface area (10m²), its display-window status: three glass panels for a picture-rail which obliges the artists to integrate the space of the gallery as a component part of their work.

Baptiste Debombourg presents the picture-rail of the gallery as literally "battered" ("Turbo", 2007); with Damir Niksic, the gallery becomes a "clandestine" site with the certified delivery of

incongruous passports ("Boogeyman: Born Free/Stereotypes and the mental slavery", 2006); Ervin Babic has let himself be literally walled up behind the picture-rail of 10m² ("Reopening", 2007); Ibro Hasanovic reports that there are not 10 square meters on the floor of the gallery but only 6.8 ("galerija6.8m²", 2007); Nika Oblak & Primoz Novak place another "box" there ("Box", 2006). More recently, Adela Jusic presents "Kome treba drnc", a piece in which the artist, besides transforming the gallery into a camera obscura, projects a disturbing video onto the façade of a shared building of the gallery.

But it is not a matter of compelling the galerija10m² to conform to a constraining space. It is above all a matter of a site, an exhibition space which is available, permanent, open to contemporary artistic creation and the "exploration in all directions" of young artists. The galerija10m² may be considered to be an exercise in style or the expression of an artistic genre in itself which, because of both its dynamism and its flexibility, permits numerous focuses on young artists.

There are few art galleries in Sarajevo which are dedicated exclusively to contemporary art and which support the work of young artists. The most important structure is the SCCA of Sarajevo directed by Dunja Blazevic, a figure of uncontested stature in contemporary art who, for almost fifteen years now, has been exhibiting and circulating the work of the emerging artistic scene in Bosnia. But here as well, it is the financial resources which do not correspond to this formidable commitment.

The organization Ars Aevi, for its part, pursues a museum project around a collection bringing together works by the greatest international artists. This project for a museum of contemporary art was conceived from the very first month of the siege of Sarajevo, in April 1992, by a community of artists and intellectuals in reaction to the aggression. "We wanted straightaway to reconstruct something big", explains Enver Hadziomerspahic, the director of the project.

Mention should also be made of the excellent and remarkable gallery "Galerija Charlama Depot", opened in 2007 by the artist Jusuf Hadzifejovic in the commercial center Skenderija of Sarajevo.

For more than half of its program, the galerija10m² presents young artists from Bosnia or coming from the Balkans. The other part of the program offers a view onto the international scene, particularly in Europe, through collective and thematic exhibitions such as Books, a show based on artist's books (2005), the three editions of Video-Salon (2006, 2007, 2008) which, through its principle of diffracted curatorship (each represented artist invites other artists) and its exhibition conditions, makes it possible to present a wide panorama of video-art production (approximately 200 videos).

In the final analysis, the principle constraint upon the galerija10m² is that of a complete integration into the public space. This constraint is dynamic, stimulating and opening onto a particular social, economic, political and artistic environment, namely that of Sarajevo. In this space, it is a matter of receptivity to all the air currents. This also implies an opening onto the world of art, where the galerija10m² plays the role of an intermediary: bringing different professional partners into contact, introducing young artists to the international art market through partnerships in France and Germany, establishing a presence in the information networks linked to the Internet and to the high international mobility of artists and protagonists in the art scene.

Furthermore, the galerija10m² is envisaged as a work in progress, according to the principle of copy/paste, with the

creation beyond the walls of copies of the gallery in a scale of 1:1. A first "copy" was inaugurated in Zagreb in 2007, while two others are currently being prepared in Belgrad and Budapest. In accordance with the system of franchised establishments, the copy/paste project will be brought to development elsewhere in the Balkans and in Europe. The galerija10m² is a working tool offered for sharing. With this tool (a reproduction of the galerija10m²) at their disposal, local teams work together with the program of the source structure located in Sarajevo, but also in an autonomous manner.

The goal is being able to circulate works and artists in the various countries where the copies of the galerija10m² have been implanted, and of effecting exchanges with the artists of the countries bordering Bosnia-Herzegovina or belonging to the same geographical area.

Finally, in parallel to this expansion in an international direction, a new space for research and exhibitions, the Duplex, whose opening is scheduled for February 2009 in Sarajevo, will complement the missions and character of the galerija10m² through other possibilities connected with its practicable space (150m²), other formal configurations, and relationships with the public.

The Duplex is a center for contemporary art with an international orientation, dedicated principally to young contemporary creation, managed by artists for artists and their public. This new establishment is adjacent to the galerija10m² of Sarajevo. The Duplex extends and develops the perspectives of the galerija10m²: circulation and promotion of artistic approaches arising from various media (sculpture, painting, design, video, installation, sound, performance, book, etc.) and carried out by innovative artists – emerging or confirmed, coming from Sarajevo, the Balkans and the international scene.

There as well, the accent is upon the meeting of the protagonists of contemporary art – artists, curators of exhibitions and collectors, with different horizons and practices – in order to give rise to new projects and to nourish a platform of artistic encounters. This space also makes it possible to offer to a very young public courses in the plastic arts and to sensitize them to contemporary art. The Duplex will likewise have a space, "Shop", for presenting artists' works in limited editions (serigraphs, lithographs, etc.), artist's books, rare and unusual objects, books and catalogues about contemporary art, signed-and-numbered posters, etc.

A residency program for artists and curators will be set up with local and international partnerships.

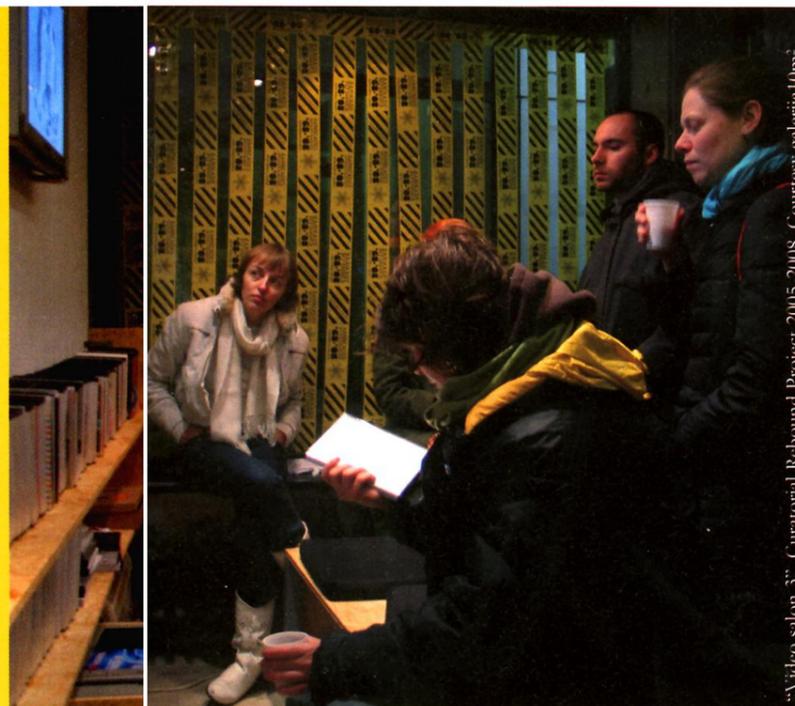
The activity of the Duplex will begin with the project The Great Midi of Alexis Argyroglo (an artist associated with the creation of the Duplex), an audiovisual and curatorial program linking the filming of a medium-length fiction to several exhibition forms conceived from the same screenplay (notably with pieces by Sarah Fauguet and David Cousinard). Then the Duplex will present a group exhibition of artists coming from the Balkans, including Nika Oblak & Primoz Novak, Andrej Derkovic, Alma Suljevic, Damir Niksic, Ervin Babic, Adela Jusic, Ivan Filolic, then solo exhibitions by the Claude Levêque from France and Emmanuelle Antille from Switzerland. The French curator Eric Corne will also have a free hand in bringing together French and Balkan artists. The program preparation is underway...

Pierre Courtin, Director of galerija10m²

www.galerija10m2.com

FR GALERIE 10M²

Ouverte en 2004 à Sarajevo, cette galerie ne dépasse pas les 10m² mais n'y limite pas pourtant la liberté de création. Au contraire, soutenant diverses pratiques artistiques et tous types de mediums contemporains, la galerie 10m² est un espace d'expérimentation, d'exposition et de lancement de jeunes artistes qui sont dès lors poussés à composer et créer avec l'espace qui leur est imparti, témoignage d'une démarche dans l'air du temps. Ce qui est « contrainte » s'offre dès lors comme une nouvelle piste à exploiter. Envisagée comme un *work in progress*, la galerie 10m² se multiplie à travers l'Europe (Zagreb, Belgrade et Budapest, pour le moment) sur le mode du copier /coller afin de faire circuler les œuvres et les artistes de la zone Bosnie-Herzégovine.



"Video salon 3". Curatorial Rebound Project 2005-2008. Courtesy galerija10m².