

Milena Usenik produced between 1971 and 1976 exceptional opus of paintings that represents unique hybridity between pop art and op art and stayed mostly overlooked. Pop art in Yugoslavia and East Europe was created in completely different societal, political and social conditions. In a unique way, these works represent a critique of the consumer society and its representation, as well as the thematization of selected political issues such as the Vietnam War, etc. One of the popular methods of pop art was the appropriation of sexualized representations of the female body, which dominated in the imagery of public media. These artists often themselves depicted women as a critique of the dominant mass media approach.

Milena Usenik (b. 1934 in Bloke) studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana, where she graduated under prof. Maksim Sedej in 1965 and then under prof. Gabrijel Stupica finished her painting specialisation in 1968. She has presented her works on a number of solo and group exhibitions in Slovenia and abroad. She lives and works in Logatec and Ljubljana. Her awards and recognitions include a special recognition on an exhibition of Slovenian women fine artists at the Slovenj Gradec Art Pavilion (1973); a recognition at the 1st Biennale of Small-size Paintings Mini prix Lucas '93 in Bled; and the Grand Prix at the 2nd Biennale of Small-size Paintings Mini prix Lucas '95 in Ljubljana. Most recently she exhibited at the Ludwig Museum Budapest (Ludwig Goes Pop + East Side Story).

Selected Individual Exhibitions

1971
DSS, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1975
Museum Dolenjska, Novo mesto, Slovenia
Museum of Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, Slovenia
DSS, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1986
Equrna Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1987
Pilon Gallery, Ajdovščina, Slovenia

1988
Mala Gallery (Museum of Contemporary Art), Ljubljana, Slovenia

1989
Miklova Hiša Gallery, Ribnica, Slovenia
Meduza Gallery, Koper, Slovenia
Krpan Gallery, Cerknica, Slovenia

1994
Labirint Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Consulate of Republic of Slovenia, New York, USA

1995
Bežigrajska Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1996

Center of Contemporary Arts Celje, Celje, Slovenia
City art Museum Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1997

New exhibition salon Rotovž, Maribor, Slovenia
Loža Gallery, Koper, Slovenia

1998

Krpan Gallery, Cerknica, Slovenia

2002

Equrna Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2005

Institute Jožef Štefan Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Krka Gallery, Novo mesto, Slovenia

2008

Loža Gallery, Koper, Slovenia
Meduza Gallery, Koper, Slovenia
Piran town Gallery, Piran, Slovenia

2009

City art Museum Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2010

Business Centre Mercator, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2011

Domžale Gallery, Domžale, Slovenia

2012

Glass Hall, Logatec, Slovenia

2013

Kosovelov dom, Sežana, Slovenia

2014

P74 Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2015

Miklova hiša Gallery, Ribnica (Milena Usenik, Emerik Bernard)

2016

Bežigrajska Gallery 1, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2017

Milena Usenik, Emerik Bernard – Cohabitations
Ljubljana Castle, Palatium, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Selected Group Exhibitions

1967

Loški grad Gallery, Škofja Loka, Slovenia

Likovni salon, Celje, Slovenia
Town hall Gallery Kranj, Kranj, Slovenia

1969
Town Museum, 3rd triennial of contemporary yugoslavian drawing, Sombor, Serbia

1971
Art Pavillion, Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia
Moderna Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1972
Town Museum, 4th triennial of contemporary yugoslavian drawing, Sombor, Serbia
Art Pavillion, Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia

1973
City art Museum Ljubljana, Slovenia
Art Pavillion, Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia

1974
Meduza Gallery, Koper, Slovenia

1977
Town Gallery Piran, Piran, Slovenia
Moderna Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1978
Town Gallery Piran, Piran, Slovenia

1979
Yugoslavian portrait Gallery, Tuzla, Bosnia and Hercegovina

1987
Equrna Gallery, 1. Likovni salon, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Die internationale Kunstmesse – Art 18'87, Basel, Switzerland

1990
Pilon Gallery, Poletna slikarska kolonija '90, Ajdovščina, Slovenia
Labirint Gallery – small painting, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1991
Collegium artisticum, Pogledi na slovenačko slikarstvo početkom devetdesetih,
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Kmetijska banka, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1992
Slovenian embassy, Bonn, Germany

1993
1st biennial of small painting mini prix '93, Bled, Slovenia (exhibition travelled to Smelt Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia, to Novo mesto, Slovenia and to Pordenone, Italy)
Equrna Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

1994
Snežnik castle, Snežnik, Slovenia

1995
Smelt Gallery, 2nd Biennial of small painting Mini prix Lucas '94, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Art Gallery Dubrovnik, Mediteranski susreti, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Modrijanov Mlin Gallery, Razstava članov kulturnega društva Krpan, Postojna, Slovenia

2002

Korotan Gallery, Razstava članov kulturnega društva Krpan, Vienna, Austria

2003

Genius loci, razstava mednarodne likovne delavnice, Sečoveljske soline, Slovenia

2004

6th biennial of town Kranj, Kranj, Slovenia

Equrna Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2005

Miklova hiša Gallery, Izbor iz ribniške likovne zbirke, Ribnica, Slovenia

Maribor Art Gallery, Maribor, Slovenia

2007

Slovenian painting from collection of NLB, Gorica, Slovenia

2008

Kresija Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Vipavski križ, Ajdovščina, Slovenia

2009

City art Museum Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

2010

Alpe Adria Art , Brussels, Belgium

2011

Miklova hiša Gallery, Ribnica, Slovenia

2012

Miklova hiša Gallery, Ribnica, Slovenia

2013

Domžale Gallery, Domžale, Slovenia

2014

Vila Manin, Passariano di Codroipo, Italy

2015

Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria

MG+MSUM, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary

2016

UGM, Maribor, Slovenia

Exhibition from the collections / Points in time 1889 – 1991, Moderna Art Gallery (MG+), Ljubljana, Slovenia

2018 – 2020

EXHIBITION | 20th Century. Continuities and Ruptures

Moderna Art Gallery (MG+), Ljubljana, Slovenia

2020

Rock, Paper, Scissors, P74 Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia

P74 Gallery represents/collaborates with internationally most renowned and established conceptual and post-conceptual artists from East Europe, like Sanja Iveković, Mladen Stilinović, Laibach Kunst, Dalibor Martinis, Tadej Pogačar, Jože Barši, Dejan Habicht, Milena Usenik and OM Production. Among them the Gallery represent and support the generation of younger visual artists from Slovenia: Polonca Lovšin, Tomaž Furlan, Small but dangers and Uroš Potočnik.

Info:

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