

# VIKTOR BERNIK



# RIJA TOBACNA

Za ustvarjanje Viktorja Bernika je značilno predvsem dvoje: to, da se v svojih delih sklicuje na družbeno realnost in da v svojih projektih uporablja različne formalne rešitve. Sodobne družbe se loteva z igrivostjo in humorjem, in očitno je, da mu sorodna sproščenost omogoča tudi prehajanje iz polja slike v risbo, video, grafiko, pa tudi v prostorske postavitev, intervencije in dogodke.

Kot idejno izhodišče pričujoče razstave mu je služila »vrnitev« k podobi in vprašanju, ki ga pravzaprav nikoli ni opustil in je značilno za umetnikovo prakso – to je vprašanje prostora, v katerem se podoba pojavlja, torej njen kontekst, ki določa, kako jo beremo. Zanimajo ga na primer vprašanja, kdaj se lahko premakne iz vsakdanjega življenja v polje umetnosti, kaj se zgodi ob njeni premestitvi iz umetnikovega ateljeja v galerijo in medijski prostor ali iz galerijskega prostora v zasebnost doma. Ob glavnini prikazanih del, ki jo tvorijo številne risbe in skice tekoče produkcije, najdemo tudi nekatere, ki so bile narejene v času preteklih projektov in katerih zgodba se ni nikoli popolnoma končala. Razstavljeni dela tako ne tvorijo monolitne serije, ki bi obravnavala zgolj eno temo, temveč gre za nekakšen kolaž, s katerim umetnik posega v različne vsebine in jim spreminja statuse. Tako spremeni npr. jasno informacijo ali utilitarni predmet v umetniško delo, ki sicer vsebuje različne konotacije, vendar ničesar več ne razlaga. Morda zato ni nenavadno, da je materialnost prikazanega pomemben element tako vizualne izkušnje kot tudi razumevanja večpomenskosti risb, skic in kolažev, kar je mogoče ugotoviti tudi iz samega postopka njihove gradnje. Bernik primarno gradi s plastenjem, in sicer z dodajanjem materiala, kot so deli položnic in uradnih dopisov, kart, ovojnic in reklamnih katalogov ali lepilni trak, sponke in žigi. V tovrstnih delih, ki aludirajo na državni administrativni aparat in so hkrati odtis umetnikovega vsakdana, lahko iščemo vzporednice z njegovimi deli, intervencijami in dogodki, s katerimi posega v realno okolje. Najsi je njegov način intervencije v izbrani material trganje, lepljenje, fotokopiranje, brisanje, polivanje in mečkanje ali pa vnašanje tekstualnosti in barv, jo nadaljuje vse do trenutka, ko začuti, da je igra medsebojnih korelacij dosegla tisti specifični preobrat in je podoba dobila nov kontekst, oziroma je poigravanje s konteksti v delo vneslo nova, pogosto tudi nasprotujoča si branja.

Ukinjanje linearne pripovedi ob nenehni izmenjavi abstraktnega in konkretnega bi bilo na velikem platnu nemara videti estetizirano, konfrontacija estetskih prvin in elementov s trivialnim ali banalnim značajem na papirnatem nosilcu manjšega formata pa umetniku ponuja prav tisti vsebinski in vizualni naboj, ki omogoča rahljanje meje med umetnostjo in življenjem.

Viktor Bernik's creative output is endowed with two distinctive features: referencing social reality and the use of various formal solutions. Bernik takes on contemporary society with playfulness and humour, shifting back and forth between the fields of painting and those of drawing, video, graphics as well as spatial installation, intervention and events.

His exhibition *Ha, Ha, Ha!* is conceptually based on "returning" to the image and to the question that he has never completely abandoned, i.e. the question of the space in which an image appears. In other words, the context that determines how the image will be interpreted. To this end, Bernik poses questions such as when can an image be moved from everyday life into the field of art and what happens when it is moved from the artist's studio into the gallery or from the gallery space into the privacy of one's home. In this way, Bernik converts, for example, a piece of clear information or a utilitarian object into a work of art conveying various connotations but no longer offering any explanations. Although the bulk of the works presented are from his current production, the exhibition also features a number of drawings and sketches from Bernik's past projects whose stories have never completely been put to bed. The exhibited works, therefore, do not make up a monolithic series discussing a single topic but form a kind of collage with which the artist intervenes in various contents and changes their statuses. In this sense, it is not surprising that the materiality of what is being presented constitutes an important element as can also be inferred from the construction of the sketches and drawings itself. Bernik primarily builds by layering everyday materials, typically bills and official letters, cards, envelopes, advertising catalogues or adhesive tapes, paper clips and seals. Alluding to the state administrative apparatus and simultaneously generating a footprint of the artist's everyday life, such works make it possible to seek parallels with his works and the events that affect the real environment. Whatever the form of intervention into the chosen material – be it tearing, gluing, photocopying, erasing, spilling and crumpling or introducing textuality and colour – he carries it forward until the moment he feels that the game of mutual relations has reached the desired turnaround, i.e. that the image has either obtained a new context that needs decoding or that playing around with contexts has impregnated the work with new and often contradictory interpretations.

Whereas abolishing linear narrative through constantly shifting between the abstract and the concrete might appear aestheticised in large-format presentation modes, the confrontation between aesthetic, trivial or sometimes even banal elements and the commonplace materiality of the small-format paper medium is precisely what gives the work the substantive visual charge that helps soften the boundary between art and life.

# Muzej in galerije mesta Ljubljane Galerija Tobačna

Viktor Bernik  
3. 6. – 31. 7. 2020

## HA, HA, HA!

Vljudno vabljeni na ogled  
razstave v Galerijo Tobačna.

You are cordially invited to  
attend the exhibition at the  
Gallery Tobačna.

Kustosinja razstave / Curated by Alenka Trebušak

**Odprto:**  
**torek – petek, 11.00 – 19.00**  
Sobote, nedelje, ponedeljki  
in prazniki zaprto.

**Opening hours:**  
**Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 7 pm**  
Closed on Saturdays, Sundays,  
Mondays and public holidays.



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