

Mladen
STROPNIK

DRUŽMIŔJE

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z / with:
**Ethan Caflisch,
Jeff Dodson,
Leon Zuodar**



Izhodišče razstave Družmirje so dela na papirju, ki so lahko grafike, risbe in skulpture, v nekaterih primerih nadgrajene z aplikacijo artivive.com. Motivno se dela Mladena Stropnika gibljejo med repeticijo in abstrakcijo. Z njimi vpelje proces sprememb, ki namiguje na neskončno – prostorsko, časovno ali duhovno – in odseva neizmerljivo globino naših notranjih življenj. Razstava, osredotočena na omenjeno realnost potopljene vasi, prikazuje ključna dela, ki jih je Mladen Stropnik ustvaril v zadnjem obdobju.

Družmirje je bila vas v občini Šoštanj, ki se je konec sedemdesetih let prejšnjega stoletja pogreznila v šoštanjsko jezero zaradi izkopavanja lignita pod njo. Šoštanjsko jezero je med najglobljimi v Evropi – globina jezera je 90 m. Družmirje Mladenu Stropniku pomeni prostor družbe in miru, kar je oboje vsebovano v imenu. Zanj je ta prostor emocionalno ponotranjen, zapisan vanj in je vzrok razvoja in stanja njegovega duha, h kateremu se vedno vrača. Kadar razmišlja o Družmirju misli na “opazovanje”, “bit”, “pretočne misli”, “slalom njegovega pogleda” in da “živi pravilno”.

Mladen Stropnik je konceptualni umetnik. Osredotoča se na ustvarjanje del, ki formalno prečijo različne umetniške medije. V njegovem delu lahko enostavno uživamo v domislicah, s katerimi opisuje v naš vsakdan. Na prvi pogled so dela Mladena Stropnika hermetična abstrakcija, a jih vedno spremljajo pomenljivi naslovi, s katerimi nam pomaga dojeti njihovo ikonografijo. Naslovi so samostojna literarna dela, psevdo-haikui, in med njimi in označenimi deli ni navidez nikakršne povezave. Vendar šele kombinacija naslova in naslovljenega predmeta postane komplementarna celota. Lahko rečemo, da Stropnikovo umetniško delo zaživi kot skladna celota šele z naslovom vred.

V Stropnikovih risbah zaznamo umetnikovo skrb za brezmejno in fluidno prehajanje med materialnim in spiritualnim svetom, med čisto vizualnostjo in nestabilno zavestjo. Njegovo duhovitost in ostrino opazovanja lahko primerjamo s tisto Davida Shrigliya. Na kratkih videih, ki jih dnevno objavlja na TikToku, je glavno sporočilo prav pisanje besedil. V nekaj sekundnem videu napiše nekaj besed, včasih le eno. Pri njihovem izboru

gre predvsem za podajanje trenutnega razpoloženja in za spontanost, pri čemer naključja ne moremo zanemariti. Stropnikova duhovitost je brezmejna, a nikoli ne postane radikalno razdiralna, kot na primer pri Robertu Rauschenbergu, ko je leta 1953 zradiral de Koonigovo risbo in to dejanje razglasil za umetniško delo.

Umetniški proces Mladena Stropnika je kompleksen in včasih težko dostopen, kar pogosto ublaži s humorjem. Od leta 2018 vsak dan ustvari umetniško delo in ga objavi kot podobo na Instagramu ali tekst na TikToku. Prav tako je njegova ustaljena praksa, da svoja dela menja z drugimi umetniki ali skupaj z njimi ustvari umetniško delo in ga predstavi.

Poseben segment Stropnikovega dela so grafike, ki jih lahko gledamo na telefonu s pomočjo aplikacije artivive.com. Aplikacija povzroči, da se na grafiki nekaj spremeni, kar dopolni naše dožemanje originalnega dela. Digitalne tehnologije so že nekaj časa dejstvo in del vsega kar počnemo. Malodane vse naše dejavnosti temeljijo na njih in te nam omogočajo, da to kar počnemo, naredimo hitreje, bolje in ceneje. Vse dokler se ne pojavi umetna inteligenca, katere razvoju smo priča danes in katere prednosti in slabosti še nismo povsem dojeli. Apokalipsa papirnih sponk visi nad nami kot Damoklejev meč.

Dela na razstavi Družmirje se dotikajo koncepta realnosti. Ta je tako kompleksna in realna sama v sebi, da jo je nemogoče do konca upodobiti, pojasniti ali dojeti. Umetnika sili, da uvidi meje upodobljivega, kar vodi v poetične ali odprte umetniške pristope.

Na razstavi Družmirje Mladen Stropnik predstavlja grafično mapo BEČ (5 grafičnih listov v tehniki sitotiska in slepega tiska z ročnimi intervencijami), grafično mapo DOBROJUTRO (8 grafičnih listov v tehniki sitotiska in slepega tiska z ročnimi intervencijami ter uporabo aplikacije artivive.com). Poleg teh del so na razstavi še 3 dela, ki so nastala v sodelovanju z Jeffom Dodsonom, Ethanom Caflischem in The Noodle.

The starting point of Mladen Stropnik's exhibition Družmirje are works on paper; prints, drawings and sculptures, some of which have been upgraded for the artevive.com app. In terms of the motif, they move between repetition and abstraction, introducing a process of change that hints at the infinite - spatial, temporal or spiritual - and reflects the immeasurable depth of our inner lives. The exhibition, inspired by the reality of the submerged village, presents key works created by Mladen Stropnik in the last period.

Družmirje was a village in the municipality of Šoštanj, which submerged into Lake Šoštanj in the late 1970s, as a result of lignite mining beneath it. Lake Šoštanj is one of the deepest lakes in Europe, reaching a depth of 90 metres. For Mladen Stropnik, Družmirje represents a place of society and peace, both of which are contained in its name. He feels the place is emotionally internalised and inscribed in him, and is the cause of his development and state of mind, to which he always returns. When he thinks of Družmirje, he thinks of "observation", "being", "flowing thoughts", "the slalom of his gaze" and that he is "living the right way". Mladen Stropnik is a conceptual artist, whose practice formally crosses different media. His works feature imaginative expressions and descriptions of our everyday life. At first glance, Stropnik's works are hermetically abstract, but they are always accompanied by meaningful titles that help us understand their iconography. The titles are literary works in their own right; pseudo-haikus, with no seeming connection to the labelled works. However, only in the combination of the title and the addressed object does the work become a complementary and coherent whole.

In Stropnik's drawings, we can sense a concern with the boundless and fluid passage between the material and the spiritual world, between pure visuality and unstable consciousness. His wit and sharpness of observation can be compared to David Shrigley. In the short videos Stropnik posts daily on TikTok, the main message is precisely text writing. In the few seconds of the video, he writes a few words, sometimes just one. The selection of the words is all about spontaneity and an

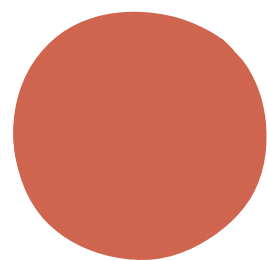
attempt to convey the mood of the moment, whereby we can't ignore the accidental. Stropnik's wit is boundless, but it never becomes radically divisive like that of Robert Rauschenberg, for example, when he erased de Koonig's drawing in 1953 and declared the act a work of art.

Mladen Stropnik's artistic process is complex and sometimes not easily accessible, which he often mitigates with humour. Since 2018, he creates a work of art every day and publishes it as an image on Instagram and as a text on TikTok. A part of his artistic practice is also the process of swapping his work with other artists, or co-creating a work of art and presenting it together.

A special segment of Stropnik's work are graphics, which can be viewed using the artivive.com mobile app. The app animates the graphic, enhancing the perception of the original work. Digital technologies have been a fact of life for some time and are part of everything we do, with almost all our activities based on them. They allow us to do what we do faster, better and cheaper. With the arrival of artificial intelligence, which we are witnessing today, and whose advantages and disadvantages we have not yet fully grasped, our relationship with digital technologies has never been more in question. The Apocalypse of paper clips is hanging over us like the Sword of Damocles.

The works in the Družmirje exhibition address the concept of reality. Infinitely complex and wholly real in itself, it is impossible to fully depict, explain or comprehend. In confrontation with it, the artist is forced to see beyond the limits of the representable, leading him to poetic or open artistic approaches.

In the Družmirje exhibition, Mladen Stropnik is presenting the graphical map BEČ (5 silkscreen prints and blind print with manual intervention) and the graphical map DOBROJUTRO (8 silkscreen prints and blind print with manual intervention and using the artivive.com app). In addition to these, the exhibition also includes 3 other works created in collaboration with Jeff Dodson, Ethan Caflisch and The Noodle.



Grafična mapa/Graphical map BEČ

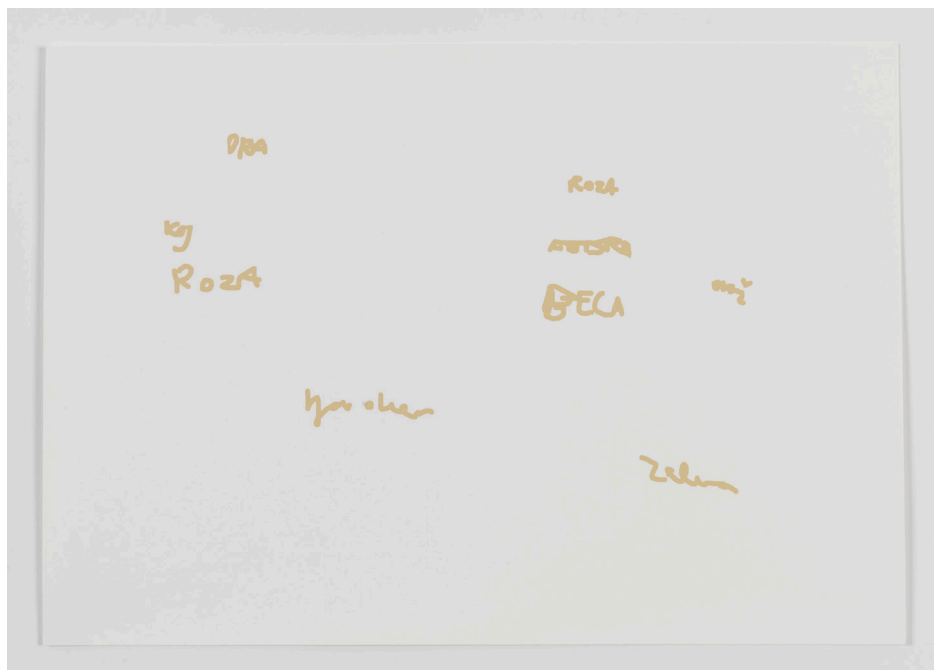
5 grafičnih listov v tehniki sitotiska in slepega tiska z ročnimi intervencijami, 50 x 35 cm, naklada 1-20, atelje Mednarodnega grafičnega in likovnega centra Ljubljana, 2011

5 silkscreen prints and blind print with manual intervention, 50 x 35 cm, print run 1-20, studio of The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC) Ljubljana, 2011

BÉČ

MLADEN STROPNIK

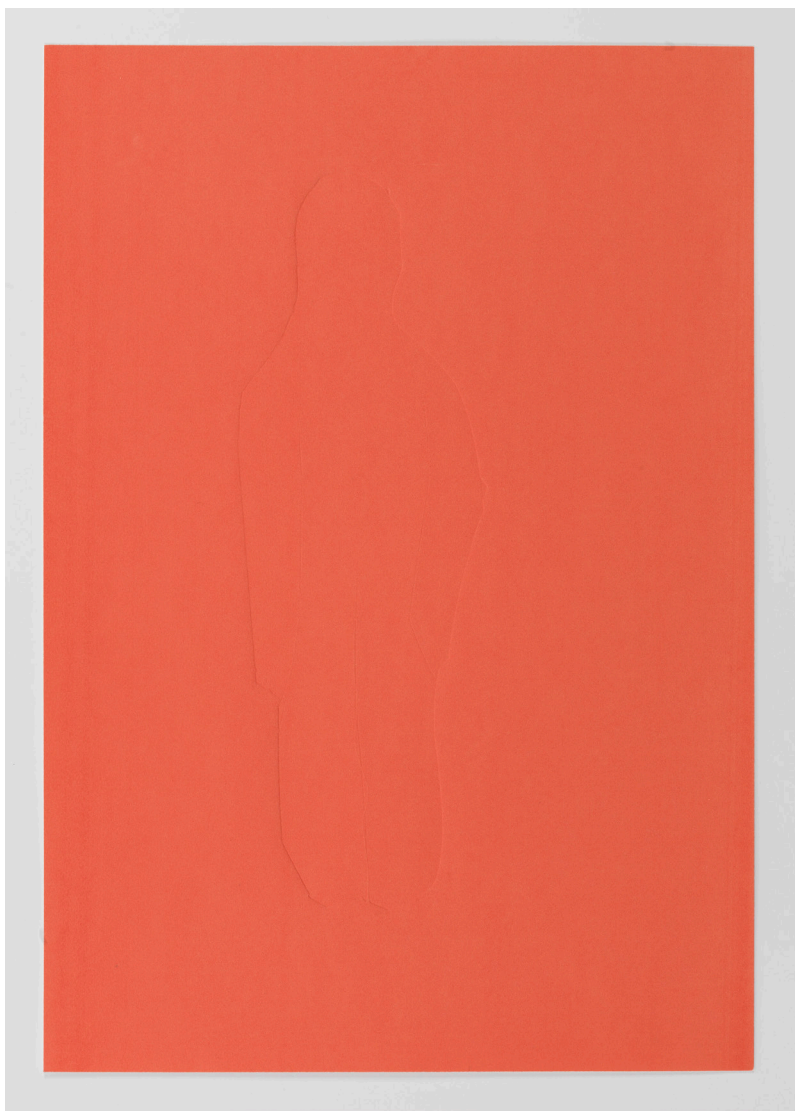
3/600



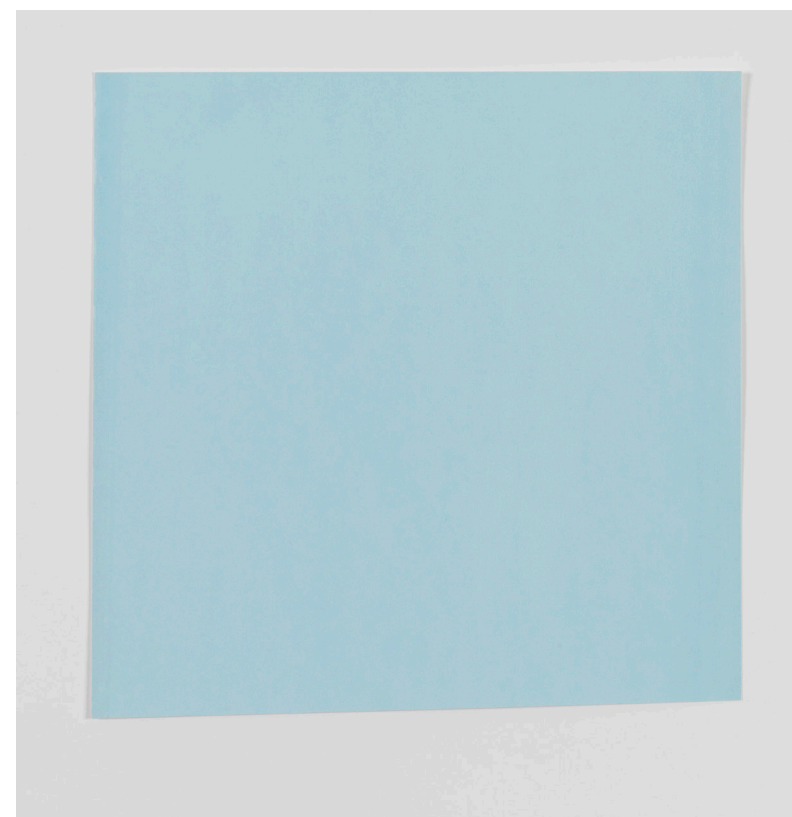
špageti dream, sitotisk/silkscreen, 50 x 35 cm, 2011



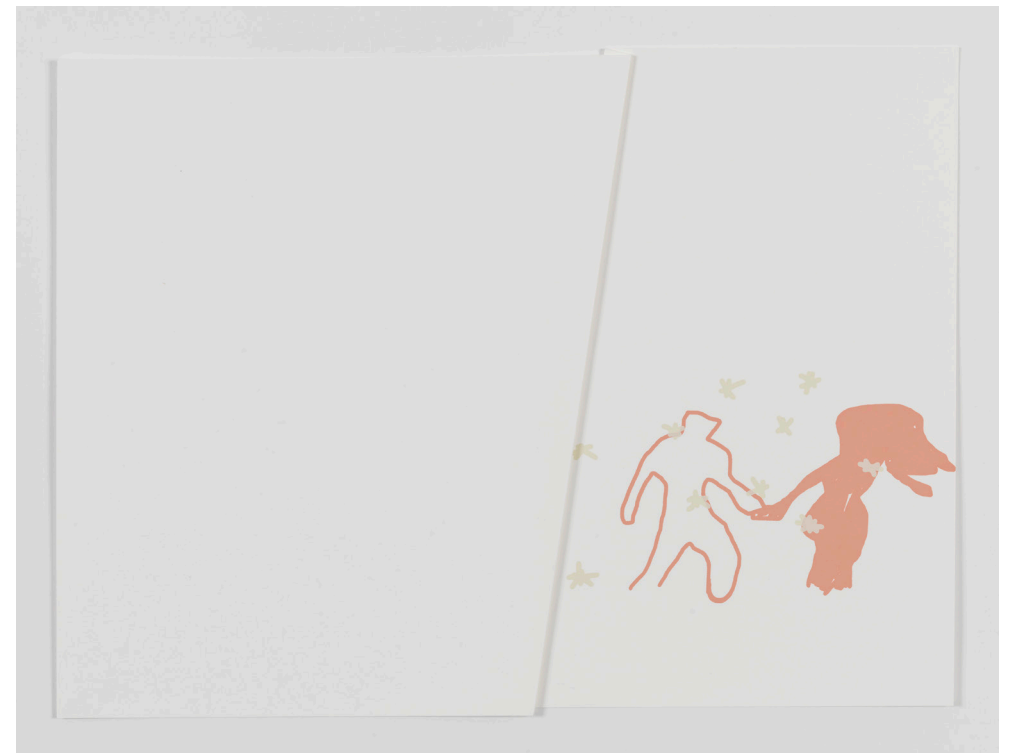
šot fume, sitotisk z ročno intervencijo/silkscreen with manual intervention, 50 x 35 cm, 2011



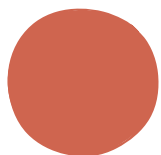
aj ju, sitotisk in globoki tisk/silkscreen and blind print, 50 x 35 cm, 2011



šalji mi dlaku, sitotisk z intervencijo/silkscreen with manual intervention, 50 x 35 cm, 2011



pri di greva fukat, sitotisk z intervencijo/silkscreen with manual intervention, 50 x 35 cm, 2011

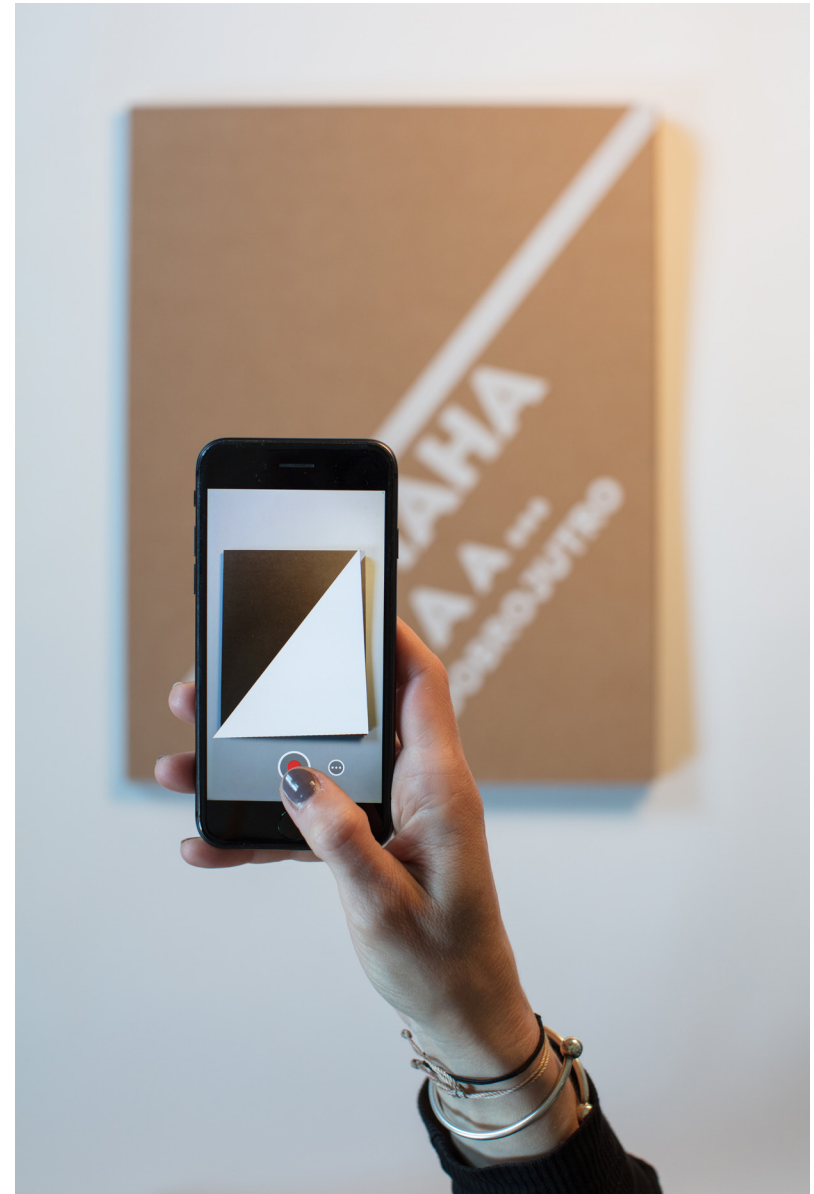


Grafična mapa/Graphical map DOBROJUTRO

Grafična mapa DOBROJUTRO

8 grafičnih listov v tehniki sitotiska z ročnimi intervencijami ter uporabo aplikacije artivive.com, 35 x 45 cm, naklada 1-20, atelje Mednarodnega grafičnega in likovnega centra, Ljubljana, 2021

8 silkscreen prints with manual intervention and use of the artivive.com app, 35 x 45 cm, print run 1-20, studio of The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC) Ljubljana, 2011



Japka, naslovnica grafične mape je sitotisk na lepenko z uporabo aplikacije artivive.com/
cover of print folder, silkscreen with artivive.com app, 44 x 34 cm, 2021



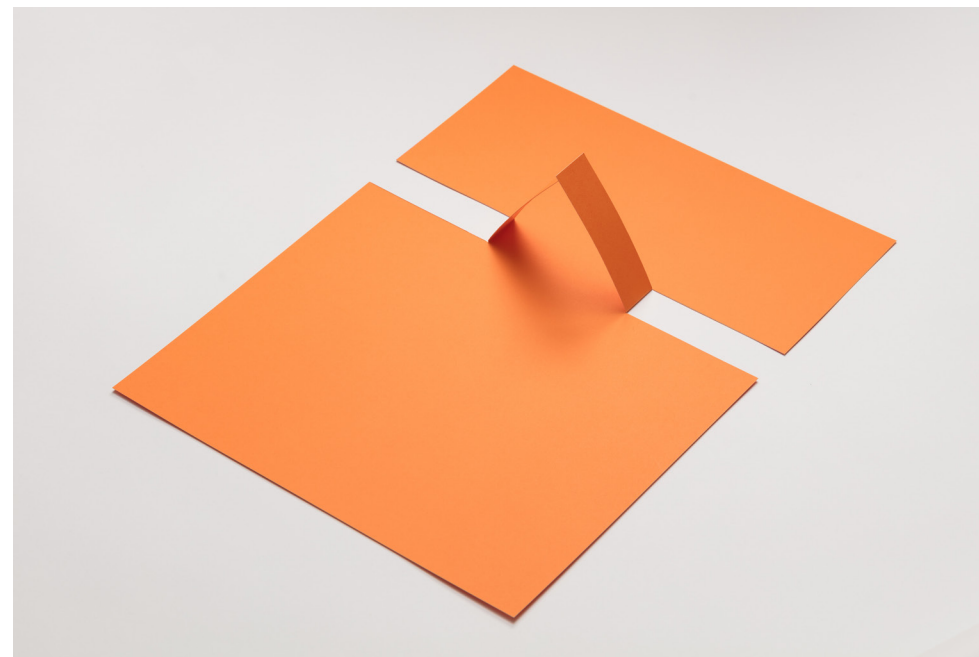
ščepec soli, sitotisk na papir s perforacijo/silkscreen on perforated paper, Φ 1 cm, 44 x 34 cm, 2021
uporaba: grafika leži na mizi/how to use: print is placed on a table



ne vidim kljuke, pojdi okrog, sitotisk na papir z rezanjem, zgibanjem in lepljenjem/silkscreen on paper with cutting, folding and gluing, 44 x 34 cm + 13 x 34 cm + višina/height, 2021
uporaba: grafika se prepognjena odpre/how to use: print opens folded



moonmouth, sitotisk na papir s perforacijo/silkscreen on perforated paper, Φ 4 cm, 44 x 34 cm + višina, 2021
uporaba: grafika se drži v roki/how to use: print is held in hand



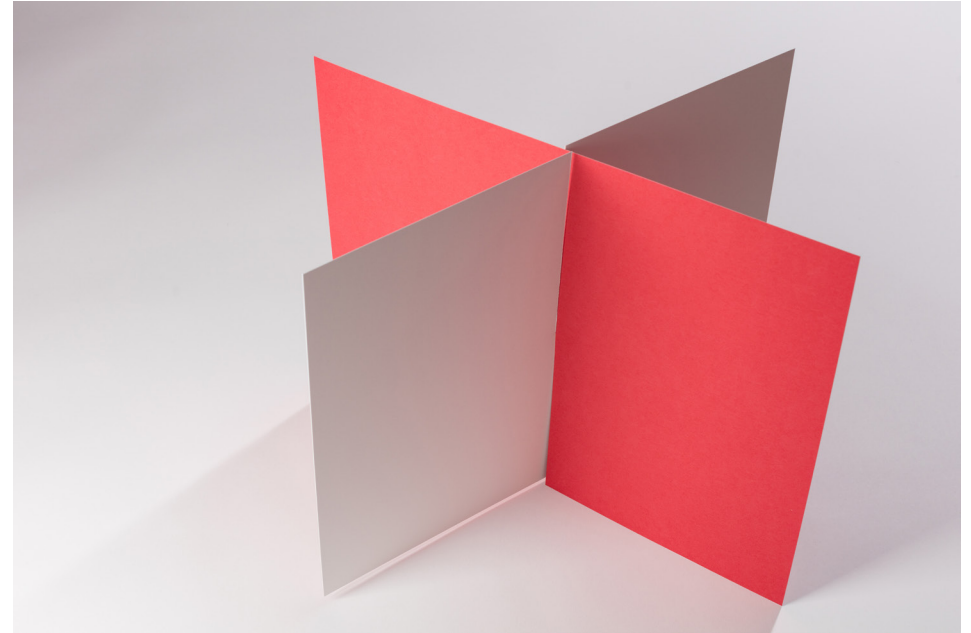
šotor, sitotisk na papir z rezanjem in zgibanjem/silkscreen on paper with cutting and folding, 44 x 34 cm + višina/height, 2021
uporaba: grafika leži na mizi, zarezana trakova se pregibata in zatakmeta na zarezah
how to use: print lays on a table, cut tapes are folded and stuck together on the notch



plum, sitotisk na papir z lepljenjem listov/silkscreen on paper with gluing,
44 x 34 cm + 44 x 34 cm + višina/height, 2021
uporaba: grafika se ob robovih stiska in odpira
how to use: print is pressed on the edges and it opens



hruška, sitotisk na papir z rezanjem, zgibanjem, kolažiranjem in lepljenjem/silkscreen on paper
with cutting, folding and gluing, collage, 44 x 34 cm + višina/height, 2021
uporaba: grafika leži na boku in se prepogiba/how to use: print lays on its side and folds



grem, sitotisk na papir z rezanjem in zgibanjem/silkscreen on paper with cutting and folding,
44 x 34 cm + 44 x 34 cm + višina/height, 2021

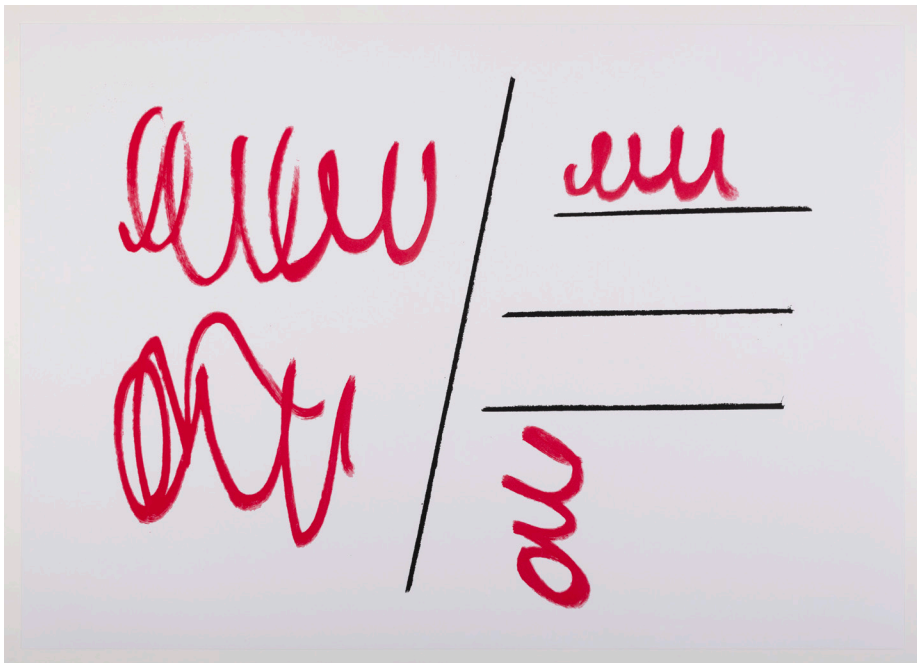
uporaba: grafika se zloži in stoji pokončno/how to use: print is folded and stands straight



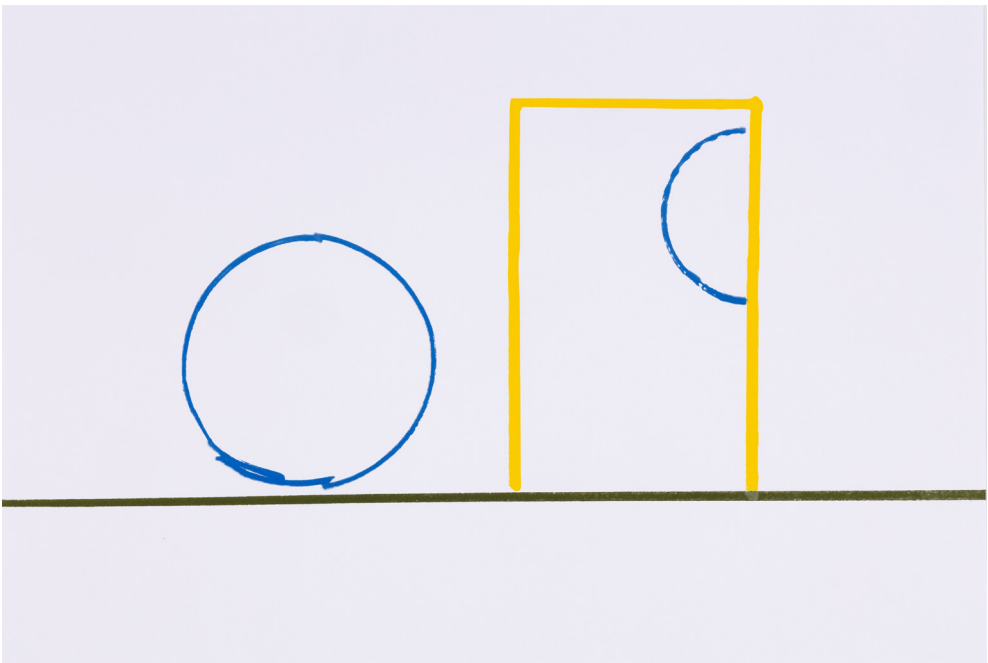
papirnati pepelnik, umetniški objekt, odprta serija, v sodelovanju z Mednarodnim grafičnim centrom Ljubljana/
art project, open series, in cooperation with The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC) Ljubljana, 2023



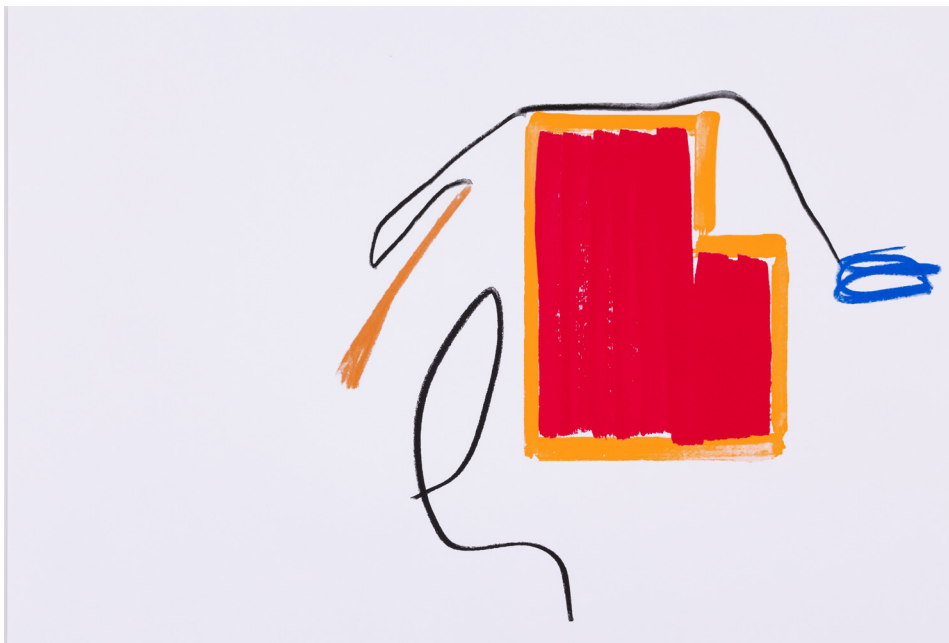
šraj, umetniški objekt, odprta serija, v sodelovanju s Koroško galerijo likovnih umetnosti Slovenj Gradec/
art project, open series, in cooperation with KGLU, 2023



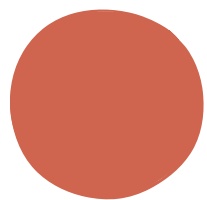
dopisnica, sitotisk z uporabo aplikacije/silkscreen with artivive.com app, 60 x 89 cm, 2023
Slika »oživi«, ko jo pogledate z aplikacijo artivive.com/The image »comes to life« when viewed with the artivive.com app



ti si jaz, sitotisk z uporabo aplikacije/silkscreen with artivive.com app, 60 x 89 cm, 2023
Slika »oživi«, ko jo pogledate z aplikacijo artivive.com/The image »comes to life« when viewed with the artivive.com app



funny snake, sitotisk z uporabo aplikacije/silkscreen with artivive.com app, 60 x 89 cm, 2023
Slika »oživi«, ko jo pogledate z aplikacijo artivive.com/The image »comes to life« when viewed with the artivive.com app



**Sodelujoči v ateljejskih izmenjavah/
In collaboration with**



Jeff Dodson in/and Mladen Stropnik, knjiga pisem/letter book: 5 Gold Dots, serija/series 2/2, 2021





Ethan Caflisch in/and Mladen Stropnik, procesuirani kolaži/
processed collages, Surfaces, serija/series 2/2, 2021



The Noodle x Mladen Stropnik, The Noodle#066: J'aime la glace/
Žemla glas!, dolžina/duration: 24 sec, serija/series 5/5, 2021

Mladen Stropnik (1977) se je rodil v Slovenj Gradcu in odraščal v Velenju. Živi in dela v Ljubljani.

Mladen Stropnik (1977), Slovenj Gradec. Raised in Velenje, lives and works in Ljubljana.

Samostojne razstave / Solo Exhibitions

2020

Gregor Podnar, 13fifteen, kustos / curator Gregor Podnar, Berlin

2018

Project Space DUM, fade in to the night, kustos / curator Tevž Logar, Ljubljana

2015

Gallery Apoteka, under the counter, kustos / curator Branka Benčič, Vodnjan

2014

Galerija ŠKUC / Gallery ŠKUC, night train (who's there?), kustos / curator Vladimir Vidmar, Ljubljana

2013

Gregor Podnar, LET GO, kustos / curator Gregor Podnar, Ljubljana

2012

Mednarodni grafični likovni center / The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), sofa, kustos / curator Božidar Zrinski, Ljubljana

2010

Kapsula, Pri Zlatem stegnu – Triki, kustos / curator Maja Škerbot, Ljubljana

2009

Gregor Podnar, fuckin' hanging, kustos / curator Gregor Podnar, Ljubljana

2003

Galerie Jaspers, Open Art 2003 München, kustos / curator Michael Jaspers, München

2002

Galerija Velenje / Gallery Velenje, Square, kustos / curator Milena Koren-Božiček, Velenje

Skupinske razstave / Group Exhibitions

2022

Lauba and artigrad, mladen stropnik slikar, Zagreb

2021

Mednarodni grafični likovni center / The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), Mladen Stropnik and Small But Dangers, Ljubljana

2018

Essanay Silent Film Museum, Ephemereye, »Moving Silently«, USA

2017

Temporary Encounters, Galerija Galženica, Velika Gorica, CRO

2017

SintArt 07: Marko Tadić – Man standing in a Museum looking at something, Zbirka / Collection Richter, Zagreb

2016

The Centres of Printmaking: At the Intersection of Knowledge, Learning and Cooperation, Mednarodni grafični likovni center / The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC) Ljubljana / Belgrade /Philadelphia

2015

Muzej sodobne umetnosti Metelkova / Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Crises and New Beginnings: Art in Slovenia 2005–2015, Ljubljana

2014

Mednarodni grafični likovni center / The International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), Crossings, Ljubljana

2013

Galerija ŠKUC / Gallery ŠKUC, THE PLEASURE IS MINE, Ljubljana

2011

29. grafični bienale Ljubljana / The 29th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts, fuckin rabbit, Ljubljana

2009

Gallery ISCP-NY, geris magic acid bar, New York

2006

Emergeandsee, EU 2006 Tour, Berlin, Budapest, London

2005

12 bienale mladih umetnikov iz Evrope in Sredozemlja / The 12th

Biennial of Young Artists From Europe and The Mediterranean, Neapelj / Naples

Nagrade in priznanja / Awards and Recognitions

2022

Nagrada / Award Cesare Dell'Acqua, 57. Extempore Piran

2020

COCA Project 2020, finalist, Rome

2018

Artslant Prize Showcase Finalist, Los Angeles

2008

Nagrada / Award OHO, Galerija p74, Ljubljana

2001

Prešernova nagrada Univerze v Ljubljani / Prešern Award of Ljubljana University

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MLADEN STROPNIK

Z JEFFOM DODSONOM, ETHANOM CAFLISCHEM IN THE NOODLE /
WITH JEFF DODSON, ETHAN CAFLISCH & THE NOODLE

DRUŽMIRJE

GALERIJA RAVNE

8.6.–31.8.2023

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Razstavo MLADEN STROPNIK DRUŽMIRJE smo pripravili v sodelovanju z
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MINISTRSTVO ZA KULTURO

