

SELECTED ARTISTS - Artist Residencies

for the residencies in Palestine, Slovakia and Slovenia

co-living | community | connection | co-experience

The DobraVaga Gallery, Ramallah Municipality / Mamarat AIR program and KAIR Košice Artist in Residence have selected 6 visual or interdisciplinary artists, living and working in Slovenia, Palestine, or Slovakia, to take part in a two-month residency in selected cities (Ljubljana, Ramallah, Košice).

Partners: DobraVaga Gallery (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Ramallah Municipality (Ramallah, Palestine), Kair (Košice, Slovakia)

Residency dates & locations:

- online meetings prior to arrival (March, April, May)
- A-I-R in Ljubljana, Ramallah or Košice (from June 4th to August 4th, 2021)
- final meeting in Ramallah (from August 5th to 9th, 2021)

Collaboration with the partner's organization prior to arrival:

throughout March, April and May 2021

A two-month residency with live-on-line activities in the selected city:

from June 4th to August 4th, 2021

A final meeting of all participating residency artists and partners' representatives in Ramallah:

from August 5th to 9th, 2021

Hydra PACE is organized
with the support of
Anna Lindh Foundation.



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HYDRA PACE AIMS & DESCRIPTION

Hydra PACE — Platform for Artistic Collaboration and Exchange is the collaboration of three partners from Slovenia, Palestine and Slovakia, aiming to form a growing network of existing and new international artist-in-residency programs for established and emerging artists. The idea for the art residencies project evolved on the threshold of the pandemic crisis that challenged us to reconsider and redesign numerous projects and programs, including artistic residencies. Hydra PACE is thus offering a model of concurrent international residencies, with an emphasis on combined live–online activities for artists to network, collaborate, exchange practices and experience different social, political, and cultural contexts.

During the Hydra PACE program in 2021, 6 artists will travel to 3 different countries. Participating in networking, communication and educational activities, they will together with partners transfer valued know-how to local and international audiences.

Hydra PACE focuses on intercultural dialogue as a method for artistic research and creating projects that reflect current topics and issues, communicated in this open call under the keywords: co-living, community, connecting, and co-experience.

Our aim is to develop and design a model of adaptable art residencies for ever-changing circumstances, and to give resources to social connections rather than social distancing, togetherness rather than isolation, and for nurturing solidarity in our closest communities. As poetic as this aim sounds, every person is in need of connecting, participating and co-creating, and we encourage that.

SELECTION PROCESS

The partners received 30 applications for the six concurrent residencies in Ljubljana, Košice and Ramallah, with the selection taking place over two phases: pre-selection and final selection. The members of the final selection jury were **Anja Zver** (Head of the Visual Arts Program at Kino Šiška and the DobraVaga Gallery), **Sally Abu Bakr** (Director of the Culture and Social Affairs Department at the Ramallah Municipality) and **Zuzana Kotiková** (Manager of KAIR Košice Artist in Residence) with **Petra Housková** (Project Manager of KAIR Košice Artist in Residence). The preselection teams: Anja Zver, Ajda Ana Kocutar, Urška Aplinc, Rea Vogrinčič (all DobraVaga Gallery), Sally Abu Bakr and Yazid Anani (both Ramallah Municipality), Zuzana Kotiková, Petra Housková, Anna Mária Trávníčková, Tatiana Takáčová (all KAIR Košice Artist in Residence).

The jury selected **Michaela Nagyidaiová** (Slovakia) and **Abed Alrahman Shabaneh** (Palestine) for the DobraVaga Gallery residency, **Nežka Zamar** (Slovenia) and **Mohammed Al Hawayri** (Palestine) for the KAIR Košice Artist in Residence residency, and **Jana Zatvarnická** (Slovakia) and **Đejmi Hadrović** (Slovenia) for the Ramallah Municipality residency (Paths/Mamarat program).

SELECTED ARTISTS FOR PALESTINE

JANA ZATVARNICKÁ

Slovakia



In my work, I use different materials through which I can experience the process. My primary medium is painting and installation art, but I also like to include other disciplines and media. My focus is the “direct touch”, where I experience the process of creation and the topic itself through immediate transfer onto the canvas or paper. The physical interaction with the materials I am working with plays an important role.

In my paintings, my brushstroke is reduced and replaced by a gesture, printmaking techniques or other supplies that I use instead of a brush (my body, hair ...). To me, using different tools and materials and inbedding the “canvas” into the chosen space, thereby creating an “individual mythology”, is a way to express not only figurative aspects, but to transcend myself through the work. In doing so, I am leaving Traces: of body, of spirit and of touch. These traces could also symbolize an archaic universal language.

ĐEJMI HADROVIČ

Slovenia



I am a media artist working in photography, video, installation art and performance art. As an integral part of mass culture, video art gives a voice to those marginalized by the elites that dominate the reproduction of identity. When presented on-screen, those on the margins of society build a discourse against the dominant hegemony in society. Svetlana Slapšak, one of the most prominent gender studies scholars from the former Yugoslavia, claims that “universal knowledge in which women’s voices are absent has no epistemological validity”. I therefore want to draw broad attention to the impossible situation of the women who were sexually abused in the most recent Yugoslav wars and who were later invisible in the post-war cultural, social and political space.

SELECTED ARTISTS FOR SLOVAKIA

MOHAMMED AL HAWAYRI

Palestine

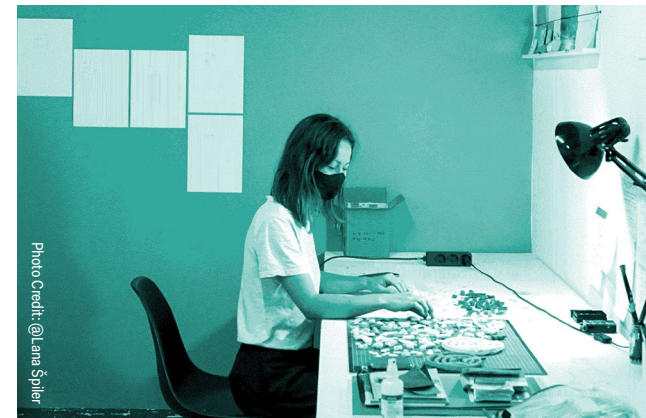


The humanitarian situation in Palestine remains dire, as evidenced by the high rates of unemployment, poverty and food insecurity, while sporadic outbreaks of violence threaten to explode into a wider confrontation. Nonetheless, I always try to take advantage of these difficult circumstances and make them part of my artistic work. I utilise different techniques, such as drawing, video, photography, installation art, etc. I am always searching for new possibilities, dialogues and techniques with which to give shape to my thoughts, which emerge from an often bitter reality.

My artwork always reflects the daily conditions I live in and the lives of people in the Gaza Strip, who experience constant political, economic and social disruption. These changes are directly and indirectly reflected in my artistic work. It is my wish to transform these circumstances into critical and sometimes sarcastic interventions. I hereby intend to utilise critical sarcasm as a tool to bring people closer to the realities that relate to humanitarian issues.

NEŽKA ZAMAR

Slovenia



An inherent part of my practice is a hermeneutical approach to chaos regarding all the elements that constitute it: a precious collection of objets trouvés and their interchangeable relationships. My practice operates within the interspace where the concept can be considered a found object and the found object considered a concept. I follow this *modus operandi* throughout the entire working process, starting with reinterpretation, through the act of observing, and documentation. This approach is further elaborated by working with different media, developing the materiality alongside the concept, applying them to each other accordingly, analysing and pushing their limits.

Considering myself a sidekick of artworks-in-process and a translator of the stories surrounding us, I more often than not find myself researching down numerous rabbit holes, not just to understand the particularities of the subject in question, but to draw the lines, to repurpose, reproduce, and find new connections.

SELECTED ARTISTS FOR SLOVENIA

MICHAELA NAGYIDAIOVÁ

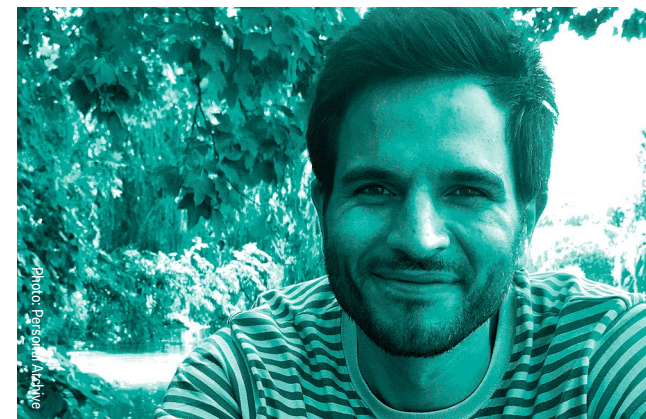
Slovakia



Michaela Nagyidaiová is a Slovak documentary photographer. Her work rethinks the connection between landscape and memory, the impact of socialism in Slovakia and Eastern & Central Europe, identity, and ancestral heritage. She examines historically significant landscapes that have over time become hidden in our contemporary life. "A Sense of Direction" and "Where the Wildflowers Grow" explore family narratives that have been concealed for decades, the Greek Civil War (1946–1949), and its long-lasting impact on communities and land in Greece. "By the Creek, Opposite of a Meadow" addresses travel restrictions during socialism in Slovakia by documenting places within the country where her parents were seeking "a sanctuary, an escape" throughout the previous system. Serving as a connection between her parents' and her own recollections of youth, the core of the work are childhood memories experienced against the backdrop of two contradictory political systems – socialism and democracy.

ABED ALRAHMAN SHABANEH

Palestine



Art curation enables me to focus on tackling cultural contradictions through artistic interventions and revisiting literature with a contemporary eye. I aim to utilise my passion as a writer, my experience as a designer, and my enthusiasm for visual arts as a means of exploring ways of coexistence. In its essence, artwork is but a manifestation of the urgency to take action as a unit facing increasing worldwide concerns.

In addition to my curatorial practice, I fulfil my interest in languages by experimenting with writing in various forms, such as poetry, short stories, novels and editorial writing.

RESIDENCY PARTNERS

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

DOBRAVAGA (KINO ŠIŠKA)

Ljubljana Artist in Residence

With its program, DobraVaga places an emphasis on the aesthetic reflections of the younger generation of artists, the generation that represents the junction of (possi/a)bilities, explorations and current contexts of artistic production in contemporary times. Its Open Studio (Odprti atelje) residency programme was established in 2016 for young regional artists who do not have their own space to create. With the increasing international presence of DobraVaga, it has also taken on the form of an international residency programme, mostly including artists at the beginning of their professional artistic career. It is intended for all artists in contemporary visual and interdisciplinary production, regardless of their medium of expression – its main aim is artistic creation in the wonderful environment of the central city marketplace, which is the work of world-famous Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik. DobraVaga offers two separate studios approx 12.5 m² in size, available during the gallery's opening hours, 6 days a week.

WEB: <https://dobravaga.si/en>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/dobravaga>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/dobravaga>

Contact for artists applying from Slovenia: Anja Zver
E: info@dobravaga.si; T: +386 30 310 104

RAMALLAH, PALESTINE

RAMALLAH MUNICIPALITY

Mamarat (Paths) Ramallah Artist in Residence

Mamarat (Paths) is the residency programme of the Ramallah Municipality. The research component of the residency is comprised of visits, talks and meetings with local cultural actors and the local community in Ramallah and other Palestinian cities, in order to strengthen the understanding of local communalities as well as the research questions, vis-à-vis to clarify possible community engagement activities within the project and to create a conversation and discourse between the artists themselves and the local audience. The aim is to be able to produce relevant cultural material that reflects the realities and possibilities for the future of the city and the country.

The programme encourages the residents to work with key local actors and researchers to cooperate and co-produce. The residency hosts artists in contemporary visual and interdisciplinary production, regardless of their medium of expression.

WEB: www.ramallah.ps

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/R.Municipality>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/ramallahmunicipality>

Contact for artists applying from Palestine: Sally Abu Bakr
E: s.abubakr@ramallah.ps

KOŠICE, SLOVAKIA

KAIR

Košice Artist in Residence

Košice Artist in Residence is an international residency program for artists from all over the world and all artistic disciplines and expressions. KAIR is strongly focused on the creation of international cooperation between Slovak and foreign artists and art organizations. Since 2011, artists have had the chance to work in the inspiring environment of Košice's singular cultural surroundings, realize art projects, collaborate with the agile local art scene, and present themselves to the local and national public. KAIR also provides opportunities for Slovak artists to travel for residencies in cooperation with its partners. KAIR offers two separate studios approx. 20 m² in size, suitable for visual artists. The studios are connected to the Šopa Gallery, where the presentation and workshop activities of Hydra PACE in Košice will take place.

WEB: www.kair.sk

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/KosiceArtistInResidence>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/kair.residency>

Contact for artists applying from Slovakia: Zuzana Kotiková

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