

ANIMALS and PLANTS

The *Animals and Plants* exhibition at Ljubljana City Hall concludes a several-month-long art education process in which children and youth aged 5 to 16 explored the world of painting through animal and plant motifs. The project was overseen by four teachers from the Pionirski Dom Art Centre, Satya Pene, Iztok Holc, Eva Kuhar Jeraj, and Rosalia Arnšek, who worked closely together, constantly coordinating their pedagogical approaches, which resulted in an integrated, thematically connected project. The exhibition not only presents the final artworks but also reveals the creative process behind them – from observing nature and developing the initial idea to creating a group artwork.

Through this creative journey, the young artists gradually learned about various art techniques, materials, and modes of expression, while also developing their unique relationship with colour, form, and composition. The pedagogical process was based on respecting each individual's uniqueness, while encouraging cooperation, dialogue, and shared responsibility for the work being created. Teacher coordination ensured continuity in the artistic content and enabled the working methods to be adapted to different age groups.

The main artistic medium of the exhibited works is grey felt, a woollen textile whose structure allows for a different, tactile and visual approach to artistic expression. The children drew and painted on the felt with oil pastels, the soft, highly pigmented application of which is absorbed into the textile surface differently to how it would be on a classic canvas. This technique creates distinctly textured surfaces and deeply intense colour effects that significantly contribute to the overall artistic impression.

What makes this exhibition special is the group painting, which was created through a collaborative creative process. Although art classes are designed to encourage individual creativity, the children encountered issues of coordination, accepting limitations, and building on their own ideas in relation to others when working in a group. By designing a basic grid for the image field, the teachers allowed each child to choose their own space in which to position a chosen animal or plant. The individual images were gradually connected to form a shared composition, teaching the children to consider balance, the relationships between figures, and the dynamics of pictorial space.

During the process, the children developed a sense of colour harmony, warm-cool and light-dark contrasts, and conscious design of background, which significantly influences the expressiveness of the overall image. The resulting works reflect a diversity of artistic solutions, while also confirming that the uniqueness of creative outcomes is one of the fundamental values of art education.

The exhibition at the Town Hall showcases children's creativity within a broader public and cultural context. Images of animals and plants symbolise liveliness, growth, connectedness, and coexistence with nature, appealing to the viewer with their directness, sincerity, and expressive power. This project pays tribute to children's imagination, demonstrating that a creative process based on cooperation and professional pedagogical dialogue provides a solid foundation for the development of visual thinking.

Pionirski dom – Centre for Youth Culture Ljubljana is the central public institution for cultural and artistic education for children and youth. For decades, it has developed programmes in fields of visual arts, music, theatre, dance, film, and other contemporary forms of creative expression. Through its courses, workshops, productions, and exhibitions, the Centre provides young people with a professionally guided, stimulating environment in which to develop their creativity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness. The Pionirski dom Art Centre is an important space for exploring the visual arts, where the focus is on the process, collaboration, and the original contribution of each young artist.

Opening workshop:

As part of the opening of the *Animals and Plants* exhibition, children and young people are invited to take part in a short art workshop, where they will continue to create a group painting together. Using oil pastels on grey felt, they will explore colours, shapes, and textures through animal and plant motifs, combining their individual artistic ideas to create a collective piece. The workshop emphasises collaboration, playfulness, and the creative process, allowing visitors to actively contribute to the exhibition at the Town Hall.

Workshop on 12 February at 5 p.m.: Animals and Plants – My Picture on Felt

Children are invited to attend an art workshop at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 12 February, at 5 p.m., where they will each create their own picture with oil pastels on grey felt. Using animals and plants as motifs, children will explore colour relationships, form, composition, and the special texture of felt, which allows for rich and expressive artistic expression. The workshop encourages personal artistic expression, imagination, and the playful exploration of materials, offering each child the opportunity to create a unique piece inspired by the *Animals and Plants* exhibition.

ŽIVALCE in RASTLINICE

Razstava *Živalce in rastlinice* v Mestni hiši Ljubljana predstavlja zaključek večmesečnega likovno-pedagoškega procesa, v katerem so otroci in mladostniki, stari od 5 do 16 let, raziskovali svet slikarstva skozi motiviko živali in rastlin. Pod mentorstvom štirih pedagogov Art centra Pionirskega doma – Satye Pene, Iztoka Holca, Eve Kuhar Jeraj in Rosalie Arnšek – je proces potekal v tesnem medsebojnem sodelovanju in ob stalnem usklajevanju pedagoških pristopov, kar je omogočilo celostno zasnovan in vsebinsko povezan program. Razstava ne predstavlja zgolj končnih likovnih del, temveč razkriva tudi proces njihovega nastajanja – od opazovanja narave in prvotne ideje do skupinske likovne celote.

Otroci so skozi ustvarjalni proces postopno spoznavali različne likovne tehnike, materiale in načine izražanja ter razvijali lastni odnos do barve, oblike in kompozicije. Pedagoški proces je temeljil na spoštovanju individualnosti vsakega posameznika, hkrati pa je spodbujal sodelovanje, dialog in skupno odgovornost za nastajajoče delo. Usklajevanje med pedagogi je omogočalo kontinuiteto likovnih vsebin ter prilagajanje metod dela različnim starostnim skupinam.

Osrednji likovni nosilec razstavljenih del je siv filc, volnena tekstilna podlaga, ki s svojo strukturo omogoča drugačen, tipno-vizualni pristop k likovnemu izražanju. Na filc so otroci risali in slikali z oljnimi pasteli, katerih mehki, močno pigmentirani nanosi se v tekstilno površino vpijajo drugače kot na klasično slikarsko platno. Tehnika omogoča izrazito teksturirane površine ter globinsko intenzivne barvne učinke, ki pomembno sooblikujejo celostni likovni vtis.

Posebnost razstave je skupinska slika, ki je nastala v sodelovalnem ustvarjalnem procesu. Čeprav so likovni tečaji zasnovani kot spodbuda individualni ustvarjalnosti, so se otroci pri skupinskem delu srečevali z vprašanji usklajevanja, sprejemanja omejitev in nadgradnje lastnih idej v odnosu do drugih. Pedagogi so z zasnovo osnovne mreže slikovnega polja omogočili, da je vsak otrok izbral svoj prostor in vanj umestil izbrano žival ali rastlino. Posamezne podobe so se postopno povezovale v skupno kompozicijo, pri čemer so se otroci učili razmišljanja o ravnesju, odnosih med figurami ter dinamiki slikovnega prostora.

V procesu so otroci razvijali občutek za barvno harmonijo, toplo-hladne in svetlo-temne kontraste ter zavestno oblikovanje ozadja, ki pomembno vpliva na izraznost celotne podobe. Nastala dela odražajo raznolikost likovnih rešitev in hkrati potrjujejo, da je neprimerljivost ustvarjalnih rezultatov ena temeljnih vrednot umetniškega učenja.

Razstava v prostoru Mestne hiše umešča otroško ustvarjalnost v širši javni in kulturni kontekst. Podobe živali in rastlin delujejo kot simboli živosti, rasti, povezanosti in sobivanja z naravo ter gledalca nagovarjajo z neposrednostjo, iskrenostjo in izrazno močjo. Projekt je poklon otroški domišljiji ter dokaz, da ustvarjalni proces, ki temelji na sodelovanju in strokovnem pedagoškem dialogu, predstavlja trdno osnovo za razvoj likovnega mišljenja.

Pionirski dom – Center za kulturo mladih Ljubljana je osrednja javna institucija na področju kulturno-umetnostne vzgoje otrok in mladostnikov. Že več desetletij razvija programe na področjih likovne umetnosti, glasbe, gledališča, plesa, filma in drugih sodobnih oblik ustvarjalnega izražanja. Skozi tečaje, delavnice, produkcije in razstave mladim omogoča strokovno vodeno spodbudno okolje za razvoj ustvarjalnosti, kritičnega mišljenja in kulturne zavesti. Art center Pionirskega doma deluje kot pomemben prostor likovnega raziskovanja, kjer so v ospredju proces, sodelovanje in avtorski prispevek vsakega mladega ustvarjalca.

Delavnica ob otvoritvi:

Ob otvoritvi razstave *Živalce in rastlinice* vabimo otroke in mladostnike k sodelovanju na kratki likovni delavnici, na kateri bodo skupaj nadaljevali ustvarjanje skupinske slike. Z oljnimi pasteli na sivem filcu bodo skozi motiviko živali in rastlin raziskovali barvo, obliko in teksturo ter svoje individualne likovne zamisli povezovali v skupno celoto. Delavnica poudarja sodelovanje, igrivost in ustvarjalni proces ter obiskovalcem omogoča, da postanejo aktivni soustvarjalci razstave v prostoru Mestne hiše.

Delavnica v četrtek, 12. 2., ob 17. uri: Živalce in rastlinice – moja slika na filcu

Vabimo otroke na likovno delavnico v Mestno hišo, na kateri bo vsak udeleženec ustvaril svojo samostojno sliko z oljnimi pasteli na sivem filcu. Izhajajoč iz motivike živali in rastlin bodo otroci raziskovali barvne odnose, obliko, kompozicijo ter posebno teksturo filca, ki omogoča bogat in izrazit likovni zapis. Delavnica spodbuja osebni likovni izraz, domišljijo in igrivo raziskovanje materiala ter ponuja priložnost, da vsak otrok ustvari edinstveno delo, navdihneno z razstavo *Živalce in rastlinice*.