

Zgodovinski atrij

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RUPA: What Blooms in the Shadows

The exhibition features artworks by artists who all have in common being active at Rupa, a student-run exhibition space at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design at the University of Ljubljana. Rupa gives art students their first chance to exhibit their work and gain experience in various aspects of gallery operations. Over time, a spirit of experimental play has developed among users and visitors of Rupa, which has soon become a space dedicated to constructive intergenerational dialogue.

Measuring 230 cm x 230 cm x 245 cm, the space was established in 2019 by students Nina Goropečnik and Rea Vogrinčič as part of the Pita Projekt platform. They created the exhibition space to explore their own artistic practices, while at the same time they set out to examine various roles, mechanisms, and structures within the art system. Following their graduation, the active use of the space was declining, and by the 2023–2024 academic year, it was under threat of demolition. However, some students recognised its untapped potential, and they decided to take over the coordination and organisation of events there. Exhibitions began to take place, featuring mostly young artists who had not yet had the opportunity to present their work within a gallery setting. The space began to take on a new character. During the period when it was not in active use, it was jokingly nicknamed 'Rupa', Hole, a name that stuck, and the small white cube at the end of the hallway grew into a reborn entity. Rupa's visibility slowly increased, with more and more people applying to open calls, and more and more also attending the openings. Initially a self-funded project, Rupa secured funding from the University of Ljubljana. Alongside the exhibitions, other events began to be organised there, such as performances, workshops, fairs, and international exchanges and collaborations. With the exhibition RUPA: What Blooms in the Shadows, the project achieved its goal of breaking the ice for a group of artists, the vast majority of whom had not yet been featured in institutions such as the City of Ljubljana. Many of them exhibited for the first time at Rupa.

At Rupa, the artist typically takes care of curating and installing the exhibition, while the venue's team handles coordination, fundraising, and promotion. This time, however, the team that managed the gallery during the 2024/25 academic year (Ema Ajster, Hana Aleksić, Urša Marolt, and Lucija Laura Schwarzbartl) is presenting itself as a curatorial collective for the first time. Like the creators of the Pita project once did, the curators are also experimenting with various aspects and concepts of staging exhibitions. They are seeking to find a balance between the institution's systematics and the organic nature of the artistic process. They approach the installation design playfully, perhaps even humorously, viewing it as an expression of an entity that has evolved within Rupa over time.

RUPA: What Blooms in the Shadows is a sort of an extension of that small cube. It is a multiplied explosion of art, an artistic experiment, a creative game, and creative excess. It reminds us that play and creative power are an important part of life, despite being frequently suppressed both within and outside the art system today. Outlining the chaotic (dis)order of the artist's studio, it is composed of a collective poetics of spring-like, floral colours and motifs of turbulent life. The ice has been broken, spring is approaching, and in the twilight, the first young blossoms are appearing within the institution. This exhibition welcomes new beginnings and celebrates the development of an autonomous entity.

Exhibiting authors: Ema Ajster, Hana Aleksić, Emira Bećirović, Julija Brajnik Volčič, Florian Janez Gutmann, Emily Jenko, Maks Jeriha, Ajda Kalan, Kaja Kern, Anja Kočar, Zoja Marčec, Urša Marolt, Julija Mesojedec, Ema Isabela Mozoli, Kalina Naskovski Perne, Lev Ambrož Okorn, Kaja Podgoršek, Hana Renko, Leo Samsa, Lucija Laura Schwarzbartl, Sara Stevanović, Janez Škrlec, Jason Tilen Unterlehner, Matej Zupan, Ana Žele.

Guided tour of the exhibition: Friday, 22 May 2026, 10 am. The event is part of the Ljubljana Art Weekend program.



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RUPA: Kar cveti v temi

Razstava zajema dela avtorjev, katerih skupna lastnost je delovanje v študentsko vodenem razstavnem prostoru Rupa na Akademiji za likovno umetnost in oblikovanje Univerze v Ljubljani. Rupa študentom umetnosti omogoča, da prebijejo led pri razstavljanju svojih del in se preizkusijo v različnih aspektih galerijskega delovanja. Med uporabniki in obiskovalci Rupe se je skozi čas vzpostavil duh eksperimentalne igre in galerija je kmalu postala prostor, namenjen konstruktivnemu medgeneracijskemu dialogu.

Prostor v dimenzijah 230 cm x 230 cm x 245 cm sta leta 2019 zgradili študentki Nina Goropečnik in Rea Vogrinčič v okviru platforme Pita Projekt. Gradnja razstavnega prostora je bila namenjena raziskovanju lastne umetniške prakse, hkrati pa sta se umetnici lotili preučevanja različnih vlog, mehanizmov in struktur znotraj umetnostnega sistema. Po njunem zaključku študija je aktivna uporaba prostora pričela upadati in v študijskem letu 2023/ 2024 mu je grozilo podrtje. Nekateri študentje so v njem videli zavržen potencial, zato so se odločili, da bodo koordiniranje in vzpostavitev dogajanja vzeli v svoje roke. Pričele so se odvijati razstave, katerih avtorji so bili večinoma mladi ustvarjalci, ki še niso imeli priložnost predstaviti svojih del znotraj galerijskih okvirov. Prostor je pričel dobivati nov značaj. V času, ko ni bil v aktivni uporabi, mu je bil šaljivo nadet vzdevek Rupa, ki se je obdržal in majhna bela kocka na koncu hodnika je prerasla v prerojeno entiteto. Prepoznavnost Rupe je počasi rasla, vse več ljudi se je prijavljalo na odprte pozive in vse več jih je tudi prihajalo na otvoritve. Na začetku samostojno financirani projekt je pridobil sredstva Univerze v Ljubljani in ob razstavah so se pričeli pripravljati spremljevalni dogodki, kot so performansi, delavnice, sejmi ter mednarodne izmenjave in sodelovanja. Z razstavo RUPA: Kar cveti v temi je projekt dosegel svoj cilj in skupinsko prebil led za ustvarjalce, od katerih se velika večina še ni izpostavljala v institucijah, kakršna je MOL. Mnogi med njimi so prvič razstavljali ravno v Rupl.

V Rupl je za kuriranje in izvedbo postavitve običajno poskrbel kar umetnik sam, ekipa prizorišča pa je prevzela koordinacijo, pridobivanje sredstev in oglaševanje. Tokrat se ekipa, ki je za delovanje galerije skrbela v študijskem letu 2024/ 2025 (Ema Ajster, Hana Aleksić, Urša Marolt in Lucija Laura Schwarzbartl), prvič predstavlja kot kuratorski kolektiv. Tako kot sta to nekoč počeli avtorici projekta Pita, se tudi kuratorice preigravajo z različnimi aspekti in konstrukti razstavljanja. Najti skušajo ravnovesje med sistematiko institucije in organsko naravo umetniškega procesa. K oblikovanju postavitve pristopajo igrivo, morda celo šaljivo, in nanjo gledajo kot na ekspresijo entitete, ki se je skozi čas vzpostavila v Rupl.

RUPA: Kar cveti v temi je nekakšen podaljšek tiste majhne kocke. Predstavlja multiplicirano umetniško eksplozijo, umetniški eksperiment, ustvarjalno igro in kreativni eksces. Opominja nas, da sta igra in ustvarjalna moč pomembni del življenja, čeprav sta dandanes dostikrat zatrti tako zunaj kot tudi znotraj umetniškega sistema. Orisuje kaotični (ne)red umetnikovega ateljeja in se sestavlja v kolektivni poetiki spomladansko, cvetlično razpoloženih barv ter motivov burnega življenja. Led je bil prebit, bliža se pomlad in v mraku se znotraj institucije pojavljajo prvi mladi cvetovi. Razstava pozdravlja nove začetke in proslavlja razvoj avtonomnega bitja.

Razstavljajo: Ema Ajster, Hana Aleksić, Emira Bećirović, Julija Brajnik Volčič, Florian Janez Gutmann, Emily Jenko, Maks Jeriha, Ajda Kalan, Kaja Kern, Anja Kočar, Zoja Marčec, Urša Marolt, Julija Mesojedec, Ema Isabela Mozoli, Kalina Naskovski Perne, Lev Ambrož Okorn, Kaja Podgoršek, Hana Renko, Leo Samsa, Lucija Laura Schwarzbartl, Sara Stevanović, Janez Škrlec, Jason Tilen Unterlehner, Matej Zupan, Ana Žele.

Vodstvo po razstavi: petek, 22. 5. 2026, ob 10. uri. Dogodek poteka v sklopu programa Ljubljana Art Weekend.



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