

Zgodovinski atrij

Osrednji atrij

Stekleni atrij

Desni atrij

Lara Ješe: Slovenske krave

Umetnica Lara Ješe na razstavi Slovenske krave predstavlja svojo dvanajstletno slikarsko in fotografsko produkcijo. Razstava je zasnovana kot mozaik serij in samostojnih del, ki so plod mnogih načinov pogleda na kravo, portret, družino, tradicijo, generacijsko travmo ter nacionalno identiteto. Začetke tega razstavnega projekta je ustvarila na Jami pri Kranju ter na likovnih akademijah v Ljubljani in Leipzigu, v nadaljevanju tudi v Zürichu, projekt pa je zaokrožila pri izvoru, tj. na Jami.

Portreti so nastali po opazovanju krav z majhne slovenske podeželske kmetije, na kateri je umetnica svojo t. i. umetniško rezidenco opravila kot opazovalka, fotografinja in oskrbna delavka pod taktirko izjemno karakternega starejšega kmeta, svojega strica. Med preživljanjem časa s kmetom, kravami, biki in telički je natančno opazovala njihove navade, oskrbo, osebnosti, interakcije ter kompleksne odnose. Prisostvovala je celotnemu življenjskemu ciklu, od rojstva, dojenja in privezovanja do odvoza krav, bikov ali mrtvih telet. Ob dogajanju v hlevu je v tem času prvič resnično stopila v stik s svojo družinsko in nacionalno zgodovino, in sicer skozi pripovedovanje in doživljanje kmeta, s katerim si je toliko časa delila delo in besedo.

Šele ob kasnejši refleksiji in ustvarjanju je umetnica začela raziskovati in prepoznavati generacijske razlike ter slovensko zgodovino prav skozi prizmo podeželja. Kljub vzgoji in pogledih na svet, ki se močno razlikujejo od vzgoje in pogledov njenih staršev in starih staršev, je med nastajanjem tega projekta vedno močnejše čutila povezavo s tradicijo in zgodovino svojih prednikov, čeprav je sama ni niti doživela niti ni na kmetiji nikoli odraščala ter je do tega poklica in okolja dolgo čutila močan odpor, celo sram.

Ješe se v svoji celotni umetniški produkciji izraža v različnih slogih in medijih, zato bi ji težko pripisali le en, značilen izraz. Kar ohranja kot rdečo nit, je živalska motivika. Tako je za izpoved svoje družinske zgodbe spontano izbrala kravo, ki jo je šele postopoma začutila kot izraz povezave s svojimi koreninami.

Ko se gledalec sprehodi mimo slik krav v naravni velikosti, se sprehodi tudi mimo slovenske zgodovine: ruralne, pretežno temačne, monotone, vklenjene in okupirane. Nato pa se iz temačnejših in nenasičenih tonov v novejša dela postopoma prikradejo zelenje, zlato, ptice, bujne barve, vezenje in pisane tkanine.

Iz pričujočega dvanajstletnega projekta pa ni razviden le umetničin slogovni razvoj, temveč tudi osebnostni razvoj mlade ustvarjalne ter radovedne osebe, ki se s slovenskega podeželja poda v tujino, išče svoje mesto na tem svetu, in tam – prav nič presenetljivo – šele zares odkrije svoje korenine.

Lara Ješe je leta 2016 magistrirala iz slikarstva na Akademiji za likovno umetnost in oblikovanje v Ljubljani, študijsko pa se je izpopolnjevala tudi v Leipzigu na Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst na področju slikarstva in grafike. Po končanem magisteriju se je preselila v Zürich, kjer je živela in ustvarjala tri leta, nato pa se je vrnila v Kranj, kjer zdaj nadaljuje svoje umetniško poslanstvo. Deluje v polju vizualne umetnosti, predvsem na področju kombiniranega slikarstva. Raziskuje različne medije in tehnike ter izrazito ne ostaja zvesta nobenemu prepoznavnemu in kontinuiranemu slogu razen ponavljajoči se figuralni živalski motiviki, ki jo dopolnjujejo simbolni elementi. Razstavlja skupinsko in samostojno tako v Sloveniji kot v tujini ter za svoje avtorske projekte pogosto združuje moči z drugimi kreativnimi in tehničnimi sodelavci. Udeležuje se domačih in mednarodnih likovnih simpozijev, rezidenc in tekmovanj ter je prejemnica priznanj in nagrad doma in v tujini. Njena dela se nahajajo v zbirkah po vsem svetu, med drugim v ZDA, Švici, Nemčiji in Angliji.

Vodstvo po razstavi z Laro Ješe: torek, 9. september 2025, ob 17. uri.

Lara Ješe: Slovene cows

The exhibition Slovene Cows provides an insight into Lara Ješe’s work as a painter and photographer over the last twelve years. The exhibition is conceived as a mosaic of series and solo pieces, the result of various perspectives on the cow, portraiture, family, tradition, generational trauma, and national identity. The artist created the first pieces for this exhibition project in Jama near Kranj, Slovenia, and at the art academies in Ljubljana and Leipzig, before continuing in Zurich and finally completing it at its origin, in Jama.

The portraits were created after the artist spent time observing cows on a small farm in the Slovenian countryside, where she carried out her so-called artist residency as an observer, photographer, and farm worker under the tutelage of a highly characterful elderly farmer, her uncle. While spending time with the farmer, Ješe closely observed the habits, care, personalities, interactions, and complex relationships of the cows, bulls, and calves, witnessing the entire life cycle from birth, nursing, and tethering to the removal of cows, bulls, or dead calves. It was during this time, while watching what was happening in the barn, that she first truly came into contact with her family and national history through the narrative and experience of the farmer with whom she shared so much of her time and conversations.

It was only later, while reflecting on it and working on her art, that the artist began to explore and recognise generational differences and Slovenian history through the lens of the countryside. Despite her upbringing and worldview, which differed significantly from that of her parents and grandparents, Ješe felt an ever-stronger connection to the traditions and history of her ancestors, even though she had neither experienced them first-hand nor grown up on a farm, and had long felt a strong aversion, even shame, towards this profession and environment.

Across her body of work, there is no one single type of artistic expression, Ješe using a variety of styles and media. What she keeps as a common thread, however, is the animal motif. To tell her family story, she spontaneously chose the cow, which she only gradually came to see as an expression of her connection to her roots.

Walking past the life-size paintings of cows, one also walks past the history of Slovenia: rural, mostly dark, monotonous, confined, and occupied. Then, from dim and unsaturated tones, gradually creeping into the more recent works are greenery, gold, birds, lush colours, embroidery, and colourful fabrics.

This twelve-year project shows not only the artist’s stylistic development but also the personal growth of a creative and curious young person who set out from the Slovenian countryside to find her place in the world and, unsurprisingly, only then truly discovered her roots.

Lara Ješe obtained an MA in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana in 2016, with a stint in painting and printmaking at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst in Leipzig. After completing her MA, she moved to Zurich, where she lived and worked for three years before returning to Kranj, where she continues her artistic mission. Ješe works in the field of visual arts, mainly combine painting. She explores different media and techniques, not entirely faithful to any recognisable and continuous style, except for the recurring figurative animal motif, complemented by symbolic elements. She has showcased her work in both solo and group exhibitions in Slovenia and internationally, and often works with other creative and technical collaborators on her original projects. She participates in national and international art symposia, residencies and competitions, and has received awards and accolades both locally and internationally. Her work is featured in collections worldwide, including in the USA, Switzerland, Germany, and the UK.

Guided tour of the exhibition with Lara Ješe: Tuesday, 9 September 2025, 5 pm.