

Marijo Županov: Kralji, kraljice in kvir tatice

*All those beautiful boys
Pimps and queens and criminal queers
All those beautiful boys
Tattoos of ships and tattoos of tears*

Marijo Županov v svoji umetniški praksi raziskuje raznolike izkušnje kvirovske skupnosti v Ljubljani, pri čemer se pogloblja v kompleksnost identitete in samoizražanja. Njegovo delo presega golo dokumentacijo trenutkov – deluje tudi v zakulisju in beleži procese, ki pogosto ostajajo nevidni. V ospredje postavlja osebe in dogodke, ki jih družba pogosto dojema kot marginalne, a so v resnici bistveni gradniki skupnosti.

Po projektu *Pleasures* (2023), v katerem je skozi gejevsko perspektivo raziskoval erotiko, se tokrat osredotoča na širši spekter kvir identitet. V objektiv ujame telesa in zgodbe oseb, ki se identificirajo kot kvir – z namenom, da jih naredi vidne, jim prizna pogum in razkrije lepoto njihovega obstoja.

Razstava *Kralji, kraljice in kvir tatice* nadgrajuje njegov že vzpostavljen razstavni opus in ga dopolnjuje s serijo polaroidov. Ti delujejo kot vizualno gradivo, ki pričuje o krhkosti in ranljivosti lokalne kvir skupnosti – so sled osebnih izkušenj s sovražnim govorom in nasiljem. Navdih za naslov izhaja iz melanholične pesmi *Beautiful Boys*, ki pripoveduje o siroti, ki svojo notranjo lepoto in sorodnost z drugimi prepozna šele v ujetništvu. Podobno Županovi portreti odražajo tako ranljivost kot moč, predvsem pa nežnost skupnosti, ki kljub vsemu vztraja.

Marijo Županov je fotograf, specializiran za modno, dokumentarno in umetniško fotografijo. Sodeluje s slovenskimi in tujimi modnimi oblikovalkami_cí ter z Naravoslovnotehniško fakulteto UL, kjer podpira študentke e mode.

Njegove fotografije so bile objavljene v številnih slovenskih in tujih revijah. Sodeloval je z institucijami, kot so Ravnikar Gallery, Osmo/za, Cankarjev dom in ŠKUC, ter redno fotografira na pariškem in ljubljanskem tednu mode. Poleg modne fotografije dokumentira arhitekturno prenovljene interierje in sodeluje pri vizualni predstavitvi arhitekturnih projektov ter ustvarja glasbene videospote.

Med letoma 2020 in 2025 je pripravil šest samostojnih razstav (med drugim *Pleasures*, *Under The Tuck*, *Queer Issues*) ter sodeloval na osmih skupinskih razstavah doma (galerija DobraVaga idr.) in v tujini (Kula, Beograd).

Aktivno sodeluje z lokalno LGBTIQ+ skupnostjo – z drag dogodki v Klubu Tiffany, programi bara Pritilčje in kolektiva Ustanova –, kar mu predstavlja pomemben vir navdiha in središče umetniškega raziskovanja.

Društvo Parada ponosa si prizadeva za družbo, ki bo vključujoča, odprta in nediskriminatorna – ne glede na spol, spolno usmerjenost, spolno identiteto ali druge osebne okoliščine. Z mladinskim, prostovoljskim in aktivističnim delovanjem se osredotoča na krepitev pravic LGBTIQ+ oseb ter gradnjo podporne skupnosti.

Vsako leto organizira Festival Parada ponosa, ki je zrasel v mednarodni kulturno-politični dogodek. Njegov vrhunec bo letos 14. junija, ko bo Parada ponosa ponovno zavzela ulice Ljubljane kot praznik ponosa, upora in skupnosti.

Spremljevalni program:

Javno vodstvo v slovenskem jeziku: petek, 13. 6. 2025, ob 16. uri
Javno vodstvo v angleškem jeziku: petek, 27. 6. 2025, ob 16. uri

Marijo Županov: Kings & Queens & Criminal Queens

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In his artistic practice, Marijo Županov explores the diverse experiences of the queer community in Ljubljana, delving into the complexities of identity and self-expression. His work goes beyond the mere documentation of moments – he also works behind the scenes, recording processes that often remain invisible. He brings to the fore people and events that are often perceived by society as marginal, but are in fact essential building blocks of a community.

After *Pleasures* (2023), a project in which he explored eroticism through a gay perspective, he now focuses on a broader spectrum of queer identities. His lens captures the bodies and stories of people who identify as queer – in order to make them visible, he acknowledges their courage and exposes the beauty of their existence.

The exhibition *Kings & Queens & Criminal Queers* builds on his already established body of work, complementing it with a series of Polaroids. The latter act as visual material testifying to the fragility and vulnerability of the local queer community – they are traces of personal experience with hate speech and violence. The title is inspired by the melancholic song *Beautiful Boys*, which tells the story of an orphan who only recognises her inner beauty and kinship with others in captivity. Similarly, Županov's portraits reflect both vulnerability and strength, and above all the tenderness of a community that perseveres in spite of it all.

Marijo Županov is a photographer specialising in fashion, documentary and art photography. He collaborates with Slovenian and foreign fashion designers, as well as the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering at the University of Ljubljana, supporting its fashion students.

His photographs have been published in numerous Slovenian and international magazines. He has collaborated with institutions such as the Ravnikar Gallery, Osmo/za, Cankarjev dom and ŠKUC, and he is a regular photographer at the Paris and Ljubljana Fashion Weeks. In addition to fashion photography, he documents architecturally renovated interiors and participates in the visual presentation of architectural projects. He also makes music videos.

Between 2020 and 2025, he has had six solo exhibitions (including *Pleasures*, *Under The Tuck*, *Queer Issues*) and has participated in eight group exhibitions in Slovenia (DobraVaga Gallery, etc.) and abroad (Kula, Belgrade).

He is actively involved in the local LGBTIQ+ community – through drag events at Club Tiffany, the events programme at Pritličje bar and the Ustanova collective – which provide him with an important source of inspiration and a focus for his artistic exploration.

The **Ljubljana Pride Association** strives for a society that is inclusive, open and non-discriminatory – regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or other personal circumstances. Through youth, volunteer and activist work, it focuses on strengthening the rights of LGBTIQ+ people and building a supportive community. It organises the annual Ljubljana Pride Festival, which has grown into an international cultural and political event. This year, it will culminate on 14 June, when the Pride Parade will once again take over the streets of Ljubljana as a celebration of pride, rebellion and community.

Accompanying events:

Guided tour of the exhibition in Slovenian language: Friday, 13 June 2025, 4 pm
Guided tour of the exhibition in English language: Friday, 27 June 2025, 4 pm