

Nasmehi, ki odpirajo srca

Zavod ZRIPS in Blaž Stantič Kobal

S projektom želimo širši javnosti približati osebe z motnjo v duševnem razvoju, saj so te še vedno stigmatizirane, prezerte. Namen razstave je na nevsiljiv način prikazati drugačnost in lepoto, ki sije v vsakem izmed nas ne glede na zunanjost ali mentalne sposobnosti. V Zavodu ZRIPS smo začutili, da je poleg osebne asistence naše poslanstvo tudi destigmatizacija invalidov, še posebej oseb z motnjo v duševnem razvoju. Zavedamo se, da so invalidi kljub ogromnim napredkom in pozitivnim rešitvam, ki so jim trenutno na voljo, pogosto še vedno močno stigmatizirani. Namen razstave je to spremeniti. Ljudje, ki nimajo stika z invalidi, ne poznajo njihovega razmišljanja, prisrčnosti, iskrenosti. Ob njih se velikokrat počutijo neprijetno, gledajo jih postrani ali se obrnejo proč, včasih se jih celo bojijo. To je predvsem posledica tega, da z njimi skoraj zagotovo nikoli niso imeli pravih, pristnih stikov. Šele takrat se namreč lahko z njimi povežeš, jih začutiš in sprejmeš. Z razstavo želimo širši množici omogočiti posredni stik z njimi ter doseči boljše sprejemanje invalidov ob neposrednem srečanju z njimi. Osebe z motnjo v duševnem razvoju najlepše opišejo prav čudoviti nasmehi. Iz njih vejejo pozitivnost, pristnost in iskrenost.

Blaž Stantič Kobal je mlad in talentiran Primorec, ki se s fotografijo ukvarja že od srednje šole. Fotografija ga je tako prevzela, da je šolanje nadaljeval na Visoki strokovni šoli Sežana, smer Fotografija. V času šolanja je ustvaril tri zaključene projekte, eden izmed njih je bila serija fotografij Ribiči, posvečena ribičem, ki je postala tudi krovni del diplomske naloge. Sodeluje na različnih fotografiskih natečajih, med temi je bil tudi Rovinj Photodays (2021), kjer je s serijo z naslovom Melanholične misli osvojil 2. mesto. Na fotografiskem natečaju v okviru festivala Vizije 2021, ki ga prireja Javni sklad za kulturne dejavnosti, je s serijo Melanholične misli osvojil 1. mesto. V središču njegovega opazovanja in zanimanja so ljudje in njihovo bivanjsko okolje. Skozi fotografijo raziskuje socialne tematike, odnose med ljudmi in prepletost slednjih z njihovim vsakdanjim prostorom bivanja in delovanja. Blaž se je povabil Zavoda ZRIPS (Zavod za razvijanje in izvajanje podpornih storitev za samostojno življenje) odzval z veseljem in zanimanjem za približevanje stigmatizirane skupine ljudi širši publiki.

Zavod za razvijanje in izvajanje podpornih storitev za samostojno življenje (ZRIPS) je ustanovila Zveza Sožitje. Poslanstvo Zavoda ZRIPS je združevanje strokovnih znanj in storitev za zagotavljanje pomoči osebam, ki potrebujejo storitve zavoda, ker sami zaradi invalidnosti, starosti, bolezni in drugih okoliščin ne morejo zadovoljiti svojih osnovnih življenjskih potreb, ter zmanjševanje stigmatizacije ranljivih skupin prebivalstva.

Zavod je bil ustanovljen z namenom, da nudi pomoč posameznikom iz ranljivih skupin, nudi strokovno podporo in pomoč pri razvoju posameznika, izvaja storitve osebne asistence, izvaja storitve dolgotrajne oskrbe posameznika, razvija in izvaja prostozasne aktivnosti za otroke, invalide in starostnike, nudi pomoč na domu otrokom, invalidom in starejšim, razvija izobraževalne programe in projekte, organizira in izvaja izobraževanja, usposabljanja, tečaje, posvetovanja, razprave in seminarje, spodbuja in razvija prostovoljstvo ter izvaja projekte za destigmatizacijo invalidov.

Delo Zavoda ZRIPS je prepoznamo po vsej Sloveniji. Projekti, ki jih zavod izvaja, so prejemniki več nagrad in priznanj. Oktobra 2023 je za projekt »Igrajmo se, spoznajmo se« prejel priznanje za posebne dosežke, ki ga je podelila predsednica Republike Slovenije v sklopu natečaja Naj prostovoljec/-ka leta 2022 v organizaciji Mladinskega sveta Slovenije. Z omenjenim projektom se je Zavod uvrstil tudi med 10 najboljših projektov na območju vzhodne Evrope v sklopu razpisa Okvir pomoči (2022), ki ga je razpisala NLB, d. d.

Smiles That Open Hearts

ZRIPS Institute and Blaž Stantič Kobal

The project seeks to raise public awareness of people with intellectual disabilities, as they are still stigmatised and ignored. The aim of the exhibition is to show, in an unobtrusive way, that every single person is beautiful in their own way, regardless of their outward appearance or mental abilities. At ZRIPS, we felt that our mission, in addition to providing personal assistance, was also to destigmatise people with disabilities, especially people with intellectual disabilities. We are aware that, despite the enormous progress and positive solutions currently available to them, people with disabilities are often still highly stigmatised. This exhibition aims to change that. Those who have no contact with people with disabilities do not know how they think, how warm and sincere they are. They often feel uncomfortable around them, they look at them askance or turn away; sometimes they are even afraid of them. This is mainly because they have probably never had any real, genuine contact with them. It is only when you do that you can connect with them, feel them and accept them. With this exhibition, we want to give a wider audience the opportunity to have indirect contact with them and to achieve a better acceptance of people with disabilities when meeting them directly. It is the beautiful smile that best describes people with intellectual disabilities. They radiate positivity, genuineness and sincerity.

Blaž Stantič Kobal is a talented young man from the Primorska region who has pursued photography since secondary school. He was so fascinated by photography that he continued his studies at the Higher Vocational School in Sežana, specialising in photography. During his studies, he completed three projects, one of which was a series of photographs entitled Fishermen, which also became the main part of his diploma thesis. He has participated in various photography competitions, including Rovinj Photodays (2021), where he won 2nd place with his series Melancholic Thoughts. The same series earned him first prize at the photography competition organised by the Public Fund for Cultural Activities as part of the Visions 2021 festival. People and their living spaces are at the heart of his interests and visual observation. Through photography, he explores social issues, relationships between people and their connectedness with their daily living and working environments. Blaž gladly accepted the invitation of the Institute for the Development and Implementation of Support Services for Independent Living (ZRIPS) and expressed his interest in bringing a stigmatised group of people closer to a wider audience.

The Institute for the Development and Implementation of Support Services for Independent Living (ZRIPS) was founded by Sožitje, The Slovenian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. The mission of ZRIPS is to combine expert knowledge and services to provide assistance to people who need the services of the institution because they are unable to meet their basic living needs on their own due to disability, age, illness and other circumstances, and to reduce the stigmatisation of vulnerable groups of the population.

The Institute was established to provide assistance to individuals from vulnerable groups, to provide professional support and assistance in the development of the individual, to provide personal assistance services, to provide long-term care services for the individual, to develop and implement leisure activities for children, the disabled and the elderly, to provide home care for children, the disabled and the elderly, to develop educational programmes and projects, to organise and implement education, training, courses, consultations, discussions and seminars, to promote and develop volunteer work and to implement projects for the destigmatisation of people with disabilities.

The work of ZRIPS is recognised throughout Slovenia. The projects implemented by the Institute have received several awards and prizes. In October 2023, the project "Let's play, let's get to know each other" was awarded the Special Achievement Award by the President of the Republic of Slovenia as part of the Volunteer of the Year 2022 competition organised by the Slovenian Youth Council. With this project, the Institute was also ranked among the top 10 projects in Eastern Europe in the framework of the call for proposals for the Aid Framework (2022) launched by NLB, d.d.

