

FROM ART COLONY GALICHNIK WITH LOVE (MACEDONIA 2010)

Myriam Thyse, 2011. Diptych, 2 HD video streams, 14:42, stereo.

Languages: Serbocroatian / Bosnian, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Albanian; English subtitles.

Installation: 2 synchronized HD media players, 2 upright format HD screens (or HD projections), two pairs of stereo loudspeakers. (2-in-1 version: one large HD flat screen or HD projection, one pair of stereo loudspeakers.)

Translation of the spoken text in the video:

NADJA FRANGOVSKA (Skopje, Macedonia)

My name is Nadja Frangovska. I've been married to the colony's director Nove Frangovski for forty years now. We have a son and a daughter. Our daughter is involved with art history. My husband is a painter. We live in Skopje, and right now we are in Leunovo where the fine arts colony takes place. There are lots of pleasant participants here. The place is beautiful, mountains, nice air, nice company, beautiful ambience where we sit near the Mavrovo lake. This is another beautiful place in Macedonia besides the Ohrid Lake, the Prespa Lake. Macedonia is a very beautiful country. The people are very warm, amiable, cheerful. Everybody likes to spend time with you, to be friends with you. By the way, I was born in Belgrade, a bigger place, much bigger than Skopje, but I got used to live here and learned to speak Macedonian. I'm a business economist by profession, but I'm retired now. I was in Moscow, Rome, Paris, London, but I would like to live on one of the Canary Islands.

The professions of my husband and my daughter are very exciting. They involve big turbulent events with artists from all around the world. They come and go, while we remain good hosts here. I try my best to help them all.

ANA FRANGOVSKA (art historian and curator, Skopje, Macedonia)

Regarding the second question, what is it that I would like to convey to people who love or watch video art: At this moment that is the following: Love and understand the video art the way you can and the way you know. Art is, of course, subject to personal interpretations, even for the biggest experts in the world, art historians, critics, curators etc. who have their previous knowledge and experience. Still each single artwork is an experience for itself. It is peculiar and offers a new world that the individual should experience up close and personal. Hence, enjoy the art the best way you can.

FAHREDIN SPAHIJA (artist and curator, Pristina, Kosovo)

I believe artists need to be better understood. In other words, the needs and expectations of an artist are more particular than those of other people, and I'd put that in inverted commas, the needs and expectations of 'ordinary' people. All artists lead a life full of sacrifices. Their lives are filled with constant hard work - or the self-sacrifice every time you create a new work, and in the course of such a process it's only natural that the artist is in a state of excitement. Those who live near or with an artist can't grasp the entire trauma or the dramatic nature of events within the artist in the creation of a new work.

NOVE FRANGOVSKI (artist, Skopje, Macedonia)

And now the other thing you said, that whether through what I do I communicate with the others and whether they accept it and respond to it; I believe that it actually happens. It happens because my actions challenge certain prejudices, questions, communications, discussions about my life, my lifestyle, my artistic expression, the presentation on the canvas, through the colors, through the art. I believe that I do all this quite well. Time will show what I've achieved and whether I've succeeded at it.

NENA SESIC-FIŠER (artist, Croatia / Bosnia / Utrecht, Netherlands)

I had a strange dream once. No, sorry, it wasn't a dream, it was actually an alternative state. I was on my way back from a festival in Nis, this was before I emigrated to Holland. We didn't sleep for 24 hours; I tried to sleep during the day and then I experienced this strange state, in which the feeling of being dead overcame me. I realized then how it feels when somebody dies. From this moment on I regard death as something void of movement; movement belongs to life only.

I've always loved to dance. I did judo, rock'n'roll, acrobatics as young, and I continued doing this in Holland, where I danced Flamenco.

I realized that there is maybe an otherworldly life. It is not even important whether it exists or not, but many people believe in reincarnation or some kind of life beyond death.

I realized in that moment, as I was very frightened that I won't be able to move anymore, that I move way too little in this life and that movement is actually very important in life.

I often say that on the Japanese boat, the so-called boat-university, where I give flamenco workshops. I know that after the flamenco class everybody is happier. That is not only thanks to flamenco but also thanks to each movement. We all need physical revival. When it is accompanied by music, even better.

So I recommend everybody to move as much as possible. Movement makes you a better person. Mental movement is, of course, a movement too, but I think that the physical component is very important in this world. So it is important to connect both of them. That happens in art, too.

OSMAN DEMIRI (artist, Gostivar, Macedonia)

No-one's ever asked me face to face why I live in my country, in my town (Gostivar, Macedonia). It is probably because the Balkans are habitually regarded as a danger to humanity. However, I'm convinced that there is no people more hospitable or gentle, although in Europe you often hear it said, 'those people from the Balkans'. We are human beings notwithstanding and possess warmth, a unique friendliness, and for that reason, I like living here.

SUZANA MINOVSKA (culture manager, Skopje, Macedonia)

I have worked on myself for a long time, that is, on the state of mind of a certain personality. Above all, one should try to love oneself. If you learn and know how to love yourself, you will certainly have no difficulties to love other people. So people, start loving and respecting yourselves in order to be able to love and respect the world around you. If you think this way, I guarantee you that you will be able to solve most of your problems. Certainly, you cannot solve all problems in the world. There is neither a possibility nor a condition for it. However, you will experience some things easier when you have a different approach towards everything that surrounds you.

GEORGI KRASTEV (artist, Varna, Bulgaria)

I usually don't like making any statements. This is not my thought, but a thought of a friend of mine, which I like a lot and I believe that it suits well this situation: Everyone can become an artist if he wants to be one, everyone can become a musician, an actor if he wishes this with all his heart. Everyone can become everything if this is their heartfelt desire.

GORDANA KALJALOVIC (artist, Belgrade, Serbia)

For me it is very important to inspire the imagination, to use it. I believe this is a very important aspect of life, the essence of life, the power of life. It is important to be able to imagine and to return to a state such as, for instance, the childhood and to be able to play like a child. Picasso once said: "It took me a lifetime to paint like a child". So this metaphysical connection to the universe through playing is very important for me. It is my suggestion or encouragement for the others to try to imagine and play more. People can better reconcile their differences through playing.

NENAD FIŠER (philosopher, Sarajevo, Bosnia / Utrecht, Netherlands)

I would like to share something with the others which is important to me. It is a zen saying, a proverb that originates from the Japanese spiritual tradition. I believe that it is an important saying, since we have all grown up, more or less, under the influence of a certain ideology which expects of us to exactly know our goals and how we want to achieve them. This proverb says the following: 'The one who hits the target misses everything else.'

IGOR SEKOVSKI (artist, Skopje, Macedonia)

We're in Leunovo right now. Digital Galichnik art colony. People from Europe, near - far. We enjoy the communication, and I hope that we will create good artworks. Thank you.