

UTTER /
THE VIOLENT NECESSITY FOR THE EMBODIED PRESENCE OF HOPE

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PRESS RELEASE

UGM / Maribor Art Gallery, Ministry of Culture Slovenia and WEARE Production are pleased to present “UTTER / The violent necessity for the embodied presence of hope,” a new project by JAŠA. The artist will represent Slovenia at the 56th Venice Biennial International Art Exhibition.

The project’s title embraces the very core of JAŠA’s aim to create an artwork as both a poetic stance and a dynamic, politicized presence. The work is conceived as a spatial installation and on-site performance that will bind the artist, his collaborators and the public together for the duration of the Biennale. The project consists of an installation, an architectural drawing activated to become a reflection of thoughts, and a durational performance that expresses the necessity to (re)act as an embodied form. These elements coexist and entwine to form the integral experience of the artwork.

The project “Utter / The Violent Necessity for the Embodied Presence of Hope” focuses on three major themes: resistance, collaboration and hope. The energetic stance of each theme will be resolved, in part, via a long-term coexistence of a performative body within an architectural shell, the co-creation of repetitive performative actions, and the production of harmonic moments. A polyphonic situation of visual, sound and performance will be submitted to a rigorous weekly script, which will be repeated 28 times, from May 9 till the November 22nd. Occupying such a substantial span of time, JAŠA’s project will use the platform of the Venice Biennale not as a segment or as a temporary display of parallel realities, but as a stand against prevailing reality.

It is JAŠA's belief that an artwork can become politicized only when the ideology that drives it is inspiring and not dictating. Considering the demands and ecstasies of repetitive durational performance, the project is a structured act of discipline. It is a call toward collective sensibility. Through continuous repetitive actions, knowledge, gestures and the transformation of these gestures into rituals, the group of performers will summon a rebellious force, which by the power of poetry calls upon a pandemic realization of the idea of community and unification.

“It is my goal to use the Slovenian pavilion as a platform to confront an international audience with the overall project experience as a living functional mechanism driven by the solidarity of all elements involved: installation, visual elements, lighting, projections, sound, and performance. Thus, I intend to create and enable an overall experience of solidarity as an efficient way of operation. I believe in continuous and sustainable collaboration as a basis for the development and communicative value of the project.”

In his previous work, JAŠA's prevailing concern has always been communication. His urge to break through rigid/dehumanized conventional forms of communication (between people) has been seen as an aggressive or almost violent act. Poetry as a stance, as his understanding of artist's position in contemporary society, is the fundament of his voice. “UTTER / The violent necessity for the embodied presence of hope” is a conscious progression of his work. In his creation, a site-specific installation, durational performance based on the ideology of togetherness complements his urge to react and formulate a vision of communal experience of art as reality.

JAŠA (Mrevlje-Pollak) was born in Ljubljana in 1978. He studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Venice and has since been a unique presence in Europe's artistic landscape. He is one of Slovenia's most prolific and influential contemporary artists, driven by his distinctive interpretations of situation, narrative, sculpture and performance; an artist who transforms spaces into experiences and propels them toward their poetic potential. Pushing artistic boundaries through uncompromising vision for almost two decades, JAŠA has created a rich and remarkable body of work that includes multiple critically acclaimed solo shows and projects in Europe and the US. In his two active studios in New York and Ljubljana, Slovenia, JAŠA has created a unique environment, one which allows him to cultivate contextual and visual eventuality that is integral to his work.

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Artist: JAŠA

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