

The opening of **LuizaMargan's** solo exhibition titled *Split Dioptre* will take place on Wednesday, Nov 16 2016 at 7 p.m.

The artist LuizaMargan questions the complex power structures and politics of public space through systematic acts of neglect and tension which occur in public space, while simultaneously constructing a moving imagery of existing urban atmosphere – unplanned touristic development and emigrating local population, along with commercialization and branding of cultural heritage and landscape. The author uses the two exhibited works to oppose two thematic focuses of Split's urban politics – the abandonment and neglect of public space for the benefit of big business and the construction of national identity through the notion of public monuments.

The sculpture titled *Shades (Or Heritage as a Dioptre)* represents an attempt to reconstruct the architectural cultural heritage of the socialist shopping center Koteks Split. The piece came into being through the process of collecting original materials which have fallen from this late modernist building and translating them into new form.

The opposing exhibited video work titled *Monument Reflecting the City* deals with the phenomenon of construction of national identity in postwar Croatia. The author uses a piece of monument erected in honor of late President Franjo Tuđman located in Split's Riva as a starting point for the piece, i.e. the surface of its red granite block.

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LuizaMargan (born in Rijeka, 1983) lives and works in Croatia and Austria. She is a conceptual artist dealing with power relations which characterize public space, work politics and the status of art in society. Her works are based on multilayered research where she questions the relations between political ideologies, history and belonging power, and which mark everyday social interactions, as well as language, even today. She incorporates a number of strategies in her work, from photo series, objects and films, to sound and spatial installations.

She exhibited in a number of group and solo exhibitions and festivals. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Notwithstanding* in Musa Gallery in Vienna, 2016, *In Hand* in Pinakoteka in Vienna, 2015, *Funny Business* in Mali Salon, Muzej moderne i suvremene umjetnosti in Rijeka, 2014.

She participated in a number of group exhibitions which include: *Identity/paraflovs XI* in Kunstforum, Vienna, 2016, *Crises and New Beginnings*, Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2015, *Mature and Angry* in Contemporary Art Centre Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 2015, *The Enigma of the New and the Modern* in Mumok Kino, Vienna, Austria, 2015, *Recaptured Surroundings*, HMK, Hoorn, Netherlands, 2014, *Impossibility vs. Self-censorship* in Matadero, Madrid, 2013, *On the Road* in Changdong National Art Studios Gallery, Seoul, South Korea, 2013 etc.

She participated in artist residencies in New York, Mexico City, Italy, France and South Korea.

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*New space of Gallery School, which is being inaugurated with this exhibition, is located in the vicinity of the School of Fine Arts at Fausta Vrančića 15 Street. With the planned program we aim to connect the high school population with the nearby university one, as well as include the local neighborhood and the wider public with the goal of dialogue between fields of education, contemporary artistic practice and critical theory. The new space of the Gallery is in direct communication with the public space thanks to its glass panes and show window character. Initially located on the second floor of the School of Fine Arts, Gallery School opened its doors by the end of 2014. The uniqueness of this exhibition space is in creating connections and spaces of dialogue between contemporary artistic practices and innovative approaches to artistic education.*