

Blaž Peršin: For Our Economy and Culture, Slovenian Pavilion at the 55th International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia, commissioner's text
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Why was it a necessary and key decision to select the project by the artist Jasmina Cibic to represent Slovenia at 55th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia?

National presentation strategies are normally oriented into finding the witticism of the time and space that the current moment of contemporary art production is supposed to reflect, and to position it in the context of international currents. However, the project of Jasmina Cibic, as curated by Tevž Logar, seeks the answer to the irreplaceable question that we are often inescapably facing. What are the current tendencies of framing national iconographies and the artist's personal view of their presentation? Jasmina Cibic has been searching for reasons and browsing the time sequence of how to reach decisions to place something on a wish list, and exploring the idea of what can represent the national value or icon. The thought often comes to us that something has not been included on the list, although certain images, items, examples of architecture or even the living world would certainly deserve it. What I mean is, it is not the very inclusion that counts but the system and selection based on which the decision has been made. With her project, Jasmina Cibic has opened up a poetic perspective of realising such issues with the help of the objects, items, images serving the laboratory and the experiment of what national iconography could be. The *Gesamtkunstwerk imaginarium* comprising archive documents and art objects – paintings from the collection of the Slovenian Parliament – has become a compulsory participant in the conversation, if indeed there is a desire to find the answers, yet eventually these become personal, no longer having the hint of the cultural political pathos.

A major part in implementing this project has been taken up by the cooperative attitude of all participants: from catalogue contributors to direct performers of the project, such as craftsmen, artisans, and actors implementing the so-called form of national “poetics”. Thanks are therefore due to everybody who have provided their categorical contribution to the project and, if only for a short while, identified with the wish regarding what they can con-

tribute to “our economy and culture”. The participation of contributors was required not only because of the very execution, but also because of the purpose, the concept of the project itself. This is why all the participants deserve thanks – not because of their courtesy, but because of their desire to make the project realised.

Blaž Peršin

Commissioner of the Slovenian Pavilion at 55th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia