

Biljana Đurđević

"Good Life"

8. SEPTEMBER – 28. NOVEMBER, 2021

The Dr. Éva Kahán Foundation is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of Biljana Đurđević in Austria. Alternating between garish, clinical interiors, shadowy figures and vacant industrial landscapes, the paintings and animations of Đurđević (b. 1973, Belgrade, Serbia) portray the shaky underpinnings of a society in which the promise of success means nothing more than survival of the fittest.

Đurđević warns of the risks inherent in the breakdown of measures that guard over the social well-being of a population. In midst of social and economic changes, the rise of the gig economy and the globalisation of markets, her exhibition in the Kahan Art Space Vienna touches on themes of pollution, de-population, and the endemic exploitations of people in her native Balkan region. In stark, classical detail, a series of realistic yet dreamlike scenes play on the tensions and anxieties simmering in the wake of contemporary technological revolution following the deregulation of economic policies pursued by neo-liberal corporations and politicians.

The artist's industrial landscapes and interiors, at the same time modern, foreboding and sickeningly banal in the manner of the anthropologist Marc Augé's "nonplaces", evoke the non-descript horror of transient spaces. Depictions of clinics, factory floors

and abandoned furniture attest to the exploitation of their conspicuously absent inhabitants and emphasize the potential for violence in pursuit of economic good.

Finally, a poem tucked between the frames of the largest work, "Promised Land" reveals that hope springs eternal; the arrangement of lines originating in the works of Dylan Thomas and Xu Lizhi (1990-2014) – a sweatshop worker who took his own life while employed at the Chinese Apple factory Foxconn – reminds us that a brighter future is possible:

*The iron moon is bursting in your aching heart.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light,
Rise from the gutter of your somnolent life.
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*Spit the industrial sewage out of your lungs,
Let the voice rise from this wretched cold dump.
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*One life we live,
And only once we die,
Go, fight against this modern lullaby!
Do not go gentle into that glittering light.*

Rise and Fight!

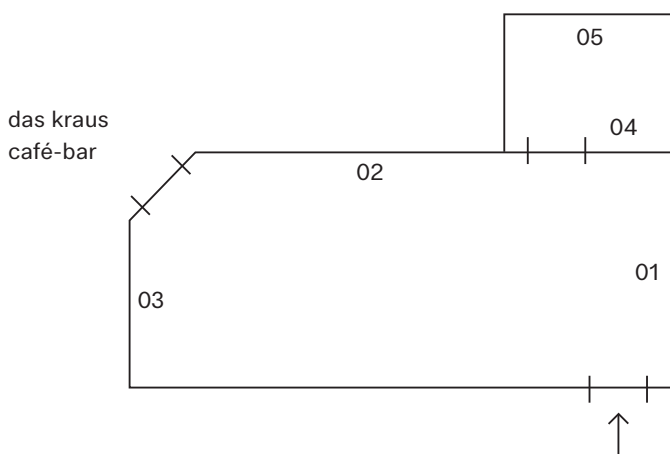
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Biljana Đurđević (b. 1973, Belgrade, Serbia) is one of the most important contemporary Serbian artists. Djurdjevic holds a BA and MA from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade and was a guest lecturer at Parsons the New School for Design from 2010 to 2011.

While in earlier years Đurđević concentrated mainly on painting, she has recently begun developing her large-scale paintings into video animations. In 2020 she published a graphic novel based on the work from her later body of work “Instrument of Activity”.

Selected solo shows include: Museet Moderna (2006, Stockholm), Galerie Davide Gallo (2006 Berlin), Gallery KIBLA (2009, Slovenia), Haifa Museum of Art (2009, Haifa), Cultural Center Belgrade (2010, Serbia), Museum of Contemporary Art (2013, Belgrade), Braverman Gallery (2015, Tel Aviv), Goethe Institute (2017, Belgrade).

Selected group exhibitions include: Palazzo delle Arti Napoli (2006, Naples), Sonoma Valley Museum of Art (2006, San Francisco), Ascona Museum of Modern Art (2007, Ascona), Musée d'art moderne Saint-Étienne Métropole (2009, Saint-Étienne), Museum of Contemporary Art (2009, Klagenfurt), Austrian Cultural Forum (2010, New York), Hagaur Museum (2010, Oslo), Frissiras Museum (2010, Athens), ESSL Collection Museum (2013, Austria), Belgrade City Museum (2016, Belgrade), , Art Gallery Nadezda Petrovic. Memorial Nadezda Petrovic, (2020, Cacak Serbia).



- 01 FAREWELL, 2021
Oil on Canvas
- 02 PROMISED LAND, 2019/21
Oil on Canvas
- 03 HALLWAY, 2020/2021
Oil on Canvas
- 04 “EXPECTATION”, 2020
Digital Collage Animation
- 05 IN COLD BLOOD, 2021
Oil on Canvas

The exhibition “Good Life” will be on view additionally at the Kahan Art Space Budapest from 2. – 23.12.2021.