

(Draft) Final Report

Project: *The Drava – the link between the Dolomites and the Pannonian lowlands*

Artists:

Doris Jauk-Hinz, Ana Pečar, Céline Struger, Eva Ursprung

Curator:

Edith Risse

Duration of Project:

01.05.2019 – 31.12.2020

Artistic enquiries combined with public performances:

06.08.2019 – 10.08.2019 (Jauk-Hinz, Struger, Ursprung, curator)

03.09.2019 – 04.09.2019 (Pečar)

Exhibition in Carinthia:

Exhibition venue: Kunsthaus Sudhaus, Brauhausgasse 6, 9500 Villach

Opening: 18th of October 2019

Duration: 19.10.2019 - 10.11.2019

Abstract

Artists from Austria and Slovenia accompanied the river Drava from the fountain in Toblach to the confluence of Drava and Mur in Legrad, they explored in collective activities imagery, signs, sounds and rituals along Drava. Based on these perceptions, they have created highly self-contained artworks which were exhibited in Carinthia, at Kunsthaus Sudhaus in Villach. Artists from Styria: Doris Jauk-Hinz and Eva Ursprung, artist from Carinthia: Céline Struger, artist from Slovenia: Ana Pečar. Curator: Edith Risse

The run-up

The Drava project falls into line with the project *Panta rhei* which was made reality in 2017. The formula was the connector between four artists from Styria and Slavonia, who made researches and artistic activities along the rivers Mur and Drava. Based on their outcomes, they have created topical multimedia artworks which were exhibited in Osijek at MLU (Museum of Contemporary Art) and at Schaumbad – Freies Atelierhaus Graz.

Doris Jauk-Hinz and Eva Ursprung dealt with the rivers Mur and Drau by means of a transfer process in different layers. For her project *MUR RE-SOURCE* they carried the Mur spring water overland and on waterway to the confluence of Mur and Drau and subsequently to Osijek, where the Drau flows into the Danube. The two artists obtained the occasion to complete their 2003 Danube project tracking and accompanying in person the „journey“ of the biggest Styrian river from its source in Lungau, Salzburg, to Croatia. Together with the two young Croatian artists Ana Petrović and Marija Mikulić Bošnjak they accompanied both rivers with ceremonies, rituals and performances to the Danube.

The present project *The Drava – the link between the Dolomites and the Pannonian lowlands*



Doris Jauk-Hinz and Eva Ursprung traced the river Drava, the lifeline of Carinthia and Slovenia, from the start at Toblach/Dobbiaco in the South Tyrol (Trentino- Alto Adige) over 500 kilometres to the confluence of Drava and Mur at Legrad at the Croatian-Hungarian border. Céline Struger joined them from the South Tyrol till Carinthia. She took a lot of photographs and filmed some videos. Ana Pečar decided to focus on the source and on the swaths of Southern and Eastern Tyrol as well as Upper Carinthia. They all experienced the growth of the river descending from a small, highly branched runlet to a large waterway which is ponded in enormous dammed lakes as Varaždinsko or Dubravsko Jezero providing a huge water reservoir for electricity generation.

Hailing from Frohnleiten **Doris Jauk-Hinz** grew up in Upper Styria. After her studies at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna the media artist has moved to Graz. **Eva Ursprung** was born in Köflach and she also lives in Graz where she has studied psychology and linguistics. As a freelanced artists she is working with the means of music, video and conceptual photography. She was co-founder of the

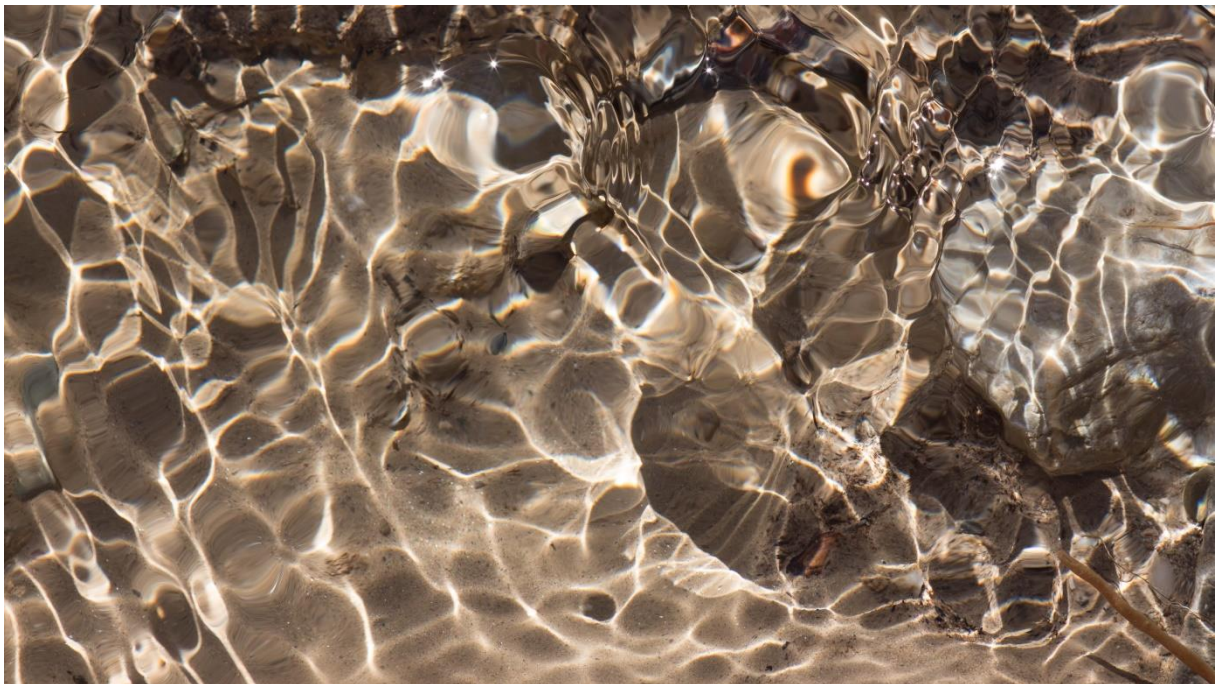
feminist cultural journal *EVA & CO* and nowadays she is president of Schaumbad – Freies Atelierhaus Graz.

Having a reputation all over Austria the two Styrian artists worked together again as they already had practiced in several projects in the past. They developed their concerted concept *DrauConnect* to carry back the water from the confluence of Drava and Danube near Aljmaš to the source in Toblach. Escorted by folk music the water was poured into the spring and set out in direction to Legrad, accomplishing the circuit of nature. The documentation of their course of action with semaphore performances in white “art uniforms” at distinctive places on the route helps to make the acquaintance of regions which are hundreds of kilometres away, but connected by the same river. Their exhibits show the evolving geographic and geologic changes of the landscape from the high mountains of the Dolomites to the plains around Varaždin and in the district of Koprivnica-Križevci. But they also demonstrate the consequences of human interferences making capital of the water and the impact on water quality.



Doris Jauk-Hinz/Eva Ursprung: *DrauConnect*

For **Ana Pečar**, hailing from Maribor at Drava and now living in Gorica surrounded by water, the Slovenian and Croatian part of the river was not interesting at all, because she had filmed a lot of videos and movies there in the past. So she decided to focus on the source and on the swaths of Southern and Eastern Tyrol as well as of Upper Carinthia. The Slovenian video and multimedia artist, having studied at Maribor University and at Corcoran School of Art in Washington, concerns herself with specifications as well as with transformations of the human living environment formerly and nowadays. She is in search of the “treasures of nature” which are often invisible or unimpressive for uninitiated visitors. Most of her time she is living in the woods where she directly senses nature and tries to catch the dimmed light with her eyes and by the camera. Something similar she felt while taking the photographs and video recordings along the river. She perceived and documented at the Drava highly aesthetic formations and structures. Her video also symbolizes the eternal circuit of life illustrated by the stream flow.



Ana Pečar: *Drava*

Hailing from Arnoldstein at the Italian border **Céline Struger** bears upon Villach where she has already exhibited several times and was holder of a scholarship. Above all the diploma holder of the University of Applied Arts has been awarded many a time. She got the foreign exchange scholarship at Gerrit Rietveld Akademy in Amsterdam and the scholarship of the provincial state of Carinthia at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Having finished her studies she was awarded the scholarship for Fine Arts by the Provincial State of Carinthia in 2016. Céline Struger collected video sketches during the collective artistic enquiries and transferred them into a unified colour scheme applicable for her water sculpture *Horror Vacui* which was purpose-built for Kunsthaus Sudhaus. It shows the atmosphere of lights at different times of day. And the inspiration for the two ceramic sculptures *Riverside Relic* and *Riverside Trace* derive from the sight at the Drava bank and the relicts being cast away. In addition she presents other ceramic sculptures with marks of human presence like fag butts, plastic waste and footprints including finds from the river. And Drava mud gets a new designated use as a presentation area to enable new experiences and perceptions for the recipients.



Céline Struger: *Horror Vacui*

Four different artists and approaches: They shared their knowledges and experiences and found out new facts about (for them) unknown regions especially regarding the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage. Based on their subjective perceptions, all the artists produced multimedia-based artworks with high quality. The realisation is mirroring the nature of the river in relation to humans and the far-reaching disturbances caused by humankind. Focusing and discussing these aspects in the framework of exhibitions and workshops will increase the interconnectivity of the geographic area and even enhance the wellbeing of all the inhabitants. The project helps to make the acquaintance of regions which are hundreds of kilometres away, but connected by the same river. So hopefully the idea of travelling to these places will come up. In Villach we already could inspire the audience to be interested not only in the comparatively short stretches of way in Carinthia, but in the entity of the river course. That way sustainable tourism will be boosted (in particular cycling on the Drava cycle path) which will have impact on the prosperity of the whole area.

Intended Timetable for 2020

The exhibitions of the artworks of the *Drava* project should be organized in Maribor (GT 22) in spring 2020 and maybe also in Varaždin. The art association W.A.S. also aims at showing the complete results of *Panta rei* and of the *Drava* project (including the exhibits produced by Ana Petrović and Marija Mikulić Bošnjak) at Pavelhaus (Laafeld) in 2020.