

Exhibitions of the Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb in 2016

EXHIBITIONS IN THE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

THE MAGICAL CROWD – BELIEFS IN SUPERNATURAL BEINGS IN PODRAVINA

Ethnographic Museum, 11 December 2015 – 31 May 2016

Author: Danijela Križanec Beganović

Photographs: Iva Lulić

Exhibition design: Nikolina Jelavić-Mitrović

The exhibition presented supernatural beings; *vile* (fairies), *vilovnjaci* (he-fairies), *coprnice* (witches), *more* (night hags), *divlje dekle* (wild girls), *vede* (demons), *mraki* (night demons), etc. Beliefs in such beings occupy an important place in traditional culture. Trends in modern society have shown that such topics are still exceptionally well-accepted and popular on the global scale.

The exhibition was the result of cooperation between the Ethnographic Museum and the award-winning photographer Iva Lulić. The film animator Zdenko Bašić, the versatile and renowned artist Zdravko Tišljar, and several younger artists – Marija Plečko, Petra Orbančić and Maja Jurjević – also participated in the exhibition with their representations of the characters. The audio background was provided by Ivo Vičić with his arrangements based on natural sounds. The exhibition was accompanied by many events from workshops and technical lectures, theatre performances and fabletelling sessions to the *Fairy Ball*, prize

games, the exhibition of works by the pupils of the *Stenjevec* Primary School *The Symbolic and Associative Role of Colour* staged in the Museum in April and May 2016. The exhibited pupils' works were produced in the art workshop led by teacher Vladimira Bošnjak.

EXHIBITION ACCOMPANYING THE PRESENTATION OF THE ON-LINE PERINIĆ COLLECTION CATALOGUE

Ethnographic Museum, 17 March to 17 April 2016

Author: Tea Rittig Šiško

The exhibition presented a selection of dolls from the *Perinić Collection* and the network catalogue for integral access to the Collection.

ANA BOGAT'S DYED EASTER EGGS

Ethnographic Museum, 1 March – 10 April 2016

Author: Danijela Križanec Beganović

Layout design: Danijela Križanec Beganović

The exhibition presented dyed Easter eggs from Podravina crafted by Ana Bogat, long-standing associate and friend of the Museum. The collections of the Ethnographic Museum include dozens of her dyed Easter eggs produced by the molten wax technique. She decorates the eggs by using traditional, mainly floral motifs.

TWO STOPS ON THE CROATIAN SILK ROAD

Ethnographic Museum, 2 May 2016 - 2 April 2017

Author: Gordana Viljetić

Layout design: Jasminka Vujičić, Gordana Viljetić

Display design: Nikola Šiško, Korana Jelovac

The topics of the exhibition were silk-production and silk-worm breeding in Croatia – specifically in Konavle, the Dalmatian hinterland, Slavonia and

Posavina. It functioned as a supplement to the exhibit in the permanent display of the cooperative project *Two Stops on the Croatian Silk Road* realized by the Ethnographic Museum and the Zagreb Zoo. The project focused mainly on children of older preschool and school age and covered a range of educational programmes (exhibitions and guided tours, lectures and presentations) related to silk-worm breeding and local production and use of silk thread.

OUTLINES OF LIFE, PHOTOGRAPHS BY RENÉ PRONK

Ethnographic Museum, 18 May – 26 July 2016

Author: Zvezdana Antoš

Exhibition design: Nikolina Jelavić-Mitrović

The exhibition presented a range of portraits by the Dutch photographer René Pronk who was impressed by the simple life of the common people in Croatian villages, especially in the region of Žumberak where he has lived already for three years with his family. The exhibited photographs did not only mark a time but also ‘froze’, described and documented it.

They also give an account of the identities, similarities and differences in the everyday life of mainly elderly, lonely and impoverished people, but also of their vitality and strong wish for life. The photographs are especially valuable from the ethnological standpoint because they can be used as a source for the reconstruction of everyday life in the villages of Žumberak, Lika and Hrvatsko Zagorje.

The exhibition was realized in cooperation with the Dutch Embassy in Zagreb during the Dutch Presidency in the EU Council.

FOLKORE FESTIVALS AND SYMBOLS OF IDENTITY - ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

Exhibition organized during the 50th International Folklore Festival

Ethnographic Museum, 16 June – 30 October 2016

Author: Zorica Vitez; subtopics: Zorica Vitez, Katarina Bušić, Josip Forjan

Exhibition design: Luka Predragović, *Maji Studio*

With its thematic exhibition focused on the position of traditional culture in modern life, the Ethnographic Museum marked the jubilee Folklore Festival held in Zagreb since 1966. It was a cooperative project of three cultural institutions - the Ethnographic Museum, the Zagreb Concert Agency /International Folklore Festival and the National Costume Rental and Production Workshop. The exhibition focused basically on the study of the folklore phenomenon in all the aspects of its social effect with special emphasis on the documentation of the practices since the mid-20th century.

The exhibition included three sections: Half a Century of the International Folklore Festival; National Costumes in the Cultural Practices of the 19th and 20th centuries - From the Utilitarian to the Symbolical, from the Original to Reconstruction; Acquisition, Modern Production and Folklore Application of National Costumes.

Attendant events included workshops Tradition in the Modern World and The Reconstructed Tradition of Cvelferija, and a range of other programmes.

A FISTFUL OF BEARD

Ethnographic Museum, 2 September – 20 October 2016

Authors: Katarina Dimšić, Dolores Miličić

Exhibition design: Luka Predragović, *Maji Studio*

The exhibition presented the interior of an old Zagreb barber's shop as it looked in the late 19th century and during the 20th century, and the services provided in it. It was combined with a range of educational and humanitarian features.

The exhibition was opened on the occasion of the World Beard Day and remained open during the popular *Movember* drive.

LJEPJA GLAVA: MUSEUM – HERITAGE – LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ethnographic Museum, 19 November 2016 – 15 January 2017

Authors: Matija Dronjić, Mareta Kurtin

Layout design: Matija Dronjić, Mareta Kurtin, Danijela Križanec Beganović

The exhibition was focused on sensitizing the general public to the protection and preservation of intangible heritage through the positive example of Lepoglava. Thematic sections provide the physical, historical and culturological context, with emphasis placed on the modern component of tradition, i.e., cultural

policies and local community activities presenting and (re)branding Lepoglava. Particular attention was devoted to the current lace-making activities and future challenges, and beliefs and practices regarding specific traditional patterns. The exhibition included multimedial, interactive and educational features.

CHRISTMAS “KINČ” (TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CRÊPE PAPER DECORATIONS)

Ethnographic Museum, 2 December 2016 – 7 January 2017

Author: Danijela Križanec Beganović

Layout design: Danijela Križanec Beganović

Christmas greenery is a specific feature of Christmas, but during the Christmas period the Ethnographic Museum also presented to its visitors an exhibition of Christmas crêpe paper decorations known as *kinč*. This form of home decoration, formerly widespread in northwestern Croatia, has almost sunk into oblivion. The programme was organized in cooperation with the Bistra Cultural and Performing Society which participated, as a cultural goods bearer, in a range of workshops for the crafting of Christmas decorations.

GUEST EXHIBITIONS OF THE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

100 PRESEPI

Church of S. Maria del Popolo, Rome, Italy, 26 November 2015 – 10 January 2016

Item selection: Danijela Križanec Beganović

The Ethnographic Museum traditionally participated in the international exhibition of Nativity cribs held every year in Rome, presenting the crib from Dekanovci by Florijan Andrašec.

SMOKE – THE STORY ABOUT TOBACCO

Virovitica City Museum, 22 April – 12 May 2016

Author: Marija Živković

Exhibition design: Nika Pavlinik and Damir Prizmić

The *Smoke – the Tobacco Story* presented the story of a plant which used to be called the queen of all plants, but also devil's grass. These poles in the interpretation of tobacco were presented in several sections and many short stories depicting the life of people whose life was based on tobacco: from shamans who poisoned themselves with tobacco in order to establish contact with the world of spirits through Dalmatian pickers for whom tobacco was a source of living to the Rovinj *tabakine* who were given an opportunity for emancipation by working in the tobacco industry. The topics included advertisements with which the tobacco industry tried to attract as many users as possible, and film directors who swathed their movies in tobacco smoke.

CROATIAN INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ON UNESCO LISTS

Jelsa Municipal Museum/Stari Grad Plain Management Agency, Jelsa/Stari Grad, Island of Hvar, 18 March – 30 May 2016

Author: Iris Biškupić-Bašić

Exhibition design: Nikolina Jelavić-Mitrović

The number of Croatian cultural properties on UNESCO lists has increased since 2009 to thirteen on the *Representative UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity* and one intangible cultural property on the *List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding*. The island of Hvar abounds in tangible and intangible cultural heritage properties, and a number of them is inscribed on the UNESCO List, such as *Stari Grad Plain*, *Procession Following the Cross (Za križen)*, *Lace-making in Croatia – agave lace made by Benedictine nuns*, *Klapa multipart singing* and *Mediterranean cuisine*. Along with the text and photographs, the display panels also presented maps of the site and the respective part of Croatia. A short film of fourteen sites was also shown. Wherever possible, the visitors could also hear audio recordings. Typical objects were exhibited for each site. This exhibition and the UNESCO appreciation presented only a part of the rich Croatian cultural heritage, and also highlighted the wish to encourage the community to pursue the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage.

CHILDREN'S TOYS FROM THE CROATIAN HERITAGE

Požega City Museum, 28 April – 13 June 2016

Author: Iris Biškupić-Bašić

Exhibition design: Nikolina Jelavić-Mitrović

The exhibition presented the wealth and diversity of Croatian children's toys. It displayed objects of singular originality, rarity, function and attractiveness produced since the late 19th century in Croatian villages. Most of the exhibited toys were produced for the market by organized cooperatives in specific villages such as Vidovec in Prigorje, Hrvatsko Zagorje and the Dalmatian hinterland. Also displayed were toys made by children from materials found in nature as well as those made for them by the members of their families after models in the rural environment.

The exhibition included an interesting educational section and a range of educational events and workshops.

LJEPJA GLAVA: MUSEUM – HERITAGE – LOCAL COMMUNITY

20th International Lace Festival Lepoglava, 22 September – 16 October 2016

Authors: Matija Dronjić, Mareta Kurtin

Layout design: Matija Dronjić, Mareta Kurtin

The exhibition presented the almost century-long association of the leading ethnographic museum in Croatia with a locality harbouring an exceptionally rich and valuable cultural heritage. The project focused on the presentation, to the Lepoglava public and their guests, the way in which the Ethnographic Museum has been involved in the preservation and interpretation of the local heritage. Many objects were selected from an extensive range of museum collections divided into several thematic sections (lace-making, basket-making, pottery, textile handicrafts, woodworking), interpreted on the basis of results obtained through long-standing research of the ethnographic heritage of the local community.

A FISTFUL OF BEARD

St. Ivan Zelina Museum, 15th December 2016 – 13 January 2017

Authors: Katarina Dimšić, Dolores Milčić

Exhibition design: Luka Predragović, *Maji Studio*

The exhibition presented the interior of a barber's shop from the late 19th and during the 20th century, the services provided in it and the crafts important for the contemporary local community such as hatmaking and leather-working.