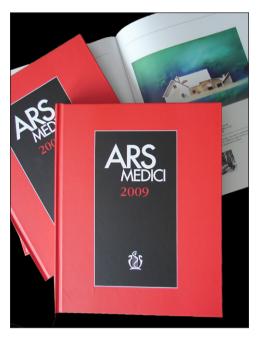
Book review

Zvonka Zupanič Slavec, Ed. ARS MEDICI 2009



Dr Lojz Kraigher Arts and Culture Society of the Ljubljana Faculty of Medicine and Clinical Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Hard cover, 23x28 cm, 286 pages, 550 photos.

Recently issued, Ars Medici 2009 is a richly illustrated volume about amateur artists, most of whom are the medical staff of the Ljubljana Medical Centre (Univerzitetni klinični center) and of the Ljubljana Faculty of Medicine, Slovenia. They have been performing for the last thirty years, that is, since the Lojz Kraigher Arts

and Culture Society was established in 1979. The book gives a review of various sections that make up the Society. Each of the sections (music, arts, dance, literature, and theatre) has been described by people involved in them, based on their personal experience. Some contributions have taken a historical approach, some the form of a memoir, and some have focused on a specific event. The Society's diverse membership of more than 500 encompasses a wide variety of freely expressed talents. Its music and fine arts section speak a harmonious and vivid universal language understood throughout the world, and its literary section encourages

written expression and imagery. Artworks by the Society's painters, photographers, and sculptors have received a special place in this book. As visual arts go hand in hand with literature, the illustrations of paintings are accompanied by selected poems. Beside the choirs, chamber music ensembles, the orchestra, student groups, folk dance ensembles, and theatre groups, the book also remembers events held for patients at the Ljubljana Medical Centre which included a wide variety of artistic performances and exhibitions. A special chapter is dedicated to physicians' concerts in Ljubljana, which have been taking place regularly for forty years. The long tradition of this type of musical gathering by Slovenian physicians is unique in the world. Similar to events for the patients, these concerts are presented through a gallery of photographs and concert programmes.

The book's nearly 300 pages feature approximately 550 photographs with members performing in Slovenia and abroad (including in Rijeka, Croatia, in collaboration with Professor Ante Škrobonja) and with a number of Slovenian and international artists who volunteered to share their creative talent with patients and physicians.

The book was edited by the Society's chair and medical historian, Professor Zvonka Zupanič Slavec and published by the Society in 2009. For a copy or more information please contact: zgmed@siol.net or visit www.kudkcmf.si/

Ksenija Slavec