

## **We are living in a beautiful wourld**

"We are living in a beautiful wourld" (spelled incorrectly) is work in progress project initiated by deep personal comprehension of social and political conditions in our country. In search of a better life people are leaving Serbia and we became aware that we were losing friends progressively. We decided to make photographs of these young people for memento image collective of their uncertain destinations. Every time someone decides to go in a foreign country to look for a better life, we are called to witness the moment of their final verdict. They all have the same reasons and they are all in relation with the political and social state of the country.



We are living in a beautiful wourld (Banana and Sanja)

During the past 17 years around 700.000 young, mostly educated people emigrated from Serbia. The reasons are: Milosevic's repression, war, inability to earn some money or travel; which means that human rights were not respected at the time and life was uneasy. In attempt to find a better prosperity, they live all around the world today. Nevertheless a small number of them really prospered

abroad. Most of them earn their living by doing hard and non-adequately paid jobs, while their colleague diplomas are lying on the bottom of their suitcases. It's not only because of unemployment in those foreign countries, but also because of world's bad attitude toward Serbs. Some of them wish to return to their home-land, but they find it difficult to adapt to the way of life in Serbia today; besides, it's difficult to find a proper job they're qualified for since they have no work experience.

They call both them and us "Milosevic's lost generations".



We are living in a beautiful wourld (Sasa)

We are living in a beautiful wourld (Nora)

In conclusion: we have more Serbian friends abroad than in Serbia. Many of them are our childhood friends and some are not here for 15 years now and we see them less and less.

Public presentation of this project started in May 2007 with a group exhibition called "Nobody wants to be nobody" (curetted by Mirjana Peitler Selakov) as part of Steirischer Herbst in Graz where these photographs were exhibited.



For the purpose of 2007 October Salon in Belgrade (curetted by Lorand Hegyi) we developed this project in form of installation called „Oblivion statistics“ which deals with personal comprehension of the authors confrontation with the loss of their friends as well as the feeling of emptiness that follows. It is a 400 x 400 x 260 cm built cubic environment with six prints (80 x 110 cm each) on exterior side and white interior with bright light from the ceiling emphasizing emptiness.



“Oblivion statistics”, exterior  
Object - 400x400x260 cm,  
6 photograp, printed on aluminum, 80 x 110 cm

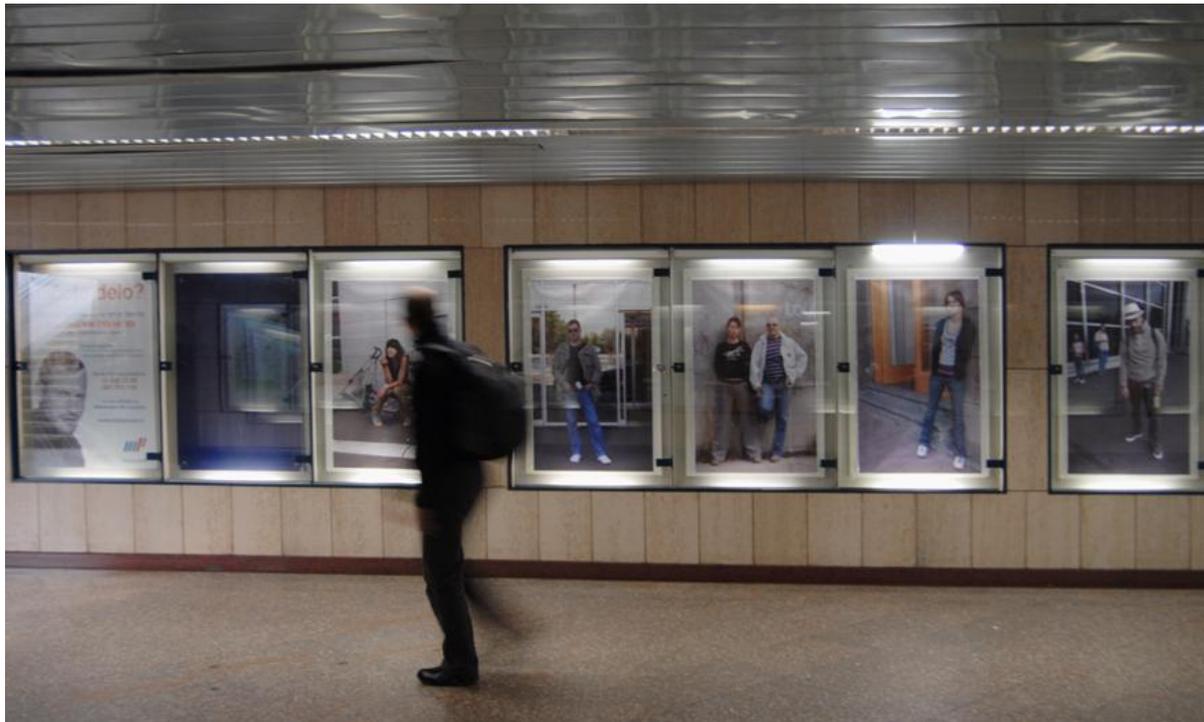


48<sup>th</sup> October Salon, Belgrade 2007,

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interior “Oblivion statistics”,

Furthermore, project „We are living in a beautiful wourld“was part of Break Festival in Ljubljana (November 2007). For this occasion photographs were presented in advertisement boxes at Ljubljana train station (bus station) in migratory environment that suggests travelling and displacement .In addition 1000 postcards made out of these photographs have been printed and distributed during the openings of different events of this festival in order to emphasize the concept of itinerant and unknown destinations.



“We are living in a beautiful wourld“, 5 prints 117 x 78 cm, Break festival 2007, Train station, Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Simply Statements** were produced in July of 2008 for the purpose of Sistema Binario exhibition held in Belgrade train station and curated by Adriana Rispoli and Euenio Viola from MADRE Museum, Naples. This work consists of 4 lightboxes (40x50 cm) with statements made by emigrants who left Serbia which we collected from different web sites and forums where these people communicate with each other. They all expressed their feelings and opinion about their new home and old life.

*"I always wanted to see Serbia as a developed, fully functioning state like america, germany or I don't know sweden where one doesn't need to go abroad in pursuit of happiness, but find it right there besides the people he/she grew up with and loves, where he/she feels the best and at home... but as they say... "pure wishes and dreams"..."*

*"I don't feel that I left something behind, so, there's nothing for me to come back to."*

*"I've had enough of everything. I'm packing my suitcases tomorrow."*



Simply Statements, Sistema Binario exhibition, Belgrade train station, July 2008.

In 2010 we participated in Styrian Summer Art festival in Pollau park in Austria where we carried out a piece called **HomeLand**. This would be a further development of "We are living in a beautiful wourld" project which refer both to physical displacement and sense of being socially or culturally "out of place", but at the same time questions our perceptive of home (what is home and where is it?). In the middle of a meadow we hollow out a shallow square (about 5 cm) dimension 2 x 2 m and then fill it with soil we brought from Serbia. With its ephemeral quality we believe this work will "assimilate" as time passes by and as nature takes its course.

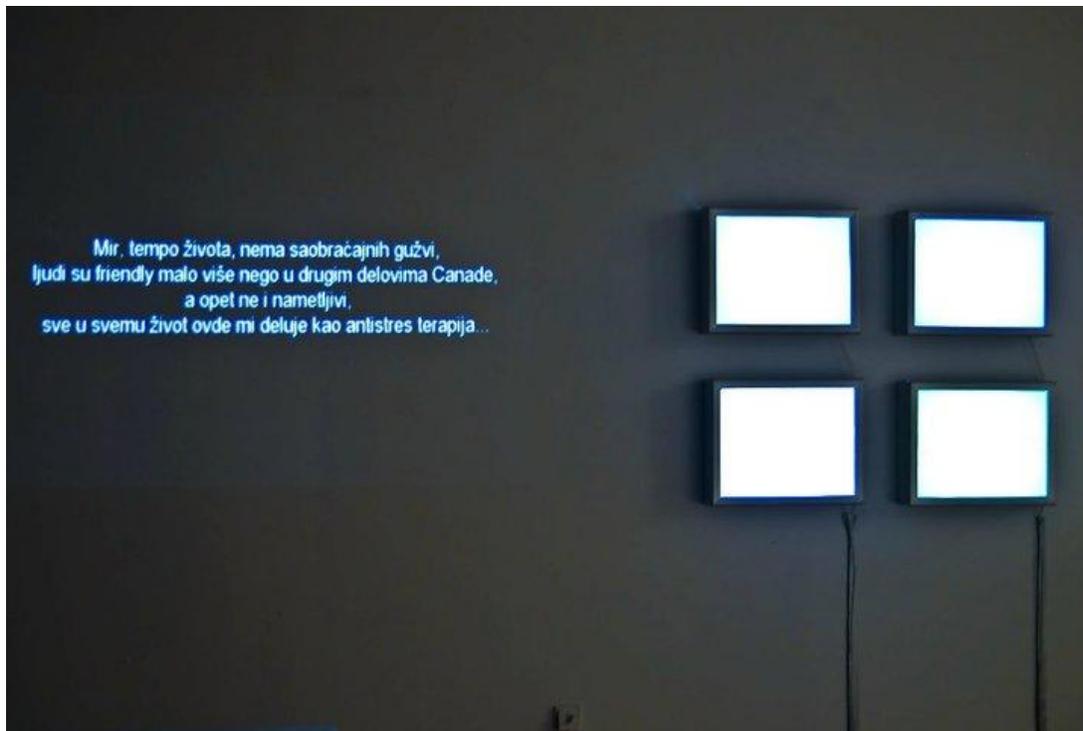


Home Land 1, 2010.



Home Land 1, 2010.

Recently we completed a video called "On certainty" which we presented on festival Bele Noki in Skopje, Macedonia together with "We are living in a beautiful wourld" photographs and lightboxes Simply Statements. This video shows our collection of statements and thoughts of emigrants going one after another appearing from black background in an encouraging and suggestive manner. Idea is to project these sentences in a public space, possibly in some migratory place such as train or bus station or airport.



The peace, the pace of life, the lack of traffic jams and people that are friendlier than in other parts of Canada...but not too imposing. All in all, life here seems like an anti stress therapy session.



The best thing? In Serbia, the best thing is my own micro-world. Nothing more. Family and a couple of friends, and small things that make our lives a little bit better and give us some drive. I'm just not sure how much longer I can live off that.