Press Release, 04.10.2016: Opening of the exhibition

The Centres of Printmaking: At the Intersection of Knowledge, Learning and Cooperation

11. 10. 2016–8. 2. 2017

The International Centre of Graphic Arts has prepared an exhibition in cooperation with two similar institutions in Belgrade and Philadelphia. The Print Centre from Philadelphia (United States), founded in 1915, is taking part with works by contemporary artists paired with artists that have an important historical connection to their organization. The "Academija" Center for Graphic Arts and Visual Researches, founded in 1995, is part of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade. It presents a selection of prints from its own production with an emphasis on artists of various artistic expressions, to whom printmaking represents an additional opportunity for exploration. The focus of the International Centre of Graphic Arts in the exhibition is on works from the collection and the current production, which have during the thirty years of the institution's functioning investigated the status of the graphic arts, placing it in dialogue with contemporary artistic trends.

The exhibition is the beginning of a long-term international expert collaboration, exhibition tours, residencies for artists and art experts.

Highlights:

- Three graphic art centres are presented in the exhibition: The International Centre of Graphic Arts – MGLC, Ljubljana (Slovenia); The Print Center, Philadelphia (United States), the "Akademija" Centre for Graphic Art and Visual Researches, Belgrade (Serbia).

- Opening of the exhibition on Tuesday, 11 October 2016, at 12 noon.

- The opening will be accompanied by a guided tour of the exhibition in the company of the curators, Božidar Žrinski (MGLC, Ljubljana), John Caperton (The Print Center, Philadelphia) and Ljiljana Tašić ("Akademija" Centre for Graphic Art and Visual Researches, Belgrade).

- At the International Centre of Graphic Arts we have decided on a new format of opening with added content, which will be held at midday. It is called ABOUT NOON.
The exhibitions presented by the individual centres:

**The Print Center from Philadelphia (United States),**

founded in 1915, is a prestigious non-profit institution, whose activities promote the growth and understanding of photography and printmaking as vital contemporary arts. From its very start it is dedicated to the graphic arts, supporting the dissemination, study, production and collection of works by printmakers, American and foreign. In 1942, the Centre donated its collection of prints to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, forming the core of their fledgling print department. The presentation highlights the work of three contemporary artists from Philadelphia, who have been shown in recent exhibitions. Each of those artists is paired with an artist who has an important historical connection to the organization. **Amze Emmons** is being presented in a pair with **Art Spiegelman,** who created works as part of The Print Center's residency programme in the 1980s, **Shelley Thorstensen** makes a pair with **Stanley William Hayter,** who taught workshops on experimental intaglio processes at The Print Center in the 1940s, and **Andrew Jeffrey Wright** is paired with **Edna Andrade** whose work was the subject of a 2012 retrospective at The Print Center.

**The Centre for Graphic Art and Visual Researches from Belgrade (Serbia),**

founded in 1995, is the first and only such institution in Serbia, dedicated to the production and presentation of original graphic works by local and foreign artists. Over the many years of operation, the Centre has become an international artistic crossroads for printmakers of all generations and a source of production, collection and presentation of prints. The exhibition presents a selection of
works from their extensive production, exposing the artists whose creativity moves in various artistic expressions, whereas printmaking opens up new possibilities of research for them with its formal democratic nature. Works are also included whose idea and theme can be flexibly translated into a variety of mediums including printmaking, but in such a way that the momentousness of the message is not lost through the process.


The International Centre of Graphic Arts – MGLC from Ljubljana,
is a specialized museum with a rich print collection, a vibrant production and publishing centre, as well as the internationally recognized producer of the Biennial of Graphic Arts. Since its establishment in 1986, the Centre has been aware of just how important the conditions for uninterrupted creative work are, hence conceiving one of its major foundations as regards content and organisation in the form of experimental print workshops for intaglio printmaking, lithography and screen printing. With the shaping of a residency programme in the recent years, it is developing into a complex and new cultural, educational and social centre. It presents itself in the exhibition with a selection from the permanent collection and works by Gorazd Šefran, Bogdan Borčič and Lojze Logar, who importantly contributed to the establishment and start up of the centre of graphic arts with their work and donations of prints. The print portfolio Totally White and Black is one of the Centre's unique artistic and
publishing projects, including fifteen participating artists, who work with geometric abstract art in various derivations like systemic, programmed and optical art. In 2003, MGLC began to expand its collection of artistic publications with extensive donations of artists’ books, which is why the exhibition presents a selection from this collection – one of the most referential of this type in Central Europe today. Current studio production, which places contemporary artistic content and meaning to the forefront through printmaking, is represented by the works of Small But Dangers, Lina Rica, Mladen Stropnik, Vadim Fiškin and Yusuf Merhi.

Small But Dangers, Thin Line 9, 2016, screen print

The exhibition was curated by:
Božidar Zrinski (MGLC, Ljubljana), John Caperton (The Print Center, Philadelphia), Ljiljana Tašić ("Akademija" Centre for Graphic Art and Visual Researches, Belgrade)

Additional resources for exploring the exhibition:
http://printcenter.org/100/
http://printcenterstore.myshopify.com/collections/emmons
http://printcenterstore.myshopify.com/collections/shelley-thorstensen
http://printcenterstore.myshopify.com/collections/wright
http://www.fluc.org/sr/index.php
http://www.mgle-lj.si/
https://www.facebook.com/mglc.ljubljana/
NOT TO BE MISSED!
With the opening of the exhibition, MGLC is introducing a new format of opening with added content, which will be held at midday. It is called ABOUT NOON.

The exhibition is on view from 11 October 2016 to 8 February 2017, from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10 am to 6 pm. Closed on 25 December 2016 and 1 January 2017. Open Days: 3 December 2016 and 8 February 2017.

Additional information:
Božidar Zrinski, Curator, +386 (0)1 241 3804, bozidar.zrinski@mglc-lj.si
Karla Železnik, Public Relations, +386 (0)1 241 38 09, karla.zeleznik@mglc-lj.si

Supported by: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, Municipality of Ljubljana