

dobre vesti / lose vesti

performance

5 October 2002 — Man Gallery, Odzaci, SP — IMAF international performance festival — curated by Nenad Bogdanovic — Participants: passers-by — Duration: 40 min

Background — Ex-Yugoslavia. Serbia bears the burden of guilt for the war. Köppl/Začek are invited by Serbian performance artist Nenad Bogdanovic to his performance and multimedia festival in the little town of Odzaci in the province of Vojvodina. Köppl/Začek are impressed by the international network and activities of Nenad Bogdanovic. In contrast to other Serbian artists, he has not withdrawn into an inner exile.

Setting — An apartment building with an adjoining gallery space in a gravel-covered inner courtyard. A wall separates it from the street.

Materials and Preparation — Before the performance, X and Y arrange for two boxes to be set up in the Odzaci city center. On one box is written dobre vesti (good news), and on the other, lose vesti (bad news). The boxes have a slit on top. Pad of paper and pen. As indicated on the boxes, passersby are invited to write news on pieces of paper and to drop them in the appropriate box. There results a collection of approximately 70 items of news, about the quality of the water, unemployment, good and bad grades in school, as well as sexual and political innuendos. Boxes with slips of paper that have been written on. Nails, 8 cm long.

Procedure — X and Y, each carrying a box, come into the courtyard where the audience is waiting. They place the boxes near to the edge of the area of gravel. X and Y take slips of paper out of the boxes, stand sideways to the audience and read the news, which they don't understand, in passable Serbian. After it has been read, each slip is nailed to the ground. Footsteps and the driving of nails form a backdrop of sound. Each stays in its own rhythm. The operations are superimposed. According to a previously established system of arrangement, the white slips of paper spell out the word UNDERGROUND, a reference to the 1995 film of the same name by Serbian director Emir Kusturica. Typographically, the letters resemble those of the Hollywood sign.

