

STUDENTS' EXCHANGE

Ljubljana, 19 September – 25 September 2016

Srednja šola za oblikovanje in fotografijo

PARTICIPANTS:

- National School of Applied Arts »Saint Luca« Sofia, Bulgaria:

Students: Ralitsa Kalinova Vatseva, Mario Asenov Milenkov, Daniela Milanova, Eva Handjieva, Nikolay Balimezov.

Teachers: Ralitsa Karapanteva, Elizar Milev.

- Liceo Artistico »Policarpo Petrocchi« Pistoia, Italy:

Students: Miriana Cortesi, Julia Pagniello, Lara del Freo, Anna Avino, Giulia Brandolini, Ottavio Caldara, Sara Caramelli, Filippo Ferrari, Elisa Orlandini, Alessandro Gargini, Cosimo Menici.

Teachers: Eliana Princi, Igor Tavilla.

- Srednja šola za oblikovanje in fotografijo, Ljubljana:

48 students from 5 different classes

Teachers: Karmen Klobasa, Manca Juvan, Anton Starc, Damijan Kracina and Aleksandra Ardalić.

TIMETABLE:

Monday, 19 September

9.00 – 10. 30 Reception of the guest students and teachers, a tour of the school
10.30 – 11.00 Lunch
11.00 – 15.30 Stop motion animation workshop (drawing of the flipbook)
16.00 – 18.00 Boat tour and lunch

Tuesday, 20 September

8.30 – 11.00 Tie-dye workshop (introduction and development of the motif)
11.00 – 11. 45 Lunch
12.00 – 16.00 Stop motion animation workshop (animation – group work)

Wednesday, 21 September

8. 00 – 11. 00 Tie – dye workshop (dying of the T-Shirt),
11.00 -11.30 Lunch
12. 00 – 16. 00 – Stop motion animation workshop (animation – group work)
16. 30 – 17. 30 Visit to ZOOFA – an artists' cooperative

Thursday, 22 September

8.00 – 15. 30 Stop motion animation workshop
Lunch
Afternoon free for sightseeing, galleries,...

Friday, 23 September

8.30 – 13. 30 Tie – dye workshop (screen printing)
14.00 – 15. 30 Lunch in town (Open kitchen)
16.00 – 17. 30 Visit to the National Gallery

Saturday, 24 September

8.00 – Trip to Prekmurje
11.00 – Pottery & Ceramics workshops
Lunch at school
14.00 – 18.30 Pottery & Ceramics workshops
Dinner at school
19.00 – 21.00 Return trip to Ljubljana

Sunday, 25 September

10.00 – 14.00 Porcelain workshop

This was our second students' exchange. We have been working together in the project for a year but the students' exchanges are for sure the most exciting part of the project. The main goals of this week were:

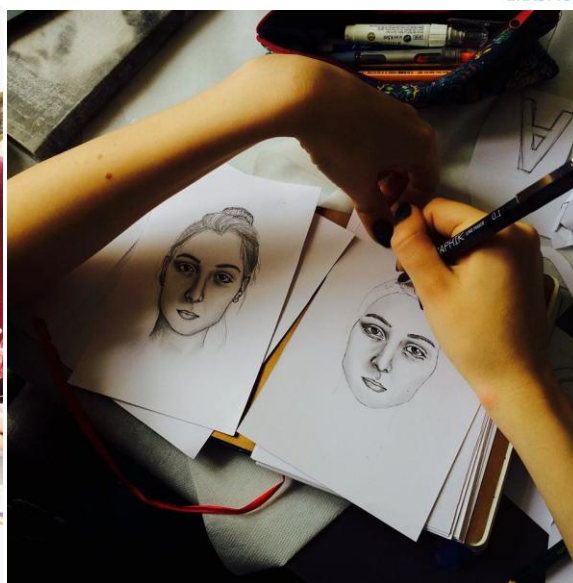
- to create a video in stop motion and pixelation techniques,
- to design T-shirts using tie-dye and screen printing techniques,
- to design pottery on a wheel and get to know about the traditional black clay baking method,
- to learn about porcelain design,
- to learn about an innovative business model – artists cooperative,
- to get to know the cultural heritage of Ljubljana and Slovenia,
- to improve their communication skills in English.

MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

At 9 all the guest students and teachers were gathered in the school and after the brief welcoming of the head teacher Mr. Gregor Markelj, the guests were shown around the school where they could see some classrooms and workshops.



At 11 am the guest students were joined by the Slovenian students for the stop-motion animation workshop. It was a very large group of 40 students in total. First the mentors of the workshop Timon Leder and Jaka Kramberger held an introductory lecture about the stop motion technique. After that the students were divided into pairs consisting of one Slovenian and one Italian or Bulgarian student. The task was for the pair to talk to each and to get to know each other in order to draw a flipbook with the partner's portraits. A series of at least 15 portraits should be drawn so it could later be animated. The students also had the task to make a collage of the partner's name. Both the flipbook and the collage were supposed to reflect the partner's personality or interests.



We ended the first day with a pleasant and relaxing boat tour and on the river Ljubljana.

TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

The day started with the T-shirt designing workshop. Ms. Karmen Klobasa, the mentor of the workshop first presented to the students what they'll be doing during the 3 days of work. First on Tuesday each student had to draw a design which would later be printed on the finished t-shirt. The next steps would be dying a white t-shirt with the tie-dye technique. And on the last day the students would print their designs on the t-shirts.



After this the continuation of the stop-motion animation workshop followed. The students were finishing their drawings and started to animate the portraits and the collages. For this step the students had to take a picture of each drawing

with a camera and save the shot in a computer program. The camera had to be still at all times to get a good result. The collages of the names had to be animated too, also with the use of a photo camera. The working day ended at 16.00.



WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

The day started at 8.00 with the tie-dye workshop. This time the students learned different ways how to dye the t-shirt. The final result depends on the preparation before the dying itself. The desired result can be obtained through different ways of tying, folding or creasing the material.



After school lunch the students continued with the stop-motion animation workshop until 16.00. In the meantime the visiting teachers also held lectures to the Slovenian students who were not participating in the workshops at the time. Mr Igor Tavilla, philosophy teacher at the Liceo Artistico, Pistoia held a wonderful class about the view of the 19th century's philosophy on art. His lecture was most welcome since the Slovenian students don't have philosophy in their curriculum. It was attended by 3 classes, 5 teachers and the head teacher.

Mr. Elizar Milev from the Bulgarian school presented his department of silicate design to our industrial designer classes. Since the Slovenian school doesn't have the equipment for glass design it was a very interesting presentation. He presented his students' works and working and learning process during 4 years of secondary school.

Ms. Ralitsa Karapanteva is a graphic designer and a teacher in the department of Advertising Graphics in the Bulgarian school. She presented her work to the colleagues and students of the Slovenian school. Her lecture was attended by the 4th year graphic designers. It's their final year and they end it with a final exam in graphic design, among other subjects. Many of the students choose advertising as their focus for their final exam and for them it was really useful to see their Bulgarian peers' works.



At 16.30 Editta Zelolepo joined us at the school for a lecture on innovative business models. She is a representative of designers' cooperative ZOOFA and designs leather accessories. She talked to the students about the challenges on her creative and professional path. ZOOFA is organized in a way that each of the 14 current members is a designer and they all together participate in the leading of the shop, they share the cost or renting, each of the members works in the shop for a few hours per week. This allows them to have time to focus on their creative work. After a brief lecture at school she took us to visit the shop and her workshop. We ended the day at 17.30.

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

The day was dedicated entirely to the stop-motion workshop. We started at 8.00 and the students were finishing taking pictures of their flipbooks and collages.



The next step took them to shoot in town. Each group of students had to choose a location somewhere in the city centre and take series of pictures of themselves with the flipbooks they drew. The technique used is called Pixilation. It's a stop motion technique where live actors are used as a frame-by-frame subject in an animated film, by repeatedly posing while one or more frame is taken and changing pose slightly before the next frame or frames. The actor becomes a kind of living stop motion puppet.



Art History teacher Ms. Eliana Princi also had a lecture about the Renaissance art for two classes of students who were not participating in the workshops at the time. She presented the students some of the masterpieces of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.



FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

The day started with the final stage of the t-shirt workshop. The dyed T-shirts were ready for printing. The drawings that the students did on Tuesday were transferred to screens. Ms. Karmen Klobasa explained to the students how to print their designs to the t-shirt and then it was the students' turn to do it. The results were beautiful individual shirts.



After the workshop the mentors of the stop-motion animation workshop showed us the first rough edit of the film the students have been working on throughout the week. It was wonderful to see the result and we could imagine a little what the final product would look like. The students were also going to produce a music score for the film.

After school the whole group went to the market to a food festival named Open Kitchen. Here every Friday around 100 different restaurants from all around Slovenia present their dishes and visitors can try many different Slovenian and international dishes.

After lunch we went to the National Gallery, where a group of 4th year students and their teacher, Mr. Anton Starc were going to take as on a tour. The students presented some of the most important art works in the National Gallery. The tour ended at 17.30, but the students met again in the evening and went dancing together.

SATURDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

At 8.00 we boarded a bus that took us to eastern Slovenia, to the region of Prekmurje. We made a short stop in the village of Bogojina, where we visited the Church of the Ascension, designed by Jože Plečnik, one of the most renowned Slovenian architects. Around noon we arrived to a small village of Grad, where the Erasmus students joined the Slovenian students, who have been here for two days already. The Slovenian school takes 3rd year students to Prekmurje every year to learn about the art of pottery and sculpture in an informal environment.

Mr Štefan Zelko, a local craftsman, showed the students how to make pottery on a wheel. He also presented an almost extinguished art of black clay baking. Štefan Zelko is one of a very few craftsmen in Slovenia who still knows the art of black or reduction baking of clay. This is a process where an oxygen reduction atmosphere is created by sealing the kiln. A reduction atmosphere induces a reaction between oxygen and the clay minerals, which results in the final black color of pottery. Mr Zelko's knowledge is protected by the UNESCO certificate.



The students also had an opportunity to try working on a pottery wheel under supervision of the mentors. Some students already had some previous experience with this technique, for the others it was a bit of a challenge. But in the end everybody managed to produce some objects: plates, bowls, cups.

In the afternoon we made a short walk through the forest to visit the castle Grad. After picnic, we boarded the bus and returned back to Ljubljana.

SUNDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

On the last day of the exchange a very exciting porcelain workshop was awaiting us. Nika Stupica and Boštjan Jan welcomed us in their workshop. First Boštjan introduced the students to the basics of the porcelain, since the students had very little previous knowledge about the material. They learned about the composition of the material, about different methods of shaping, decoration, glazing and firing. After the introduction the students each got a pre-moulded plain cup and a task to decorate it.



The objects the students decorated were left in the workshop to dry thoroughly. In a few weeks time the Slovenian students came back to the workshop and with the help of the mentors glazed them.

When the workshop ended it was sadly time to say goodbye. The entire week was full of a wonderfully creative atmosphere, of curiosity and enthusiasm of friendship and camaraderie. It was an opportunity for the students and teachers alike to compare our school systems and to learn from each other. That's why we're all looking forward to our next students' exchange in Sofia.