

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to present

SKETCH FOR ONE ERASABLE PLOT

Nemanja Nikolic

From March 22 to May 11, 2019

GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

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Uncontained Images, 2017-2018
drawing for the film, made on a railway map of ex-Yugoslavia

SKETCH FOR ONE ERASABLE PLOT

For his second solo show at Galerie Dix9 in Paris, Nemanja Nikolic presents his two latest video animations, made of drawings and using a substantially distinct technique derived from the same conceptual approach as moving images. The Serbian artist has tirelessly pursued this work since his masterful and highly acclaimed project *Panic Book**.

Trained in painting, Nemanja Nikolic excels in drawing and has earned many prizes. Since his early works, he has focused on exploring the expressive potential of classical drawing, and has rapidly developed his search for more complex patterns of the moving image, a conceptual approach that seems almost natural when one knows the artist's fascination with the seventh art and the specificities of his artistic approach. He thus gave to the traditional expression of drawing a more complex visual dimension, linking the language of visual art and film. Animation quickly became his new form of visual expression, often referring to Hitchcock films, both for their form and their theme (like *Panic Book*). The artist particularly retains the gradual construction method (image by image), the tension and psychological uncertainty as a narrative structure.

A tribute to film noir, *Double Noir* (2016) is a video made of sixty sequences showing a man in pursuit of his own double. With its protagonist Humphrey Bogart, the scenes are inspired by nineteen films played by this iconic figure of film noir. Each sequence is made of white chalk drawings on a large blackboard, but only the last drawing of each sequence remains on the board. Thereby, the only memory of the 1800 drawings required for the animation is the video itself. Presented for the first time at the 56th October Salon in Belgrade, *Double Noir* figures in important collections including the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in Los Angeles.

* *Panic Book*, drawings and video animation presented in 2016 by Galerie Dix9 at Drawing Now Paris and in the exhibition *Book Memories*.

Uncontained images (2018), is an audio-visual installation composed of five animation videos, produced for the 57th October Salon in Belgrade. The sequences are made from drawings with ink and charcoal on book pages and maps. As with *Panic Book*, the books date from the Tito era and deal with the ideology of self-managing socialism. The questioning of the movement of the image is here focused on unique and short sequences (except the sequence of the train) whose images are inspired by different films made during the Cold War. Each of the videos has its own soundtrack: sounds of machines, waves or paging of flaking books, which complement each other in the space of the gallery. *The Gun* is inspired by a scene taken from the noir classic *The Big Combo* (1955), which shows a close-up of a hand pulling a pistol from a jacket. At the moment the gun turns, pointing to a fictional spectator, it goes back into the pocket. The sequence is drawn on book pages from *Social Criticism* by the famous ideologist Edward Kardelj.

The Train video is a more complex composition and montage. The 28 sequences feature the train in motion, shot from different angles, in different frames, with different camera positions. They are inspired by films such as *From Russia With Love* (1963), *The Train* (1964), *The French Connection* (1971), and *Runaway Train* (1985). They are drawn on book pages that are directly related to the biography of Tito and books that influenced the formation of his ideology, but also on some railroad maps of SFR Yugoslavia. The video shows a scene from *Billion Dollar Brain* (1967) featuring a train that almost threateningly rushes forward, with a red five-pointed star, a picture of Lenin and two crossed red flags with a sickle and hammer. This was seen by the artist as an almost comic-like illustration of the ideology identified by the locomotive on the move. The animation features a train that rushes, falls and passes the obstacles it encounters. Unlike previous videos with a linear structure (beginning, peak and the end), the narrative in *Uncontained Images* is hidden, the potential plot is left to the free interpretation of the viewer and arises from an interaction between the segments of the video installation itself.

Through his analysis of the movement of images and its temporal logic, Nemanja Nikolic questions, in these works, the nature of the narrative and symbolic potentials of the image of the film. Just as *Double Noir* seems to have an endless story, since the last scene joins the first scene, erasing while giving life to the plot, so the sequences of *Uncontained Images* come alive in an infinite loop and can interact with each other, giving the spectator free choice to draw a plot, as noted in the title of the exhibition: «A sketch for one erasable plot».



Double Noir #39, white chalk on blackboard, 120x77 cm, 2016



Uncontained Images, sequence *Train #6*, ink on book pages, 2018



Uncontained Images, sequence *Train #1*, ink on book page, 2018



Double Noir #53, white chalk on blackboard, 120x77 cm, 2016

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1987 in Serbia, lives in Belgrade

EDUCATION

Graduate from the Faculty of Fine Arts, department painting, Belgrade (2010)
Doctoral art studies, Faculty of Fine Arts, Belgrade (2018)
Initiator of U10 Art Space, Belgrade

AWARDS

Special award for mural and wall installation, Raiffeisen Bank and gallery 12HUB (2013)
Drawing award, Fond Vladimir Veličković (2011)
Award for personal creative innovation from Fond Milos Baić (2009)
Award for drawing (2009 and 2007)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019

Sketch for one Erasable Plot, Galerie Dix9 Paris

201E

Field of Teleportation avec Nataša Galecic, Belgrade Youth Center, Serbia

Vanishing Fiction, U10 art space, Belgrade

Art Paris, presented by Galerie Dix9

Art Rotterdam-video, presented by Galerie Dix9

2017

Samples of the Liquid Book, Galerie Dix9, Paris
Volta New York, presented by Galerie Dix9

2016

Untitled Miami, presented by Galerie Dix9

2015

New Paintings, U10 Art Space, Belgrade

Instead of the Ending, The Art Gallery, Belgrade

2012

Visible Things, U10 Art Space, Belgrade

Exhibition of the laureat, Vladimir Velickovic Fund, Gallery Chaos, Belgrade

2010

All around us, New Gallery, Belgrade
Goethe Institut Belgrade

NNN+P, StepOut 4, Gallery MKM 4, Belgrade

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2019

Exposition avec Marta Jovanovic, curator Mia David, Navigator Art Gallery, Belgrade
U10 Art Collective, AQB Project Space, Budapest, Hungary

Anatomy of the Flight, curator Milica Lapcevic, Aeronautical Museum, Belgrade

ART EX-YU, 1st Biennale Young Artists from ex Yugoslavia, curator Sava Stepanov, Center for Contemporary Art, Podgorica, Montenegro

2018

The marvellous Cacophony, October Salon, Belgrade, curators Gunnarr and Danielle Kvaran
Chalk, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, NL

10 ans! anniversary exhibition, Galerie Dix9

2017

Art and Film, 120 years of exchange, curator Dominique Paini, CaixaForum Madrid, Spain

Bookswatcher, curator Ronit Eden, Public space, Amsterdam, NL

Drawing Now Paris, presented by Galerie Dix9

Rencontres Internationales Paris-Berlin

2016

Art and Film, 120 years of exchange, curator Dominique Paini, CaixaForum Barcelona, Spain
Art Market Budapest, presented by Galerie Dix9

RoMANTisch, curators Stella Bach & Claudia Maria, Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria

Plaisir d'amour, 56th October Salon, curator David Elliott, Belgrade

Liber numericus, Stereolux Nantes, France

Panic Book, cultural center SKC, Kragujevac, Serbia

Book memories, Galerie Dix9 Paris

Drawing Now, artist in focus, Galerie Dix9

2015

Parallel, U10 Art Space invited, Vienna, Austria

Constellation, Serbian Cultural Center, Paris, curator Svetlana Mantua

LISTE art fair, U10 Art Space invited, Basel, CH

2013/2014

Ex-ordinary, No Borders No Nation, City gallery Collegium Artisticum, Sarajevo, U10 Art Space, Belgrade - Center for Contemporary Art Montenegro, Podgorica

2013.

New Wall, 12Hub Gallery, Belgrade
Mixer Festival, Thrill in Movement, About and Around Curating, Belgrade

From – to, MKM4, Belgrade

Hard to be... Within the Time, curator Biljana Tomic, Geozavod, Belgrade

2012

Bound (curators Sofia Touboura, Maria Lianou, Nana Sachini), Open Show studio, Athènes, Grèce

The Most Beautiful Building (curateurs Ana Adamovic et Milica Pekic), Mikser Festival, Belgrade

What I Do, Gallery MKM4, Belgrade

Skup 3, New Gallery, Belgrade

2011

Transform in Art Education, National Art Academy, Sofia, Bulgariia

Autoskopija II, Gallery of University Library „Svetozar Markovic“, Belgrade

Skup II, New Gallery, Belgrade

Drawings, curator Dejan Grba, Goethe-Institut, Belgrade

Photo - Robot, Gallery of Student's town, Belgrade

Through drawing, curator Miroslav Karic, Gallery MKM 4, Belgrade

2010

C2, curator Dejan Grba, Gallery of Student's town, Belgrade

Skup, New Gallery, Belgrade

Views, Gallery 73, Belgrade