

UN-WAR SPACE LAB

Drava Reflections

== Decoding Drava ==

8 July–6 August 2022

artKIT

== *Decoding Drava* == is an attempt to step into the complex tensions around Drava's waterbody. It is the result of *Drava Reflections*, a shared process looking at the exploitations of the river for electricity production or other uses, and their consequences on the Drava water body through her relational ecologies. *Drava Reflections* brought another and more radical process of imagination to us, the process of == *Decoding Drava* ==. As a theoretical basis, we explored the work of Ivan Illich, a thinker and polymath, and Astrida Neimanis, a hydrofeminist, through her thinking about »wet matter«. We observed possibilities of the creation of radical water body relationships that include human and non-human species or interspecies as well as their activities in the Drava waters. The intermedia tools such as XR technologies, the internet, audio, video recordings, polaroid camera, hand drawings, written texts, found objects, and site-specific research on existing flora and fauna are used to reflect on multiple anthropogenic influences. Drava reflections is an interactive and shared process that includes disciplinary knowledge from biologists, botanists, and other scientists as well as everyday knowledge of people living with the Drava river and city of Maribor in Slovenia.

Armina Pilav and Damir Ugljen carried out research work at KIBLA2LAB during the RUK residency. In collaboration with the lab team, they created a project in extended reality that tackles several anthropogenic influences bringing together the past and the present in a speculative future scenario.

Drava Reflections and == *Decoding Drava* == exhibition are part of the wider program **Toxic Lands**. It is a research-based, experimental curatorial intervention and a collaborative creation encompassing landscape architecture, film, art installations, performances, scientific research, and activist initiatives. It started to develop in the destroyed and polluted environment of the Neretva River flowing through the Mostar city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The working methods encompass both the physical and digital space and reveal the hidden effects of the Anthropocene, military activities, climate change, capitalist colonial practices, and extractive industries.

BIOGRAPHY

Website:



Un-war Space Lab is a cross-media research-based practice on material transformations of rivers, land, architecture, and the interspecies society during and after the war; it is led by Armina Pilav, feminist, architect, and researcher in ecologies of war destruction. It works as a fluid collective of researchers and practitioners across the disciplines of landscape architecture, film, archaeology, visual arts, and environmental humanities, to mention a few. Plurennial research on the Neretva River and its inter-species ecologies is developed in collaboration with Damir Ugljen – an archaeologist and independent researcher who explores the cultural significance and ecological consequences of the material transformation of landscapes, with a particular focus on adaptive responses of non-human and human subjects to newly formed conditions.

Armina Pilav is a feminist, architect, lecturer at the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Sheffield, and founder of Un-War Space Lab. Armina uses cross-media tools, psychospaciality, and radical observations to expose ecologies of transformations of rivers, lands, and related natural forms, architectures, and society, as illustrated in the project *Toxic Lands*.

Damir Ugljen is an archaeologist and independent researcher interested in the fields of archaeology, social anthropology, and environmental inquiry. He explores the cultural significance and ecological consequences of the material transformation of landscapes, with a particular focus on adaptive responses of non-human and human subjects to newly formed conditions.

Drava Reflections field research: Armina Pilav and Damir Ugljen

Decoding Drava exhibition concept: Armina Pilav and Damir Ugljen

Underwater sound recordings: Damir Ugljen

Polaroids: Armina Pilav

Analogue photos: Damir Ugljen

Archival photos in the video: Regional Archives Maribor

Texts: Armina Pilav

Short video at the beginning of the video: Kristijan Robič

Underwater photos in the video: Leon Želj / Divers Association Maribor

3D modeling, development of the interactive experience, and video montage: Žiga Pavlovič

Curating and coordination: Živa Kleindienst

Thank you: Klemen Kamenik, Boris Kolar, Vojo Eraković, Divers Association Maribor, Regional Archives Maribor, Regional Museum Maribor and Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Maribor Regional Office

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artKIT, Glavni trg 14, Maribor

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.