



# PREUZMIMO BENČIĆ

A film by Althea Thauberger

# **PREUZMIMO BENČIĆ**







# **PREUZMIMO BENČIĆ TAKE BACK BENČIĆ**

A film by Althea Thauberger

**Suradnici  
Contributors**

Una Bauer — Franco “Bifo” Berardi — Alissa Firth-Eagland  
Ivana Golob — Shawn Van Sluys

**PREUZMIMO BENČIĆ**  
TAKE BACK BENČIĆ

**Urednici / Editors**  
Alissa Firth-Eagland, Althea Thauberger

**Izvršni urednik / Managing Editor**  
Alissa Firth-Eagland

**Istraživanje, uredničko savjetovanje, lektura /**  
**Research, Editorial Guidance, Proofreading**  
Jessica Hein, Marko Butorac

**Uredništvo pomoć / Editorial Assistance**  
Danica Evering

**Prijevod tekstova na hrvatski / Croatian**  
**Translation of texts by**  
Firth-Eagland, Van Sluys, and Berardi  
Linguasoft, Irena Kregar-Šegota

**Prijevod tekstova Une Bauer i Ivane Golob na**  
**hrvatski napravile autorice / Croatian Translation**  
**of texts by Bauer and Golob by the authors**

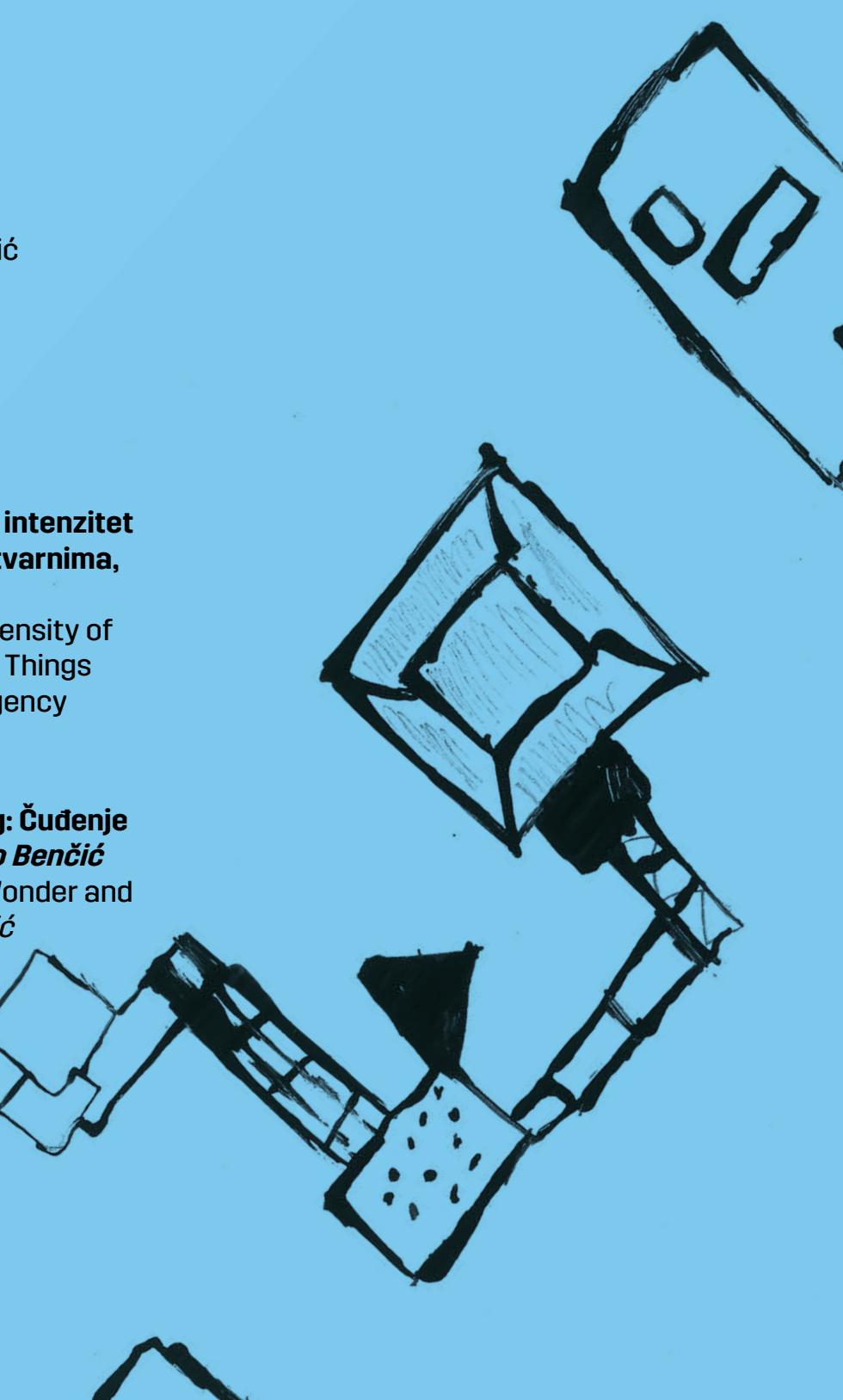
**Dizajn / Design**  
Leaky Studio, [www.leakystudio.com](http://www.leakystudio.com)

ISBN 978-0-9920366-5-2

© 2015 the contributors, Musagetes

All rights reserved, including the right of  
reproduction in whole or in part in any form.

**Musagetes**  
6 Dublin Street South  
Guelph, Ontario  
Canada N1H 4L5  
[www.musagetes.ca](http://www.musagetes.ca)

- 
- 11 **Shawn Van Sluys**  
**Uvod**  
Introduction
  - 25 **Ivana Golob**  
**Dinamična povijest Benčića**  
The Dynamic History of Benčić
  - 37 **Franco "Bifo" Berardi**  
**Preuzmimo Chaosmosis**  
Preuzmimo Chaosmosis
  - 49 **Una Bauer**  
**O tome kako riječi proizvode intenzitet svijeta, izvedba čini stvari stvarima, a pokret daje snagu**  
On How Words Create the Intensity of the World, Performing Makes Things Real, and Movement Gives Agency
  - 75 **Alissa Firth-Eagland**  
**Na razmedj Sebstva i Drugog: Čuđenje i empatija u filmu *Preuzmimo Benčić***  
Between Self and Another: Wonder and Empathy in *Preuzmimo Benčić*
  - 104 **Film Excerpt**  
Film Excerpt
  - 107 **Zasluge**  
Credits



## Uvod

Ironično naslovljen i voluminozno ambiciozan, *Rječnik neprevodivih pojnova* (2014.) ističe se kao jedan od fascinantnih, ali i bizarnijih filozofskih poduhvata u posljednje vrijeme. Ovaj opsežan leksikon navodi i definira filozofske pojmove koji se opiru točnom prijevodu s jednog jezika (kulture) u drugi - što je prilično drzak, premda koristan poduhvat.

Jedan od takvih slavenskih pojnova je pojam pravde, kojega u engleski jezik nejasno prevodimo kao *istinu* (*truth*) ili *pravičnost* (*justice*). U svojim liturgijskim korijenima pravda, u biti, združuje pojmove istine i pravičnosti, insistirajući pritom na njihovoj međuovisnosti. Možemo samo zamisliti ovime nadahnute filozofske rasprave vođene kroz niz stoljeća političkih sukoba u zajednicama slavenskih naroda.

Za mene ovaj *Rječnik* predstavlja metaforu neprevodivosti, odnosno, nesavršenog prijevoda, misli i iskustava među pojedincima i među kulturama, iz jednog konteksta ili scenarija u drugi.

No, kao što svjedoči rad autorice Althee Thauberger *Preuzmimo Benčić*, umjetničko traženje potvrđuje se kao neprekinuti pokušaj prevođenja onoga što nikada do kraja ne može biti prevedeno. Savršena neprevodivost ovog umjetničkog projekta djelomično je rezultat činjenice da se tijekom produkcije govorilo hrvatskim i engleskim jezikom, kao i engleskih titlova koje je pažljivo napisao post-producijski tim. No, odnosi se jednak tako i na prenošenje dječje sposobnosti istraživanja te pažnje koju umjetnica poklanja rječkim povjesnim i suvremenim pričama.

Kao što tekstovi i fotografije u ovoj publikaciji navode, *Preuzmimo Benčić* nema pretenzija savršeno tumačiti teme koje istražuje: rad umjetnika, identitete radnika, društveno-političke interpretacije, kolektivne improvizacije i međugeneracijsko prenošenje priča. Bogatstvo ovoga rada leži upravo u hvatanju u koštač s osobnim i

## Introduction

### Shawn Van Sluys

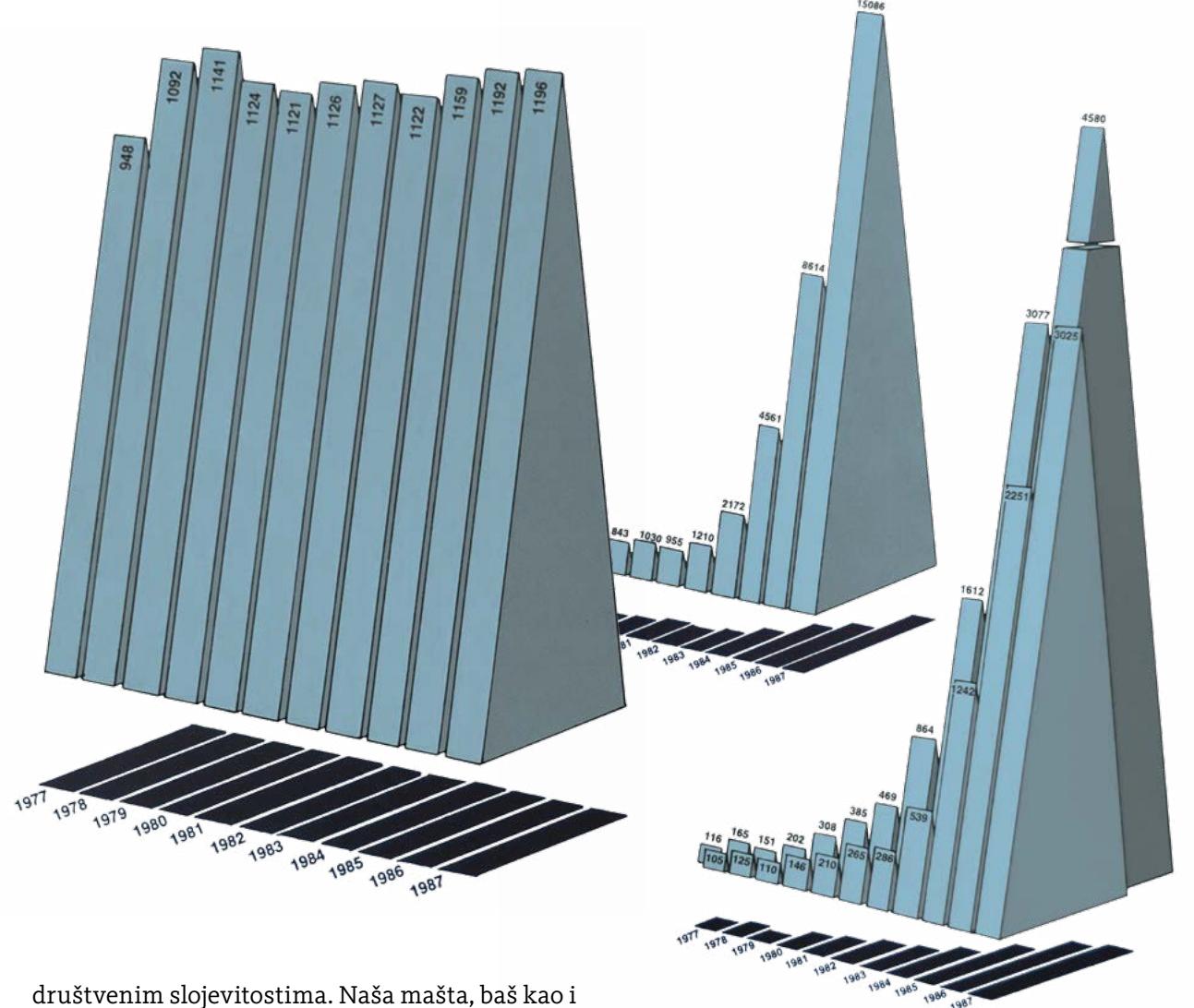
The ironically titled and ambitiously voluminous *Dictionary of Untranslatables* (2014) stands as one of the more fascinating and bizarre philosophical projects undertaken recently. The massive lexicon lists and defines philosophical terms that resist accurate translation from one language or culture to another—a cheeky but useful program.

One such Slavic concept is *pravda*, which is ambiguously translated to English as either “truth” or “justice.” In fact, in its liturgical roots, *pravda* conflates truth and justice, insisting on the interdependence of the two. Imagine the philosophical debates this inspired over centuries of political strife in Slavic societies.

To me, the *Dictionary* is a metaphor for the untranslatability—or imperfect translatability—of thought and experience between individuals and between cultures, from one context or scenario to another.

But as we see with Althea Thauberger’s *Preuzmimo Benčić*, artistic inquiry can be considered a continual attempt at translating what is never wholly translatable. The perfect untranslatability of this artwork is not only a result of the English and Croatian languages spoken during the production of the work or the English subtitles carefully written by the post-production team. It’s also about conveying children’s capacity for wonder and the artist’s attention to Rijeka’s historical and contemporary narratives.

As the essays and images in this publication suggest, *Preuzmimo Benčić* has no pretenses of perfect translation in the themes it explores: artists’ labour, workers’ identities, sociopolitical interpretations, collective improvisations, and intergenerational storytelling. The richness of the work exists in its wrestling with personal and societal complexities. Our imagination—like the children’s—then frees us to find

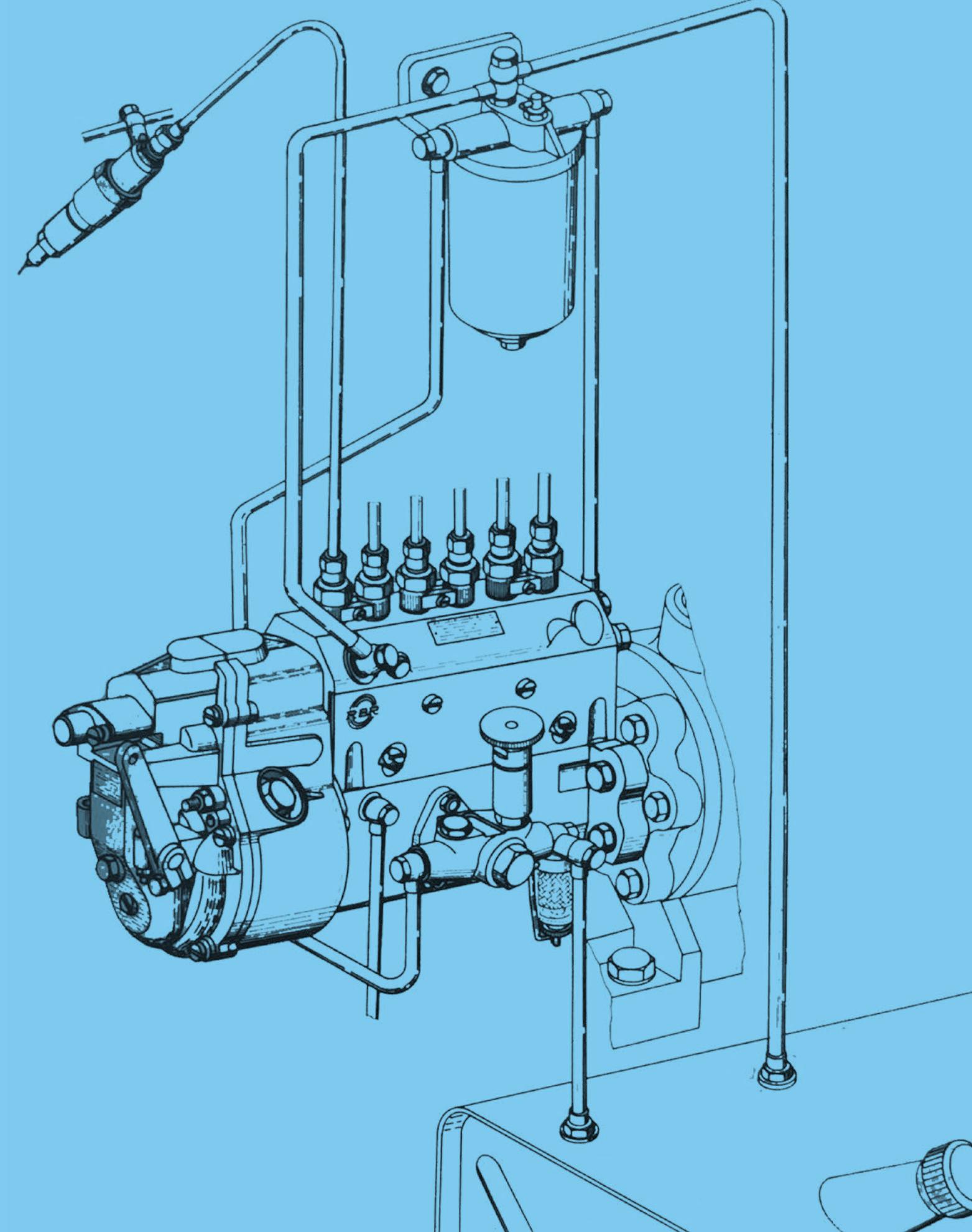


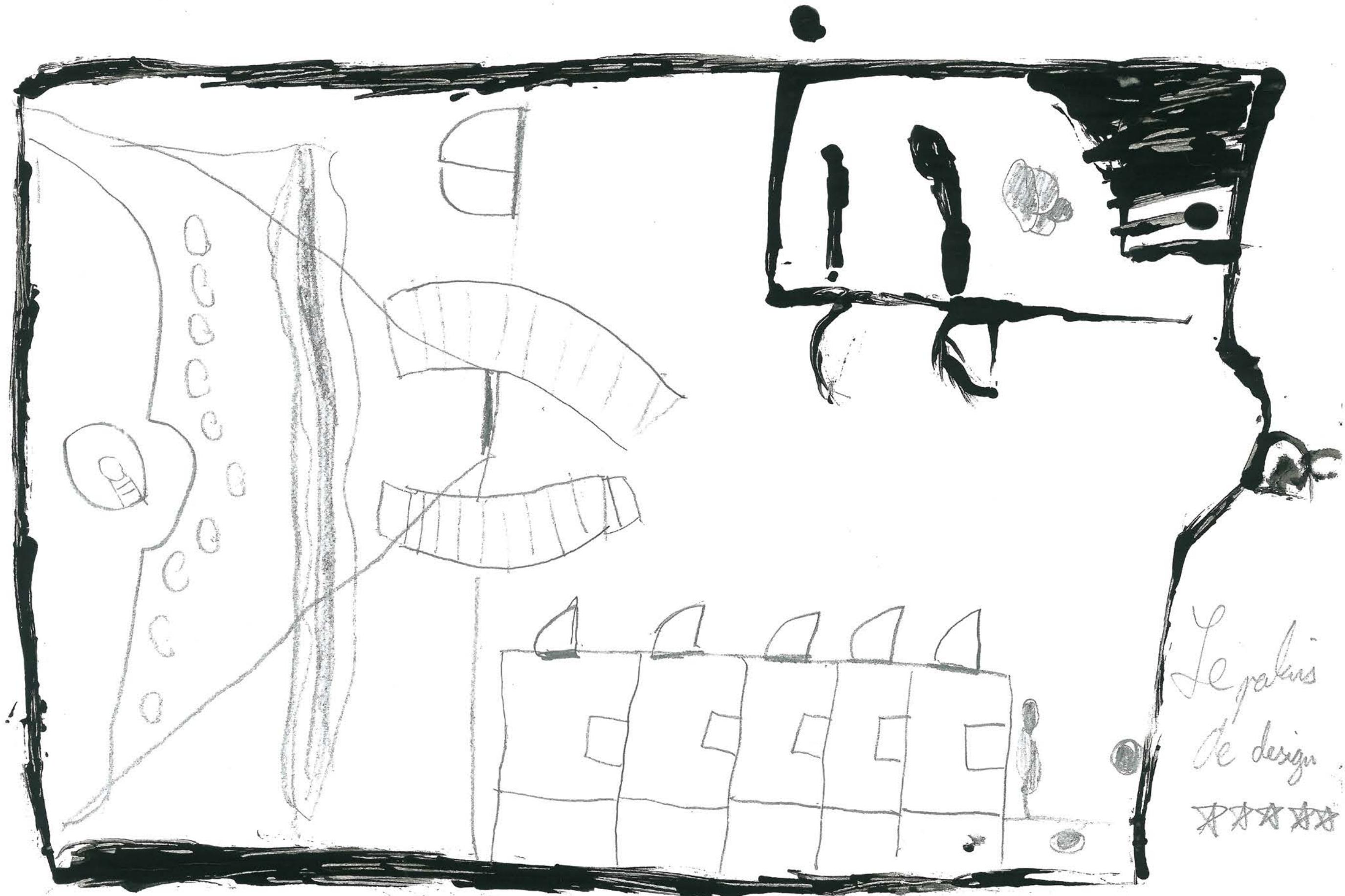
društvenim slojevitostima. Naša mašta, baš kao i dječja, nudi nam slobodu pronalaženja značenja među neprevodivim zakutcima misli i bivanja.

Umetnički program koji *Musagetes* trenutno provodi u Rijeci utjelovljenje je naše želje da umjetnost zauzme ključnije i značajnije mjesto u životima ljudi. Nadamo se da će s ovim izdanjem projekt *Preuzmimo Benčić* nastaviti odjekivati novim značenjem za gotovo sedamdesetoro djece i brojne članove produkcijskog tima koji su ključni za ovaj rad. A sve one koji se s projektom *Preuzmimo Benčić* ovdje susreću prvi puta pozivamo da nesputano i kreativno zaplešu i raspravljuju, baš kao što se to činilo u napuštenim tvorničkim prostorima Benčića.

meaning in the untranslatable nooks of thought and being.

*Musagetes'* ongoing artistic program in Rijeka is the embodiment of our desire to make the arts more central and meaningful in people's lives. With this publication, we hope that *Preuzmimo Benčić* continues to resonate with new significance for the nearly 70 children and dozens of production crew members at the heart of the work. And for those who encounter *Preuzmimo Benčić* for the first time here, we invite you to dance and debate with all the freedom and flair as once was done on the abandoned factory floors of Benčić.





Le palais  
de design  
\*\*\*\*\*

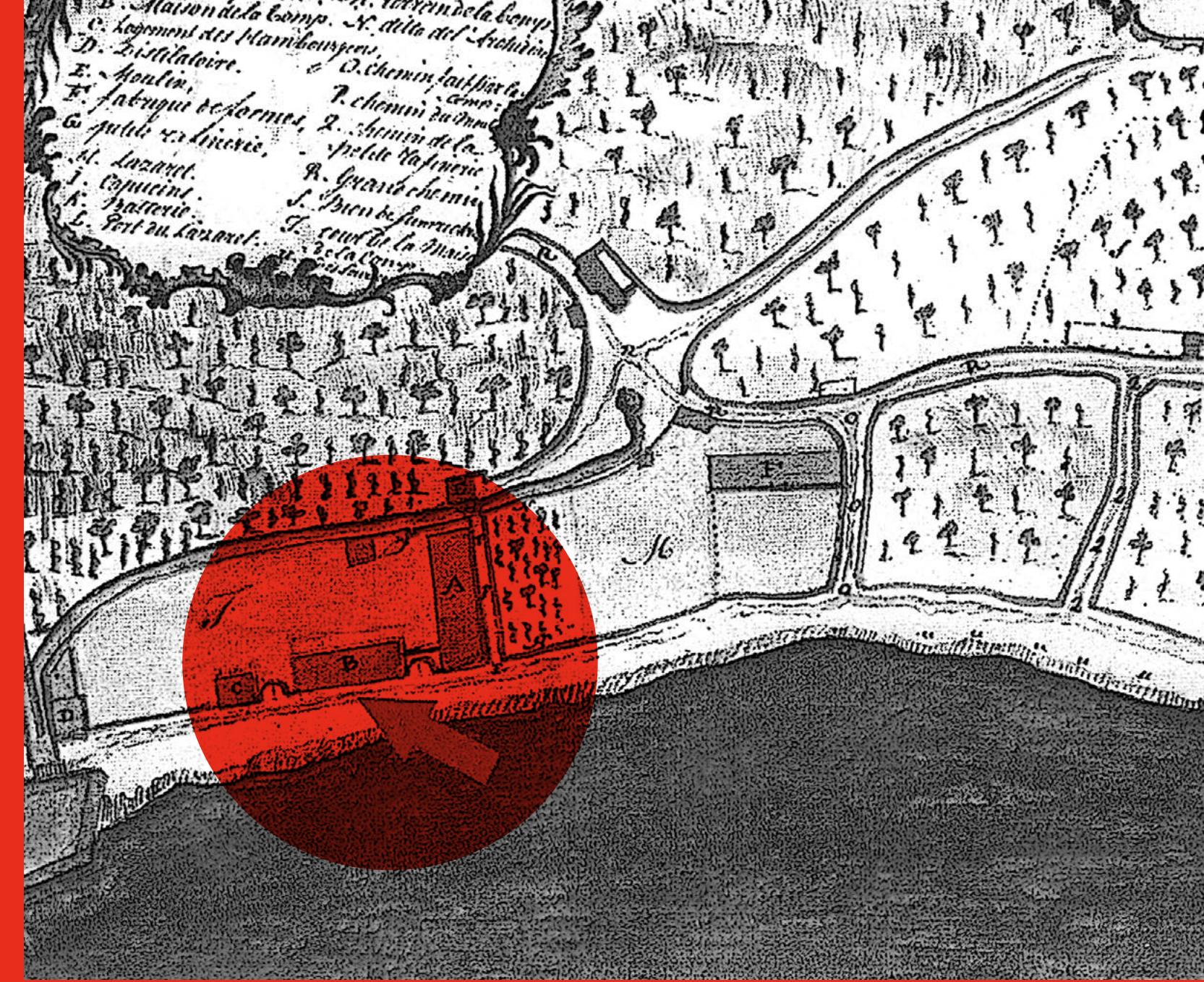






**1753.** DIO TVORNICETVORNICA SE KORISTI ZA NAMĀ, SPORTSKIM I UMJETNIČ- USKORO SE SAGRAĐEN JE KAO PRERADU DUHANA, PRO- KIM KLUBOVIMA, ZDRAVSTVE-ZAPOČINJE SA ADMINISTRATIVNO IZVODNJA SE NASTAVLJA NOM STANICOM ISTANCI- IZRADOM NACRTA ŠREDIŠTE NAJVĒCE RAFINERUE TOKOM RATA I ONAROM. ZA PRETVARANJE TVORNICE U KUL- SECERA U TADAŠNJOJ MONARHIJI. OKUPACIJA. TVORNICA TURNĒ INSTITUCIJE TE MJESTO KRE- ĆPROIZVODNJA TVORNICA 1944. ZATVARA NE- SE ZATVA- ATIVNIH INDUSTRIJA IUGOSTITEL- SECERA OKONČANAKE POGONE ZBOG OKOL- RA 1991, SKE DJELATNOSTI. ZBOG IZOSTANKA JE 1814., ŠTO JE UZROKOVALO ZA- NOSTI RATA. ZBOG OKOL- POTPORE RAZLIČITIH FONDOVA, TVARANJE TOKOM REORGANIZACIJE INDUS- NOSTI RATA. 2012 PLANOM ZATVORNICU POSTA- TVORNICE TRIJE U SOCIJALISTICKOJ FEDERA- RADNICI SU OTPU- JU SEKUNDARNO PITANJE. 1824. TIVNOJ REPUBLICI, TVORNICA JE PONOV- STANI UNALETIM 2013. UTRENUTKU KAD ARE- 1834. TVORNICA SE POČINJE KO- NO OTVORE- ITOPREMA RAZLIČITIM KRI- PUBLIKA PRI- STU- RISTIĆI KAO SKLADIŠTE ORUŽJA INA TE KORI- TERUJIMA KOJI SU UKLJUCIVA- PA UNI, STRUK- SMJEŠTAJ ZA VOJNO OSOBLJE. STENA ZA PRO- LI INACIONALNU PODOBNOST. TURNI FONDO- 1851. IZVODNU MOTORNE I BRODSKE OPREME NAKON STVARANJA KAPITA- VI I STRANI ULA- VLADA PREUZIMA KAO DIO DRUŠTVENOG TKI- LISTIČKE DEMOKRATSKEGAČI POSTAJU OBE- TVORNICU VAGRADA, TVORNICA JE STVARALA REPUBLIKE, TVORNICĄ ČANJE BUDUĆE ISPLA- OD GRADA. SVOJU MREŽU RADNIKA U KANTI- POSTAJE PARKIRALISTE. TIVOSTI TVORNICE.

Ivana Golob  
**Dinamična povijest Benčića**  
The Dynamic History of Benčić



Bivša Tvornica Rikard Benčić bila je kulisa i tematska pozadina projekta „Preuzmimo Benčić“. To mjesto ima bogatu i dinamičnu povijest te predstavlja velik značaj za grad Rijeku. Od šećerane pa sve do današnjeg stanja napuštenosti ovaj prostor dovele su razne okolnosti, od političkih do tehničkih. U svakom slučaju, ta tvornica je mnogim ljudima kroz više od 150 godina omogućavala egzistenciju.

The former Rikard Benčić factory was used as the setting and thematic background of *Preuzmimo Benčić*. The place has a rich and dynamic history that is highly significant for the city of Rijeka. Various circumstances, from political to technological, led this site from its former existence as a sugar refinery to today's run-down condition. In any case, the factory provided employment for many people during its more than 150 years of existence.



## 1750–1814

Prije 1750. godine na mjestu današnjih zgrada nalazila se priroda. Morski žal i polja, te potok koji se ulijevao u more odredili su današnji toponim i naziv četvrti – Potok.<sup>1</sup> U to vrijeme Hrvatska nije bila samostalna država, već dio Habsburške Monarhije. Razdoblje oko i nakon 1750. godine bilo je obilježeno mnogim reformama carice Marije i njezinog sina Josipa II. Oni su se odlučili u Monarhiju dovesti industriju šećera te su izdali poziv poduzećima s područja Nizozemske, Velike Britanije i Belgije za ponudu. Odazvala se nizozemska trgovачka kuća Proli i Arnoldt te osnovala Glavnu trgovачku kompaniju Trsta i Rijeke. Za osnivanje takvog poduzeća država je osigurala različite olakšice, od poreza do povlaštene prodaje te tako osigurala brz i uspješan razvoj tvrtke. Samo poduzeće se, osim šećerom, bavilo gradnjom i prodajom brodova, uvozom kave, čaja, duhana, pomorskim prijevozom, rudarenjem i izvozom bakra i žive te proizvodnjom tkanina. U tom razdoblju izgrađena je upravna palača, tzv. Palača šećerane, koja je, nakon požara 1875. obnovljena, i takva sačuvana do danas. Zbog prelaska proizvodnje šećera sa šećerne trske na šećernu repu te pojave konkurenциje diljem Europe, kompanija se polako gasi i konačno prestaje s radom 1814. godine.<sup>2</sup>

1. Matejić, Radmila, *Kako čitati grad: Rijeka, jučer, danas, sutra*, Rijeka, 1988.

2. Majer, Krasanka, Puhmajer, Petar, *Palača Šećerane u Rijeci*, Rijeka: Grad Rijeka, 2008.

Before 1750, there were only natural surroundings at the site of today's buildings. Beaches, fields, and a creek that flowed into the sea gave the name to the site and the borough today: Potok (which means creek)<sup>1</sup>. At that time, Croatia was not an independent country, but formed a part of the Habsburg Monarchy. The period around and after 1750 was marked by many reforms by the empress Maria Theresa and her son Joseph II. They decided to bring the sugar industry into the monarchy, so they issued a tender to the companies from the area of the Netherlands, Great Britain, and Belgium. The Dutch company Proly and Arnoldt sent a bid and founded the Principal Commercial Company of Trieste and Rijeka. The state ensured various benefits for the establishment of such a company, from tax rebates to licensed sales, thus ensuring a fast and successful development of the company. Besides sugar, the company itself dealt with the construction and sale of vessels, ship transport, mining, export of copper and mercury, the production of cloth, and the import of coffee, tea, and tobacco. The administrative palace, called the Sugar Mill Palace, was built in that period. It was restored after the fire in 1875 and preserved in that condition until today. As sugar production switched from sugar cane to sugar beet and heavy competition appeared throughout Europe, the company gradually faded, and in 1814 it finally ceased to exist.<sup>2</sup>

1. Matejić, Radmila, *Kako čitati grad: Rijeka, jučer, danas, sutra*, [How to Read the City: Rijeka Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow], Rijeka, 1988.

2. Majer, Krasanka, Puhmajer, Petar, *Palača Šećerane u Rijeci*, [The Sugar Palace in Rijeka], Rijeka: Grad Rijeka, 2008.



## 1834–1944

U 19. stoljeću kompleks ne staje s radom, samo se mijenjaju funkcije. Od 1834. do 1851. godine kompleks je pao u ruke grada koji je u zgrade Šećerane smješto austrougarsku vojsku. Ipak, vlada je 1851. otkupila kompleks od grada i otvorila državnu tvornicu duhana, popularno zvanu Duhanjera. Za vrijeme rada tvornice duhana kompleks se značajno širi. Najvažnija zgrada za današnja planove, koja je tada nastala, je T-objekt u kojem je bio smješten pogon za proizvodnju Virginia cigara.<sup>3</sup> Značajni pomak je i nasipavanje obale ispred same tvornice na koji se prvo smješta prometnica, a zatim i željezница s glavnom željezničkom postajom u gradu. Duhanjera je u gradu označila veliki preokret za položaj žena u društvu. Naime, rad u tvornici je bio drugo službeno priznato zaposlenje za žene u Rijeci (prvo je bilo krojačica). Razlika je bila u plaći koja je omogućavala ženi da se osamostali i nerijetko bi njen ugled porastao na društvenoj ljestvici.<sup>4</sup> Početkom 20. stoljeća tvornica doživljava svoj vrhunac koji, naravno, pada s početkom Prvog svjetskog rata. Tvornica je konačno zatvorena 1944. godine uslijed nekoliko velikih prosvjeda.

3. Dmitrović, Saša, *Mala povijest duhana u Rijeci u Sušačka revija*, br. 18/19, Rijeka, 1997

4. Grgurić, Diana, Škrobonja, Ania, *Rodno pitanje u industriji*, predavanje na VI. Međunarodnom kongresu industrijske baštine, Rijeka, 2014.

In the 19th century, the complex did not stop operating; it only changed its original function. From 1834 until 1851, the complex fell under the authority of the city, which accommodated the Austro-Hungarian army in the Sugar Mill edifices. Still, the government bought the complex from the city in 1851 and opened the state tobacco factory, popularly called Duhanjera. During the operation of the site as a tobacco factory, the complex expanded significantly. The most important building constructed at the time was the T-Objekt, which housed the Virginia cigar production plant.<sup>3</sup> Another important step was the levelling of the shore in front of the factory, where a road was built first, and then the railroad with the main station. The tobacco factory Duhanjera represented an important turning point for the position of women in society, many of them from the Fiuman community and speakers of a Venetian dialect. Specifically, the work in the factory was the second officially recognized form of employment for the women in Rijeka (the first was as a seamstress). The difference was in the level of payment, which enabled women to be independent, and often their social reputations would rise.<sup>4</sup> At the beginning of the 20th century, the factory was at its peak, but of course started falling at the beginning of the First World War. The factory finally closed down in 1944, after a few large strikes.

3. Dmitrović, Saša, *Mala povijest duhana u Rijeci u Sušačka revija*, [A Short History of Tobacco in Rijeka in *The Sušak Review*], no. 18/19, Rijeka, 1997

4. Grgurić, Diana, Škrobonja, Ania, *Rodno pitanje u industriji*, lecture at the VI International Congress on Industrial Heritage, Rijeka, 2014.

## 1945–1991

Nakon osnivanja Socijalističke Federativne Republike Jugoslavije i završetka Drugog svjetskog rata, točnije 1947. godine, započet je proces reorganizacije ekonomije i industrije u državi. Da bi se omogućio brži razvoj djelatnosti i planski uskladio rad više poduzeća u Rijeci, u Direkciju brodogradnje Rijeka udružena su poduzeća *Matteo Skull Rijeka*, *Bruno Skull Rijeka*, *Jadranska brodogradilišta A.D. Sušak* i *Dott. ing. Tassilio Ossoinack Rijeka*.<sup>5</sup> Ubrzo su se unutar direkcije formirale tri podskupine djelatnosti, te se Direkcija raspala, a jedno od novoosnovanih poduzeća bilo je *Rikard Benčić*. Nazvano je prema narodnom heroju rođenom u Rijeci, brodokovaču iz poduzeća *Matteo Skull*. Tvornica Rikard Benčić proizvodila je brodska okna i prozore, brtve, strojne telegrafe i ostale proizvode od metala. Kroz godine razvijali su nove proizvode većinom vezane za motornu i brodsku opremu. Proizvodnja je rasla skoro do kraja 80-ih godina, kada dolazi do odvajanja Hrvatske od SFRJ. Unutar tvornice djelovala je i škola za obrazovanje mladih budućih radnika, a radnici su sudjelovali u mnogim sportskim i društvenim aktivnostima, što je bilo uobičajeno za državna poduzeća tih godina. Kroz cijelo vrijeme djelovanja područje tvornice bilo je okruženo visokim zidom, a u infrastrukturu se malo ulagalo. Glavni objekti bili su prenamijenjeni od prijašnjih tvornica.<sup>6</sup> S početkom Domovinskog rata, 1991. godine Tvornica prestaje s radom.

5. Bjelica, Petar (ur.), *Rikard Benčić 1948-1988*, Rijeka, 1988.

6. Magaš, Olga, *Industrijska arhitektura u Arhitektura historicizma u Rijeci: 1845.-1900.*, str. 420-450, Rijeka: Moderna galerija Rijeka, 2002.

In 1947, five years after the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was founded and two years after the Second World War had ended, the process of reorganization of economy and industry in the state started. In order to enable a faster development of operations and to harmonize the work of a few companies in Rijeka, the companies *Matteo Skull Rijeka*, *Bruno Skull Rijeka*, *Jadranska brodogradilišta A.D. Sušak*, and *Dott. Ing. Tassilio Ossoinack Rijeka* were merged into the Shipbuilding Division Rijeka.<sup>5</sup> Soon, three subgroups of operations formed within the Division, so the Division broke up, and one of the newly founded companies was *Rikard Benčić*, named after a Rijeka-born folk hero who was a ship blacksmith from the company *Matteo Skull*. The *Rikard Benčić* factory produced ship scuttles, skylights, gaskets, ship telegraphs, and other metal products. Throughout the years, they developed new products, mostly related to engines and ship equipment. Production grew almost until the end of the 1980s, when Croatia began to separate from Yugoslavia. Within the factory there was also a school for educating young future workers, and the employees participated in many sports and social activities, which was common for state companies at the time. During the entire time of its operation, the area of the factory was surrounded by a high wall, and little was invested in infrastructure. The main buildings were converted from the previous factories.<sup>6</sup> At the beginning of the Croatian War of Independence in 1991, workers were fired in waves, and the factory closed down permanently.

5. Bjelica, Petar (ur.), *Rikard Benčić 1948-1988*, Rijeka, 1988.

6. Magaš, Olga, *Industrijska arhitektura in Arhitektura historicizma u Rijeci: 1845-1900*, [Industrial Architecture in The Architecture of Historicism in Rijeka: 1845-1900], pg. 420-450, Rijeka: Moderna galerija Rijeka, 2002.



## 1992–2014

Grad Rijeka je zbog povjesnog značaja i vrijednosti otkupila 2000. godine kompleks koji se često naziva samo „Benčić“. Budući da se radi o velikom prostoru, a najvažnije kulturne institucije u Gradu – Muzej moderne i suvremene umjetnosti i Gradska knjižnica Rijeka – nemaju svoje prostore, započeti su razgovori i planovi o realizaciji sadržaja tog tipa u kompleksu, iako se ispočetka predlagala poslovna i turistička prenamjena. Do danas niti jedan plan nije realiziran. Kao najčešći uzrok navodi se promjena političke situacije i volje na razini države, ali i Grada, te opadanje finansijske moći uopće. Tome nisu doprinijele afere vezane za natječaj te odbacivanje prijedloga i zadnje potpuno mijenjanje smjera revitalizacije sadašnjeg pročelnika koje nije naišlo na plodno tlo u javnosti, prvenstveno zbog prijašnjih mnogih promjena. Danas iza spomenutog plana стоји čak i Ministarstvo kulture, no stvarnost je da taj prostor još uvijek zjapi prazan, a jedino što oko njega funkcioniра je parkiralište. Napravljen je plan prijave na strukturne fondove Europske unije, a prenamjena kompleksa Benčić jedan je od strateških ciljeva Odjela za kulturu Grada Rijeke i ključna točka prijave na natječaj za Europsku prijestolnicu kulture 2020.<sup>7</sup> na koji se Rijeka prijavljuje u travnju 2015. godine. U sadašnjim planovima Muzej grada Rijeke dobiti će na korištenje zgradu Palače šećerane, Muzej moderne i suvremene umjetnosti zgradu H-objekt i Gradska knjižnica zgradu T-objekt. Ono što je novost, objavljena u proljeće 2014., jest prilagodba

7. <http://www.rijekaepk.eu>

Owing to its historical significance and value, the City of Rijeka bought the complex, often called just “Benčić”, in 2000. As this is a large area, and the most important cultural institutions in the city, like the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and the City Library of Rijeka, do not own their buildings, there were some discussions and plans about establishing such institutions in the complex, although at the beginning there were some ideas about converting it for business and tourism purposes. Up to now, no plans have been realized. The shifting political situation and political will at the level of the state, as well as the municipal level, is the cause most often cited, including the fall of financial power in general. This was further exacerbated by the scandals related to the plan, the rejection of the proposal and the last complete change of the direction of revitalization by the current head, which did not fall on fertile ground, mostly because of the former numerous changes. Even today the Ministry of Culture supports the mentioned plan, but the reality is that the area is still empty, and the only thing that is functioning is the parking lot around it. The plan for the application for European Union structural funds has been made, and the conversion of the Benčić complex is one of the strategic goals of the City of Rijeka Department of Culture, as well as the key point of the application to the competition for the European Capital of Culture in 2020, which, at the time of publication, Rijeka will be applying for in April 2015.<sup>7</sup> According to the current plans, the Museum of the City of Rijeka will be allowed to use the building of the Sugar Mill Palace, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art will be able to use the H-object,

8. Temeljem javnih tribina, članaka i obavijesti objavljenih u novinama i Internet portalima, primjerice:  
<http://www.novilist.hr/Vijesti/Rijeka/Raspisani-natjecaji-za-projekte-kompleksa-Rikard-Bencic>  
<http://www.novilist.hr/Kultura/Ministarstvo-kulture-i-Grad-Rijeka-zajednicki-u-uredenje-kompleksa-Rikard-Bencic>  
<http://www.rijeka.hr/GradskaKnjiznicaI>

tzv. ciglene zgrade (bivše sušare Duhanjere) u Dječju zgradu u kojoj bi sve tri spomenute institucije održavale programe za djecu i mlade. U prošlim prijedlozima institucije su same organizirale prostor i na njima je bilo hoće li predvidjeti dio posvećen razvoju publike djeci i mladima kao ciljanoj skupini. Određivanjem namjene ciglene zgrade dodjeljujući je svim institucijama, Grad Rijeka je na neki način „prisilio“ institucije na suradnju i razvijanje programa za mladež. Također, na taj način su odredili smjer koji žele zagovarati – otvaranje institucija s programima kojima educiraju svoju publiku od malih nogu; dakako, ako se budu držali ovoga plana.<sup>8</sup>

and the City Library is planned to move in to the T-object. The newest proposal to the projects, announced in spring of 2014, is the modification of the so called the brick building (the former drier house of the tobacco factory Duhanjera) into a Childrens' House where the three mentioned institutions would organize programmes for children and youth. In the former proposals each institution organized the space as they wished and it was up to them to plan a space for developing audience in general and children as a target group. Allocating the brick building to all institutions but for a specific use the City of Rijeka, in a way, “forced” institutions to collaborate and to have programs adjusted to children and youth. Also, they have stated the direction that they want to advocate—opening up institutions with programs that educate audience from a young age—that is if they stick to this plan.<sup>8</sup>

7. <http://www.rijekaepk.eu>

8. Based on various public talks, articles in newspapers, and online, for example:  
<http://www.novilist.hr/Vijesti/Rijeka/Raspisani-natjecaji-za-projekte-kompleksa-Rikard-Bencic>  
<http://www.novilist.hr/Kultura/Ministarstvo-kulture-i-Grad-Rijeka-zajednicki-u-uredenje-kompleksa-Rikard-Bencic>  
<http://www.rijeka.hr/GradskaKnjiznicaI>



## Franco „Bifo“ Berardi



### Preuzmimo Chaosmosis

#### Globalna transformacija metropole

Živio sam u Manhattanu početkom osamdesetih godina 20. stoljeća. Za mene, bila je to tada odlična prilika svjedočiti preobrazbi metropole: ne samo da se urbani okoliš fizički mijenjao, već je počelo dolaziti i do pomaka u estetskoj percepциji grada. Grad New York je predvidio proces deindustrijalizacije, te je *no-wave* kultura tog doba skovala onaj isti osjećaj panike koji je poslije postao *mainstream*. Započelo je napuštanje gradskih zona te su tako, malo po malo, zgrade koje su prethodno bile korištene kao tvornice i skladišta postale prazni prostori. S početkom kasnih sedamdesetih godina 20. stoljeća, gradska uprava inicirala projekte koji su težili oživjeti grad, pozivajući umjetnike i inovatore svih vrsta kako bi se rekonceptualiziralo i prilagodilo napuštene prostore. Gomile su kreativaca počele hrliti na Lower East Side: nicale su diverse umjetničke galerije te laboratoriji za svakojake vrste eksperimenta, tako je čitava vojska čudaka preuzela ulogu kulturnih inkubatora za ovu tehnološko-estetsku promjenu.

U narednim desetljećima, preoblikovanje gradova postalo je svjetski trend. *Punk* kultura, društveni aktivizam i estetsko eksperimentiranje spojili su se u proces ponovnog oživljavanja onih urbanih prostora koje je postindustrijski pomak ostavio za sobom. Estetika šunda (*trash*), napuštenosti i truleži stopila se s tehnološko-elektroničkim senzibilitetom. Pritom, istočnoeuropejski gradovi nisu predstavljali iznimku, iako je za njih proces deindustrijalizacije bio povezan s padom socijalističkih režima nakon 1989. godine.

#### The Global Metropolitan Mutation

I happened to live in Manhattan in the first years of the '80s. For me, at that time, it was a wonderful opportunity to witness the transformation of the metropolis: not only was the physical urbanscape changing, but also the aesthetic perception of the city was shifting. New York City anticipated the process of deindustrialization or, rather, of delocalization of industrial activities worldwide, and the no-wave culture of those years fashioned the sense of panic that later went mainstream. Zones of the city were abandoned, and little by little the buildings once used as factories and stores became empty spaces. Starting in the late '70s, the city administration had launched projects to revitalize the metropolis, inviting artists and innovators of all kinds to re-think and adapt its deserted spaces. Crowds of creative people flocked to the Lower East Side: wild art galleries blossomed, laboratories proliferated for all kinds of experimentation, and an army of weird people acted as cultural incubators of the techno-aesthetic change.

In the following decades, the reshaping of the city became a global trend. Punk culture, social activism, and aesthetic experimentation merged in a process of revitalizing those urban spaces that the post-industrial turn was leaving behind. An aesthetic of trash, desolation, and decay was melting with the techno-electronic sensibility. Eastern European cities were no exception, even if for them the process of deindustrialization was linked to the collapse of the socialist regimes, after 1989.

Jugoslavija je bila smještena na dodirnoj točki između propadajućeg Sovjetskog Saveza te zapadne Europe. Zbog toga, ona je bila žestoko pogodena olujom promjene: rat, etničko čišćenje i sveprisutno nasilje buknuli su 1991. godine, kada su međusobno suprotstavljeni nacionalizmi rastrgali državu na komadiće.

Iako nije bio izravno uključen u brutalne aktivnosti oružanog djelovanja, sjeverozapadni dio države pretrpio je društvene i gospodarske posljedice ove preobrazbe. Upravo je u ovoj regiji, u priobalnom gradu Rijeci, Althea Thauberger stvorila *Preuzmimo Benčić*, digitalni film koji se može opisati kao metaforički diskurs o nicanju budućnosti iz ruševina prošlosti.

### Djetinjasti ustanak

Grad Rijeka (kojeg Talijani poznaju kao Fiume) već je bio pozornica za djetinjastu dramu o budućnosti. Godine 1919., nakon završetka Prvoga svjetskog rata i nakon talijanskog poniženja na sastanku u Versaillesu, raznolika skupina mladih ljudi preuzela je grad pod vodstvom karizmatičnog pjesnika Gabrielea D'Annunzia. Nekoliko stotina pobunjenika upalo je u grad te ponovno uspostavilo talijansku vlast nad teritorijem, pri čemu nisu naišli na otpor lokalnog stanovništva, pogotovo talijanske manjine. Pod D'Annunzijevim su vodstvom stvorili Slobodnu Državu Rijeka (*Stato Libero di Fiume*) te preuzeli progresivni i libertarijanski ustav pod imenom *La Carta del Carnaro*.

Yugoslavia was located at the point of connection between the crumbling Soviet Union and Western Europe. Therefore the country was dramatically affected by the storm: war, ethnic cleansing, and widespread violence erupted after 1991, when the country was torn to pieces by conflicting nationalisms.

Although not directly involved in the brutal events of the war, the north-western part of the country suffered social and economic consequences because of the transformation. It was in that region, in the coastal city of Rijeka, that Althea Thauberger created *Preuzmimo Benčić*, a digital film that may be understood as a metaphorical discourse about the future budding from the ruins of the past.

### A Childish Insurrection

The city of Rijeka (which Italians know as Fiume) had already been the stage of a childish drama about the future. In the year 1919, after the end of the First World War and Italy's humiliation at the Treaty of Versailles, a diverse crowd of young people invaded the city, reclaiming Italian sovereignty on the territory. Led by charismatic poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, some hundreds of insurgents invaded and were received without resistance by the local population, particularly by the majority of its ethnic Italians. Under the leadership of D'Annunzio, they created the *Stato Libero di Fiume*, and promulgated a progressive and libertarian constitution called the *Carta del Carnaro*.

Zen filozofija nalaže kako se u umu početnika nalaze mnoge mogućnosti, dok se u umu stručnjaka nalazi tek nekoliko. Autori *Tisuću platoa* služe se metaforom „tijela bez organa“ kako bi opisali stanja nedefiniranog potencijala: kada se organizam još nije razvio i kada se mogućnosti organizma još ne daju raspoznati, Guattari govori o „chaosmosis“. „Tijelo bez organa“ je stanje konfuzije (engl. *con-fusion, op.prev.*) koje teži nadići naslijede prošlosti te biti oslobođeno opsесија vezanih uz identitet. Riječ je o alatu za izlazak iz kosa i oblikovanje stvarnosti putem osmoze.<sup>1</sup> Organizam predstavlja specifični katalog vibracija kroz kojeg se potencijalnost ostvaruje, te prirodno zadržava svoju sposobnost da se vrati u stanje tijela bez organa kada god ponovno nađe na potencijal za promjenu. Kada neki organizam ukruti svoje oblike izražavanja, svoje opsесије i svoje interpretacijske kodove, osuđen je na gubitak senzibilnosti i svoje sposobnosti vibracije.

U prvih nekoliko desetljeća 20. stoljeća, budućnost je bila mitologija koju su dijelile različite političke kulture. Fašisti, komunisti i demokrati bili su jednoglasni po tom pitanju: budućnost će biti svijetla.

Onda su se počele odvijati tragedije. Na kraju 20. stoljeća te, u još većoj mjeri, na početku našeg novog stoljeća, nadobudna vjera u budućnost pretvorila se u strah. Bio nam je potreban novi početak, a novi početak jedino mogu stvoriti oni koji nemaju znanje te posljedično tome, mogu zamišljati, izmisliti i projektirati novu budućnost.

*Stato Libero di Fiume* predstavlja zagonetni događaj kojeg se mora kontekstualizirati unutar proturječne situacije koja je nastala u Evropi po

1. „Tijelo bez organa je sačinjeno na takav način da ga se može okupirati, tj. nastaniti isključivo s intenzivnostima. Jedino intenzivnosti prolaze i cirkuliraju. Ipak, Tijelo bez organa nije scena, prostor ili čak osnova na temelju koje nešto nastaje. Ono nema veze s fantazijom, nema se što interpretirati. Tijelo bez organa uzrokuje prolazak intenzivnosti; ono ih proizvodi i distribuiru u prostoru koji je samo po sebi intenzivan, kojem nedostaje ekstenzija. Ono nije prostor te ne postoji u prostoru; ono je tvar koja okupira prostor do odredene mjere – do mjere koja odgovara intenzivnosti ma koje se proizvode. Ono je nestratificirana i neoblikovana intenzivna materija, matrica intenzivnosti, intenzivnost = 0; no u toj nuli ne postoji ništa negativno, nema negativnih ili suprotstavljenih intenzivnosti. Tvar je jednaka energiji. Proizvodnja stvarnoga kao intenzivna veličina koja započinje s nulom.“ Deleuze Guattari: *Tisuću platoa*, 1987, str. 153

1. “A [Body without Organs] is made in such a way that it can be occupied, populated only by intensities. Only intensities pass and circulate. Still, the BwO is not a scene, a place, or even a support upon which something comes to pass. It has nothing to do with phantasy, there is nothing to interpret. The BwO causes intensities to pass; it produces and distributes them in a spatiuum that is itself intensive, lacking extension. It is not space, nor is it in space; it is matter that occupies space to a given degree—to the degree corresponding to the intensities produced. It is non-stratified, unformed, intense matter, the matrix of intensity, intensity = 0; but there is nothing negative about that zero, there are no negative or opposite intensities. Matter equals energy. Production of the real as an intensive magnitude starting at zero.” From Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia* (Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 1987), 153.

Zen philosophy suggests that in the mind of the beginner there are many possibilities, while in the mind of the expert possibilities are few. The authors of *A Thousand Plateaus*, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, use the metaphor of the “Body without Organs” to refer to states of undefined potentiality: when the organism is yet not developed, and the possibilities of the organism still are undifferentiated, Guattari speaks of “chaosmosis.” The Body without Organs is a state of confusion that strives to emerge from the legacy of the past, and to be freed from the obsessions of identity. The refrain is a tool for coming out of chaos and osmotically shaping reality.<sup>1</sup> The organism is the specific sedimentation of the vibrations through which the potentiality is actualized, and it naturally retains the ability to return to the state of being a Body without Organs whenever it finds the potential to change again. When an organism stiffens its forms of expression, its obsessions and its codes of interpretation, it is doomed to lose sensibility and to lose its ability to vibrate.

In the first decades of the 20th century, the future was a mythology shared by different political cultures. Fascists, communists, and democrats were unanimous on this point: the future will be bright.

Then tragedy unfolded. At the end of the 20th century—and even more so at the beginning of our new century—the hopeful expectation of the future turned into fear. Presently, the fear of the future seems to be the shared sentiment of all political visions. So, we need a new beginning, and the new beginning may only come from those who do not know and therefore can imagine, invent and project a new future.

završetku Prvoga svjetskoga rata: komunisti i fašisti, anarchisti i nacionalisti skupili su se u Rijeci te zajedno maštali o Republici ljubavnika, pjesnika i stvaratelja. Njihovi politički identiteti još nisu bili u potpunosti oblikovani: društvena pobuna i kult budućnosti ispreplitali su se unutar procesa kolektivne euporije. *Stato Libero di Fiume* može se promatrati kao preteča avangardnih pokreta koji su u narednim desetljećima spajali politiku, umjetnost i seksualnu slobodu. Također, ona se može promatrati kao preteča nacionalističke ideologije koja je izrodila fašizam i pripremila teren za tragediju Drugoga svjetskog rata. Ipak, nemoguće je značenje ovih događaja svesti na političke vrijednosti koje su proizašle kasnije: ovaj je ustank bio djetinjast, provokativan i nekako nezreo, dok je u isto vrijeme bio bogat mogućnostima te, još više, višezačnošću.

### Rasplesana stvarnost

Iako u radu Althee Thauberger ne postoje izravne reference na *Stato Libero di Fiume*, ono što me se doima jest djetinjasti i ironični pogled na povijest i budućnost koji proizlazi iz plesnih gesti i koprcajućih riječi sedamdesetak djece koja glume u filmu.

U urbanom krajoliku Rijeke postoje mnoge prazne zgrade. Prije pada socijalističkog režima, prostor tvornice Rikard Benčić, preimenovanoj u čast heroja antifašističkog pokreta otpora, služio je kao rafinerija šećera, pogon za obradu duhana i na kraju kao tvornica motora.

The *Stato Libero di Fiume* is an enigmatic event that must be contextualized in the contradictory situation that emerged in Europe after the end of the First World War: communists and fascists, anarchists and nationalists gathered together in Rijeka, and together imagined a republic of lovers, poets and creators. Their political identities were not yet fully shaped: social revolution and the cult of the future mixed in a process of collective euphoria. The *Stato Libero di Fiume* can be seen as an anticipation of the avant-garde movements that, in the following decades, melted politics, art, and sexual freedom. It can also be seen as an anticipation of the nationalist ideology that gave birth to fascism and prepared the tragedy of the Second World War. It's impossible, however, to reduce the meaning of those events to the political values that successively emerged: that insurrection was childish, provocative, and somehow immature, but simultaneously also rich in possibilities and ambiguity.

The *Stato Libero di Fiume* tried to see the 20th century with beginner's eyes.

### Dancing Reality

Although in Thauberger's work there are no direct references to the *Stato Libero di Fiume*, what strikes me is the childish, ironic gaze on the past and the future that springs from the dancing gestures and wriggling words of the dozens of children acting in the film.



Franco „Bifo“ Berardi

U ranim devedesetima, tijekom vala privatizacije koji je uslijedio nakon pada socijalističkog sustava, radnici su otpušteni te je lokacija napuštena. Nakon dva desetljeća propadanja i truljenja, grad je predložio obnavljanje zgrada kako bi ih se pretvorilo u ustanove kulture, a u istome dvorištu predviđena je i izgradnja hotela. Bivša Tvornica Rikard Benčić danas je slična stotinama mjesta diljem svijeta: ispunjena je sjećanjem na industrijsku prošlost, dok istovremeno govori i o truleži sadašnjice.

Kakva može biti budućnost ovakvog mesta? Kakva može biti budućnost generacije koja stasa usred ruševina industrijske prošlosti i socijalističke ideologije?

U filmu *Preuzmimo Benčić*, djecu se poziva kako bi ona promišljala o prošlosti i zamišljala buduću namjenu tvornice.

Kako će se ona nositi s ovim pitanjima? Kako će se ona nositi sa sjećanjem na brutalnu destrukciju socijalističke Jugoslavije te brutalne neoliberalne preobrazbe? Je li ova prošlost zapisana u njihovim umovima? Kako se njihova mašta može nositi s naslijedom prošlosti koju nisu svjesno doživjela?

U jednom je intervjuu Althea Thauberger izjavila: „Dovesti djecu kao ključne igrače nije bio moj izvorni prijedlog – to se dogodilo zahvaljujući jednoj slučajnosti tijekom istraživanja“.

Kakve li sretne slučajnosti: trenutna stvarnost nezaposlenosti, prekarnosti i političke nesigurnosti cijedi se iz njihovih riječi i aluzija, no djeca ne osjećaju tmurnost ovakve stvarnosti jer je za njih stvarnost igra. Čim se djeca nađu u zgradici, ona počnu reprimirati dramu o kojoj su čuli od roditelja.

There are many empty buildings in the urban landscape of Rijeka. Before the end of the socialist regime, the particular site of Benčić, renamed after a hero of the anti-fascist resistance, had been used as a sugar refinery, a tobacco-processing plant, and a ship-and-motor factory.

In the early '90s, during the wave of privatization that followed the collapse of the socialist system, workers who had previously managed the factory were fired, and the place was abandoned. After two decades of decay and deterioration, the city proposed to renovate the building and transform it into a cultural site and a hotel. The former factory is now similar to hundreds of places across the world: it is loaded with the memory of the industrial past, and simultaneously speaks of present decay.

What can be the future of a place like this? What can be the future of the generation growing amid the ruins of the industrial past and socialist ideology?

In *Preuzmimo Benčić*, children are invited to reflect on the past and to imagine a future for the site.

How will they deal with these questions? How will they deal with the memory of the brutal destruction of socialist Yugoslavia, and the brutal neoliberal transformation? Is that past inscribed in their memory? How can their imaginations deal with the legacy of a past they have not consciously witnessed?

In an interview, Thauberger says, “Bringing in the children as central players was not my original proposal, and happened because of an accident during my research.”



Ton je ironičan i hirovit te kontrast između njihove rasplesane radosti i ruzinavog okruženja predlaže mogući izlaz iz čemera koji prožima našu sadašnjost iz težine prošlosti.

Povratak tijela u prostor društvene proizvodnje te povratak glasa u prostor komunikacije trenutni je put samopotvrđivanja društvene autonomije te kritiziranja apstraktnog ulančavanja moći u finansijskom kapitalizmu. Virtualizacija društvenih odnosa izbacila je tijelo iz polja komunikacije: konkekcija zamjenjuje konjunkciju te zarobljuje pojedince u igru proizvodnje i razmjene koja postaje sve više i više bestjelesna. Ljudi su okupirali ulice i trgove mnogih gradova na svijetu jer je to bio jedini način da ponovno stvore tjelesnu dimenziju društvene solidarnosti i pobune.

Poput tanke filmske trake koja dešifrica neverbalne utiske, senzibilnost omogućava ljudskim bićima da se spoje i stupe u empatične odnose, da se „vrate“ u nespecificirano i nekodificirano stanje „tijela bez organa“ koje pulsira u zajedništvu.<sup>2</sup> Kada djeca započnu plesati i skandirati, ona ne uprizoruju prethodno napisanu dramu: ona predstavljaju pokret života koji bježi kontroli, pri čemu čista fizikalnost njihovih tijela predstavlja živuću kritiku apstraktnosti sadašnjice. Njihovi su glasovi povratak singularnosti koja uzmiče od prevladavajuće uniformnosti znakova i zvukova.

Jedna od prvih scena uprizoruje predivan dijalog između šefa i radnika kojeg očekuje otkaz. Šef ima lice anđela i svetački osmijeh, te nosi elegantan starinski šešir i krzneni šal oko vrata. On (ili ona?) otpušta radnika zato što

„Dajem ti previše plaća.“

2. Ibid.

*Happy accident indeed: the present reality of unemployment, precariousness, and political uncertainty percolates in their words and in their allusions, but they do not feel the gloom of these realities, because for them reality is a game. As soon as the children are inside the building, they start replaying a drama they have heard about from their parents. The tone is ironic and whimsical, and the contrast between their joyful dancing and the rusty environment suggests a possible line of escape from the dominant gloom of our age and the heaviness of the past.*

The comeback of the body in the space of social production—and the comeback of the voice in the space of communication—is the current way of self-affirmation of social autonomy and of the critique of the abstract concatenation of power in financial capitalism. The virtualization of social relations has expelled the body from the field of communication: connection is replacing conjunction and people are captured in a game of production and exchange that is more and more incorporeal. The Occupy movement has been an attempt to reaffirm the presence of the body in the sphere of social relations. People occupied streets and squares in many cities of the world because this was the only way to recreate a bodily dimension of social solidarity and protest.

Like a thin film recording and deciphering non-verbal impressions, sensibility enables human beings to conjoin and enter empathic relations, to “regress” to a non-specified and non-codified state of being a Body without Organs that pulsate in unison.<sup>2</sup> When the children start dancing and chanting, they are not staging a pre-written drama: they are the movement of life

A radnik (plaho, pristojno dijete) odgovara: „Otpustite nekog drugog.“  
A šef veli: „Ti si spavao.“  
A radnik/dijete sramežljivo kaže: „Nikada nisam spavao.“  
„Jesi.“  
„Nisam.“

Ovaj tekst, koji nije u scenariju, pretvara se u ironičnu dramatizaciju sjećanja i očekivanja zajednice, dok se otudajuće ponavljanje industrijskih gesti pretvara u balet. U jednoj točki, retorika prošlosti ponovno dolazi na površinu te se zatim rasplinjava. Primjerice, u sceni u kojoj tri dječaka zajedno čitaju odlomak iz knjige posvećene antifašističkom heroju Rikardu Benčiću u izdanju bivše tvornice.

„Odgajan je u obitelji s antifašističkim opredjeljenjima. Radeći kao kvalificirani brodokovač došao je u dodir sa starim iskusnim radnicima koji su bili naprednih pogleda. Djelovanje grupe nije ostalo nezapaženo kod policije te se ime Rikarda Benčića, kao i drugih aktivista...“

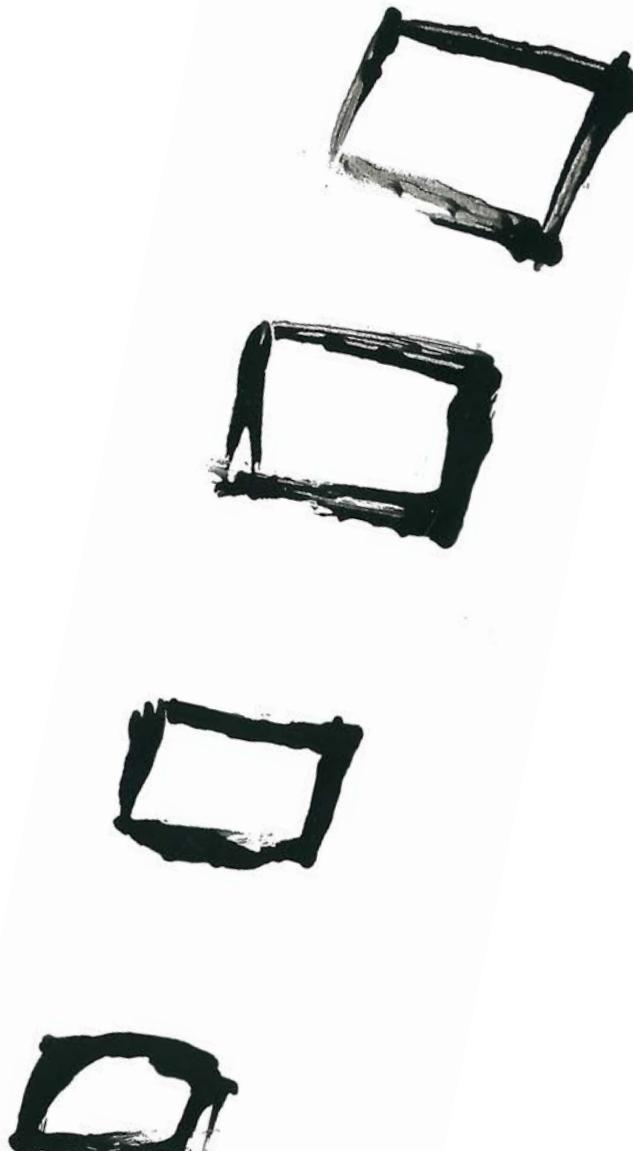
„Što je to aktivist?“

„Osoba koja aktivira stvari, koja se bori za nešto.“

„Aha.“

„Po direktivi Komunističke partije, upućen je...“

„Što su to komunisti?“



that escapes control; the sheer physicality of their bodies is a living critique of the present abstraction. Their voices are the coming back of the singularity that withdraws from the prevailing uniformity of signs and sounds.

One of the first scenes stages a sublime dialogue between a boss and a worker. The boss has the face of an angel, a cherubic smile and wears an elegant, old-fashioned hat and a scarf of furs. She is dismissing the worker because, she says, “I give you too many salaries.” The worker, a timid, well-mannered child, replies, “Fire someone else.” The boss responds, “You were sleeping.” The worker shyly says, “I have never slept.” “You have,” say the boss. “I haven’t,” says the worker.

The unscripted dialogue turns out as an ironic dramatization of the community’s memories and expectations, and the alienating repetition of industrial gestures turns into a ballet. At some point, the rhetoric of the past resurfaces, then quickly dissolves, like in the scene where three young boys are reading a passage from a book published by the former factory and devoted to the anti-fascist hero Benčić:

*“He was raised in a family of anti-fascist persuasion. Working as a qualified ship-smith, he came into contact with older and more experienced workers who held progressive views. The activities of the group did not go unnoticed by the police and as a result the name of Rikard Benčić, as well as those of other activists—”*

2. Ibid.

Treba li ovu djecu opteretiti bremenom identiteta? Film izbjegava ovu opasnost: nema usadijanja identiteta gubitnika, pobunjenika ili nostalgičara pa možemo osjetiti kako se prašina našeg doba briše.

U filmu *Preuzmimo Benčić*, djeca ne preuzimaju dijelove prošlosti koju niti ne poznaju. Ona ne re-prezentiraju. Ona se kreću u prostoru neoznačavajućeg označavanja. Značenje ne proizlazi iz sjećanja, već iz vibracija „tijela bez organa“.

Što bi „preuzimanje“ moglo značiti djeci koja nisu ni postojala u doba kada je prostor bio pun radnika? Znači li to povratak na identitet kojeg je prošlost zamaglila ili pak potpuno poništila? Ne, ono prije označava učenje kako se igrati s prošlošću kako bi se zamišljalo budućnost.

„What is an activist?“

„He activates. He fights for something.“

„Oh.“

„By a directive of the Communist Party, he was charged to—“

„What are the communists?“

Should these children be charged with the load of identity? The film is avoiding this danger: the inoculation of an identity of losers, resisters, or nostalgics is skipped, and you feel that the dust of our time is wiped away.

*Preuzmimo Benčić* means “take back Benčić.” The children are not “taking back” from a past they do not know. They are not re-presenting. They move in a space of a-signifying signification. Meaning is not emerging from memory; it is emerging from a vibration of the Body without Organs.

What could “taking back” mean for children who did not exist when the place was in the hands of the workers? Does it mean going back to an identity that history has blurred, or completely annulled? No, it rather means learning to play with the past in order to imagine the future.







**Una Bauer**

**O tome kako riječi  
proizvode  
intenzitet svijeta,  
izvedba čini  
stvari stvarnima  
a pokret daje snagu**

**On How Words  
Create the Intensity  
of the World,  
Performing Makes  
Things Real,  
and Movement  
Gives Agency**

U uvodnoj sceni filma *Preuzmimo Benčić* Althee Thauberger, smeđooka djevojčica i plavokosi dječak improviziraju razgovor između „radnika/ce“ i „šefa/ice“ mijenjajući uloge. Kamera se fokusira na njihova torza. Djevojčica nosi šešir široka oboda i mrtvu životinju (lisicu?) oko vrata – jednu od onih stvari koje su naše bake nosile kako bi izgledale šik i sofisticirano. Kasnije, nakratko, vidimo njihova cijela tijela, dok stoje jedno nasuprot drugoga, ali naglasak je na njihovom *diskurzivnom* djelovanju.

Detaljno ću analizirati tu scenu, jer mi se čini da osvjetljuje nekoliko ključnih pitanja filma *Preuzmimo Benčić*. Glavna je strategija filma korištenje neobičnih dijaloskih i upravljačkih, odnosno vladajućih praksi postavljanjem djece, koja su tradicionalno isključena iz politike, u ulogu subjekata političkih procesa. Taj postupak omogućuje fokusiranje filma na nekoliko pitanja kojima ću se pozabaviti u ovom tekstu. Prvo se tiče samih procesa političke artikulacije: kako se zahtjevi formuliraju i kako se argumentira njihova relevantnost? Film se zalaže za percepciju politike kao diskurzivnog i retorički organiziranog procesa, koji uvijek ukazuje na vlastitu *proceduralnost*, na pitanje *kako* učiniti naše zahtjeve legitimnim i *što* je to *što* će ih učiniti legitimnim. Drugo je pitanje sljedeće: *što* čvrsta uzročna veza između riječi i svijeta *čini* – proces činjenja stvari stvarnima kao posljedica njihove artikulacije, kao rezultat toga što ih se postavlja kao istinite i relevantne? Stavljući naglasak na *artikulaciju* svijeta kao proces činjenja svijeta onim što jest, film pozicionira pretvaranje i izvedbu kao izvor političkog djelovanja. Ta nas pozicija dovodi do trećeg pitanja filma. Središnja scena suočava nas s fizičkom

In the opening scene of Althea Thauberger's *Preuzmimo Benčić*, a brown-eyed girl and a blue-eyed boy improvise a conversation between a "worker" and his "employer," taking turns at performing one or the other. They are shot from the waist up. The girl wears a wide-brimmed black hat and a dead animal (a fox?) around her neck—one of those things our grandmothers used to wear to look chic and sophisticated. Later on, we briefly see the rest of their bodies, positioned opposite each other. Yet the emphasis is on their *discursive* actions.

This scene offers insight into several key questions of *Preuzmimo Benčić*. The film's main strategy is the estrangement of dialogical and governing practices via positioning of children, who are traditionally excluded from politics, as agents of political processes. This procedure allows for the film to put emphasis on several questions. The first is about the very process of political articulation: how does one formulate demands and argue for their relevance? The film argues for the perception of politics as a discursive and rhetorically organized process, which always points out its *procedurality*, to the question of *how* to make our demands legitimate and *what* will make them legitimate. The second question is the following: what does a strong causal link between words and the world *do*—the process of making things real through articulating them, through stating them as true and relevant? By placing emphasis on *articulation* of the world as the process of *making* the world what it is, the film positions make-believe and performance as the origin of politics. This position brings us to the third question of the film. The central scene presents us with the physical activity of performance in space.

aktivnošću izvedbe u prostoru. Ozbiljnošću dječjih plesnih gesti u prostoru, ta scena naglašava izvođenje kao *činjenje*, stvarnu aktivnost koja ne postoji prvenstveno kao serija metafora predstavljajući nešto drugo, već kao nešto što posjeduje snagu, ljepotu i vrijednost samo po sebi. No, vratimo se prvo na uvodnu scenu i počnimo od tamo.

Inicijalna verbalna razmjena između djevojčice i dječaka implicira ozbiljne stvari: ljudi se otpušta, ostaju bez posla, optuženi su da ne rade dovoljno predano ili se njihovo vlasništvo otuđuje, a njih se eksplloatira. Govore teške stvari poput: „Sve moje plaće dala sam tebi da uložiš u ovu tvornicu.“ Takve će rečenice vjerojatno proizvesti neugodne osjećaje i rezultirati idejama o tome kako se djecom manipuliralo da izgovaraju stvari koje ne razumiju u potpunosti. Kao što Nicholas Ridout živo opisuje:

„Postoje trenutci kada priroda dramske fikcije omogućava djetetu glumcu da se asimilira kao fikcionalni miljenik u svjet profesionalnog glumca, ali onda kada je ta asimilacija nepotpuna (što je čest slučaj), nuspojave je teško obuzdati. Dijete glumac počinje se doimati prerano sazrelim. Čini se da neki tipovi glumačke izobrazbe to naglašavaju, s previše savršenom dikcijom i preslatkim osmjesima. Prerano sazrelo dijete je zastrašujuće i (barem na pozornici) neugodno, zbog svoje suverene, ili ne-dovoljno-suverene imitacije imitacija svojih odraslih kolega. Djeca se doimaju kao star-mali, i čini se da dio te nelagode zbog njihove pojave proizlazi iz osjećaja da uče i da stvari razotkrivaju prerano.“<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>. Nicholas Ridout, *Stage Fright, Animals, and Other Theatrical Problems* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), 99.

Through the seriousness of the children's dance gestures in space, this scene emphasizes performing as *doing*, as a real activity that does not exist primarily as a series of metaphors representing something else, but that has its own strength, beauty and value. But let us first return to the opening scene.

The initial exchange between the boy and the girl implies serious things: people getting fired, losing their jobs, being accused of not working hard enough, of exploiting workers, and stealing their property. They say loaded things like: "I gave all my paycheques to you so you can invest in this factory." This setup seems likely to create uncomfortable feelings and inspire thoughts about how children are being manipulated into saying things they do not fully understand. As Nicholas Ridout vividly depicts:

There are instances where the nature of the dramatic fiction allows the child actor to be assimilated like the fictional pet into the world of the professional actor, but where this assimilation is incomplete (which is often the case), there are side effects that are difficult to contain. The child actor starts to appear as precocious. Some training for child actors seems to have the effect of accentuating this, with too-perfect diction and too-sweet smiles. The precocious child is uncanny and (on stage at least) unpleasant, because of its knowing, or not-knowing-enough imitation of the imitations of its adult colleagues. They tend to appear as mini-adults, and some of our unease at their appearance seems to arise out of a sense that they are learning, and displaying too much too young.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>. Nicholas Ridout, *Stage Fright, Animals, and Other Theatrical Problems* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), 99.

Ipak, osjetila sam se posve opušteno promatrajući njihov razgovor, upravo zato jer „asimilacija“ nije *modus operandi* te scene. Gornji dio lica djevojčice obojan je u svijetlosmeđe, i iako to nije uobičajen način nanošenja šminke, ili možda baš zbog toga, ona ne izgleda kao da oponaša ponašanje odraslih. Izgleda kao netko tko se zabavlja s bojom za lice. Taj je osjećaj naglašen odjećom njenog partnera u dijaligu. Dječak nosi neku vrstu pokrivala za glavu, napravljenog od plavih, zelenih i smeđih električnih žica, koje su međusobno isprepletene i pričvršćene za glavu elastičnom trakom. Izgleda pomozno i ranjivo u isto vrijeme. Razgovor koji vode smiješan je i dirljiv. Smiješan, zato jer brzo postaje jasno da se njihova verbalna razmjena bavi prvenstveno time da se negira ono što onaj drugi govori, i da se na taj način pobijedi u raspravi. Udubljeni u raspravu, čini se da zaboravljuju pozicije kojih bi se trebali držati (poslodavac koji otpušta zaposlenog) i fokusiraju se isključivo na negiranje izjava druge osobe. Postaju vrlo strastveni oko svoje verbalne razmjene, oči im sjaje ako uspiju nadmudriti jedno drugo. Govore čudne stvari poput: „Bez otkaza, nema novaca“, koje ne funkcioniraju kao argumenti ni za jednu stranu. Ponekad se zapletu u ritam ponavljanja, dok značenje onoga što govore postaje suvišno: „Ja sam bolja radnica od njega jer...“, „on se svake tri minute sjedne po pet minuta, a ja svakih pet minuta sjednem po tri minute.“ Na kraju se slože s onim što onaj drugi govori, tako da taj zatim odluči zanijekati tvrdnju koju je zastupao samo sekundu ranije.

Djevojčica (u ulozi radnice): „Nikad nisam spavala [na poslu].“

Dječak (u ulozi poslodavca): „Jesi.“

I, however, felt entirely at ease watching their exchange, and it is precisely because “assimilation” isn’t the *modus operandi* of this scene. The upper part of the girl’s face is painted light brown, and although that is not the usual way of applying makeup, or perhaps because of it, she doesn’t look as if she is mimicking adult behavior. She looks like somebody having fun with face paint. The outfit of her sparring partner highlights the feeling. The boy is wearing some sort of a head cover, made out of electrical wires in blue, green, and brown, woven together and attached to the top of his head with an elastic band. He looks pompous and vulnerable at the same time. The conversation they are having is funny and moving. It’s funny because it becomes clear very soon that their exchange is primarily about negating what the other is saying, thus winning the debate. While at it, they seem to forget the positions they are supposed to hold, and focus solely on dismissing the other person’s statements. They get very passionate about the exchange, their eyes sparkling if they manage to outwit the other. They say odd things, like, “No termination, no money,” which don’t really function as arguments for either side. They occasionally get caught in the rhythm of the repetition, making the meaning of what they are saying somewhat obsolete: (I am a better worker than him because) "...he takes a five-minute break every three minutes and I take a three-minute break every five minutes." They end up accepting what the other is saying in such a way that the other then decides to negate that very thing she or he was claiming a second ago. Girl (in the role of the employee): “I have never slept [at work].” Boy (in the role of the employer): “You

2. "Društveni prostor proizvode i strukturiraju konflikti. S tim priznanjem, demokratska prostorna politika započinje." Rosalyn Deutsche, *Evictions. Art and Spatial Politics* (Cambridge, Mass-London: MIT Press 1996), xxiv.

3. "‘igre istine’ [...] to jest, ne otkriće istinitih stvari već pravila prema kojima ono što netko može reći o određenim stvarima ovisi o pitanju istinitog i lažnog. Da sumiram, kritička povijest misli nije niti povijest otkrivanja niti povijest zakrivanja istine; ona je povijest “provjera”, shvaćenih kao forme prema kojima su diskursi sposobni da ih se proglaši istinitima ili lažnim artikulirani u skladu s određenom domenom kojоj pripadaju." Vidi: "Foucault" u *Dictionnaire des philosophes* (Paris: PUF, 1993 [1984]), str. 942-944. Natuknicu je napisao Michel Foucault, pod pseudonimom "Maurice Florence". Vidi engleski prijevod natuknice ovdje: <http://foucault.info/foucault/biography.html>.

4. Priča o destrukciji tvornice Rikard Benčić zapravo je priča o privatizaciji kao krađi u postkomunističkim zemljama. Naime, nakon sloma Jugoslavije i uspostave Republike Hrvatske kao nezavisne države, započet je proces privatizacije kao dio tranzicijskih

2. "Social space is produced and structured by conflicts. With this recognition, a democratic spatial politics begins." Rosalyn Deutsche, *Evictions. Art and Spatial Politics* (Cambridge, Mass-London: MIT Press 1996), xxiv.

3. "‘games of truth’ [...] that is, not the discovery of true things but the rules according to which what a subject can say about certain things depends on the question of true and false. In sum, the critical history of thought is neither a history of acquisitions nor a history of concealments of truth; it is the history of ‘veridictions’, understood as the forms according to which discourses capable of being declared true or false are articulated concerning a domain of things." See: "Foucault" in *Dictionnaire des philosophes* (Paris: PUF, 1993 [1984]), 942-944. The entry was written by Michel Foucault, under the pseudonym "Maurice Florence". See English translation of the entry here: <http://foucault.info/foucault/biography.html>.

4. The story of the destruction of Rikard Benčić Factory is really the story of privatization as theft in post-communist countries. Namely, after the breakdown of Yugoslavia and the establishment of The Republic of Croatia as

Djevojčica: „Nisam...“  
Dječak: „Nisi.“  
Djevojčica: „Jesam.“

Krajevi usnica im se uvijaju u smiješak kada shvate da nisu sigurni kako da se izvuku iz ovog.

Ono na čemu zapravo rade oblik je razmjene, proces neslaganja s drugim, negiranja onoga što drugi govori. Ono što se čini važnim je proces pokušaja da se artikulira vlastita pozicija i proces formuliranja njoj suprotne pozicije, a neslaganje (ili konflikt) je ono od čega je sastavljena politika.<sup>2</sup> Odnosno, u suvremenim demokracijama, sačinjena je od prostora u kojem se netko osjeća dovoljno sigurno da se ne slaže. Čini se gotovo kao da se igraju „igre istine“<sup>3</sup>, pokušavajući shvatiti pod kojim je pravilima dozvoljeno nešto tvrditi ili to negirati, i pokušavajući hoće li ono što kažu, samim činom izgovaranja, postati istinom i učiniti ih pobednikom u toj razmjeni.

Uvodna scena filma funkcioniра na dvostrukoј razini, i zato je tako djelotvorna. Radi se o improvizaciji, o igranju uloga. No to igranje uloga, koliko god da je zabavno za djecu, donosi i nešto zlokobno. Još ga zlokobnijim čini dječja fascinacija situacijom i njihova fascinacija samima sobom što im je povjeren taj važan zadatok izvođenja u filmu. Ono što osobito cijenim u toj sceni je dječja fascinacija samima sobom i taj specifičan način *bivanja djetetom* koji nekako komunicira radost *bivanja živim*, a koji pak ne potkopava težinu pitanja proizašlih iz uništenja tvornice Rikard Benčić koja lebde nad filmom.<sup>4</sup>

Upravo suprotno, dječja igra uloga naglašava duboki užas situacije. Njihove verbalne razmjene naglašavaju pitanja radničkih prava, nezaposlenosti i nepravde kapitalističkog sistema.

Kako bih vam objasnila zašto mislim da se o tome radi, prvo ću podijeliti jednu kratku priču s vama.

Jednog dana, prije kakvih trideset godina, razmijenila sam komad nakita sa svojom najboljom prijateljicom u vrtiću: dala sam joj svoju zlatnu narukvicu, a ona meni komad obojene bižuterije, u obliku plave i žute ribice. Nisam znala razliku u vrijednosti između ta dva predmeta – znala sam samo koji mi se više sviđa – i zato sam zamijenila ono što sam imala s onim što sam željela. No, ubrzo sam otkrila da sam se ravnala po krivom vrijednosnom sustavu. Nije mi se trebalo sviđati ono što mi se sviđalo, jer nije bilo toliko vrijedno kao ono što sam dala. Moja majka bila je ljuta i kada sam pitala tu djevojčicu da mi vrati moju zlatnu narukvicu, a ja ću njoj njenu bižuteriju odgovorila mi je: „Što se jednom da, to se više ne vraća“. Bila sam posebno impresionirana konačnošću te izjave moje prijateljice (osobito zato jer joj je rima davala neki magični intenzitet). Shvatila sam je kao princip funkcioniranja svijeta, princip kojeg prije nisam bila svjesna: ideja da *nikada* neću dobiti natrag ono što sam imala, zato jer je drugo *dijete* tako reklo. *Takva su pravila*. I zaista nikada nisam dobila natrag ono što sam dala. Nije bilo prostora za pregovore.<sup>5</sup> Naravno, roditelji i drugi odrasli stalno su postavljali razna pravila. Ipak, uвijek ih se moglo zaobići – ili pregovorima, ili raspravom, ili molbom, ili suzama, ili drugim manipulativnim strategijama koje naučiš koristiti prije nego

have." Girl: "I haven't..." Boy: "You haven't." Girl: "I have." Their lips start curling into smiles when they realize they are not sure how to get out of this one.

What they are really working on is the form of the exchange, the process of disagreeing with the other and negating what the other is saying. What seems important is the process of attempting to articulate their positions and the process of formulating oppositional stances. And disagreement (or conflict) is the stuff politics is made of.<sup>2</sup> Or, in contemporary democracies, it is made of the space where one would feel safe to disagree. It almost seems as if they are playing the “games of truth,”<sup>3</sup> figuring out rules according to which you are allowed to claim something or to deny it. And figuring out whether what you say, by this very act of saying it, will make it true, and make you the winner of this exchange.

The film's opening scene functions on two levels at once, which is why it is so efficient. It is an improvisational game, a role-play. But this role-play, fun as it is for the children practicing it, carries something sinister with it. It's made even more disturbing by the children's fascination with the situation, and their fascination with themselves for being given the important task of performing in the film. What I particularly appreciate about the scene is the children's fascination with themselves, and that particular way of *being a child*, which somehow communicates the joy of *being alive*, which does not undermine the heaviness of the issues that result from the destruction of the Rikard Benčić factory that hovers around the film.<sup>4</sup> Quite the contrary, the children's role-playing emphasizes the profound horror of the situation.

an independent state, the process of privatization was initiated as a part of the transitional process from socialist to capitalist system. Most privatizations in Croatia were completely illegal and have resulted in hundreds of thousands of workers losing their jobs. See, for instance, here: <http://www.lupiga.com/vjesti/zasto-su-radnici-izgubili-borbu-sa-najezdom-skakakavaca-koji-su-opustosili-hrvatsko-gospodarstvo> and here: <http://lupiga.com/vjesti/kako-su-unistavili-poduzeca-u-hrvatskoj-nismo-se-smjeli-buniti-da-nam-kuce-ne-odlete-u-zrak>.

5. In Croatian, the saying goes like this: Što se jednom da, to se više ne vraća.

6. I probably would have gotten back the bracelet, had my mum insisted, but I think she wanted to teach me some sort of a lesson.

Their silly exchanges underscore the seriousness of the issues of workers' rights, unemployment, and the injustice of the capitalist system.

In order to tell you why I think this is the case, let me first share a short story with you.

One day, about thirty years ago, I exchanged pieces of jewellery with my best friend at kindergarten: I gave her my gold bracelet and she gave me a piece of coloured brass shaped like a blue-and-yellow fish. I didn't know the difference in value between these two objects—I only knew which one I liked better—and that was the reason why I exchanged what I had for what I preferred. But I soon found out that I had the wrong system of value in place. I wasn't supposed to like what I liked, because it wasn't as highly regarded socially as that which I gave away. My mother was angry, and when I asked this girl to give me my gold bracelet back and explained I would give back her trinket, she replied, in rhyme, "What you once give, you never get back."<sup>5</sup> I was particularly impressed by the finality of the statement that my friend uttered (partly also because it had rhymed, giving it some sort of magical intensity). I understood it as the principle of the functioning of the world, a principle I wasn't aware of before: the idea that I will *never* get back what I had, because another *child* said so. *And those were the rules*. I indeed never got back what I gave away. There was no space for negotiation.<sup>6</sup> Of course, parents and other adults were announcing the rules all the time. But you could always find a way around them—either through negotiation, or discussion, or pleading, or tears, or other manipulative strategies—and you discovered how to use these

što uopće postaneš svjestan da ih koristiš - ali ta pravila nikad nisu bila tako čvrsto postavljena kao ona koja su postavljala djeca.

Sjetila sam se te priče dok sam čitala *Program for a Proletarian Children's Theatre* Waltera Benjamina. Evo što kaže Benjamin:

„Za pravog promatrača, ipak – i to je početna točka obrazovanja – svaki čin i gesta iz djetinjstva postaju signal. Ne toliko signal nesvjesnih, latentnih procesa, potiskivanja ili cenzure (kao što to psiholozi vole misliti), već signal iz drugog svijeta, u kojem dijete živi i gdje zapovijeda. Nove spoznaje o djeci koje su se razvile u ruskim dječjim klubovima dovele su do teorije da dijete nastanjuje svoj svijet kao diktator. Iz toga razloga, „teorija signala” nije samo prazna fraza. Gotovo svaka dječja gesta je zapovijed i signal u svijetu u koji je samo nekoliko neobično perceptivnih ljudi [...] zavirilo.“<sup>6</sup>

Dijete je ovlašteno „imenovati“ svijet, učiniti da svijet postane stvaran kroz taj simbolički čin i taj je autoritet puno veći od onoga odrasle osobe. Kao što Benjamin kaže, ovaj put u *One-Way Street*, ponovo govoreći o *bivanju* djetetom:

„Njegove su nomadske godine sati u šumi snova. U nju on vuče svoje blago, da ga pročisti, osigura, da baci na njega čaroliju. Njegove ladice moraju postati skladište oružja i zoološki vrt, muzej zločina i kripta. „Pospremiti“ značilo bi razoriti konstrukciju punu bodljikavih kestena u ulozi šiljatih palica,

6. Walter Benjamin, "Program for a Proletarian Children's Theatre" u *Selected Writings, 1927-1930*, ur. Michael W. Jennings, Howard Eiland and Gary Smith (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), 204.

strategies before you became aware that you were using them...yet the rules never seemed quite as fixed as were those uttered by children.

I remembered the story as I was reading Walter Benjamin's "Program for a Proletarian Children's Theatre." Benjamin says:

For the true observer, however—and this is the starting point of education—every childhood action and gesture becomes a signal. Not so much a signal of the unconscious, of latent processes, repressions, or censorship (as the psychologists like to think), but a signal from another world, in which the child lives and commands. The new knowledge of children that has been developed in the Russian children's clubs has led to the theory that the child inhabits his world like a dictator. For this reason, the "theory of signals" is no mere figure of speech. Almost every childlike gesture is a command and a signal in a world which only a few unusually perceptive men [...] have glimpsed.<sup>7</sup>

A child has the authority to "name" the world, to make it become real through a symbolic act, and this authority is far greater than that of an adult. As Benjamin says, this time in *One-Way Street*, again talking about the being of children:

His nomad-years are hours in the forest of dream. To it he drags home his booty, to purify it, secure it, cast out its spell. His drawers must become arsenal and zoo, crime museum and crypt. To "tidy up" would be to

7. Walter Benjamin, "Program for a Proletarian Children's Theatre" in *Selected Writings, 1927-1930*, ed. by Michael W. Jennings, Howard Eiland and Gary Smith (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), 204.

aluminijске folije kao gomile srebra, cigli kao lijesova, kaktusa kao totema i bakrenih novčića kao štitova.“<sup>8</sup>

Autoritet djeteta veći je od onog odrasle osobe, zato jer ulog nije doveden u pitanje - posvećenost je potpuna. Kada dijete nešto tvrdi, čini se da ne postoji mogućnost da bi stvari mogle biti imalo drugačije. Snaga njihova uvjerenja nekako zamrzava svijet u tom trenutku - radi se o specifičnom tipu konzervativizma kojemu su djeca skloni. Imaju snažnu želju zadržati stvari onakvima kakve jesu, kako bi se osjećali sigurno i pokazali da razumiju ovaj svijet: „OVAKO se stvari rade, znam, naučio sam, razumijem tu stvar zvanu život i svijet oko mene.“ Proces subjektifikacije uvijek uključuje tu dogmatsku dimenziju, i ta dimenzija stvara mogućnost za akciju i proizvodnju budućnosti Benčića. Upravo ta ideja da stvari *moraju* biti napravljene na određeni način ono je što će učiniti da se *čine* (nastanu) takvima. No, ovdje nije kraj. Duboki konzervativizam, gotovo nepodnošljiva doslovnost uz koju se djeca ponekad vezuju, paradoksalno je kombinirana s kompletnom otvorenosću prema svijetu, tako da se vidi medvjed tamo gdje visi kaput, ili da se broje kamenčići u hlačama dok se živi kao šumar na Aljasci iz sobe u Rijeci. Sve može biti *bilo što drugo*, a u isto vrijeme, postoji specifičan način na koji stvari moraju biti napravljene, i samo je taj način prihvatljiv. A opet ne radi se samo o njihovoj posvećenosti onome što govore, već i o njihovoj posvećenosti *bivanju živim* zbog čega njihove riječi odjekuju jače.

To pojačano odjekivanje potrebe da svijet postoji na određeni način koji

7. Walter Benjamin, *One Way Street* (London: NLB, 1979), 73-74.

demolish an edifice full of prickly chestnuts that are spiky clubs, tinfoil that is hoarded silver, bricks that are coffins, cacti that are totem-poles and copper pennies that are shields.<sup>8</sup>

The authority of the child is greater than that of an adult because the investment is uncompromised—the dedication is complete. When a child claims something, it seems there is no possibility that things could be any different. It is the force of their conviction that somehow freezes the world in this moment, a particular type of conservatism that children often display. They possess a powerful desire to keep things as they are, in order to make them feel safe and to show that they have got the hang of this world: "THIS is how things are done, I know, I've learned it, I get this thing called *life* and *world around me*." The process of subjectification always involves this dogmatic dimension. And this dogmatic dimension creates the possibility for action and production of the future of Benčić. It is precisely the idea that things *have* to be a certain way that will make them *appear* (come into existence) as such. But it does not stop at this. The deep conservatism, an almost unbearable literality that children sometimes feel attached to, is paradoxically combined with a complete openness toward the world, in terms of seeing a bear where a coat is hanging or counting pebbles in your jeans, living as a forester in Alaska from your room in Rijeka. Anything can be anything *else* and, at the same time, there is a specific way in which things need to be done, and only that way is acceptable. And yet it is not only about their dedication to what

8. Walter Benjamin, *One Way Street* (London: NLB, 1979), 73-74



they are saying, but also about their dedication to *being alive* that makes their words resonate stronger.

This heightened resonance of the need for the world to exist in a certain manner that children imprint onto it, the persuasiveness of this demand for existence, lingers to this day in my memory. When I was about seven or eight and we would visit my parents' friends' houses, I was surprised by how *wrong* they did things. How their mothers wore nail varnish, even though my mother said that nail varnish was ugly and shouldn't be worn. I thought everybody should know that and behave accordingly. Their tomato pasta didn't taste like my mother's—it simply didn't taste like proper tomato pasta should taste. And their houses were blessed by Catholic priests every Christmas, which was, according to my parents, a sign of primitive superstition. And yet, my classmate from the second grade would say that only people who don't believe in God would commit atrocities or pluck the beautiful flowers in other people's gardens out of spite...and I would be devastated, because I believed it. I believed everything people would say—why would they say it if it wasn't true? Saying things out loud meant they became real, especially if other children said them. However convincing the adults were, children around me often spoke with far more persuasion. So, when children are talking about workers losing their jobs in *Preuzmimo Benčić*, it makes the situation more serious, more real. And yet the film manages to escape the uncomfortable impression of precociousness in those moments that portray the children questioning their own words through self-referential smiles and juxtaposed images of them denying and affirming the same thing.



djeca daju svijetu, uvjerljivost tog zahtjeva za postojanjem živa je u mom sjećanju. Kada mi je bilo sedam ili osam godina, posjećivali smo kuće prijatelja mojih roditelja i jasno se sjećam da sam bila iznenadena kako *krivo* rade stvari. Kako su njihove majke nosile lak za nokte, iako je moja majka rekla da je lak za nokte ružan i da se nokti ne bi trebali lakirati. Mislila sam da to svi znaju i da se ponašaju u skladu s tim. Njihova *šalša* nije imala okus kao *šalša* moje majke – jednostavno nije imala okus koji bi prava *šalša* trebala imati (također, moja ju je majka zvala *salsa*). Njihove su kuće blagoslivljali velečasni svakog Božića, što su moji roditelji smatrali znakom primitivnog praznovjerja. Međutim, moja školska kolegica bi govorila da samo ljudi koji ne vjeruju u Boga mogu činiti zločine ili čupati cvijeće iz vrtova drugih ljudi iz pakosti... i ja sam bila očajna, jer sam vjerovala u to. Vjerovala sam u sve što bi ljudi rekli – zašto bi to izgovarali ako to nije istina? Izgovaranje stvari na glas značilo je da one postaju stvarne. Osobito ako bi ih izgovorila druga djeca. Koliko god uvjerljivi roditelji bili, djeca oko mene govorila su s puno više uvjerenja. Dakle, kada djeca govore o radnicima koji ostaju bez posla u *Preuzmimo Benčić*, to situaciju čini ozbilnjom, stvarnjom. A opet, film uspijeva pobjeći neugodnom dojmu starmalosti u onim trenutcima u kojima prikazuje djecu kako propituju vlastite riječi kroz auto-referencijalne osmjehhe i suprotstavlja ih dok negiraju i potvrđuju istu stvar.

Postoji izreka (ili možda poslovica iz svijeta zabave) za koju sam sigurna da ste je čuli. Glasi ovako: „Nikada ne radite sa životinjama ili djecom.“ Obično se pripisuje W. C. Fieldsu. I uistinu, nešto se drugo dogodi kada vidimo djecu i životinje na pozornici, jer:



Una Bauer



There is a saying, or perhaps a show business adage, that goes, “Never work with animals or children.” It is usually attributed to W. C. Fields. And, indeed, something different happens when we see children and animals on stage, as:

animals (and children) belong to the stage in ways that make strange our sense that it is an adult human business, that sexual and economic exploitation are always on the scene, and that, above all, it is when it goes wrong, falls short of grace, that theatre is most itself.<sup>9</sup>

Let’s go back to this idea that children *name* the world. You might say, “But this is just make-believe, this is *not real*.” To say that coat is a bear does not make the coat *become* the bear. We are talking about different levels of existence. The child does not have the economic, political, or social power or resources to bring about *actual*, physical, material change—right?

Let us look carefully into what is perhaps the central scene in Thauberger’s film. In the beginning, we see numerous shots of children performing various actions. A girl in a grey sweater wearing a knitted blue-and-brown waistcoat carefully moves the air around her waist. Another girl lifts her arm up high and then moves it down while turning herself around. A boy in a pelerine and protective eye mask spins around fast. A blond boy, wearing blue garden gloves, stares randomly into space and performs the action of pressing buttons while producing a corresponding beeping sound. Two girls rub their hands together as if washing them. A girl wearing a transparent yellow potato sack on

9. Nicholas Ridout, *Stage Fright*, 28-29.

10. Although it seems that children see it rather more vividly than that. In the words of one performer: “It is wonderful in this building. Like a searing sun in the sky and beautiful white snow that falls thickly like little white sheep.”

„Životinje (i djeca) spadaju na pozornicu na načine koji očuđuju naš osjećaj da je riječ o poslu odraslih ljudi, da je seksualna i ekomska eksploatacija uvijek posrijedi i da, iznad svega, u trenutku kada sve krene krivo, kada postane nespretno, da je kazalište najviše ono samo.“<sup>8</sup>

Vratimo se na ovu ideju da djeca *imenuju* svijet. Mogli biste reći: „Ali to je samo pretvaranje, to *nije stvarno*.“ Reći da je kaput medvjed, ne čini da kaput *postane* medvjedom. Govorimo o različitim razinama postojanja. Dijete nema ekonomsku, političku ili društvenu moć, ili sredstva da izazove stvarnu, fizičku, materijalnu promjenu, zar ne?

Pogledajmo pažljivo možda ključnu scenu Altheinog filma. U početku, vidimo brojne kadrove djece koji izvode različite pokrete. Djekočka u svome džemperu s pletenim plavo-smeđim prslukom pažljivo pomiče zrak oko svog struka. Druga djekočka podiže ruku visoko gore i onda je spušta okrećući se oko sebe. Dječak u pelerini i zaštitnim naočalama okreće se brzo oko sebe. Dječak svijetle kose, s plavim vrtnim rukavicama zuri negdje u prostor i izvodi akciju pritiskanja nepostojećih dugmadi dok proizvodi odgovarajući zvuk „biip“. Dvije djekočice trljaju ruke jedna o drugu kao da ih peru. Djekočka s prozirnom žutom vrećom za krumpire na glavi podiže ruku do čela samo da bi je spustila. Vidimo snimku ruku u prevelikim bijelim rukavicama kako ubrzano pomiču nepostojeće predmete. Djekočka u prugastim rukavicama do lakta plješće vodoravno umjesto okomito. Kadar nekoga kako nosi narančasti šal omotan oko glave, kao

her head raises her arm up to her forehead only to then put it down. There is a shot of hands in oversized white gloves rapidly moving non-existent objects. A girl in stripy elbow-length gloves claps her hands horizontally instead of vertically. There is a shot of someone wearing an orange scarf wrapped around his head as a kind of a protective mask, with cut-out eyes replaced with transparent plastic so that he can see while transporting imaginary objects from the left to the right. A girl hits her closed fists against each other. There’s a shot showing only the top of the head and eyes of the boy raising his arms in the air. A boy with glasses, his hands bent at the elbows, one elbow on top of the other, brings them closer then opens them back again, widely.

As the camera pulls away, we see a hall in the Rikard Benčić factory filled with children doing things, every one of them occupying a position in space. Each of them is performing a physical action, different from all the others. The vivid colours of their outfits stand out against the grey-beige background of the factory walls.<sup>10</sup> Shot from a distance, they look like a wonderful, synchronous, moving object. The choreography of them performing as manual workers in a factory is beautiful to watch, because it looks both completely random and yet very precise and accurate. Everybody seems to be entirely immersed in doing their own thing, which they are performing with full dedication. They are working hard. This scene is both politically and aesthetically the strongest, because even though it can be understood as the performance of manual labour in the factory, it actually reconfigures

neku vrstu sigurnosne maske s izrezanim očima zamijenjenima providnom plastikom, tako da bi on ili ona mogli vidjeti dok prenose zamišljene objekte s lijeve na desnu stranu. Djevojka koja udara stegnutom šakom o drugu. Kadar koji prikazuje samo vrh glave i oči dječaka koji podiže ruke u zrak. Dječak s naočalama, njegove ruke savijene u laktovima, jedan lakat preko drugoga, privlači ih i potom ih široko razmiče.

Kako se kamera povlači, vidimo veliku dvoranu u bivšoj tvornici Rikard Benčić ispunjenu djecom koja nešto rade, zauzimajući neku poziciju u prostoru. Svako od njih izvodi fizičku radnju, drugačiju od svih drugih. Žive boje njihovih kostima izdvajaju se iz sivo-bež pozadine zidova tvornice.<sup>9</sup> U kadrovima snimanima s veće udaljenosti, oni izgledaju kao lijepi, sinkroni, pokretni predmeti. Njihovu koreografiju, koju izvode kao fizički radnici u tvornici predivno je gledati, jer izgleda u isto vrijeme posve slučajna i opet vrlo precizna i točna. Svatko od njih je posve utopljen u vlastiti pokret, koji izvode s punom posvećenošću. Naporno rade. Ova je scena i politički i estetski najjača, zato jer, iako može biti shvaćena kao izvedba manualnog rada u tvornici, zapravo rekonfigurira reprezentacijsku nužnost filma i konstruira autonomni svijet od njihovih pokreta u prostoru. Konstruira njihove radnje kao vrijedne same po sebi, kao da stvaraju novi svijet s različitim pravilima. Ta je ideja još jača zbog činjenice da su djeca sama zamislila koreografiju koju izvode – ona je bila rezultat njihovog procesa improvizacije.

Dakle, stvar je u sljedećem: ne možete se pretvarati da podižete ruku. Morate podići ruku da biste bili sposobni izvesti gestu „podizanja ruke“. Ne

8. Nicholas Ridout, *Stage Fright*, 28-29.

9. Iako se čini da taj prostor djeca doživljavaju intenzivnije. Riječima jednog izvođača: "Divno je u ovoj zgradi. Kao sunce na nebu i predivan bijeli snijeg koji debelo pada kao male bijele ovce."

the representational necessity of the film and constructs the autonomous world of the children's movements in space. It constructs their actions as valid in themselves, as the ones creating a new world with a different set of rules. This point is made stronger by the fact that the children were the ones designing their choreography—it was a result of their improvisational process.

You see, the thing is: you can't pretend you are lifting your arm. You actually have to raise your arm to be able to perform the gesture of "raising your arm." You can't pretend you are dancing; you actually have to dance. It might be with more or less energy, with more or less involvement, but the action of moving in front of a camera is a real, physical action. The physicality of it is not make-believe. The tiredness that comes with performing an action over and over again so that the camera can record it is real.

These material changes in the Rikard Benčić building, the children's presence in the space and the actual physical occupation of the factory exist as a kind of a guarantee for further transformation, both in the world of a singular child and in the understanding of that world.

What the film does well is that it first allows children to be "silly": it allows their arguments not to work, allows them to (or makes them?) say odd things. And then it mobilizes their energies, shows them performing a series of actions as if to express that there is real energy behind this, real effort and work. It also shows them being explicit about it: "Work is when the camera is on and when the camera is filming." Which brings us back to the adage of Fields. Working with children and animals is hard because it is difficult to

11. Gilles Deleuze, 'Immanence: A Life' in *Pure Immanence* (New York: Zone Books, 2001), 30.

morate se pretvarati da plešete. Morate stvarno plesati. To može biti s više ili manje energije, s više ili manje angažmana, ali čin kretanja ispred kamere je stvarna, fizička radnja. Njena tjelesnost nije glumljena. Umor koji dolazi s tim da se taj čin ponovno i ponovno izvodi kako bi ga kamera snimila je stvaran.

Te materijalne promjene u zgradama Rikarda Benčića, dječja prisutnost u prostoru i stvarna fizička okupacija tvornice postoje kao neka vrsta jamca za buduće promjene, i u svijetu jednog djeteta i u razumijevanju toga svijeta.

Ono što je dobra strana filma jest da on prvenstveno omogućava djeci da budu „blesavi“, omogućava da njihove argumentacijske linije ne stoje, omogućava im (ili ih ohrabruje) da kažu čudne stvari. Zatim se mobilizira njihova energija, snima ih se kako izvode serije pokreta da bi se pokazalo kako postoji stvarni napor i rad iza svega toga. Također, pokazuje se kako su eksplisitni oko svoga rada: „Rad je kad se kamera uključi i kad kamera snima.“ Što nas vraća na maksimum W.C. Fieldsa: raditi s djecom i životinjama je teško jer ih je teško natjerati da rade ono što ti želiš, kada ti to želiš. Oni su, na neki način, utjelovljenje čiste volje. Mogu se fokusirati na *sam život*, na čistu potencijalnost onoga što se može dogoditi.

E sad, zašto bi ta čista potencijalnost pripadala specifično djeci? I još gore, nije li ta čista potencijalnost politički impotentna? Ako se bilo što može dogoditi cijelo vrijeme, zar to ne smanjuje mogućnost da se nešto konkretno zapravo dogodi? Prema Deleuzeu,

get them to do what you want, when you want it. They are, in a way, an embodiment of pure will. They can focus on *life itself*, on the pure potentiality of what can happen.

Now, why would this pure potentiality belong specifically to children? And, even worse, isn't this pure potentiality politically impotent? If anything can happen all the time, doesn't that reduce our possibility of something concrete actually happening? According to Deleuze:

It even seems that a singular life might do without any individuality, without any other concomitant that individualizes it. For example, very small children all resemble one another and have hardly any individuality, but they have singularities: a smile, a gesture, a funny face—not subjective qualities.<sup>11</sup>

Deleuze, being a philosopher, tends to insist on things that seem counterintuitive—every mother can tell her child apart from a million other children, obviously. And, also, there are no small children in Thauberger's film. The sixty-seven children she has been working with are highly articulate and have been attending school for at least a couple of years. It is very easy to tell them apart. In fact, as you are watching the film, you get more attached to some children than to others, and smile when you see them on the screen again, and want to see more of them. And yet, there is something moving in what Deleuze is saying when applied to this case. The children in the film are

„Čini se čak da singularan život može biti bez ikakve individualnosti, bez bilo kakvih popratnih fenomena koji ga individualiziraju. Na primjer, vrlo mala djeca sva liče jedno na drugo i gotovo da nisu individualizirana, ali imaju singularnosti: osmijeh, gestu, grimasu – to nisu subjektivne kvalitete.“<sup>10</sup>

Kako je Deleuze filozof, on inzistira na stvarima koje se čine suprotne zdravom razumu – naravno da svaka majka, i ne samo majka, može razlikovati svoje dijete između milijuna druge djece. Također, nema vrlo male djece u Altheinom filmu. Šezdesetsedmero djece s kojima je radila artikulirani su i svi su barem nekoliko godina proveli u školi. Vrlo ih je lako razlikovati. Zapravo, dok gledate film, vežete se za neku djecu više nego za drugu, smiješite se kada ih ponovo ugledate na ekranu i želite da se češće pojavljuju. Ali opet, postoji nešto potresno u onome što Deleuze govori kada to primijenimo na ovaj



10. Gilles Deleuze, "Immanence: A Life" u *Pure Immanence* (New York: Zone Books, 2001), 30.

11. Peter Hallward, *Out of this World: Deleuze and the Philosophy of Creation* (Verso: London and New York, 2006), 25.

12. Elisabeth Jacobs, "Not So Demanding: Why Occupy Wall Street Need Not Make Demands (Yet)", vidi: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2011/11/03-ows-jacobs>



12. Peter Hallward, *Out of this World: Deleuze and the Philosophy of Creation* (Verso: London and New York, 2006), p. 25.

13. Elisabeth Jacobs, "Not So Demanding: Why Occupy Wall Street Need Not Make Demands (Yet)", vidi: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2011/11/03-ows-jacobs>

slučaj. Djeca u filmu su još uvijek one dobi kada je lakše vidjeti da „Ne živimo ja ili ti: ‘jedan’ (*une vie*) živi u nama.“<sup>11</sup> Ona su još uvijek u onoj dobi u kojoj je život u njima jači od njihovih pojedinačnosti, koliko god intenzivne, smiješne, privlačne ili zanimljive bile. Želite biti sigurni da su dobro i da im dobro ide, bez obzira na to sviđaju li vam se ili ne, a to postaje sve teže jednom kada odrastu i postanu zakonski odgovorni za svoje postupke.

A što se tiče pitanja o političkoj impotenciji potencijalnosti, pada mi napamet Occupy pokret, sa svojim inicijalnim odbijanjem formuliranja zahtjeva. Kao što je Elisabeth Jacobs napisala 2011.:

„Izostanak specifičnih zahtjeva pokreta ima prednosti za sam pokret. Meta zahtjev pokreta Occupy Wall Street da vladine politike služe „99 posto“ (op.u. stanovništva) zaštitila je pokret od toga da se zaplete u korove legislativnih zahtjeva, što je strateški potez koji je omogućio protestima da prikupe energiju i popularnu podršku. Nabrajajući specifične zahtjeve samo da bi ih ostavili nerealiziranim rezultiralo bi time da bi pokret izgledao slab i ranjiv, te bi izgubio energiju koju je generirao oko poruke ekonomskog i političkog poštenja.“<sup>12</sup>

Ipak, *Preuzmimo Benčić* se ne odlučuje za taj put, i želi se pozabaviti mogućnostima i zahtjevima. Ubrzo nakon početka filma, svjedočimo tome kako grupa djece igra ulogu onih koji imaju moć, gradonačelnika Grada Rijeke, koji raspravljaju o tome što da rade s tvornicom Benčić. Poigravaju se s različitim

still of that age when it is easier to see that “It is not I or you who lives: ‘one’ (*une vie*) lives in us”.<sup>12</sup> They are still of the age at which *life* in them is stronger than their individual particularities, however intense, funny, captivating, or entertaining they are. It’s easy to see us *all* in them, and what is worthy of respect is not how special we each are, but the shared life in all of us. One wants to make sure they are safe and doing alright, regardless of whether you like them or not...which gets more and more difficult once they get older and assume full legal responsibility for their actions.

As for the question about political impotence of potentiality, what probably comes to mind is the Occupy movement, and the protestors' initial refusal to formulate demands. As Elisabeth Jacobs wrote in 2011:

The movement's absence of specific demands is advantageous to the movement itself. Occupy Wall Street's meta-demand that government policies serve “the 99 per cent” has protected the movement from becoming tangled in the weeds of legislative requests, a strategic move that has allowed the protests to gain energy and popular support. Enumerating specific demands only to have them left unmet would leave the movement looking weak, and vulnerable to losing the energy it has generated around its motivating message of economic and political fairness.<sup>13</sup>

However, *Preuzmimo Benčić* does not go down that line, and wants to engage with the demands and possibilities. Soon after the beginning of the film, we

opcijama: idejama da je pretvore u tvornicu oružja, sirotište, kazalište ili trgovački centar. Trgovački se centar nudi kao alternativa tvornici oružja, ali ubrzo netko spomene kako ljudi nemaju novaca i kako nemaju što raditi u trgovačkom centru.

U završnoj sceni, grupa djece koja igra uloge gradonačelnika susreće se s grupom djece koja je radila u tvornici. Fizički su pozicionirani jedni nasuprot drugih. Jedna grupa čita prijedloge s kojima su došli u formi službenih odluka za budućnost tvornice Benčić. Brzo ih prekidaju radnici čija je temeljna pozicija da su danima i tjednima radili u toj tvornici. Tvrde da su svojim radom zaslužili pravo da odluče što će se s tvornicom dogoditi. Jedan od radnika predlaže da prenamijene Benčić u muzej ili knjižnicu. Prekidaju ga s rečenicom: „Gdje ćeš ti onda raditi? Nisi dovoljno obrazovan.” I zapravo, ono što glas govori jest „to nije tvoja uloga, ti igras ulogu *radnika*, to nisu rečenice koje bi trebao govoriti ako želiš biti uvjerljiv u svojoj ulozi.” A opet, ono što film zapravo posreduje jest da se umjetnost i politika, zajednički shvaćene kao borba za pošten život, djeluju prirodno upravo u trenutcima kada izričemo stvari koje su neočekivane ili nisu primjerene situaciji. Ni umjetnosti ni politike nema dok netko ne kaže i ne učini nešto što ne smije reći ili učiniti, i dok ne ustraje u tome da ponavlja te stvari sve dok se uvjeti igre ne promijene.

U uvodu u ovaj tekst, stavila sam naglasak na čin imenovanja kao ono što priziva svijet u postojanje. Nastavila sam tvrditi da djeca, kroz dijalektiku konzervativizma i otvorenosti, jačaju taj odnos između tvrdnje i činjenja, imaginacije i stvaranja. Djeca su slobodna i otvorena, ali u isto vrijeme,

witness a group of children performing roles of those in power, “mayors” of the city of Rijeka, who are discussing what to do with the Benčić factory. Different options are toyed with: there are ideas to turn it into an arms factory, an orphanage, a theatre, a shopping mall. The shopping mall is offered as an alternative to the arms factory, however someone quickly protests that people have no money and therefore nothing to do in a shopping mall.

In the final scene, the group of children playing “mayors” confront the group of children who have been working in the factory. They are physically positioned opposite each other. One group reads the proposals they have come up with in the form of actual municipal decisions for the futures of the Benčić factory. This group is soon interrupted by the workers, whose main position is that they have been there for days and weeks, working in this factory. They claim: “By our labour, we have earned the right to decide what will happen with it.” One of the workers proposes to turn Benčić into a museum or a library. He is interrupted with, “Where will you work then? You’re not educated enough for that. Not educated enough.” And, actually, what the voice is saying is, “This is not *your* role, you are playing the role of the *worker*, these are not the words you *should be saying* if you want to be convincing in your role.” Yet what the film is really communicating is that it is precisely in the moments we say things that are inappropriate or unexpected, and not quite right for the situation, that arts and politics, jointly understood as a struggle for a *fair* life, feel most at home. There is no art and no politics until someone says and does something they are not supposed to say or do, and until he or she persists in saying those things

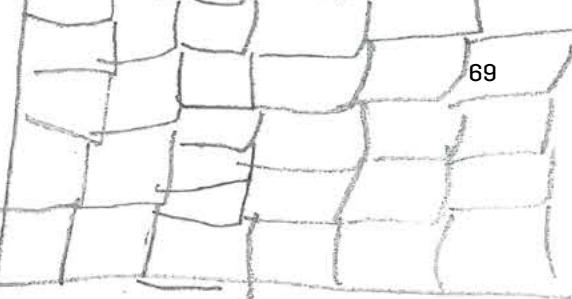
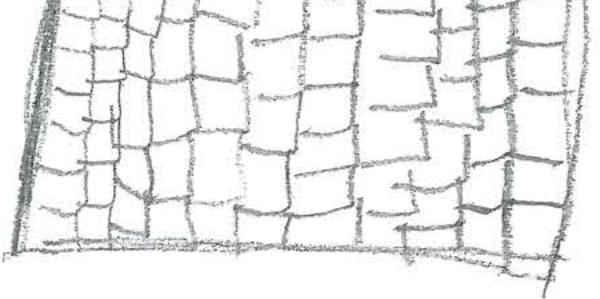
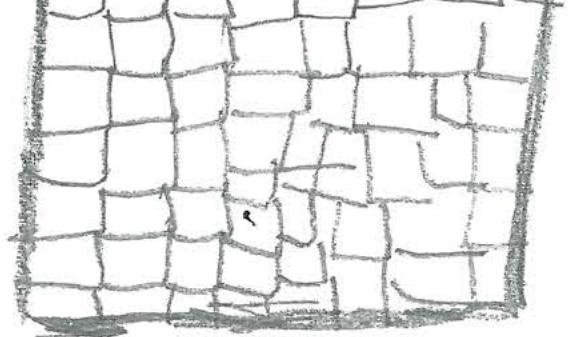
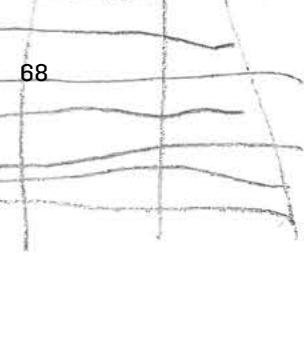
odlučnost i čvrstoća njihovih uvjerenja može biti fascinantna i motivirajuća. Taj odnos između izražavanja toga što svijet jest i čina stvaranja svijeta postaje vidljiv u trenutku fizičke izvedbe, u pokretu i plesu i u iskustvu djece koja naseljavaju (okupiraju) tvornicu Benčić na duže vrijeme u okviru projekta *Preuzmimo Benčić*. Film ostavlja stvari otvorenima, ali nježno sugerira da možemo puno naučiti iz kombinacije tvrdoglavosti i otvorenosti djece u oblikovanju naše budućnosti.

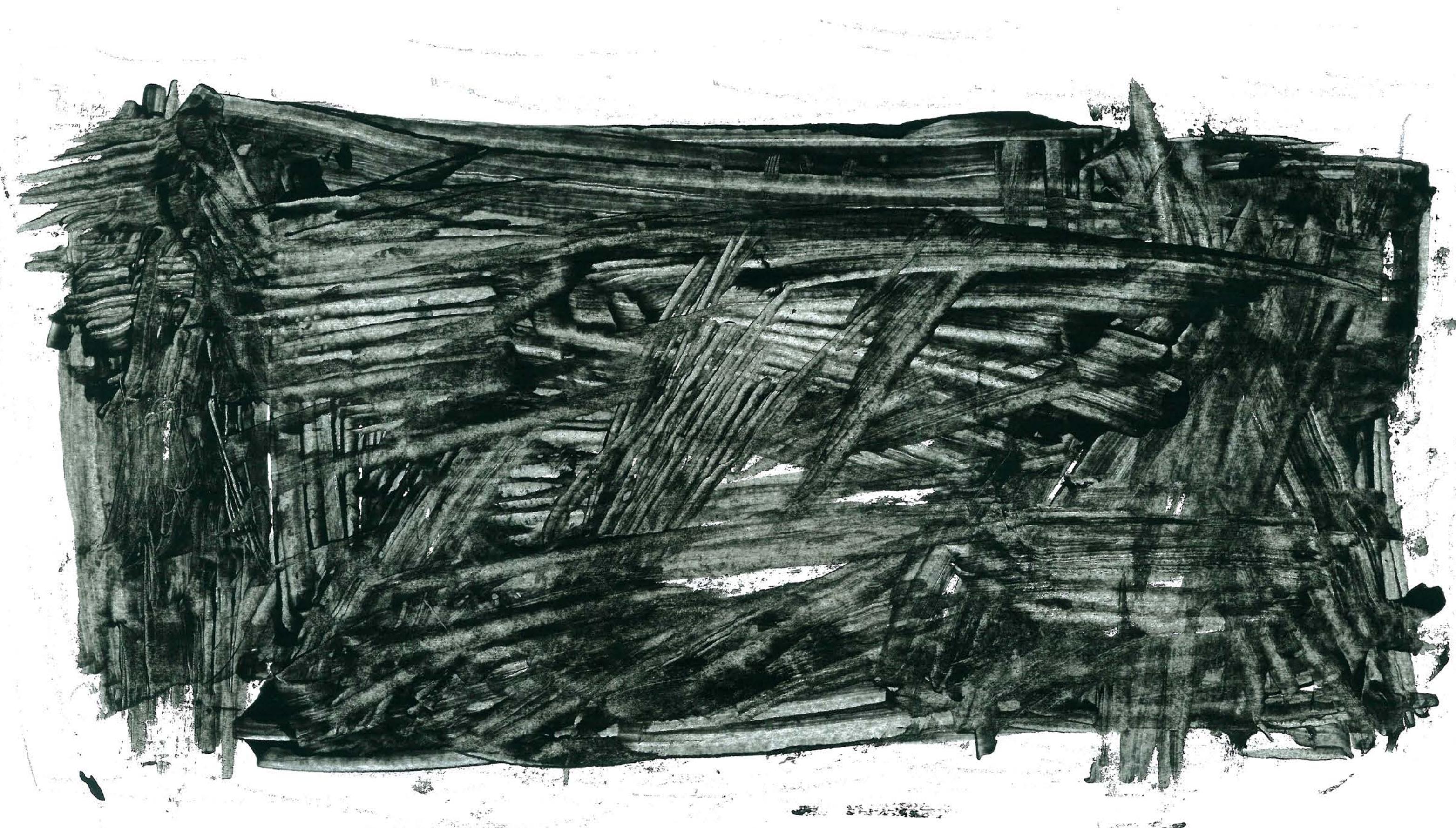


until the conditions of the game have changed.

Earlier, I placed emphasis on the act of naming as that which calls the world into being. I argued for the way in which children, via their dialectical conservatism and openness, intensify this relationship between stating and making, imagination and creation. Children are free and open and, at the same time, the determinacy and firmness of their convictions can be fascinating and motivating. This relationship between stating what the world is and the act of creating the world becomes visible in the moment of physical performance, movement, and dance, and in the experience of inhabiting (occupying) the Benčić factory for an extended period of time by these children in the framework of the *Preuzmimo Benčić* project. The film leaves things open, yet it also gently suggests that there is a lot to learn from the combination of stubbornness and openness of children in the shaping of our future.











## Alissa Firth-Eagland

Ponekad, čak i kod vizualno najupečatljivijih medija poput filma, nevidljive se preobrazbe događaju iza kulisa. U suradnički stvorenom filmu Althee Thauberger pod nazivom *Preuzmimo Benčić* (Take Back Benčić), sudjelovalo je gotovo 70 izvođača između 6 i 13 godina. U mnogo slučajeva, čuđenje je vidljivo na licima glumaca te se odražava na njihovim improviziranim izrazima lica. No, nisu svi učinci filma vidljivi prilikom našeg izravnog susreta s njime. Ono što ne možemo odmah vidjeti jesu lekcije o empatiji i transformativnom učenju, iako one predstavljaju ključne elemente filma.

U filmu *Preuzmimo Benčić* djeca su vidljiva; odrasli nisu. Ipak, film A. Thauberger ne dotiče se djece izravno te ne postoje dječji likovi. Riječ je o priči o radu, samoizražavanju, prostoru i pravu svih ljudi da iskuse ove aspekte života. Fabula se temelji na povijesnom događaju koji se tiče bivših radnika jednog industrijskog postrojenja. Lokacija je tvornica Rikard Benčić u Rijeci: tvornica koja je djelovala dugi niz godina prije nego što je zatvorena početkom Domovinskog rata. U filmu radnici ponovno zauzmu tvornicu. Dano im je dopuštenje da ponovno zauzmu zgrade tvornice kao umjetnici, no gradski oci imaju drugačije zamisli vezane uz taj prostor. Scenarij je polufikcionalan te napisan u suradnji s glumcima.

*„Za mene, život je oduvijek bio nešto što me strahovito zbumnjivalo i ispunjavalo strahopštovanjem. Puna sam pitanja vezanih uz njega. Mislim da smo to svi mi. No mislim da bih, kada bih izgubila ovu svoju prirodnu znatiželju, bila nepotpuna.“<sup>1</sup>*

Sometimes, even within the most visually engaging media such as film, intangible transformations occur in the work behind-the-scenes. Althea Thauberger's collaboratively created film, *Preuzmimo Benčić* (Take Back Benčić), features a cast of almost 70 performers between the ages of six and thirteen. In many cases, wonder is visible on the faces of the cast and it resonates in their improvised expressions. But not all of the film's effects are visible in our immediate encounter with it. We can't see the lessons of empathy and transformative learning right away, yet they are key elements of this film.

**Between Self and Another: Wonder and Empathy in *Preuzmimo Benčić***

### Na razmedju Sebstva i Drugog: Čuđenje i empatija u filmu *Preuzmimo Benčić*

In *Preuzmimo Benčić*, kids are visible; adults are not. And yet, Thauberger's film is not directly about children and there are no child characters. It is a tale of work, self-expression, space, and the rights of all people to experience these aspects of life. The story is rooted in a historical event concerning the former workers of an industrial factory. The location is Benčić, in Rijeka, Croatia: a factory for many years before it closed during the Croatian War of Independence. In the film, the workers take back the place. They are granted permission to temporarily reoccupy the factory buildings as artists, but the mayors have different ideas for the space. This script is semi-fiction, written in collaboration with the cast.

*Life for me has always been a matter of great confusion and great awe. I am full of questions about it. I think everyone is. But I think if I lost this natural inquisitiveness I have, I would be unwhole.<sup>1</sup>*

Ključna razlika između razdoblja djetinjstva i odrasle dobi leži u suprotstavljenim potrebama spram čuđenja i kontrole. Okolnosti našeg bivanja uprežu, a zatim i usadju ove sile u nas. Kako odrastamo, dajemo ovim suprotstavljenim potrebama različitu količinu pozornosti, te tako čuđenje naponsljetu postaje „naivna“ osobina koju odrasli ponovno moraju naučiti od djece i u novim okolnostima. Zauzvrat, odrasli mogu pomoći djeci u razvijanju empatije.<sup>2</sup> Empatija koja nastaje kao posljedica toga rezultat je transformativnog stila zajedničkog učenja, a ne tradicionalnog, transmisivnog učenja. Svi smo upoznati s oblicima prijenosa znanja s učitelja na učenike koji se oslanjaju na učenje napamet ili na predavanja. Nasuprot tome, transformativno učenje dovodi do promjena u našoj psihi te u našim uvjerenjima i ponašanju. Budući da ono poziva na kritičko razmišljanje, omogućuje nam da postavljamo važna pitanja o tome kako djelujemo u svijetu. Iako možda ne možemo vidjeti vizualne, utjelovljene dokaze o empatiji, ili pak transformativne učinke takvog intergeneracijskog procesa učenja na glumce i producijsku ekipu, njihovi se učinci ipak mogu osjetiti. Ono što djeca mogu naučiti od odraslih (uz to kako upotrijebiti kontrolu) jest empatija, jer se empatija mora njegovati uz pomoć drugih.

Postoji recipročan odnos između čuđenja i empatije. Čuđenje se mora od-učiti, dok se empatija uči.

Promatramo li na ovaj način, *Preuzmimo Benčić* predstavlja priču međusobnog osnaživanja – gradski oci osnažuju umjetnike, a djeca osnažuju odrasle, te obrnuto. Gradski oci teže kontroli; umjetnici teže udivljenju, čuđenju i znatiželji. No, prostor je tvornice prepun potencijala pa unutar njega pojedinci koji

1. Ja sam napisala ovaj citat i ostale citate. Neki od njih su ulomci iz dnevnika kojeg sam vodila u dobi od petnaest godina, drugi su napisani kao odgovor na gledanje filma. Riječ je o komentarima koji spajaju nekoliko različitih perspektiva na mladost u doba kada sam se ja osjećala udaljenom od nje.

2. Odlična referenca za ovakav način rada s bebnama i djecom jest *Roots of Empathy: Changing the World Child by Child*, Toronto: Thomas Allen, 2005., autorice Mary Gordon.

1. This and the other pull quotes were written by me. Some are diary entries from the age of fifteen; others were written in response to viewing the film. They are asides that bring together a number of perspectives on youth at times when I felt a distance from it.

2. An excellent reference about this work with infants and children is Mary Gordon's *Roots of Empathy: Changing the World Child by Child*, (Toronto: Thomas Allen, 2005).



An essential difference between the states of childhood and adulthood lies in the competing tendencies towards wonder and control. The circumstances of our being exert and then instill these two forces within us. We prioritize these rival needs differently as we age and eventually wonder becomes that “naive” quality that adults must learn again from children and new incarnations of possibility. In exchange, adults can cultivate empathy in children.<sup>2</sup> The empathy that ensues is inherently the result of a transformative style of mutual learning rather than a traditional, transmissive one. We're all familiar with the transmission of knowledge from teacher to student that relies on rote memorization or lecturing. In contrast, transformative learning results in changes in our psyches, convictions, and behaviours. Because it calls for critical thinking, it allows for fundamental questions about how we act in the world. Though we may not be able to see visual, embodied evidence of empathy, or the transformative effects of such an intergenerational learning process upon the actors and production team, their invisible effects are still tangible. The valuable lesson kids can learn from adults (beyond how to exercise control) is a capacity for empathy. Empathy must be cultivated with others.

There is reciprocity between wonder and empathy. Wonder is unlearned. Empathy is learned.

*Preuzmimo Benčić* is, in this way, a story of mutual empowerment—one of mayors empowering artists, kids empowering adults, and vice versa. The mayors tend towards control; the artists towards wonder, amazement, and curiosity. But within the space of the factory, so imbued with potential, the seemingly opposed

work together to make something magical happen. Municipal authority, civic ownership, public space, and intergenerational collaboration can be redefined.

### The Place of Wonder

Children have a lot more to offer their societies than we give them opportunity or credit for. They have opinions and ideas. They work hard, they create, and they come to their own conclusions. They also possess something else—something that many of us lose but all of us strive for: a capacity for wonder. With wonder, children can glimpse what needs to be done about the future. Consider these ancient words of the Palestinian convert Ben Hei Hei, a disciple of Hillel and a rabbinical scholar who lived in the first century:

Effort is its own reward.  
We are here to do.  
And through doing to learn;  
and through learning to know;  
and through knowing to experience wonder;  
and through wonder to attain wisdom;  
and through wisdom to find simplicity;  
and through simplicity to give attention;  
and through attention  
to see what needs to be done...



The passage is like a rallying cry that positions wonder at the very centre of the process of discovery. Through hard work we ascend to wonder and open ourselves to focus and care.

*I had to step outside of myself fully in order to imagine what the kid version of me would do. In a state of wonder I would have created a graph, drawn a city, made a mask with coloured paper and feathers for a friend, designed a game, sung a song, laboured over a handcrocheted vest for a tree, or scribbled in my journal until I reached a state somewhere between text and drawing. I would have hidden in my closet. I would have run in the woods. I would have gone away to start again.*

Wonder is tied to hope, to imagination, and to curiosity. It informs the children's actions and expressions—and their work. Evidence of wonder shows up on the faces of actors as subtly as a glimmer of introspection, a net catching their curiosity as it takes flight behind their eyes. It is a deeply resonant astonishment at the others, erupting as a tossing of hair like a mane or the pounding of a table. They are thinking, speculating, absorbing, and puzzling with verve.

### Kids Making Art: Wonder Crossed with Wonder

Wonder is felt by kids and inspired by art. So what happens when kids make art? In *Preuzmimo Benčić*, the children's wonder appears as a curtain that cannot be pulled back: it is everywhere.

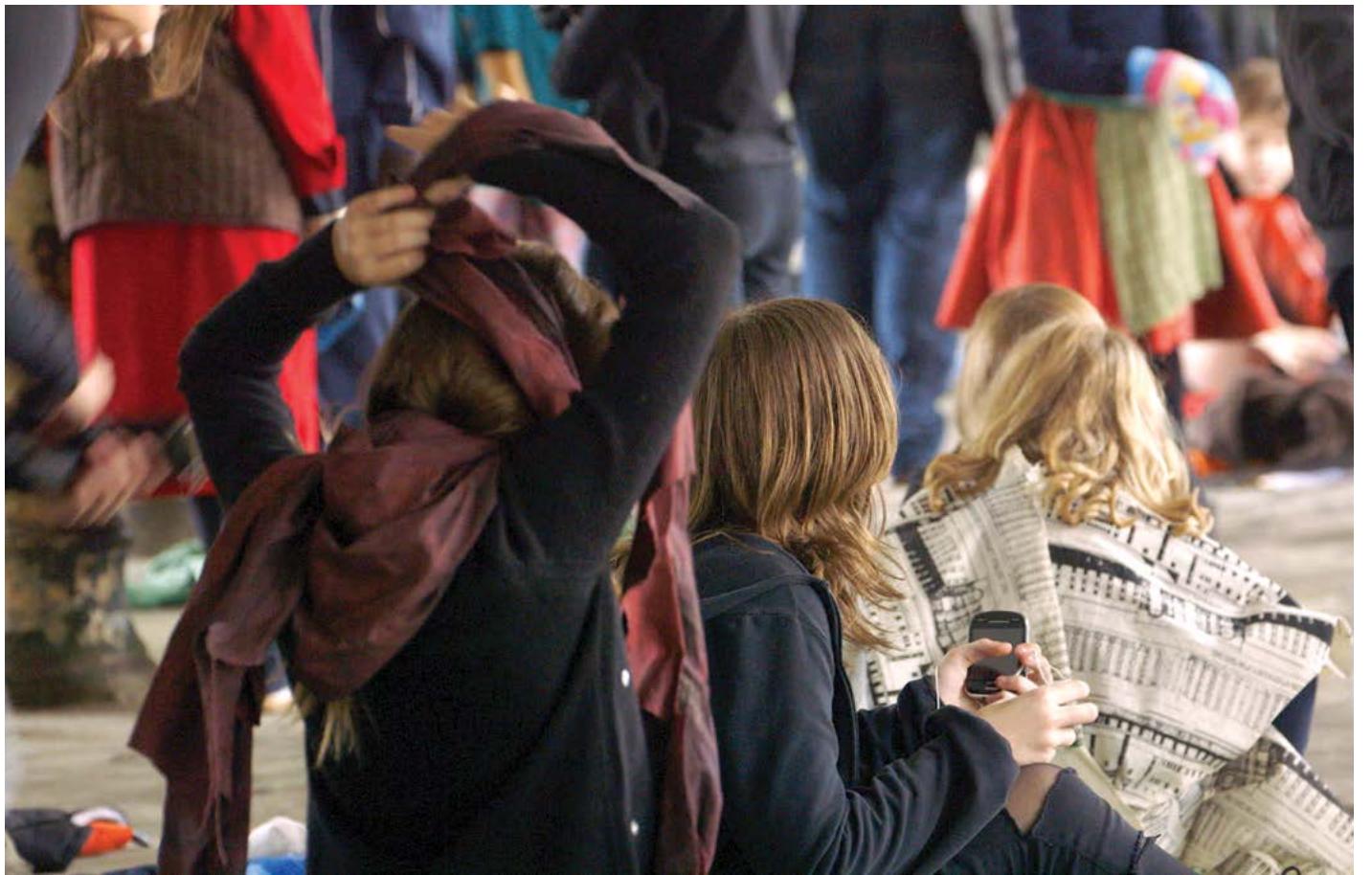
su naizgled različiti rade zajedno kako bi stvorili nešto čarobno. Na taj način možemo ponovno definirati pojmove gradske uprave, građanskog vlasništva, javnih prostora te međugeneracijske suradnje.

### Mjesto čuđenja

Djeca mogu ponuditi mnogo toga zajednicama u kojima žive, no za to im rijetko dajemo priliku ili priznanje. Ona imaju vlastita mišljenja i zamisli. Ona naporno rade, stvaraju i dolaze do vlastitih zaključaka. Uz to, ona posjeduju još nešto, nešto što mnogi od nas izgube no čemu svi težimo – sposobnost čuđenja. Čuđenje omogućuje djeci da dobiju uvid u ono što treba učiniti u budućnosti. Razmotrimo ove drevne riječi palestinskog preobraćenika Bena Heija Heija, sljedbenika Hillela i rabinskog učenjaka koji je djelovao u prvom stoljeću:

„Trud je samom sebi nagrada.  
Ovdje smo kako bismo djelovali.  
I učili kroz djelovanje;  
I postigli spoznaju kroz učenje;  
I iskusili čuđenje kroz spoznaju;  
I stekli mudrost kroz čuđenje;  
I otkrili jednostavnost kroz čuđenje;  
I kroz jednostavnost pridali pozornost;  
I kroz pozornost  
vidjeli što treba učiniti...“





*Everything they did was an act of creation. Not because they were intentionally creating. Because they just were. The young artists evoked wonder in me, the viewer, as they made their art. I pondered the artistic project that transpired as they wandered around life.*



Simply by existing, the children are creating. Wonder bounces into the film with their tiniest of movements and echoes to a looped, roaring, sound-and-vision-making machine. It manifests doubly here: as a way of deeply experiencing art for the viewer and as the particular way of being for children. Wonder is a state that deserves to be cherished. It can be the pure pleasure of riveting confusion. In early scenes of the film, in which the actors break into the Benčić site to find costumes on the floor, they are overcome with a sense of wonder expressed in the moment as a happy astonishment.

*These were the kids' costumes, designed with their input on colour, texture, and form by designer Tamar Ginati. I saw these costumes come together. They belonged to the cast because they had their hands in making them. They were wrestled over ready heads to be tested, added to. One young actor wanted a mesh orange bag as her mask.*

The scene is one of authentic surprise: the children had no idea the costumes would be waiting for them and, excitedly, they dive into dressing themselves without instruction. We see them flip scarves, zip each other



Ovaj je odlomak poput bojnog pokliča koji postavlja čuđenje u samo središte procesa otkrivanja. Kroz naporan rad, uzdižemo se prema čuđenju te se otvaramo prema pažnji i brizi.

*Moralam sam u potpunosti izaći iz same sebe kako bih mogla zamisliti što bih učinila da sam dijete. Obuzeta stanjem čuđenja, napravila bih dijagram, nacrtala grad, izradila masku od šarenog papira i perja za prijateljicu, kreirala igru, otpjevala pjesmu, mučila se isplesti džemper za stablo ili šarala po svom dnevniku dok ne bih postigla nešto između crtanja i pisanja. Sakrila bih se u ormari. Trčala bih po šumi. Otišla bih kako bih mogla početi ispočetka.*

Čuđenje je povezano s nadom, s maštom i sa znatiželjom. Ono podupire djelovanje i stvaralačko izražavanje djece i njihov rad. Dokazi čuđenja pojavljuju se na licima glumaca uz suptilni tračak introspekcije, poput mreže koja hvala njihovu znatiželju dok ona leti pred njihovim očima. Riječ je o duboko emotivnom divljenju spram drugima, koje izbija u obliku zamahivanja kosom kao da je ona griva, ili pak u obliku lupanja šakom o stol. Ona razmišljaju, nagađaju, upijaju i poletno slažu komadiće slagalice.

up, button one another's plackets, add one layer over another, and parade about proudly, ready to work and play. Their wonder gives way to preparedness. As Hei Hei saw, wonder reveals to us the work that needs to be done.

The soundscape to this scene is the children's voices. They are reading letters they've written to Rikard Benčić, the young local worker, partisan, and Second World War hero after whom the factory was named during the industrial reorganization of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Rikard Benčić is a symbol of youthful energy that stands in stark contrast to the factory itself—a set of crumbling, abandoned old buildings long past their prime. The children's letters are effectively odes to what once was: "It's wonderful in this building, like a searing sun in the sky and beautiful white snow that falls quickly like little sheep," declaims one. "Palace glistens like a tear," says another. The children, fascinated with this decrepit building, know what needs to be done: for them Benčić is a searing sun, thick snow, or a glistening tear of immeasurable value that must be cherished. Thauberger's parable makes me remember that as a child my own sense of wonder became stronger in the face of decay and limited resources.



*A dank hole in the ground under the side porch filled with shards of broken glass was a mine of rare gemstones. The Campbell's soups my family could afford (and which didn't require knife skills to prepare) were the menu features at the ad hoc home-based restaurant I invited them to for lunch. There, I was proudly hostess, server, chef, and dishwasher.*

It is unnecessary to be privy to the children's thoughts, opinions, imaginings, and dreams of the future to know that they are real and wholly independent in their essence of those of the generation that preceded them, those who worked at the factory in reality. As Kahlil Gibran wrote:

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not  
even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

Like many writers, Gibran is connecting the power of children to the future. We cannot visit their house of tomorrow—we can't even comprehend it. But we can strive to be like them, to learn from them.

### Umjetničko stvaralaštvo djece: Čuđenje susreće čuđenje

Čuđenje je nešto što osjećaju djeca i nešto što nadahnjuje umjetnost. Što se onda događa kada djeca stvaraju umjetnost? U filmu *Preuzmimo Benčić*, dječje se čuđenje pojavljuje u obliku zavjese koja se ne može razgrnuti: ono se nalazi posvuda.

*„Sve što su oni činili predstavljalo je čin stvaranja. Ne zato što su oni stvarali s namjerom, nego zato što su jednostavno bivali. Kao gledateljici, mladi umjetnici su u meni izazvali čuđenje dok su stvarali svoju umjetnost. Dok su oni istraživali život, ja sam promišljala umjetnički projekt koji se odvijao pred mojim očima.“*

Djeca stvaraju samim time što postoje. U filmu, čuđenje se odražava u svakom od njihovih najsitnijih pokreta i u odjecima neprekidne huke stroja koji stvara zvuk i sliku. Ono se ovdje manifestira dvojako: kao način na koji gledatelj može duboko doživjeti umjetnost, te kao specifičnost samog dječjeg bivanja i postojanja. Čuđenje je stanje koje valja njegovati. Ono može predstavljati čisti užitak sveobuzimajuće zbumjenosti. U ranijim scenama u filmu, u kojima glumci provlažu u Benčić te nalaze kostime na podu, oni su obuzeti osjećajem čuđenja koji se, u tom trenutku, izražava u obliku veselog divljenja.

*„To su bili kostimi djece koje su ona stvarala zajedno s dizajnericom Tamar Ginatti, pritom predlažući vlastite zamisli o boji, teksturi i obliku. Promatrala*

This scene of dressing and reading shifts to action. It is opulent with mustard mesh, slick blue plaid, and other costume details, and its choreography is as fresh and intricate as these textures: lush, considered, responsive, and personal. Each child spontaneously contributes to a range of movements present and historical—the movements of the factory worker they embody, or those that the equipment imposes upon their characters. The children are at once the semi-fictional labourers, the production line itself, and themselves, performers improvising. They fold, they press, they crush, they cushion. They bend their fingers nimbly in the performance of a task I cannot ascertain but that, conjured up in my mind, requires the most delicate touch. With their hands, they slice the present atmosphere carefully. They handle heat, ethereally. Their vocalizations rustle, bang, beep, and ding against the walls. They grind against imagined tasks and hiss airily, expelling the effort. Manufacturing history, meaning, and spontaneity, they are machines. And in this moment, the wonder belongs to me.

Throughout the film, Rikard Benčić is to the children a character of fascination and a metaphor for the factory itself. In a later scene, a pivotal moment, the young Rikard gifts the factory to his sister. The actors, Lorena and Borna, perform a duet, exploring the cavernous space with dance. Their dance evokes Rikard's body, creating it as a character *within* the building named in honour of his memory. His body is a marker that tells a story of what might have happened in the industrial space that is, in Rijeka, Rikard's extant, ironic monument. They are occupying the body of history as they occupy the factory.

*sam proces nastanka ovih kostima. Budući da su oni sudjelovali u njihovoј izradi, oni su pripadali glumcima. Oni su ih rado navlačili kako bih ih isprobali ili pridodali još nešto. Jedna je mlada glumica poželjela imati masku u obliku mrežaste narančaste torbe.“*

Riječ je o sceni koja sadrži iskreni osjećaj iznenađenosti: djeca nisu imala pojma da će ih kostimi dočekati te su se uzbudeno počela oblačiti, a da nisu sačekala upute. Možemo ih vidjeti kako se zamataju u šalove, zakopčavaju jedno drugom zatvarače i dugmad, nabacuju odjeću u slojevima te kako se ponosno šepure uokolo, spremni za rad i igru. Čuđenje počinje polagano prelaziti u pripremljenost. Kao što je Hei Hei primijetio, čuđenje nam razotkriva zadatke koje je potrebno obaviti.

Zvučna kulisa za ovu scenu pojavljuje se u obliku dječjih glasova. Djeca čitaju pisma koja su ona napisala Rikardu Benčiću, mladom lokalnom radniku, partizanu i heroju Drugoga svjetskog rata u čiju čast je tvorničko postrojenje preimenovano prilikom industrijske reorganizacije unutar Socijalističke Federativne Republike Jugoslavije. Rikard Benčić predstavlja simbol mladenačke energije koja se nalazi u suštini suprotnosti sa samom tvornicom – skupom oronulih i napuštenih zgrada čije je zlatno doba davno minulo. U biti, dječja pisma predstavljaju ode onome što je nekoć bilo: „U ovoj zgradi je predivno kao užareno sunce na nebu i prelijepi bijeli snijeg koji gusto pada kao bijele ovčice“, veli jedno dijete. „Palača blista kao suza“, kaže drugo. Djeca su fascinirana ovom oronulom zgradom te znaju što im je

Their movements and vocalizations seem to respond to this call: “On the cold stage set of air currents, empty spaces and boxes, we must refill, recapture weight and place, anchor and reinvest this territory delivered to the winds and occupy the territory of the city.”<sup>3</sup> Written by Henri Lefebvre with Pierre Guilbault and Serge Renaudie in 1986, this is part of a philosophical examination of Lefebvre’s idea of *autogestion*: the self-management of a factory by its workers.<sup>4</sup> Lefebvre believed that if individuals are unable to make choices about their city, the resulting isolation and solitude becomes a collective solitude. When left unaddressed, it compromises both the development of the individual and the group. The young dancers inhabit the body of space, seeing with its eyes, recapturing its weight, resisting collective solitude by working together.

3. Sabine Bitter & Helmut Weber (Eds.), *Autogestion, or Henri Lefebvre in New Belgrade*, (Vancouver: Fillip Editions, 2009), 5.

4. During their research of New Belgrade, this text was dug up by artists Sabine Bitter and Helmut Weber and reproduced for the first time in 2009 in the book *Autogestion, or Henri Lefebvre in New Belgrade*.

5. Susan Leigh Foster, *Choreographing Empathy: Kinesthesia in Performance*, (New York: Routledge, 2011), 10.

činiti: za njih, Benčić je žarko sunce, gusti snijeg ili blistava suza neprocjenjive vrijednosti koju valja paziti i maziti. Parabola A. Thauberger u meni izaziva sjećanje na dane mojeg djetinjstva, kada bi moj osjećaj čuđenja još više jačao, jer bi bio suočen s propadanjem i ograničenim resursima.

*„Vlažna rupa u zemlji pokraj trijema, испunjена krhotinama slomljenog stakla, predstavljala je rudnik rijetkih dragulja. Campbellove juhe koje su mi moji roditelji mogli priuštiti (i za čiju pripremu nije bilo potrebno rukovanje nožem) bile su specijalitet jelovnika mog ad hoc kućnog restorana gdje sam ih pozivala na ručak. U njemu, ja sam s ponosom igrala ulogu domaćice, konobarice, kuharice i peračice suđa.“*

Nije nužno biti u potpunosti upoznat s dječjim mislima, razmišljanjima, maštanjima i snovima o budućnosti da bismo znali da su ona, u svojoj suštini, u potpunosti stvarna i nezavisna od misli i snova generacija koje su im prethodile – onih koji su u stvarnosti radili u tvornici. Kao što je Kahlil Gibran napisao:

*„Možete im dati svoju ljubav, ali ne i svoje misli,  
Jer, oni imaju vlastite misli.  
Možete okućiti njihova tijela, ali ne i njihove duše,  
Jer, njihove duše borave u kući od sutra, koju vi ne možete posjetiti, čak ni u svojim snima.*





throughout the vast room, then she dances and it is Borna's turn to describe. From the focus on the pair's faces, I believe it is wonder that curls their spines deeper as they bend and empathy that prompts their improvisation and shared understanding. They answer this question out loud: "What is happening here and how do I put it into words?" Their connection is not confined to the limits of their limbs. Instead they branch out to one another at the level of the mind.

The dialogue that the children create is as surprising as the choreography, and all the more so when speech and movement intersect. In yet another scene, wonder is simply expression. Two young guys are debating what the factory might be used for in the future, and musing about various galleries. One suggests that they need one of the galleries for fighting. The other comes up with the idea of exhibiting "sleeves that stretch out like this." In the moment, he grabs the other's sleeve with a smirk and pulls it out and behind a structural pillar until the material stretches across the entire frame of the camera. The moment is entirely spontaneous, hilarious, and disrupts the frame with visual vigour and hoopla. We are witness to the kids' wonder, *unadulterated*. (Let's think about the meaning of that word given such lyrical definition, here.)

This way kids have of inviting unanticipated possibility can be positively shocking to adults. In the context of a group conversation about possible futures, sustainability, and art called *Disruptive Imaginings*, my colleague Erika Gregory shared a short conversation she'd had with her young child that demonstrated just how much adults are able to learn from kids:<sup>8</sup>

6. Ibid, 156.

7. <http://www.brainfacts.org/brain-basics/neuroanatomy/articles/2008/mirror-neurons/>, accessed June 19, 2015.

8. *Disruptive Imaginings* is a loosely framed experiment in building collective imagination through the intersection of the arts, futures and sustainability. The goal is to imagine alternative futures and to engage together in a process of making a more sustainable world for all.



Možete se upinjati da budete kao oni, ali ne tražite od njih da budu poput vas. Jer, život ne ide unatrag niti ostaje na prekjučer."

Poput mnogih pisaca, Gibran povezuje moć djece s budućnošću. Ne možemo posjetiti njihovu kuću sutrašnjice, ne možemo ju čak ni razumjeti. No, ono što možemo jest težiti biti poput njih i učiti od njih.

Scena oblačenja i čitanja prelazi u djelovanje. Obiluje mrežom boje senfa, elegantnim plavim kariranim uzorcima te ostalim kostimografskim detaljima, dok je popratna koreografija svježa i pomno istkana, baš poput i samih kostima te je bogata, pomno razmotrena, osjetljiva i osobna. Svako dijete spontano pridonosi rasponu pokreta, bilo suvremenih ili povijesnih – pokretima tvorničkog radnika kojeg utjelovljuju ili pokretima koje tvornička oprema nameće likovima. Djeca ujedno predstavljaju polu-fikcionalne radnike, samu proizvodnu liniju te sebe same; ona su izvođači koji improviziraju. Ona slažu, glaćaju i gnječe. Ona vješto rade prstima dok izvode zadatok koji ja ne mogu točno odrediti no koji, u mojoj mašti, zahtijeva najnježnije dodire. Sa svojim rukama, djeca pažljivo presijecaju trenutnu atmosferu. Ona rukuju topinom na eteričan način. Njihovi glasovi šuškaju, praskaju, cikću i odjekuju od zidova. Ona se zdušno hvataju zamišljenih zadataka i uzdišu kako bi otpustila napor. Ona su strojevi koji proizvode povijest, značenje i spontanost. U ovome trenutku, čuđenje pripada meni.

Tijekom čitavog filma, Rikard Benčić djeci predstavlja intrigantnu figuru te metaforu za samu tvornicu. U ključnom trenutku jedne kasnije scene, mladi

Rikard daruje tvornicu svojoj sestri. Glumci, Lorena i Borna, izvode duet koji istražuje ovaj špiljasti prostor pomoću plesa. Njihov ples doziva Rikardovo tijelo, tvoreći od njega lik unutar zgrade nazvane njemu u čast. Njegovo tijelo predstavlja oznaku u priči koja pripovijeda o svemu što se moglo dogoditi unutar ovog industrijskog prostora koji, u današnjoj Rijeci, predstavlja ironični spomenik. Okupirajući tvornicu, ona okupiraju i tijelo povijesti.

Čini se da njihovi pokreti i vokalizacije odgovaraju na ovaj poziv: „Hladnu pozornicu zračnih strujanja, praznih prostora i kutija moramo ponovno ispuniti, podariti joj težinu, mjesto i usidrenost, prenamijeniti ono što je bilo prepusteno vjetru te okupirati prostor.“<sup>3</sup> Riječ je o ulomku iz filozofskog pregleda o zamisli o samoupravljanju (*autogestion*) koju je Henri Lefebvre 1986. godine razradio s Pierreom Guilbaulom i Sergeom Renaudiejem: o radničkom samoupravljanju tvornicom.<sup>4</sup> Lefebvre je vjerovao da, ako pojedincima nije omogućeno donositi odluke vezane uz vlastiti grad, osjećaj otuđenja i samoće koji nastaje kao posljedica ugrožava kako razvoj pojedinca, tako i zajednice. Mladi plesači ulaze u tijelo prostora te ga gledaju kroz njegove oči, ponovno mu pridajući težinu te odupirući se kolektivnoj samoći kroz zajednički rad.

3. Sabine Bitter & Helmut Weber (ur.), *Autogestion, or Henri Lefebvre in New Belgrade*, Vancouver: Fillip Editions, 2009, 5.

4. Tijekom njihovog istraživanja Novog Beograda, ovaj tekst su iskopali umjetnici Sabine Bitter i Helmut Weber te ga po prvi put reproducirali 2009. godine u knjizi *Autogestion, or Henri Lefebvre in New Belgrade*.

5. Susan Leigh Foster, *Choreographing Empathy: Kinesthesia in Performance*, New York: Routledge, 2011., 10.

### Empatija prema tvornici, priči i Drugome

Termin „empatija“ ili *Einfühlung* su skovali njemački estetičari kako bi opisali čin promatranja slike i skulptura; empatija se smatrala odgovorom na fizičko iskustvo, npr. na gledanje umjetnosti.<sup>5</sup> Proširujući empatiju i druge oblike

umjetnosti, Susan Leigh Foster predložila je postojanje empatije u obliku koreografije, s vjerom u to da načine na koje se povezujemo s osjećajima drugih možemo kultivirati pokretima – te da se namjera može iščitati kroz promatranje pokreta.<sup>6</sup> Uzrok ovom fenomenu možemo pronaći na neutralnoj razini: iste neurone emaniramo kada izvodimo neku radnju i kada je promatramo.<sup>7</sup> Lorena najprije opisuje Bornine pokrete kroz nepreglednost prostorije, onda izvodi svoj ples, a na Borni je red za opisivanje. Koliko se može protumačiti iz lica ovog dvojca, vjerujem da je čuđenje to što izvija njihova tijela sve više i više te empatija ono što potiče improvizaciju i zajedničko razumijevanje. Oni naglas odgovaraju na iduće pitanje: Što se ovdje događa i kako to mogu izraziti riječima? Njihova povezanost nije ograničena na njihove udove. Umjesto toga, oni se spajaju jedno s drugim na razini uma.

Dijalog koji djeca stvaraju jednako je iznenađujući koliko i koreografija, tim više kada se govor i pokret ispresijecaju. U još jednoj sceni, izražavanje samo po sebi predstavlja čuđenje. Dva dječaka raspravljaju o mogućim namjenama tvornice u budućnosti te promišljaju o različitim halama. Jedan od njih predlaže da se jedna od hala može iskoristiti za borbe, dok drugi izlaže zamisao o izlaganju „rukava koji se ovako isteže“. U tom trenutku, on zgrabi rukav drugog glumca uz cerek te ga počne izvlačiti i motati oko potpornog stupa sve dok se materijal ne protegne preko čitavog kadra. Trenutak je u potpunosti spontan i smiješan te lomi kadar svojom vizualnom živošću i uzbuđenjem. Svjedočimo dječjem čuđenju u čistom izdanju (promislimo malo o definiciji te riječi u skladu s lirskim opisima ovdje).

She: "What came before humans?"

He: "Dinosaurs."

She: "...and before that?"

He: "Before the dinosaurs there was only the future."

What total freedom this perspective offers! The future, we learn from those of us unencumbered by convention and rules, is all that comes before the past.

The minds of adults, weary adults, require great efforts of the imagination to think laterally and expansively this way. We struggle to conceive of the vastness of potential, to harness our curiosity about the universe and the limitless possibilities of our world. A lack of wonder holds us back. So what if we learn to be surprised again?

Musagetes engaged filmmaker Althea Thauberger to create a new work in Rijeka. To our surprise she was drawn to work with young people in this abandoned factory. (As is often the case, Musagetes had no specific approach or theme in mind.) Thauberger has a reputation for reconciling seemingly rival considerations in her artistic process: making a solid work of contemporary art while creating a space in which she and her collaborators are able to enjoy, contribute, challenge, stimulate, and learn from each other. Musagetes wondered—with a mix of eager inquisitiveness and trust in process—just what would be born of her equanimous commitment to ideas and to the communities with which she works, in the context of Rijeka. Musagetes espouses a manifesto that includes the following

6. Ibid, 156.

7. <http://www.brainfacts.org/brain-basics/neuroanatomy/articles/2008/mirror-neurons/>, preuzeto 19. lipnja 2015.

prescription in the list of fundamental attributes of artistic creativity that the organization believes to be capable of transforming modern life: its outcome must be “unpredictable—it accepts ambiguity, mystery, and paradox. It accepts the potential for epiphany and exaltation and for fun and delight.”<sup>9</sup> Thauberger’s process encapsulates this visually in *Preuzmimo Benčić*: exalted unpredictability.

### Invisible Effects of Art

From the things we can see to the others we cannot.

Some of the invisible bits of Thauberger’s film leave deliberate gaps in the larger narrative. We aren’t given the beginning or the end—how the characters arrive at where they are or where they are headed. We land in *medias res*, just before the mayors come to take back the factory from the artist occupiers, and conflict ensues. Because of this, things are left pending, ajar; the main storyline is unresolved. Who is taking back the factory from whom? The former workers toil on creative pursuits at Benčić only to be challenged by the very municipality that granted them permission in the first place. Even by the end of the film, the two groups have not settled the question of to whom the space belongs. Angrily, they stomp off as a group. They declare, “We’re going for lunch!” This act is spontaneous and unscripted. Then they march back to their green room, chanting.

9. <http://musagetes.ca/manifesto/>, accessed January 12, 2015.

Ovaj način na koji djeca pozivaju neočekivane mogućnosti može biti u potpunosti šokantan odraslima. U kontekstu grupnog razgovora o mogućoj budućnosti, održivosti i umjetnosti pod nazivom *Disruptivne imaginacije* (*Disruptive Imaginings*), moja kolegica Erika Gregory podijelila je kratki razgovor sa svojim malim djetetom koji zorno predočava koliko toga odrasli mogu naučiti od djece:<sup>8</sup>

Majka: „Što je bilo prije ljudi?“

Dijete: „Dinosauri.“

Majka: „...a prije toga?“

Dijete: „Prije dinosaure postojala je samo budućnost.“

Kakvu li slobodu omogućava ovakva perspektiva! Budućnost je, kao što možemo naučiti od onih koji nisu opterećeni konvencijama i pravilima, sve što dolazi *prije* prošlosti.

Umovi odraslih ljudi, umornih odraslih ljudi, moraju se jako potruditi kako bi dosegli razinu mašte koja je potrebna da bi se razmišljalo na ovako lateralan i sveobuhvatan način. Mi se koprcamo pri zamišljanju nepreglednosti potencijala, kako bismo upregnuli znatiželju o svemiru i neograničenim mogućnostima našeg svijeta. Nedostatak čuđenja nas ograničava. Što bi se dogodilo kada bismo ponovno naučili čuditi se?

Fondacija MUSAGETES angažirala je redateljicu Altheu Thauberger za stvaranje novog djela u Rijeci.

8. *Disruptivne imaginacije* predstavljaju labavo koncipiran eksperiment u izgradnji kolektivne imaginacije kroz ispresjecanje umjetnosti, budućnosti i održivosti. Clij je zamišljati alternativne budućnosti te djelovati zajedno u svrhu stvaranja održivog svijeta za sve: <http://disruptiveimaginings.weebly.com/>



The very reason that the collection of *de facto* workers has become a group of artists is vague as the kids act out their adult roles. Do they believe that creative industries will provide the means to a thriving, reborn city centre? Or have they renounced a world based on reason, rationalism, and economic measurements for one in which creative freedom, self-expression, and the search for deep understanding of life's complex nuances abound?

What Thauberger's film so animatedly shows is that children are spirited, inventive, and hungry for change. The kids enter the lofty space of the abandoned factory and their very presence imbues it with new meaning. They love the place and, through the medium of film, they speak to us not only of what stands in the city's way, but also, indirectly, of the obstacles of control and lack of empathy that children have to contend with. Thus, the two groups at war end their dispute abruptly to go to lunch. They stomp off—but together. They become a clump. The artists appear to have been mollified by the chance to break bread with the mayors who are suddenly their peers. They've been

Iznenadilo nas je to što ju je privukla zamisao rada s mladim ljudima u ovoj napuštenoj tvornici. (Kao što je to često slučaj, MUSAGETES nije imala na umu nikakav specifični pristup ili temu). Thauberger prati glas da njezin umjetnički proces ima moć pomiriti naizgled suprotstavljene poglede: ona stvara solidni rad suvremene umjetnosti te ujedno stvara prostor unutar kojeg ona i njezini suradnici imaju mogućnost uživati, sudjelovati, poticati te učiti jedni od drugih. MUSAGETES se zapitala – pritom izražavajući spoj revne ljubopitljivosti i povjerenja – što bi se točno izrodilo iz njezine staložene predanosti zamislima i zajednicama s kojima radi u kontekstu Rijeke? MUSAGETES promiče Manifest koji uključuje sljedeću preporuku unutar popisa temeljnih značajki umjetničkog stvaralaštva za koje naša organizacija vjeruje da su sposobne preobraziti suvremeniji život: njegov ishod mora biti „nepredvidljiv – ono prihvata višežnačnost, zagonetnost i paradoksalnost. Ono prihvata potencijal otkrića, ushićenja, zabave i oduševljenja.“<sup>9</sup> Proces A. Thauberger vizualno utjelovljuje ovu filozofiju u filmu *Preuzmimo Benčić*: uzvišenu nepredvidljivost.

### Nevidljivi učinci umjetnosti

Od onog što možemo vidjeti do onoga što drugi ne mogu.

Neki nevidljivi dijelovi filma A. Thauberger ostavljaju namjerne rupe u širem narativu. Nemamo uvid ni u početak, niti u kraj – kako likovi dolaze tamo gdje se nalaze te kamo se oni kreću. Bačeni smo *in medias res*, trenutak prije nego što gradski oci dolaze kako bi ponovno preuzeli tvornicu od

9. <http://musagetes.ca manifesto/>, preuzeto u siječnju 2015.

co-opted, and while there are a few grunts and games shared in the scenes that ensue, the story as we know it is over. Nothing is the same after the mayors and artists envelop each other and go to lunch. Wonder has been set aside, replaced with bodily needs, a timeline, a distraction.

Or has it? Have the artists really been co-opted? The artists have their own authority after all. They're more knowledgeable about the site through their perseverance and their lived experience in it. And, as a clump, the artists and mayors assert authority as a team over the entire production as they decide the scene is over and leave together. They pull the plug. And the question of whom the factory belongs to is sucked out of the room when they walk off the set.

### The Benčić Family: Kinship Through Art

Thauberger is able to put the story into play (her success is that it's quickly no longer "her" story, but the children's, Rikard's, Rijeka's) because the plot of the film is echoed by the actual situation of the occupation of the Benčić factory that was afforded the production. With the support of the film crew, childcare staff, and the families of the children, approximately 70 kids assumed occupancy of the buildings from September 13 to October 23, 2014, for a plethora of sessions of collaborative story development, research, rehearsal, exploration, play, and art/video production.

Tellingly, the organizing and political principle of *Preuzmimo Benčić* is its nonhierarchical quality. The dialogue, costumes, shooting, and plot were



umjetnika-okupatora te se rađa konflikt. Zbog toga, sve ostaje neizvjesno i otvoreno; glavna priča ostaje nerazriješenom. Tko preuzima tvornicu od koga? Bivši radnici naporno rade na kreativnim aktivnostima, no na kraju im se suprotstavljaju ona ista upravna tijela koja su im prije toga dala dozvolu. Čak i na samom završetku filma, ove dvije skupine još nisu razriješile pitanje – kome pripada prostor? Razlučeni, oni demonstrativno odlaze u skupini. Oni izjavljuju: „Idemo na ručak!“. Ovaj čin je spontan te se ne nalazi u scenariju. Oni odmarširaju natrag u zelenu prostoriju, skandirajući.

Razlog zbog kojeg je ova skupina *de facto* radnika postala grupom umjetnika ostaje nejasnom dok djeca glume svoje odrasle uloge. Vjeruju li ona da će kreativna industrija ponovno oživjeti gradsko središte? Ili su se ona pak pomirila sa svijetom utemeljenom u razumu, racionalizmu i gospodarskim mjerama

primjenjenim na svijet koji obiluje kreativnom slobodom, samoizražavanjem i potragom za dubokim razumijevanjem vlastitog života?

Ono što Thaubergerin film tako zorno prikazuje jest da su djeca puna elana, inventivna i gladna promjena. Djeca ulaze u veliki prostor napuštene tvornice, pri čemu njihova sama prisutnost već ispunjava prostor novim značenjem. Oni vole taj prostor te, kroz medij filma, govore nam ne samo o tome što stoji gradu na putu, već neizravno i o preprekama koje predstavljaju kontrola i nedostatak empatije s kojima se djeca moraju suočiti. Na taj način, dvije zaraćene skupine



largely co-determined by the director, cast, crew, and childcare team. The entire creative process was empathetic, usually with invisible connections to the past, to another self. The children worked closely with the costume designers and the director to come up with their outfits for the project: layers of fabrics, masks, gloves, textures, colours, and prints were tested and refined in cahoots. The childcare team and the director deliberated games, pedagogical frameworks, and exercises to help the kids build their individual characters: the kids developed ID cards that defined profiles for each character in the film, including their age, their family background, and their occupation at the factory. Everyone involved built the right atmosphere around the project—laughter, affection, and camaraderie mushroomed between the artist, cast, crew, and childcare team.

The support of the kids' parents meant that they could fully commit to the months of concept-development leading up to the shoot. A warm, welcoming, safe, and inspiring environment was created for the children before, during, and after shooting at the H-Objekt at the Sugar Refinery by the childcare team. They called it their green room. The co-directors (members of the crew and childcare team) sat and talked for hours every evening after the shoots and discussed the day's highs and lows and the effectiveness and intuitive meaning of the various experiments of their rehearsals and shooting.

okončavaju svoj sukob te odlaze na ručak. Oni demonstrativno odlaze - zajedno. Postaju gomila. Čini se da umjetnike omekša prilika druženja s gradskim ocima, koji su odjednom postali njihovi drugovi. Oni tako postaju prisvojeni te, iako nešto negodovanja i iskrica slijedi u idućim scenama, priča kakvu znamo je završena. Ništa nije isto nakon što se gradski oci i umjetnici međusobno shvate i odu zajedno na ručak. Čuđenje je ostavljeno sa strane te zamijenjeno tjelesnim potrebama, vremenskom linijom i razbibrigom.

No, je li to uistinu tako? Jesu li umjetnici zaista prisvojeni? Konačno, i umjetnici imaju vlastiti autoritet. Oni posjeduju veće znanje o tvornici zahvaljujući svojoj ustrajnosti i svojem proživljenom iskustvu u njoj. Kao gomila, umjetnici i gradski oci nameću autoritet nad čitavim procesom kada odlučuju da je scena završena te odlaze zajedno. Oni odlučuju o kraju. Pritom, čitavo pitanje o tome kome tvornica pripada odlazi iz prostorije zajedno s njima.

### Obitelj Benčić: Srodstvo kroz umjetnost

Thauberger je u mogućnosti pokrenuti čitavu priču, pri čemu njezin uspjeh leži u tom da priča vrlo brzo prestaje biti „njena“ te postaje priča djece, Rikarda i Rijeke, budući da čitav film odražava stvarnu priču okupacije tvornice u sklopu produkcije. Uz potporu filmske ekipe i obitelji djece, otprilike sedamdesetoro djece zauzelo je zgrade između 13. rujna i 23. listopada 2014. godine kako bi se održalo pregršt sastanaka vezanih uz suradnički razvoj priče, istraživanje, isprobavanje, igru i umjetničku video produkciju.



Indikativno, organizacijski i politički princip koji određuje *Preuzmimo Benčić* njegova je nehijerarhijska kvaliteta. Dijalog, kostime, tehnike snimanja i fabulu su uglavnom odredili redatelj, glumci, filmska ekipa i ekipa odgajatelja. Čitav kreativni proces bio je empatične naravi, obično s nevidljivim vezama s prošlošću, s drugim sebstvom. Djeca su usko surađivala s kostimografima i redateljicom kako bi osmislili svoje kostime za projekt: slojevi tkanine, maske, rukavice, teksture, boje i uzorci ispitivali su se i razrađivali zajednički. Ekipa odgajatelja i redateljica promišljali su o igrama, pedagoškim okvirima i vježbama koji su definirali profil svih likova u filmu – uključujući dob, obiteljsku pozadinu i zanimanje u tvornici. Svi uključeni sudionici radili su na razvijanju pravog ozračja za projekt – smijeh, privrženost i prijateljstvo brzo su se razvili između umjetnice, glumaca, ekipe i odgajatelja.

Podrška roditelja djece značila je da su se oni mogli u potpunosti predati mjesecima konceptualne razrade koja je prethodila snimanju. Ekipa odgajatelja stvorila je toplo, ugodno, sigurno i nadahnjujuće okružje za djecu prije, tijekom i nakon snimanja u H-objektu bivše Tvornice. Oni su je zvali svojom zelenom prostorijom. Pomoćni redatelji (članovi filmske ekipe i ekipe odgajatelja) zajedno su razgovarali satima svake večeri nakon snimanja te raspravljali o najboljim i najgorim trenutcima dana, učinkovitosti te o intuitivnom značenju raznih eksperimenata na probama i snimanju.

Obitelj koja je stvorena kroz ovakve trenutke – zajedničke užine, slaganje slagalica, rasprave uz kavu o scenama, čitanje jedni drugima te planiranje rasporeda za aktivnosti narednog dana – rezultat je slobodne strukture i principa

Thaubergerinog *modusa operandi*: svatko čisti za sobom, svi se brinemo za prostor. Na taj način, mnogo toga što možemo vidjeti i doživjeti prilikom gledanja filma rađa se iz ovakvih oblika suradnje i eksperimenata iza kulisa.

Zajednički, djeca i njihovi odgajatelji pomicu granice koje određuju kome je dozvoljeno stvarati i tko podučava koga, razvijajući duboku i duboku identifikaciju s usnulom tvornicom i njezinim bivšim radnicima, njegujući oblik empatije koji gleda u budućnost upravo zato što gleda unatrag.

Odgojna koordinatorica i pomoćna redateljica Natali Bosić podijelila je neke stvari koje su promijenile njezine vlastite poglede vezane uz invenciju i igru unutar ovog spontanog razgovora s glumcima – u sceni koja se ne pojavljuje u konačnoj obradi filma:

Pomoćni redatelji: „Što je s glumcima?“

Djeca: „Oni ne rade. Oni se zabavljaju.“

Natali: „U redu. No, što biste rekli za mene: radim li ja ovdje ili se igram?“

Djeca: „Naravno da ne radiš!“

Natali: „O, znači nije da provodim s vama čitav dan, hranim vas i dajem vam piće... Što radim čitavo ovo vrijeme koje provodimo zajedno?“

Djeca: „Igraš se! Igramo se skupa i zabavljamo!“<sup>10</sup>

Djeca govore svojoj odgajateljici Bosić da je i ona umjetnica te da postižemo empatiju kroz zajedništvo i kreativno razmišljanje – i da smo svi mi stvaratelji kada se igramo i zabavljamo.

The family that formed in these moments—sharing a snack, making a puzzle on the floor, debating a scene over coffee, reading to one another, planning the schedule for the next day's activities—came about as a result of the loose structure and principles of Thauberger's modus operandi: everyone cleans up after him and herself, we all care for the space. *We all work together*. So much of what we come to witness in the film, and that we experience as a result of it, comes together because of these behind-the-scenes collaborations and experiments.

Together, the children and their caretakers push boundaries determining who is able to create and who teaches whom, all the while developing a profound identification with the dormant factory and its former workers, cultivating a kind of empathy that reaches forward because it reaches back.

Childcare coordinator and co-director Natali Bosić shared some of what she learned that shifted her own views concerning invention and play, in this impromptu conversation with the cast—a scene that does not appear in the final edit of the film:

Co-directors: "What about artists?"

Kids: "They're not working. They're having fun."

Natali: "Okay. But what would you say for me: am I here working or am I playing?"

Kids: "Of course you're not working!"

Natali: "Oh, so I'm not with you all day, feeding you, giving you drinks..."

10. Intervju s autoricom, 5. listopada 2014.

What am I doing all that time we spend together?"

Kids: "You're playing! We're playing together and having fun."<sup>10</sup>

The children are telling Bosić, their caretaker, that she too is an artist, and that when we empathize through being *together* and thinking creatively—that when we are playing and having fun—we are all creators.

Thauberger's actors were not merely ciphers but necessary agents. Without their full participation as creative practitioners working in concert with the crew, the film would not have happened as it did. It is entirely as a result of their unfettered participation that Benčić—the film, the site, and the character—belongs to the kids. Ownership, we are taught, is typically a fact of capitalist exchange. But Benčić became the property of these young Rijekan actors through their acting, dancing, and vocalizing. A squatter's rights: show up, use a space, care for it over a period of time, and it becomes yours. It is science's "observer effect" applied: the occupation, contemplation, and use of Benčić alters its constitution.

The children, occupying the site and making it their illustrative playground, enliven the decayed building through exemplary improvisation; their spontaneous screams and yelps, echoing out to describe the shape of where the ceiling meets the walls, like the sonar calls of bats, which also have a fondness for play in abandoned buildings. The children's footsteps mark their paths, each one stomping out new ground, cleaned of cobwebs by being used.

10. Interview with the author, October 5, 2014.



Glumci A. Thauberger nisu bili tek beznačajne figure, već su predstavljali nužne činioce. Bez njihovog potpunog sudjelovanja u ulozi praktičara koji rade zajedno s filmskom ekipom, film se ne bi mogao odviti na način na koji se odvio. Upravo zahvaljujući njihovom neograničenom sudjelovanju, Benčić – film, mjesto i lik – pripada djeci. Uče nas da je vlasništvo činjenica kapitalističkih razmjena. Ipak, Benčić je postao vlasništvo ovih mladih riječkih glumaca kroz njihovu glumu, ples i vokalizacije. Riječ je o pravu skvotera: pojavi se, koristi neki prostor i brini se za njega neko određeno vrijeme, i on postaje tvojim. Primjenjuje se *Hawthorne efekt*: okupacija, kontemplacija i korištenje Benčića mijenja njegov sastav.

Djeca su oživjela oronulu zgradu okupirajući prostor i pre-tvarajući ga u vlastito ilustrativno igralište kroz vrsni primjer improvizacije; njihovi spontani krikovi i urlici odjekuju i ocrtavaju oblike prostorija poput sonara šišmiša, koji se, također, vole igrati u napuštenim prostorima. Dječji koraci označavaju njihove putanje, od kojih svaka krči novi prostor i kretanjem razgrće paučinu.

Kada pojedinci rade zajedno kako bi stvorili prostor koji je holistički, podržavajući i nad kojim svi mi imamo jednako vlasništvo, mnogo smo slobodniji osjetiti empatiju. Sigurni, zaigrani i misaoni prostor je otvoreniji prostor – te se u filmu Preuzmimo Benčić taj prostor ponovno preuzima kroz djelovanje

*When people work together to create a space that is holistic, supportive, and owned by each of us equally, all are able to feel empathy more freely. The safe, playful, thoughtful space is more open—and in *Preuzmimo Benčić* it is “taken back” through the agency of children. Just as adults can cultivate empathy in kids, they can teach adults about wonder.*

*When we are children we are always asking, “Why?” When we are adolescents, we are always trying not to. And when we are adults, we are always trying to answer. Some questions should be left to the imagination.*

I ask myself what happened to the mayors and artists. If I activate my child brain as Thauberger’s film demands I do, then I imagine that by refusing to participate in the production, they conflate the fictional world of the film with the real world of the project. If I think with wonder and empathy, I imagine that over lunch, the mayors and artists find each other and, through the discovery of work, understand that their common goal is to maintain the sleeping factory in good repair.

Through empathy they are able to work together to see what needs to be done.

djece. Baš kao što odrasli mogu razviti empatiju kod djece, tako djeca mogu naučiti odrasle o čuđenju.

„Dok smo djeca, stalno pitamo ‚Zašto?‘. Kada smo adolescenti, uvijek izbjegavamo to pitanje. A kada smo odrasli, uvijek pokušavamo odgovoriti na njega. Odgovore na neka pitanja treba prepustiti mašti.“

Pitam se što se dogodilo s gradskim ocima i umjetnicima. Ako aktiviram mozak na način na koji to Thaubergerin film zahtijeva od mene, onda zamišljam kako, kroz svoje odbijanje da sudjeluju u produkciji, izvođači spajaju svijet filma sa stvarnim svijetom projekta.

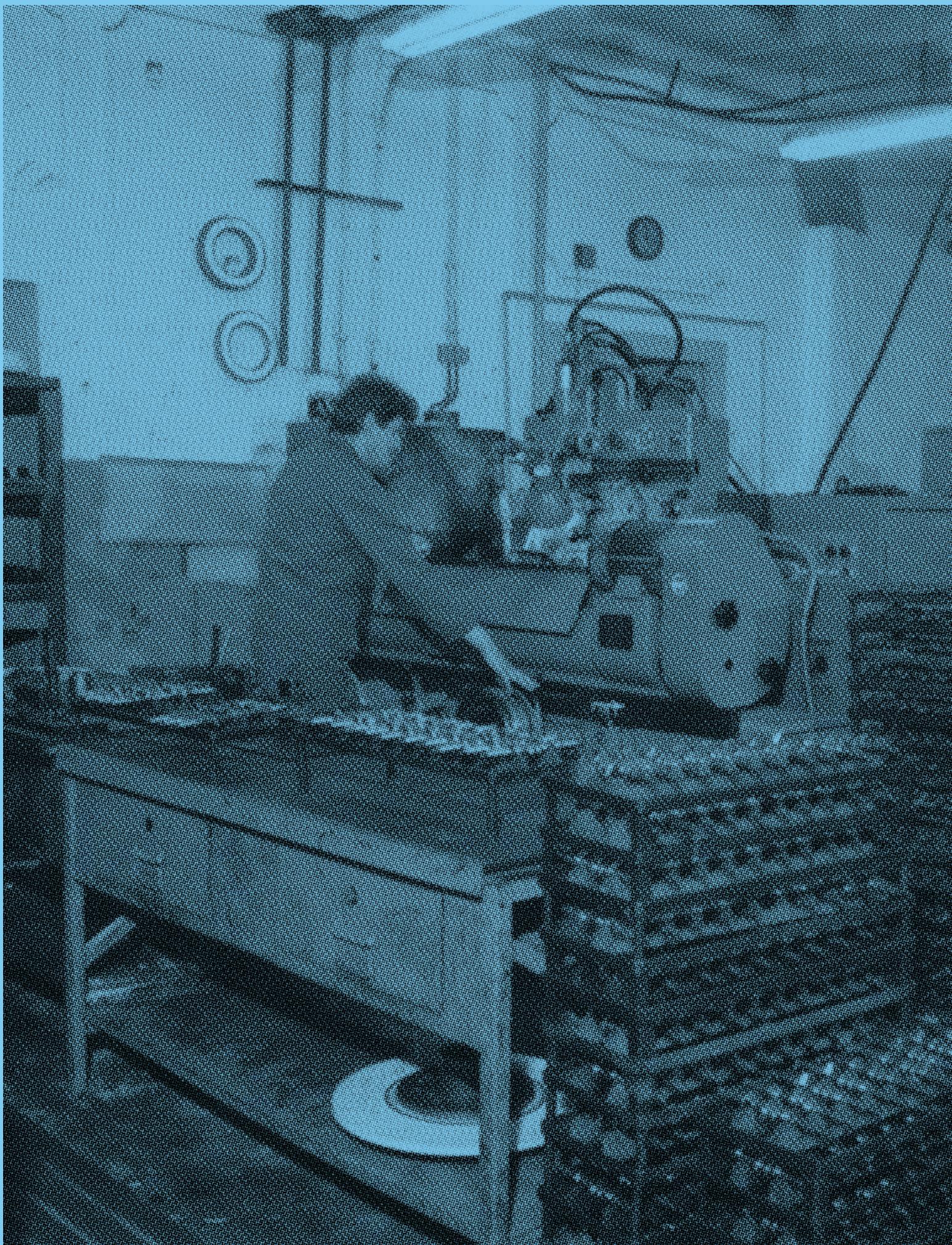
Ako razmišljam koristeći čuđenje i empatiju, zamišljam kako, tijekom ručka, gradski oci i umjetnici nalaze zajednički jezik te, kroz otkrivanje rada, dođu do zaključka da je njihov zajednički cilj održati usnulu tvornicu u dobrom stanju.

Koristeći empatiju, oni su u mogućnosti raditi zajedno i vidjeti što još treba učiniti.









|Sjećak iz filma / Film Excerpt

04.18



Althea Thauberger



## Zasluge / Credits

**Režija i produkcija / Director and Producer**  
Althea Thauberger

**Suredatilji / Co-directors**  
Nataša Antulov  
Natali Bosić  
Ivana Golob  
Nataša Tepša  
Zdravko Toviločić

**Direktori suradničkih organizacija / Collaborating Directors**  
Jorge Correa Bethencourt  
Kate Foley  
Denis Kirinić  
Ivan Verunica

**Suradničke organizacije / Collaborating groups**  
Čudesni Oblačak (Kalvaria)

Extra grupa  
KRILA Kreativni laboratorij suvremenog kazališta Malik  
Osnovna škola za klasični balet i suvremeni ples, OŠ Vežica  
Dječji zbor "Toretta" & Dječji zbor "Tratinčice" (Glazbena škola Aleksandra Jug Matić)  
TRY Theatre  
Dom Mladih  
Dječji zbor Mali Riječani  
Dječji zbor Morčići

**Asistenti režije / Assisting Directors**  
Daniela Nurkić  
Ivana Peranić

**Uloge / Cast**  
Ana Gregorović, Anna Lukanec, Annai Zogović, Ante Zamarin, Antea Miše, Bojan Davidović, Borna Šebelja, Bruna Pleše, Damian Germovšek, Darijan Komljen, David Rumora, Dominik Ilić, Dora Katalinić, Dora Neznanović, Doria Sulić, Ema Juriša, Emma Pajtl, Fran Mamula, Gloria Jelača, Iris Čukković, Jan Đurović, Jan Kukić, Jana Dijan, Jana Jakšić, Jordan Šižgorić-Winter, Julijan Tit-Cvetković, Jura Džida, Karlo Barjaktarić, Korina Lukanović, Lana Tucić, Lara Grdinić, Lara Nenznanović, Lara Rončević, Lea Belajić, Leon Hasančević, Leona Stefan, Lorena Kalić, Lucia Filičić, Lucijan Kolonić, Luka Komljen, Maja Pilepić, Mak Maras, Mara Golob,

Marino Raspović, Marko Putić, Marta Jerković, Mia Strčić, Morena Vuletić, Nea Belušić, Nika Dangebić, Nika Kordić/Gružić, Nika Piacun, Nika Viškanić, Nikla Magyar, Nina Radović, Noel Sambol, Nora Malašić, Petar Dumenčić, Rafaella Modesty Šošić, Rina Pilepić, Sandro Staničić, Sara Đurđević, Tarik Žižak, Tena Mišić, Thomas Karl Kostović, Vito Srdoč

**Dječji zbor Toretta i Trati (Glazbena škola Aleksandra Jug Matić) / Children's Choir**  
Dorja Sulić, Dorotea Zwingl-Mikler, Gordana Jović, Judita Tomljanović, Korina Gagro, Lara Radović, Laura Mance, Laura Turato, Laura Vuković, Lea Belaić, Lea Buršić, Maja Pilepić, Mia Forempoher, Nensi Grdić, Nina Jestratijević, Nina Radović, Rina Pilepić, Tara Mamula, Tarin Kaja Rupčić, Tina Čudina, Una Majanović, Veronika Mijić

**Direktor fotografije / Director of Photography**  
Aleš Suk

**Menadžer produkcije / Production Manager**  
Marin Lukanović

**Snimatelji / Camera Operators**  
Aleš Suk  
Kristian Vučković  
Sanja Kapidžić  
Ana Jurčić  
Marta Batinić

**Asistent snimatelja / Camera Assistant**  
Hrvoje Šandula

**Majstor tona / Audio Master**  
Ana Jurčić

**Snimatelj zvuka / Boom Operator**  
Josip Maršić

**Operator podacima / Data Handler**  
Marta Batinić

**Fotograf / Still Photographer**  
Milica Czerny Urban

**Kostimograf / Costume Director and Designer**  
Tamar Ginati (u suradnji s izvođačima / in collaboration with cast)

**Prvi asistent kostimografa / First Costume Assistant**

Matea Pasarić

**Asistenti kostimografije / Costume Assistants**

Romina Mejak  
Barbara Brnelić

**Majstor maske i frizure / Hair and Makeup**

Tajči Čekada  
Ksenija Nakić-Alfirević

**Menadžer za izvođače, brigu o djeci i lokacijski menadžer / Cast, Childcare, and Site Manager**

Natali Bosić

**Koordinator produkcije i računovođa / Production Coordinator and Accountant**

Ivor Pliskovac

**Voditeljica zbora / Choir Director**

Suzana Matušan Štefanić

**Dizajner zvuka / Sound Design**

Zoran Medved, Surogat Studio, Rijeka

**Asistant u postprodukciji zvuka / Post Production Audio Assistant**

Josip Maršić

**Grafički dizajn i dizajn teksta / Graphic and Text Design**

Marko Butorac

**Montaža / Editing**

Marta Batinić, Althea Thauberger

**Asistenti montaže / Assistant Editors**

Ana Jurić  
Marko Butorac  
Igor Crnković

**Animacija / Animation**

Igor Crnković

**Kolor korekcija / Colour Grading**

Studio Vizije, Zagreb

**Asistent produkcije / Production Assistant**

Bruna Tomšić

**Zasluge za slike / Image Credits**

Crteže i slike su napravili izvođači / Drawings and paintings made by cast  
pp 1, 7, 12-13, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 62-63, 64-65, 66-67, 68-69, 70-71

Bjelica, Petar, ed. Rikard Benčić. Rijeka: Tvorница Rikard Benčić, 1988.  
pp 8, 10, 11, 23, 24, 26-27, 29, 32, 34, 44, 100-101, 102, 105

Milica Czerny Urban  
pp 14-15, 16-17, 33, 43, 46, 72, 75, 76, 80, 83, 94, 95, 106

Bruna Tomčić  
pp 88, 90, 91

Tamar Ginati  
pp 78, 79

sve ostale slike su iz filma *Preuzmimo Benčić* / all other images are film stills from *Preuzmimo Benčić*

**Izvršni direktor, Musagetes / Executive Director, Musagetes**

Shawn Van Sluys

**Kustos, Musagetes / Curator, Musagetes**

Alissa Firth-Eagland

**Programski koordinator (2012 – 2015), Musagetes / Program Coordinator (2012 – 2015), Musagetes**

Danica Evering

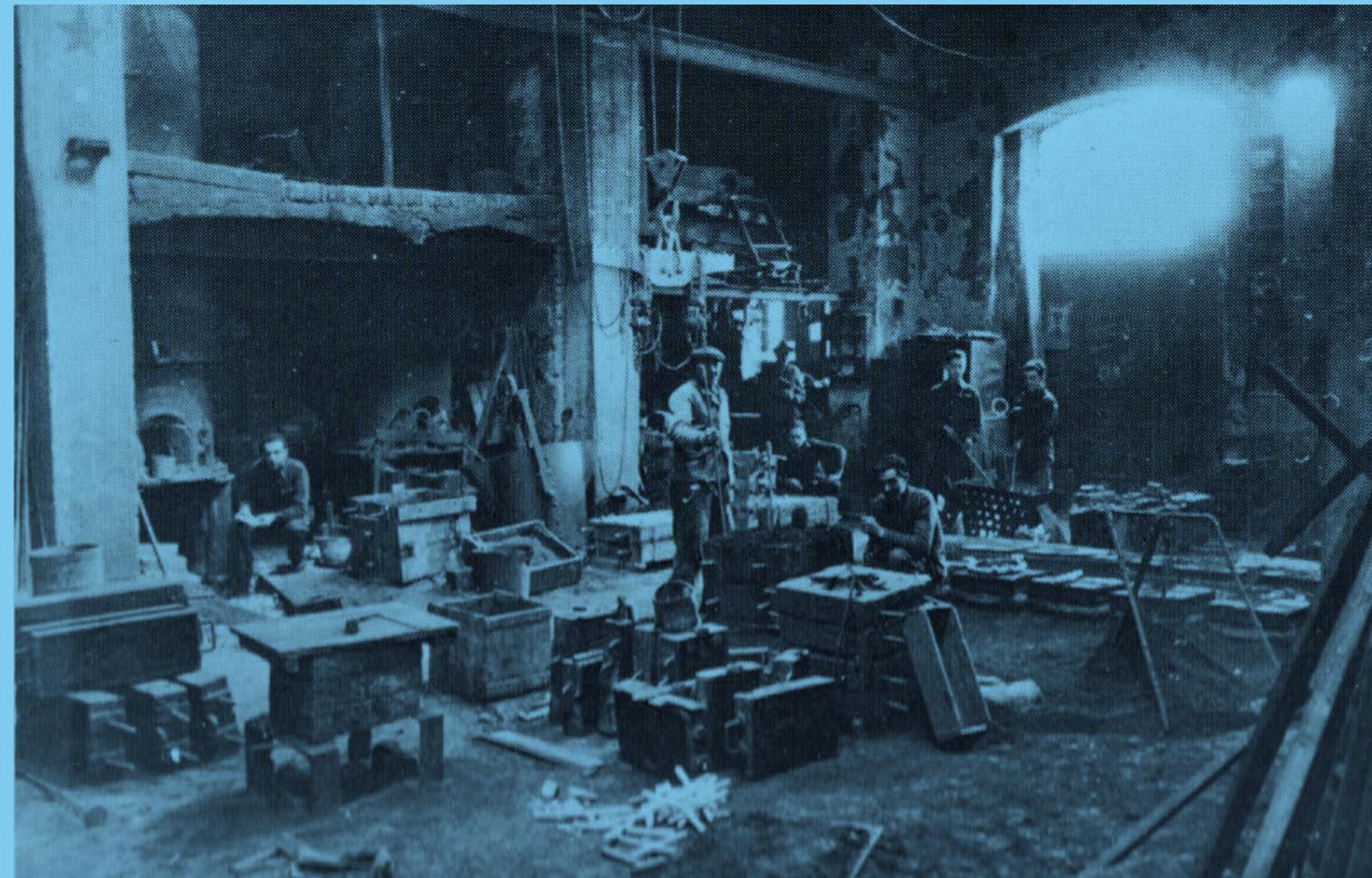
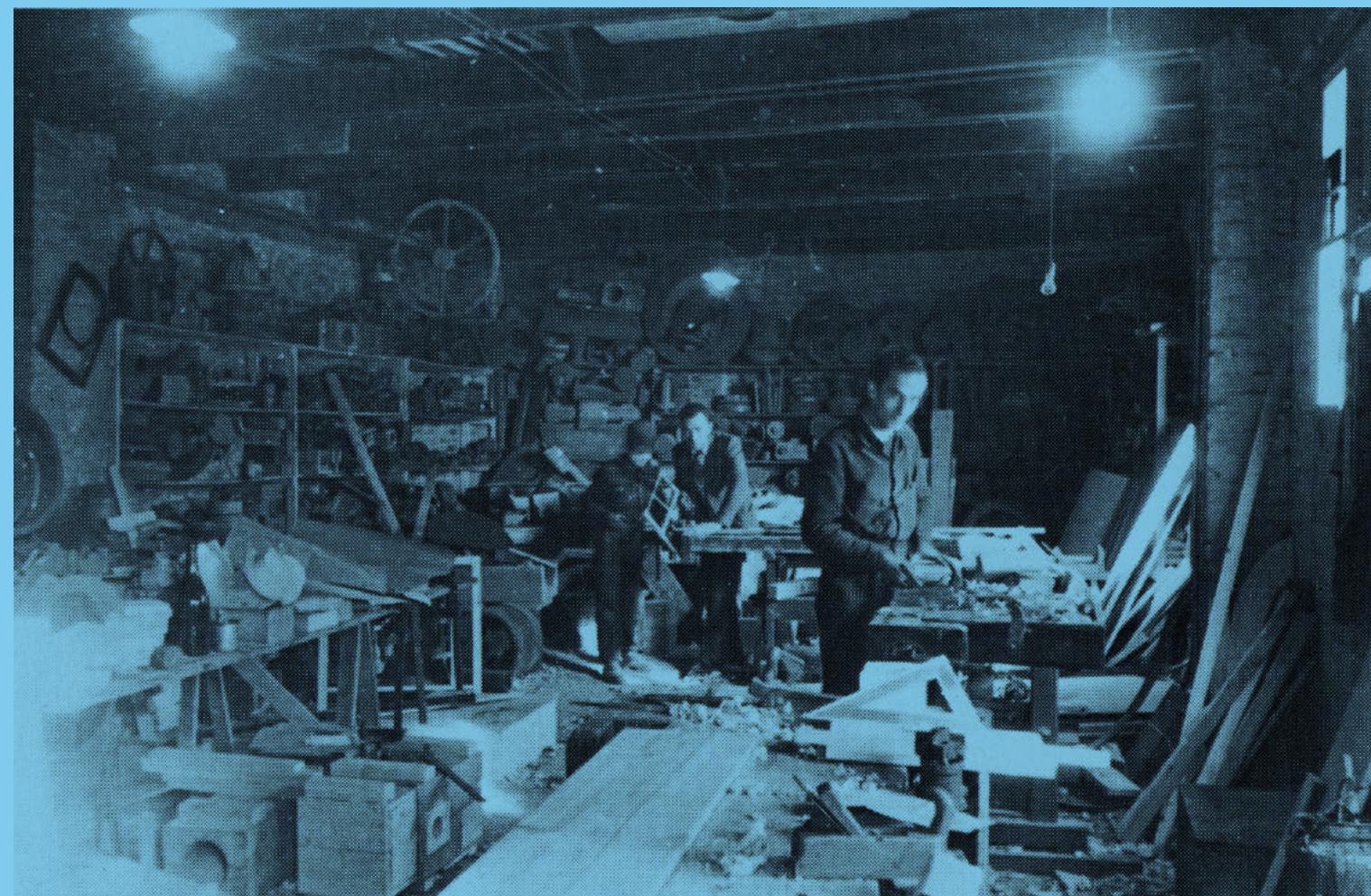
**Financije i voditeljica ureda, Musagetes / Finance and Office Manager, Musagetes**

Peggy Dix

Posebna zahvala Patriciji Reed od umjetnika, urednika i izdavača / A special thank you to Patricia Reed from the artist, editors, and publisher.

Naručitelj: Musagetes Preuzmimo Benčić dio je programa kojega Musagetes trenutno provodi u Rijeci, gdje organizacija djeluje od 2009. godine. / Commissioned by Musagetes. Preuzmimo Benčić is part of Musagetes' ongoing programming in Rijeka, where the organization has been working since 2009.

Uz potporu Odjela za Kulturu grada Rijeke / In kind support from Department of Culture, City of Rijeka.





# PREUZMIMO BENČIĆ

## TAKE BACK BENČIĆ

*Preuzmimo Benčić* je eksperimentalni film stvoren u suradnji sa šezdeset sedmero djece-izvođača iz Rijeke. Dijelom dokumentarac, dijelom fikcija, film prati aktivnosti i razmišljanja djece tijekom šest tjedana za vrijeme kojih su djeca zaposjela zgrade popularno nazvane H-objekt i T-objekt bivše tvornice Rikard Benčić u Rijeci. Ove napuštene radničke zgrade zjape prazne i propadaju od njihova zatvaranja i otpuštanja radnika u vrijeme tranzicijskih previranja ranih devedesetih godina 20. stoljeća. Grad Rijeka upravo provodi odluke iz svojih usvojenih dokumenata prenamjenjujući bivši tvornički kompleks u urbanu cjelinu u kojoj će biti smještene gradske kulturne ustanove, kreativne industrije i hotel.

*Preuzmimo Benčić* je rad koji je naručila međunarodna filantsropska organizacija Musagetes, koja nastoji istaknuti značaj i središnje mjesto umjetnosti u ljudskim životima, našim zajednicama i društvima, a koja u Rijeci djeluje od 2009. godine. *Preuzmimo Benčić* dio je programa kojeg Musagetes trenutno provodi u Rijeci.

*Preuzmimo Benčić* is an experimental film made in collaboration with 67 young performers in Rijeka, Croatia. Part documentary, part fiction, the film follows the activities and reflections of the children during a six-week period when they occupied the H and T buildings of the former worker-managed Rikard Benčić factory in Rijeka. The site has been sitting empty and deteriorating since it was closed and workers fired during the transformations of the early 1990s, and it is currently proposed to be developed as the site of the city's cultural institutions, creative industries, and a hotel.

*Preuzmimo Benčić* was commissioned by Musagetes, an international philanthropic organization that strives to make the arts more central and meaningful in peoples' lives, in our communities, and societies. *Preuzmimo Benčić* is part of Musagetes' ongoing programming in Rijeka, where the organization has been working since 2009.