

STILL SHOREBIRDS

— dokumentacija rada *Shorebirds* švedskog umjetnika Bo Melina, kojeg je izveo u Zagrebu u sklopu izložbe *Delayed on Time* 2004. / — A response to Bo Melin's work *Shorebirds* which he realized in Zagreb within the exhibition *Delayed on Time* in 2004.



Berislavićeva 20
21.11.2004.



Boškovićeva 23
13.3.2005.



Draškovićeva 80
28.11.2004.



Dukljaninova 3
13.3.2005.



Haulikova 5
2.4.2006.



Ilica 10
1.5.2005.



Katarinin trg 2
18.11.2004.



Kneza Mislava 4
28.11.2004.



Kneza Mislava 11
24.12.2004.



Ante Kovačića 5
24.11.2004.



Lomnička 2
24.4.2005.



Lomnička 2 (dvorište/
courtyard)
28.11.2004.



passage Lovački rog
13.11.2004



Matice Hrvatske 1
13.3.2005.



Mrazovićeva 2
26.11.2004.



Odranska
28.11.2004.



Palmotićeva 50
25.11.2004.



Palmotićeva 64
24.12.2004.



Plemićeva 8
31.12.2004.



Preradovićeva 12
21.11.2004

Veoma heterogeni rad Bo Melina ipak ima jedinstveno središte-zanimanje za svijet ptica. Odrastao u obalnom gradiću Halmstadu nedaleko Göteborga, najvećeg lučkog industrijskog središta Švedske, Melin pripada naraštaju formiranom u post punkovskoj kulturi, koji se nije htio ograničiti na samo jedno polje izražavanja. Više od formalnog obrazovanja zanimala ga je priroda, osobito ptice, koje je satima proučavao sjedeći na obali mora. Njegove su akcije privremenog karaktera često puta bučne a najvažniji cilj im je uključiti veliki broj publike. Ne mistificira umjetnički čin kao usamljenički posao u ateljeru. (...) Anonimnost je također važna premisa Melinova rada, budući da umjetnik želi da se mnogi poistovjete s njime, kao primjerice u radu Eva, vrati se kući, sve ti je oprošteno, rukom ispisanom natpisu postavljenom u javnim prostorima Göteborga, koji su mnogi doživjeli kao stvarni poziv

The work of Bo Melin might be very heterogeneous, but it does have a unifying centre - his interest in birds. Growing up in the coastal town of Halmstad by Göteborg, the greatest industrial and seaport centre of Sweden, Melin belongs to the generation of post-Punk culture (...), who did not want to restrict themselves to a single form of expression. More than in his formal education, he was interested in nature, particularly birds, which he sat and studied for hours along the coast. In the art actions undertaken in collaboration with other artists he does not mystify the artistic act as a lone job in the studio. (...) Anonymity is also an important premise of his works, since the artist wants many to be able to identify with them, as in the work Eva, Come Back Home, All Is Forgiven, a handwritten sign placed in public spaces in Göteborg, which many took to be a real appeal to a girl/wife/daughter, not as a work of art. The artist

From: "Bo Melin"
<bomelin@bredband.net>
To: "Nikica Klobucar"
<nikklon@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: DELAYED ON TIME
Date: 10. rujan 2004 12:57

Hi, Nikica Klobucar
I am looking forward to get to Zagreb and start my work. If you wonder what I am going to do so check my homepage at <http://www.bomelin.net>
Follow the picture link and hit the thumbnail with the blue bird.
I have some things to discuss about the locations, legality for my project and so. My plan is to visit Zagreb two times. First in the end of october and then before the opening.
The paintings will be made at the second trip just before the opening.
Nada has already sent me the CD-Zagreb cultural guide. Looking forward to meet you in Zagreb.
Best regards
Bo Melin
>
> Dear Bo Melin,
>
> I'm Nikica Klobucar, Nada's assistant > on the show and we can start talking > about the details of your work as Nada > already told you. Tihana Puc will work

> with us, so you can also send > our emails to her. Nada told me that you > would like to make graffiti on a diferent > locations in Zagreb.
> We can send you a CD-Zagreb > cultural guide in which you can find the > first information about the city.
> Looking forward seeing you in Zagreb.
> All the best from Croatia,
>
> Nikica Klobucar, assistant

From: "Bo Melin" <bomelin@bredband.net>
To: "Nikica Klobucar" <nikklon@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: Zagreb shorebirds
Date: 19. siječanj 2005 13:35

Hi Nikica,
Nice to here from you.
I like the project you, Gordan and Tomislav are doing. I like when my projects are changing lines and I like when people takes pieces of my things and create new stuff from it. Just be clear that the new project are yours and not made by me, but use my name as original bird painter if you like. I don't remember the exact number of birds. But Johana are close I think. I really want to se some dokumentation

of your project when its done.
All the best and good luck!
Bo
>
> On 05-01-15 15.54, "Nikica Klobucar" > <nikklon@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
> Dear Bo,
> We would like to involve you in > this extension of your work. For that > purpose we would like to have your > permission to make this possible.
> It would be also nice to have your > comentary on this reaction.
> Our idea is to publish all our e-mail > correspondation concerning this > reaction to the web site.
> I hope you still remeber Zagreb. We are > really impressed by the work you did in > Zagreb and I hope you'll not find this > reaction as a commercialisation of your > "quiet" work. We really respect your basic > attitude.
> Sincerely yours,
> Nikica
>
> Dear Bo Melin,
>
> My name is Gordan and I would like to > inform ou of the work "Shorebirds Still"- > which is basically reaction to your > "Shorebirds" project which you have > made in November 2004. in Zagreb as

> part of the "Delayed on Time" exhibition.
> Other two persons included in this > reaction are Nikica Klobucar (Nada > Beros's assistant on the show "Delayed > on Time") and Tomislav Soban.
> Our reaction to your work is actually a > full-documentation of all (found) > shorebirds stencil drawings – graffiti which > you have left during your stay in Zagreb.
> This reaction is not a critique of your > work and does not have intention to > subvert it by any means. We would close > our reaction by publishing the > documentation in the form of a simple > web-site with a map of exact > locations (street addresses) in Zagreb > where graffiti was found, photo and short > video-documentation of the exact > location (graffiti).
> So far, we have found and documented > 37 locations (51 shore birds). Nikica > already asked Johanna Billing if she could > estimate the exact number of locations > where you have left graffiti and she said it > was around 70-80.
> We already searched a large part of the > city centre and will continue our search.
> If you are interested, we can send you a > map with marked (so-far found) locations.
> Sincerely,
> Gordan



djevojci/ženi/kćerki, a ne kao umjetnički rad. Svojim najvažnijim projektom umjetnik smatra grafite koje izvodi sam, uglavnom noću, ilegalno, ostavljajući šablonske crteže obalnih ptica, rodarica, uvijek tamnoplave boje, na posve bezličnim mjestima i skrivenim zakutcima grada. Zanimljivo je kako u ratu protiv grafita čistači pošteduju upravo te ptice. Motiv grafita - rodarica - neka je vrst Melinova autoportreta. Priroda i grad ovdje su u prirodnoj simbiozi, bez mistifikacija i pretenzija, predviđeni da traju upravo onoliko koliko će ih lokalna zajednica trpjeti. Melinov rad za zagrebačku izložbu posve je u duhu low - key pristupa; to je projekt u vanjskom prostoru, u kojem će plave obalne ptice tajno sletjeti na kuće, ograde, pothodnike i prolaze plavoga Zagreba.

Odlomak iz teksta *Budućnost koja je mogla funkcionirati?* Nade Beroš, objavljenog u katalogu izložbe *Delayed on Time: pogled na savremenu švedsku scenu*, Muzej suvremene umjetnosti, Zagreb, 2004.

Izložba suvremene švedske umjetnosti *Delayed on time* održala se od 18.11. - 19.12.2004. u Muzeju suvremene umjetnosti u Zagrebu, u izboru kustosice Nade Beroš. Na spomenutoj izložbi rad Bo Melina predstavljen je u prostoru Muzeja a izveden je na području grada Zagreba. Zagreb je drugi grad nakon Göteborga u kojem je Bo Melin ostavio crteže plavih ptica.

considers his most important work to be the anonymous graffiti that he does alone, largely at night, illegally, leaving stencil drawings of the shore birds, waders, always in dark blue, on entirely faceless places and in the hidden nooks of the town. It is interesting that in their war with graffiti, the cleaners spare these birds. The motif of these waders is a kind of self-portrait of Melin. Nature and the city are here in natural symbiosis, without mystification and pretensions, intended to last just as long as the local community will put up with them. Melin's work at the Zagreb exhibition is entirely in the spirit of this low-key approach; in his outdoor project, these blue shorebirds will alight in secret on the houses, fences, underpasses and passages of blue Zagreb.

Excerpt from the text *A Future That Might Have Worked?* by Nada Beroš, published in the catalogue of the exhibition *Delayed on Time - Gateway to Swedish Art Now*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, 2004.

The exhibition *Delayed on Time - Gateway to Swedish Art Now* was organized by and took place in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb from November 18th till December 19th 2004 and was curated by Nada Beroš. Bo Melin's work was executed in Zagreb's urban space and was presented in Museum's exhibition space. Zagreb is the second city after Göteborg in which Bo Melin left his blue birds drawings.

On 05-05-06 23.59, "Gordan Karabogdan" <gordan.karabogdan@zg.tinet.hr> wrote:

Dear Bo,
We are happy to inform you that the web www.stillshorebirds.com - a documentation project on your work in Zagreb - is put online, and at this moment we are making final adjustments regarding the english translation. This is still a working version and the site is officially not published yet because we first wanted for you to see it so that you could let us know if everything on the site is presented properly and if there is necessity to ad, change or remove something from the site. We wanted to include the whole video, which was shown on the "Delayed on Time" exhibition, as part of the web, so we wanted to ask you if you agree with this?

(The video is put under DOCUMENTATION > "Delayed on Time" > "VIDEO 1 2 3")
If you have any suggestions, please let us know, we will be very grateful!
Sincerely,

Tomislav, Nikica, Gordan

From: Bo Melin
To: Gordan Karabogdan
Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2005 4:55 PM
Subject: Re: Zagreb shorebirds web site

Hi, nice to here from you, great site artwork. I really like it. I am on my way right now, just checked my mail. I will get back to you tomorrow and write more.
Best regards
Bo
>

> On 05-05-23 11.33, "Nikica
> Klobucar" <nikklon@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
> Dear Bo,
>
> Thank you for your email. This week we'll
> officially publish our web site.
> Please let us know is there any problem
> with using the video of your shorebirds
> graffiti work in Gotteburg, which was shown
> in Zagreb exhibition.
> Thank you once more. Best regards,
>
> Gordan, Tomislav, Nikica

From: Bo Melin
To: Gordan Karabogdan

Hi,
Like I said I really like what you have done and I'm proud that you wanted to do something based on my work. The site is great, I think. Yes, you can show the video. There is no problem with that at all. How is it going to be shown?
Best regards
Bo