

Marija Mandić
Portfolio





About

Marija Mandić is a Prague-based artist working with photography, who in her works deals with the questions of genealogy, past, and memory. She has been the holder of Dositeja scholarship assigned by the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia, and of the grant for artistic and curatorial projects allowed by UJEP, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. Marija's works were shown internationally, and as a student and a lecturer, she has participated in numerous art festivals and workshops. From 2015 to 2019 she worked as a doctoral student lecturer at the Faculty of Art and Design in Ústí nad Labem, the Czech Republic, where she is currently in her final year of PhD studies in Visual Communication.

Artist statement

Relations between public and private spheres were the primary occupations in my so far works. This interest was explored through the mediums of photography, text, drawings, video, and installations in public space. In the past few years, I started working mainly with analog photography, archival material, and text. The subject matter also narrowed down to the notions of memory and past, which I explore through the familial context. Although my works speak about my family mythology, I aim to address more broad social issues through this private framework.

Reli(e)ving House (2011)

Reli(e)ving house is an intervention in urban space, in which a painting depicting an isolated house in a winter landscape is placed on a wall in the remains of a former home – a place existing on the verge of private and public, intersecting between space and non-space.

*Relieve

: to set free from an obligation, condition, or restriction
: to ease of a burden, wrong, or oppression by judicial or legislative interposition

: to take the place of

Relive

: to live again
: to live over again
especially : to experience again in the imagination

Leave

: to have remaining after one's death
: to cause to remain as a trace or aftereffect

: to cause or allow to be or remain in a specified condition
: to have as a remainder
: to permit to be or remain subject to another's action or control

: to go away from

: to put, deposit, or deliver before or in the process of departing

*source: Merriam-Webster dictionary

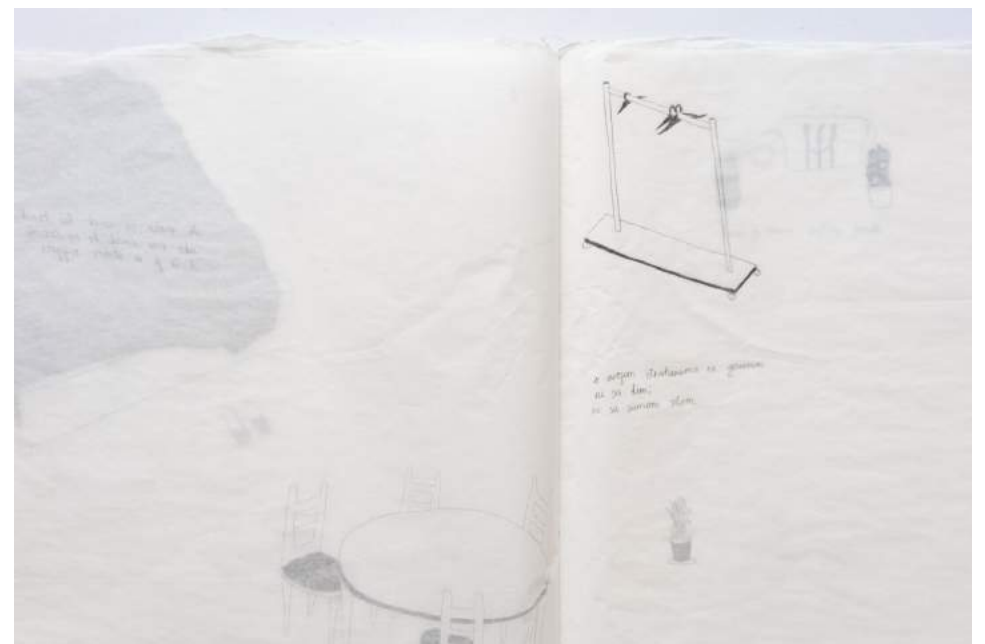
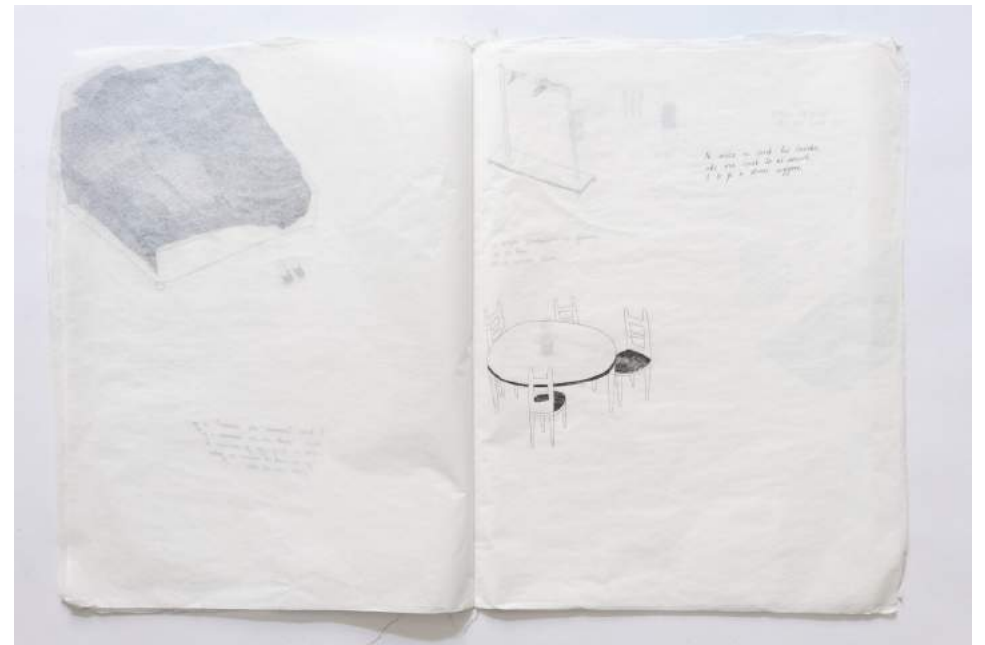
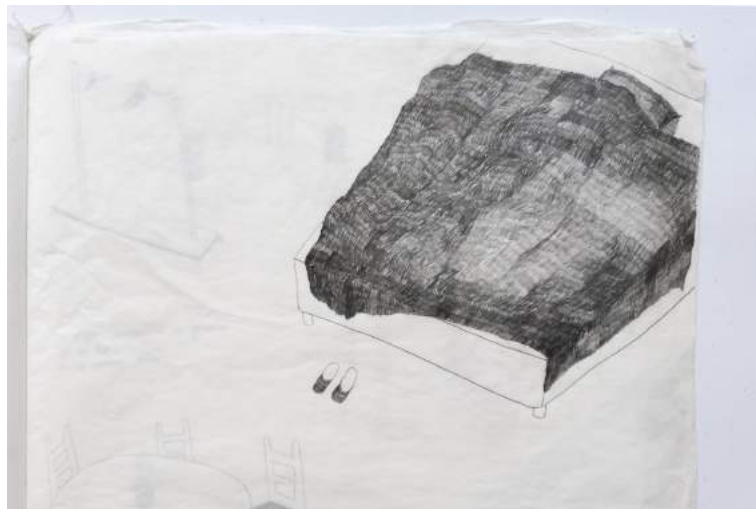


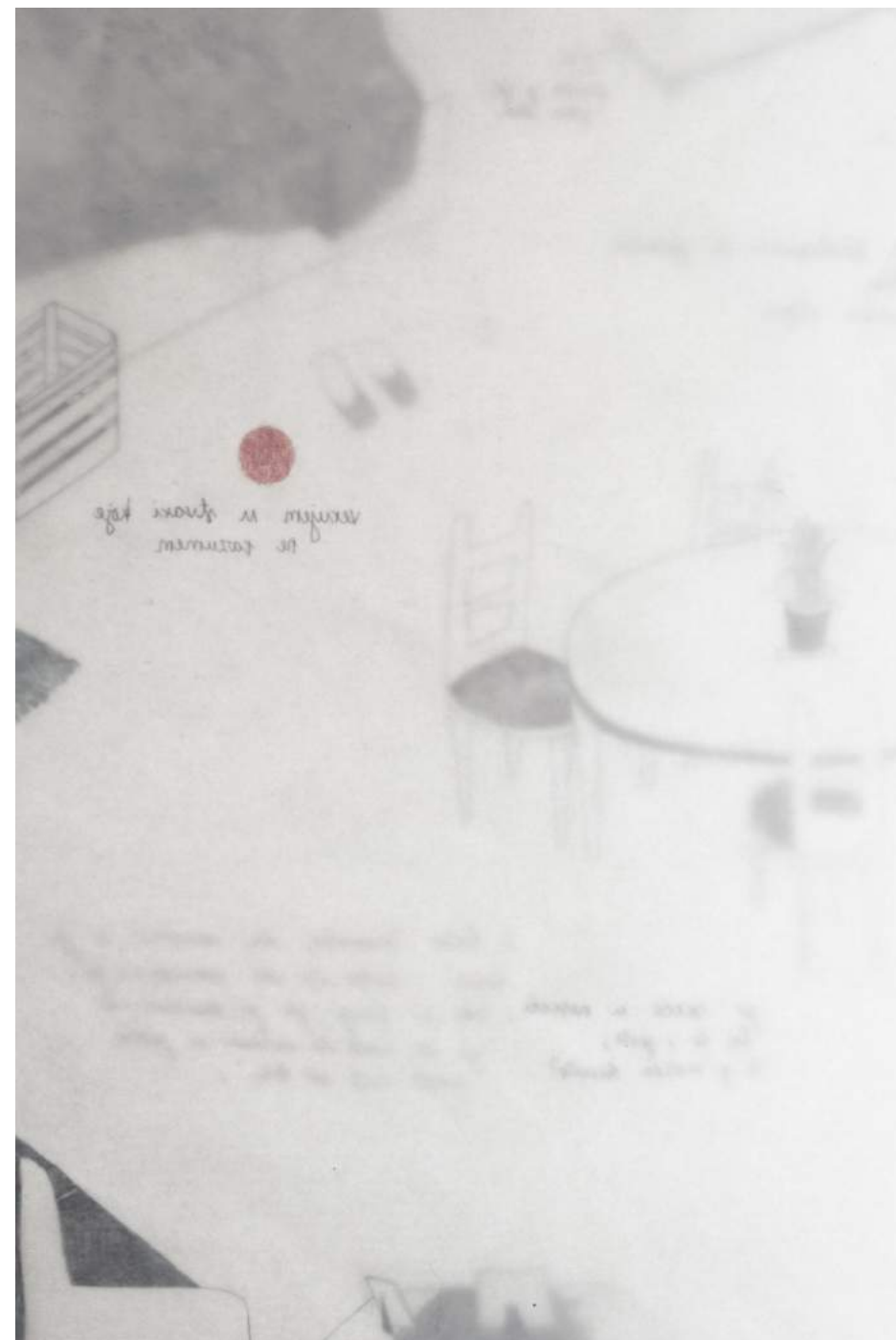
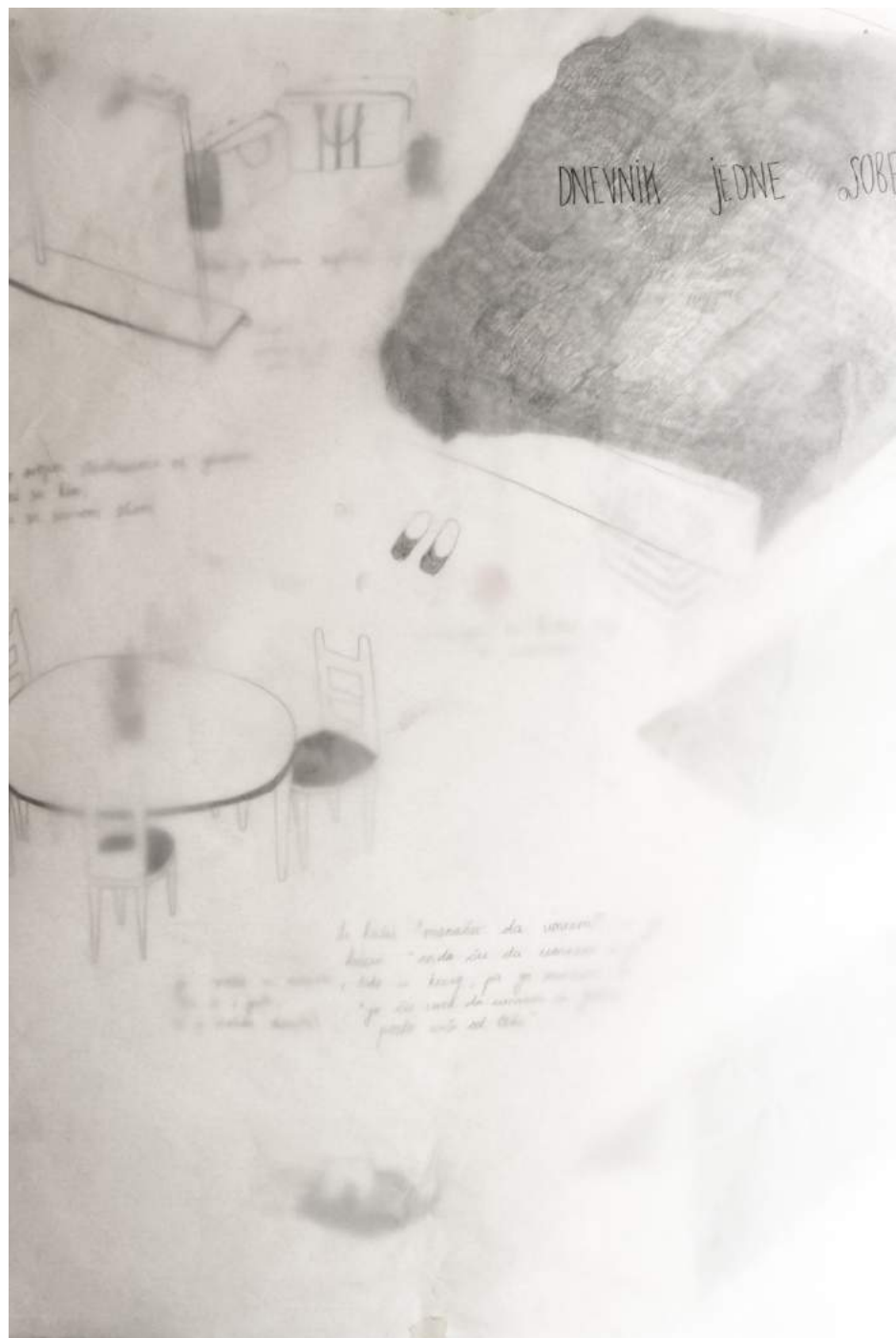
Dnevnik jedne (o)sobe (2013)

The title of the work *Dnevnik jedne (o)sobe* is a wordplay in Serbian language, meaning a diary of a room (sobe) / person (osobe). The work explores symbolic and real limits of the bond between a person and private space; it functions as a dialog between the two, observing that place as an inner topography of the person and vice versa.

Hand sewed artbook
Pencils on tracing paper
Dimensions 52cm x 40cm





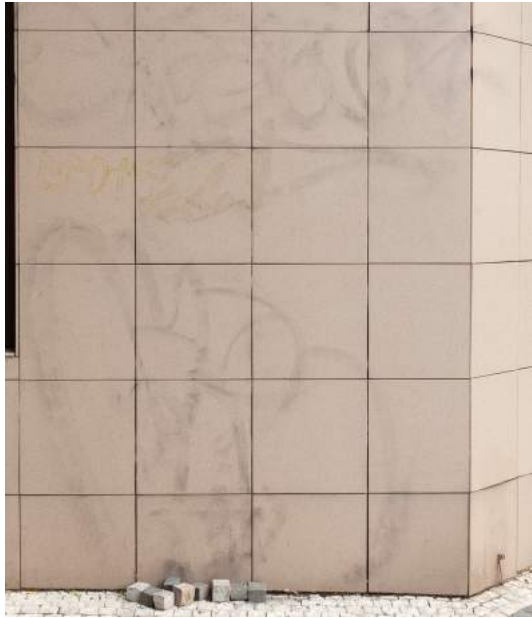


Unexpected Drawings (2019)

Unexpected drawings shows traces of once existing graffiti that turned into drawings created by conditioned spontaneity of a person who re-painted them. Depictions left on street walls create a link between past and present; these unexpected drawings function as fragments of city's memory and point to its palimpsestic character.

The work is realized during one semester workshop with Borut Vogeltnik (IRWIN) at The Studio of the Visiting Artist – Academy of Fine Arts (AVU), Prague, CZ





July 32 (2019/20)

While growing up I was listening to stories told by my grandparents about the places where they were born and from which they came. As an adult I always wished to see those places so as to demythologize them in a way since as a kid I had imagined them as almost surreal. That's why I started looking for my grandparent's native houses that are located in four different parts of the ex-Yugoslav space - Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Kosovo. Knowing that what I was looking for is no longer there, I asked my grandparents to write me guidelines to those sites relying on their memory, so that I could see what they saw long ago. *July 32* evolved from this process as a series of black and white photographs which I juxtaposed with their memory-guidelines.



Кућа изградена циглом и
између зидова дрвена преграда
и дрвена оторода



од шкоре поглед, пут
 била мак, а ферма провучу
 кроз по брестовике



Иза куће пошрок, а кућа
 урско буџа пошће,
 дијаболално од зриве
 око 15 метара уз брдо



са десне стране куће пашак
и њива, а са леве стране
поље кукуруза.



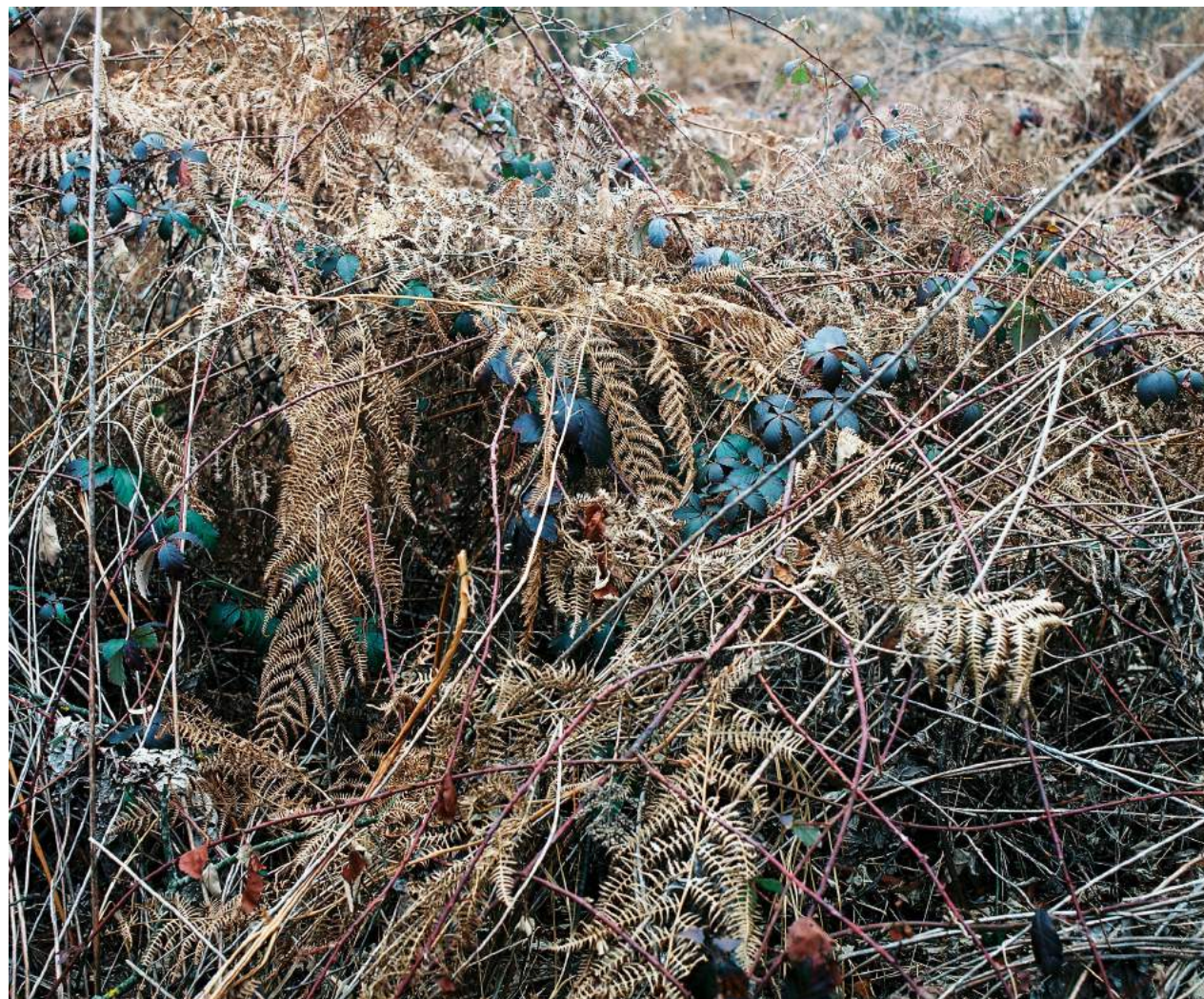
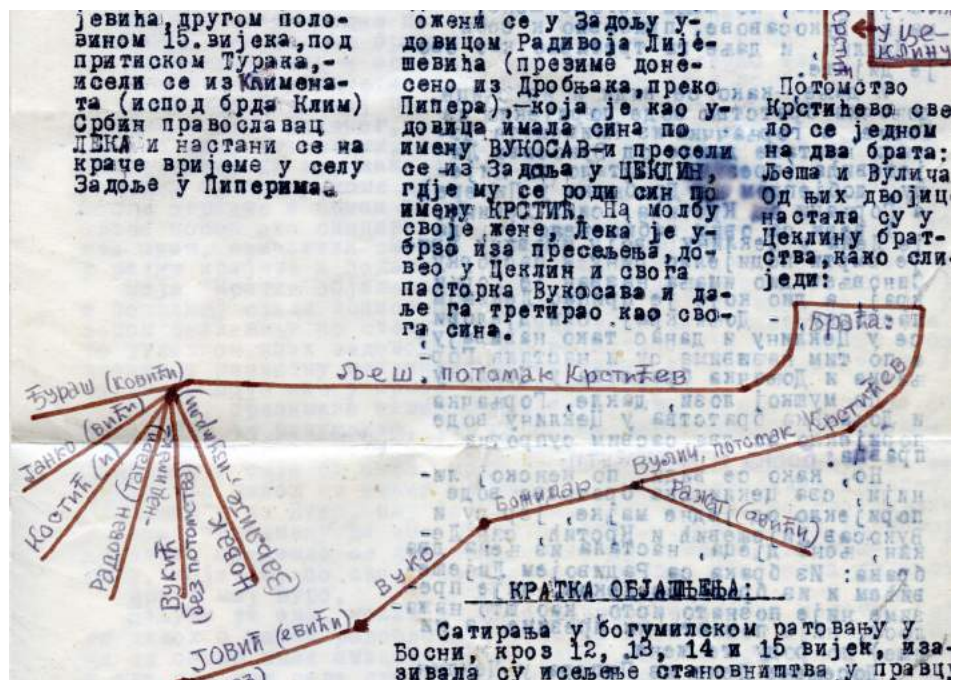
White Bee (2021-ongoing)

In my grandmother's house I found a drawing of a family tree dating from 1971, compiled by a distant relative. The whole genealogy — the migration routes from Bosnia and Albania to Ceklin in Montenegro from the late fourteenth to the mid-fifteenth century, the blood ties between the recorded names, and the final emergence of the family lineage to which I myself belong — this relative explained in a letter attached to a drawing, addressed to my grandfather. As expected for the patriarchal system, in the centuries-long family line, only the names of our male ancestors were written. Completely unexpectedly the letter mentions, as a relative noted - the distant mother of all family fraternities, unfortunately of unknown name and surname.

After counting the names of the ancestors who divide us, it turned out that this key matriarchal figure stands in the past exactly fifteen generations away from me. This archetype of the mother, the farthest recorded female ancestor, is called the white bee in the Serbian language and tradition.

This spark of her acknowledgment in the letter shed light on questions related to history and memory, but also on the treatment of female identities within the familial context. The work tells the story of this foremother who reflects the neglected position of all women in the patriarchal form of ancestral tracking.

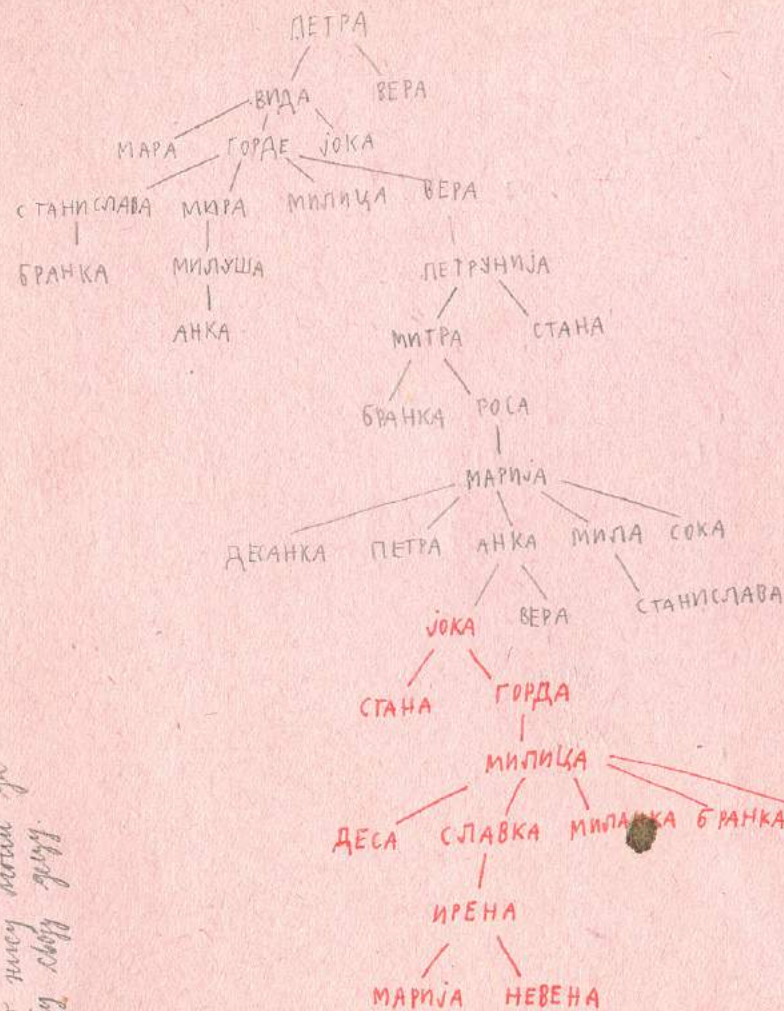




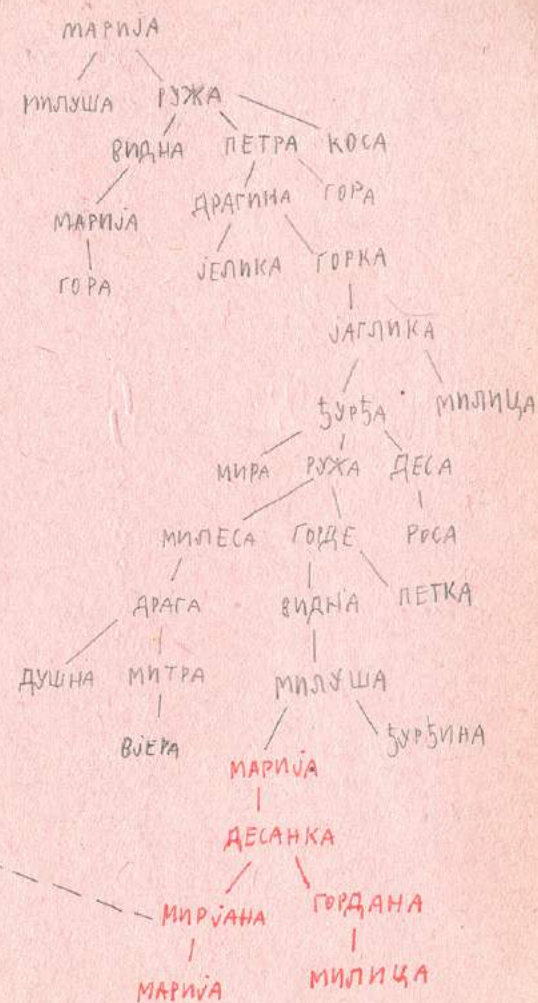


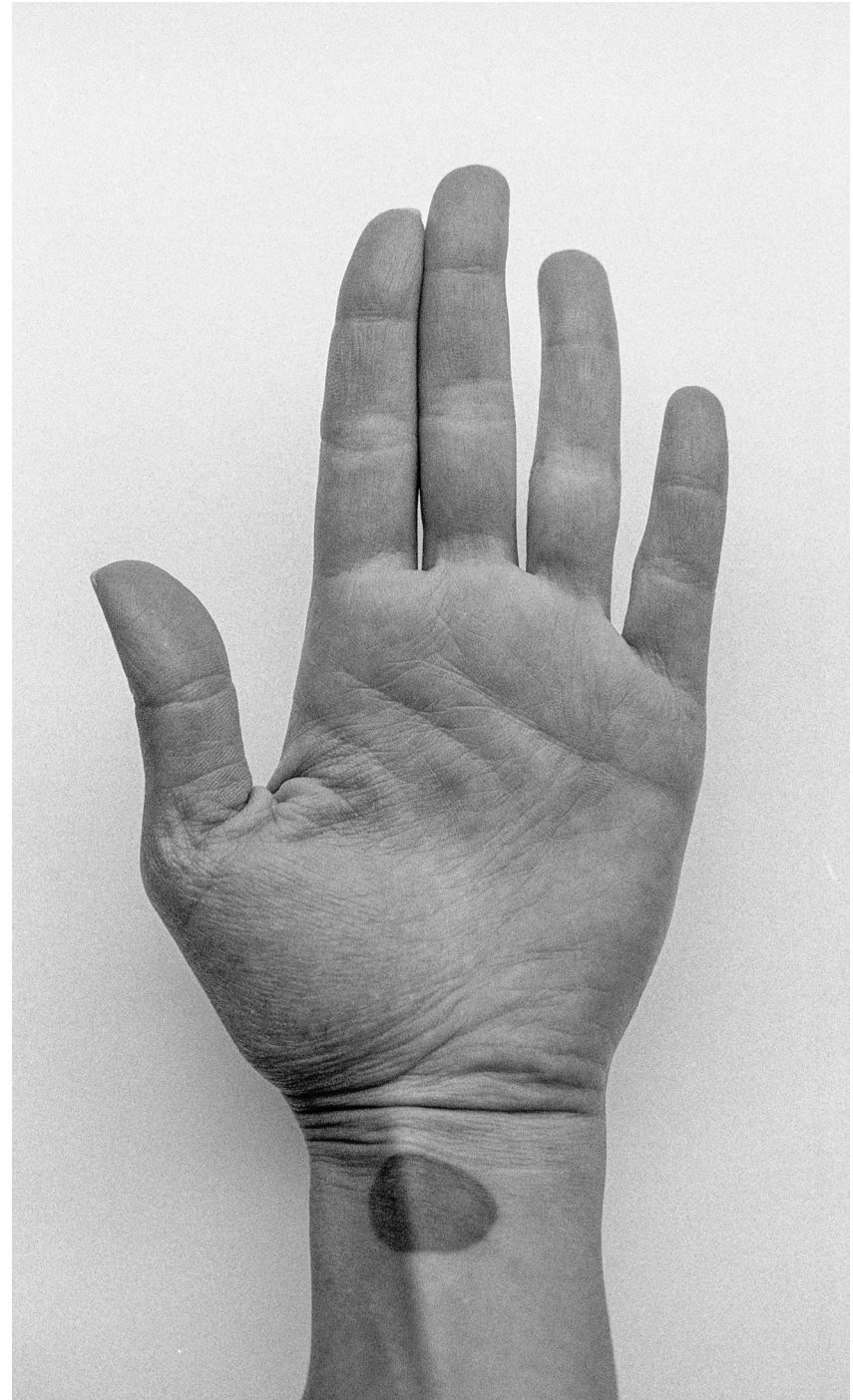


МАРИЈА
јул 2021



* можда можда су отаџини
рејени сестара мени
деца и неки муш. зато
много пишу отци да
можда своју децу.





Knowing the past means understanding the future (2021)

In *Knowing the past means understanding the future* three photographs depict the tree which in the work's context corresponds to memory and is its spatial metaphor. The photographed tree carries the title památný strom, i.e., a memorial tree, recognized as such in the Czech Republic due to its specific physical characteristics and/or if it had witnessed a particular historical event. The drawing, as the accompanying part of the work, is a kind of a remark on history as memory's inseparable ally, which Pierre Nora has defined as "the reconstruction, always problematic and incomplete, of what is no longer."

Personal and common events witnessed by the tree are noted in the layers of memory and history that it keeps within itself.

The juxtaposition of the photographs and the drawing opens a kind of discussion between notions of memory and history. It suggests fragility and mediated nature of remembrance, as well as history's palimpsestic character. The endless tension between writing and erasing of their narratives brings into question the past and the present, making the already dubious future even more uncertain.

The work was done after the invitation to the exhibition *Disturbed balance – Revisited*, held at Dům umění, Ústí nad Labem CZ curated by Michal Koleček.



Education

2009-2013 BA New Media Art, Academy of Arts, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
2013-2015 MA Photography and Time-based Media, Faculty of Art and Design,
Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic
2015- PhD Visual Communication, Faculty of Art and Design, Jan Evangelista
Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic

Awards / Grants

2021 VID Foundation for Photography Grant Prize for development of the work
White Bee
2018/19 Grant within student competition at UJEP - Jan Evangelista Purkyně
University in Ústí nad Labem given by Ministry of Education, CZ
2018/19 Postgraduate scholarship “Dositeja” - Fond for Youth Talents of Republic
of Serbia, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Serbia
2016 Postgraduate scholarship “Dositeja” - Fond for Youth Talents of Republic of
Serbia, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Serbia
2014 Mali Princ Foundation award for achieving extraordinary results in the field of
music, fine arts and drama arts
2014 Postgraduate scholarship “Dositeja” - Fond for Youth Talents of Republic of
Serbia, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Serbia
2013 Postgraduate scholarship “Dositeja” - Fond for Youth Talents of Republic of
Serbia, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Serbia
2013 Gallery of Matica Srpska and Academy of Arts in Novi Sad award for
achieving excellent results in the field of art on department of New Media Art,
class generation 2009

Workshops and other activities

2020 Curatorial project Mnemotops, February 7 - 13, KS Svilara, Novi Sad, Serbia
2019 Participation at the Studio of Visiting Artist held by Borut Vogeltnik, IRWIN;
Vila Šaloun, Prague, Czechia
2015 Participation at a visual storytelling photography workshop This Place, My
Place; DOX Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic
2014 Participation on ArtofAct youth exchange supported by Erasmus+, Topola,
Serbia

Selected exhibitions

2021 Group exhibition Disturbed Balance – Revisited, December 1 - February 13,
2022, Dům umění, Ústí nad Labem CZ
2021 Solo show July 32, January 28 - February 28, Dům umění, Ústí nad Labem, CZ
2020 Group exhibition Dream Team, April 29 - May 27, Virtual exhibition at Armaturka
Gallery, Ústí
nad Labem, Czechia
2019 Group exhibition Encounter, May 31 - June 02, Šaloun Vila, Prague, Czechia
2017 Group exhibition 30 Under 30, September 30 - October 30, The Popping Club;
Rome, Italy
2016 Group exhibition Diaries of Youth, Galerie Blumentopf; Wien, Austria
2016 Solo exhibition Sketches, June 2 - June 16, Page Five, Prague, Czech Republic
2015 “This Place - My Place” A visual storytelling photographic workshop exhibition,
DOX Gallery; Prague, Czech Republic
2014 Traveling photo exhibition "Zines of the Zone" - ULUV Gallery, Novi Sad, Serbia;
INEX Film, Belgrade, Serbia; AKSC, Skopje, Macedonia; Metamatic:taf, Athens,
Greece; Ogms Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria; Don KisotSosyalMerkezi, Istanbul, Turkey;
Diane4, Bucharest, Romania; Fabrica de Pensule, Cluj - Napocac, Romania; Labor
BP, Budapest, Hungary; National Slovak Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia; Ostlicht Gallery,
Vienna, Austria; Fotograf Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic; HELD, Leipzig
2013 Group exhibition A Formati - A5 photo brochures, ULUV, Novi Sad, Serbia
2013 Final exhibition of graduating students of Academy of Arts Novi Sad: Marija
Mandić, Dutina Gojko and Ibis Čerimagić, June 21 - July 6, Mali Likovni Salon, Novi
Sad, Serbia
2013 Final group exhibition of generation 2009 from Academy of Arts Novi Sad, the
Gallery of Fine Arts – Gift Collection of Rajko Mamuzić ; Novi Sad, Serbia



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