

LoST iN ThE FuNhoUSe



**Verloren im Spiegelkabinett
(Auf in Den Westen!)**

Lost in the Funhouse

(go west!)

Ivan Jovanović

Verloren im Spiegelkabinett

(auf in den westen!)

cOLuMbiNe sTuDiO

Toronto 2009

EIN KURZES VORWORT ZU DIESEM KLEINEN BILDERBUCH

Es gibt in der serbischen Sprache ein Wort, das mir sehr gut gefällt: ŽIVOPIS. Es ist eine Zusammensetzung aus dem Nomen 'Leben' und dem Verb 'schreiben'. Man verwendet dieses Wort eigentlich hauptsächlich in Bezug auf die Ikonenmalerei. Aber ich mochte dieses Wort schon immer sehr gern, weil es für mich die Berichterstattung des Lebens, die Dokumentation des Lebens beinhaltet.

Ich bin Bildermacher. Ich versuche, das, dessen ich Zeuge bin, widerzuspiegeln. Ich finde die Möglichkeiten visueller Dialoge aufregend. Ich bin das Produkt eines Zeitalters und einer Zeit. Ich suche durch das Diktum der Farbe und Linie. Und manchmal werfe ich den Speer. Jeder Maler spielt gelegentlich diese Rolle.

Diese Bilder sind der Puls einer urbanen Gesellschaft, in der ich lebe. Sie sind das ŽIVOPIS des zeitgenössischen Chaos. Allein der Titel dieser Sammlung *"Verloren im Spiegelkabinett (Auf in den Westen!)" besagt schon viel. Er verursacht vielleicht ein bisschen Gelächter, aber ich hoffe, er bewirkt auch noch etwas mehr als nur ein Lachen.

*See English note on following page

A SHORT FORWARD TO THIS LITTLE PICTURE BOOK:

There is a word in the Serbian language I like very much: Živopis. It is a compound of the noun 'life' and the verb to 'write'. It is usually used in reference to icon painting. I always liked this word because to me it implies the record of living; documenting the living.

I am a picture-maker. I try to reflect that to which I bear witness. I continue learning by observing the world. I am excited by the possibilities of visual dialogues. I am a product of an Age and a Time. I seek through the dictum of colour and line. And sometimes I throw the spear. Every painter sometimes has this role.

These pictures are the pulse of an urban society in which I live. They are the Živopis of the contemporary Western mayhem. The title of this collection, *"Lost in the Funhouse (Go West!)" says a lot on its own. It might all serve up a bit of a laugh, but I hope a little bit more as well.

Toronto, winter 2009

*The title Lost in the Funhouse originally used by John Barth for a short stories collection



Where the Streets are Paved with Gold, 2008
120x118cm, mixed media on paper

Lost in the Funhouse
(Go West!)
Works on paper

2008 - 2009

Verloren Im Spiegelkabinett
(Auf In Den Westen!)
Werke auf Papier

Mobileheads, 2008
112x112cm, mixed media on paper



Money, 2008
100x 116cm, mixed media on paper



This Market is a Fairly Dangerous Place, 2008
119x132cm, mixed media on paper



Another Guilty One, too, 2008
104x75cm, mixed media on paper



An Agreeable Conversation, 2008
119x118cm, mixed media on paper



Mobile Orgy I, 2008
114x107cm, mixed media on paper



A Moment of Silence, 2008
109x111cm, mixed media on paper



Mobile Orgy - Say Hello!, 2008
121x120cm, mixed media on paper



Cool Nation 8182, 2008
113x118cm, mixed media on paper



Big Cities Dreaming Away..., 2008
114x114cm, mixed media on paper



Big Cities Dreaming Away I..., 2009
110x109cm, mixed media on paper



(When the Lights go up and My Loneliness won't go Away)
Big Cities Dreaming Away II..., 2009
128x117cm, mixed media on paper



Where the Streets are Paved with Gold I, 2008
101x116cm, mixed media on paper



Where the Streets are Paved with Gold II, 2008
101x113cm, mixed media on paper



Where the Streets are Paved with Gold III, 2008
115x103cm, mixed media on paper



Prime Time, 2008
121x100cm, mixed media on paper



Where the Streets are Paved with Gold IV, 2008
120x118cm, mixed media on paper



Born to be Bored, 2009
130x119cm, mixed media on paper





Engineering, 2007

83x115cm, concrete, wood construction element, spray paint, found objects on wooden board

The Physical Landscape
Works on Cement

2007

Die Physische Landschaft
Werke auf Zement

Football Forever, 2007

113x119cm, concrete, wooden star, acrylic paint, running shoe,
football, spray paint on wooden board



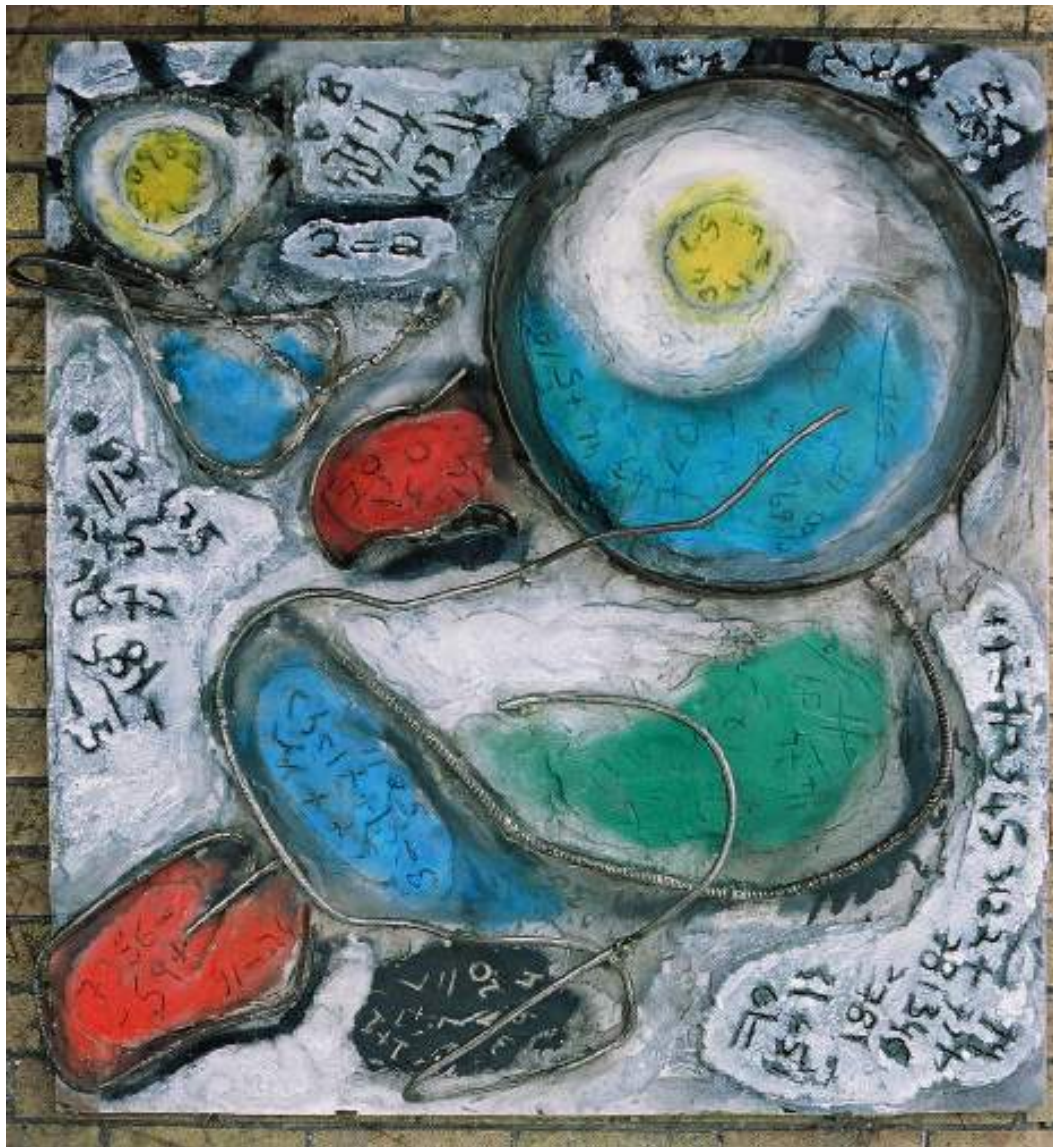


Do You Need Eyeglasses?, 2007
126x108cm, concrete, stained glass, newspaper, found objects,
spray paint on wooden board



2=2, 2007

112x119cm, concrete, scrap metal, concrete reinforcing bars, spray
paint on wooden board



An Advertisement - Live Here, 2007
121x120cm, concrete, chalk, spray paint on wooden board





Traffic Jam, 2007

112x119cm, concrete, scrap metal, styrofoam, wood, bricks, spray paint on wooden board



Traffic Jam I, 2007

107x121cm, concrete, wood, scrap metal, bricks, lost glove, spray
paint on wooden board





Eureka, 2007

114x120cm, concrete, bitumen, scrap metal, wood beam, rubber
roadway lanes, brick, lost glove, spray paint on wooden board



The Thought of it all, 2007

105x121cm, concrete, scrap metal, wood, bricks, rubber roadway
lane, bicycle wheel, spray paint on wooden board



Inside the Organism, 2008
142x122cm, concrete, scrap metal, bricks, electronic components,
spray paint on wooden board



Architectual Arrangement, 2007

89x114cm,concrete,wood,scrapmetal,styrofaom,spraypainton
wooden board



Starry Night with Skyscrapers, 2007
83x108cm, scrap metal, bitumen, concrete, wood, spray paint on
wooden board



Toy Factory on a Sunny Day, 2008

86x98cm, concrete, styrofoam, brick, metal, pipe, spray paint on
wooden board



Go Big or Go Home, 2007

122x75cm, concrete, torn car tire, bird wing, spray paint on
wooden board



The Hedonist, 2007

65x75cm, cigarette butts, concrete, bitumen, spray paint on
wooden board



The Rat Race, 2007 - 2009
130x101cm, tar, road sign, road lane, road kill on wooden board





American Torso I, II, III

2006, oil paint, spray paint and varnish
on treated cotton t-shirts



Education

- 1992 - 1996 York University, Toronto, Canada; **Bachelor of Fine Arts**
 2000 Studio practice with Tom Campbell and Miroslav Nesić, Toronto, Canada
 2001 Studio practice with Aleksandar Cvetković and Svetislav Arsić-Basara, attends Šumatovačka School of Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia (Serbia)

Exhibition History

- 2008 Ivan Yovanovich, **solo exhibition**;
JLA Baxter Street, New York City, NY.
 2007 Nuit Blanche: alley-way exhibition, Toronto, Canada;
two-men showing; presented by **Headbones Gallery**.
 2007 sTReeTclTycLAsH, **solo exhibition**;
Columibne Studio Court Yard, Toronto, Canada.
 2006 The Drawers - Erotic Exotic Christmas, **group showing**;
Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Canada.
 2006 The T-Show, **three-men show**;
EDAAS gallery, Toronto, Canada.
 2006 Contemporary Sculpture and Furniture, **group showing**;
KOMA Design Gallery, Toronto, Canada.
 2006 Paintings and Pictures, **group showing**;
O'Connor Gallery, Toronto, Canada.
 2005 Still Lives, **annual group showing**;
Praxis Gallery, Toronto, Canada.
 2004 Serbia to England, **solo exhibition**;
Centre for Culture and Arts, Paraćin, Serbia.
 2004 Presentation of a landscape construction to the town hall of Paraćin, Serbia.
 2004 From Another Country, **solo exhibition**;
Rivington Gallery (curated by Harold Rubin), London, England.
 2004 **Chiltern Green Park**, permanent installation of three riverbottom landscape constructions on the park grounds, London, England.

- 2004** Temporary display of “Silos in the Field”;
Canadian Film Center, Toronto, Canada.
- 2002** Landscapes, **solo exhibition**;
Center for Arts and Culture, Niš, Serbia.
- 2001** Landscapes from the Morava valley, **solo exhibition**;
Hermes Gallery, Zemun (Belgrade), Serbia.
- 1999** Still Lives, **annual group exposition**;
Praxis Gallery, Toronto, Canada.
- 1996** Café Maroc, certificate of merit; short film, 33min., writer/director;
Chicago International Film Festival.

Brief History

- 1974 - born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (Serbia) to Vladimir and Svetlana Jovanović
- 1984 - moves with parents and sister Ivana to Toronto, Canada
- 1988 - receives first instruction in drawing from Sergej Jovanović at his school in Belgrade
- 1990 - travels to Amsterdam with his father to see the great centennial exhibition of Vincent van Gogh's work
- 1992 - enrolls at York University, Toronto in the Fine Arts department choosing to pursue film-making instead of painting; continues attending art classes at the university
- 1993 - first journey to Morocco
- 1996 - graduates from York University in the film-making division
- 1997 - second journey to Morocco; spends five months living in Tanger; returns to Toronto; begins regularly attending open life drawing sessions at the Toronto School of Art
- 1998 - begins painting regularly
- 1999 - journey to Ecuador; decides to seriously pursue painting again; third journey to Morocco; returns to Toronto; continues attending life drawing sessions at the Toronto School of Art; starts painting *plain-air* landscapes; discovers the work of Frank Auerbach; influenced by Auerbach's heavy paint application
- 2000 - begins studying painting with Miroslav Nešić and Tom Campbell; moves to Belgrade; attends the Šumatovačka School of Art
- 2001 - meets Svetislav Arsić-Basara and Aleksandar Cvetković; learns from both artists; paints *plain-air* landscapes regularly

- 2002 - leaves Belgrade; returns temporarily to Canada; travels to Newfoundland to paint landscapes for two months; arrives in London, England; moves into a warehouse studio in East London
- 2003 - experiments with found objects and industrial materials in riverbottom landscapes; sees the work of Frank Auerbach and Anselm Kiefer; meets Harld Rubin who later exhibits his work at the Rivington Gallery
- 2004 - forced to leave the East London studio; moves into a trailer beside a wood yard; starts carving wood; travels to Berlin; sees more work by Anselm Kiefer; leaves London to go to Serbia; starts building a studio in the country side
- 2005 - leaves Serbia; returns to Toronto; moves into a house in East Toronto and starts a studio in the garage
- 2006 - starts teaching drawing and painting out of his home (*Columbine Studio - School of Art*); begins holding visual arts workshops in senior homes; continues work on urban landscapes
- 2007 - uses term *physical landscape* to describe the work on urban landscapes; marries Adi Halshtok on Wards Island, Toronto
- 2009 - relocates to Berlin, Germany with Adi

all inquiries can be forwarded to leotesla@hotmail.com

