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Gliptoteka

BORIS BUĆAN

Dan kad je kiša padala naopako

slike 2010.-2011.

Zagreb
lipanj 2011.
/Galerija II. i III./

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Pula
Muzej suvremene umjetnosti Istre
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Mladen Lučić

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Dan kad je kiša padala naopako

Gledajući nove slike Borisa Bućana pred očima mi se odvija svojevrsna retrospektiva njegovog dosadašnjeg izuzetno bogatog stvaralaštva. Slike novog ciklusa na izvjestan način sublimiraju i recikliraju ranija autorova iskustva, od onih konceptualne provenijencije, preko urbanog i ambijentalnog intervencionizma, dizajnersko-plakatnog stvaralaštva, brojnih grafika i crteža, pa sve do slika iz ciklusa *Žena na mjeseceni* izloženog prošle godine u *Galeriji Klovićevi dvori* u Zagrebu.

Ne mislim da je autor podvukao crtu i napravio izvjesni *résumé*, sažetak svog dosadašnjeg umjetničkog djelovanja, već jednostavno prepoznajem, što je svakako subjektivna impresija, neke ranije autorove radove izvedene u novom kontekstu, a najčešće i u drugom mediju. Ima nečeg plakatnog u Bućanovim slikama, što se prije svega odnosi na autorovo inzistiranje stavljanja naslova slike na platno, odnosno pozicioniranje teksta u slikarsku kompoziciju čime on postaje njenim gradidbenim dijelom, ali i tumačem njenog asocijativno-metaforičkog karaktera. Taj naziv istovremeno je integralni dio i lingvistička nadgradnja kompozicije koja tumači složenost autorovih misli pri vizualizaciji predmetnosti. Sve slike rađene su brzo, tjelesno, u jednom dahu, često

kao crteži; ustvari sljede misaonu brzinu i perceptivnu složenost autrova ludičkog duha. Iako mnoštvo ideja koje se rađaju u stvaralačkom procesu slikarski nužno rezultiraju gestom i izražajnom ekspresivnošću, Bućanova platna odraz su njegove široke naobrazbe i znatiželnog duha koji gotovo nikad ne miruje, već pomno sagledava predmetni svijet oko sebe, povezujući trenutni vizualni podražaj s osobnim iskustvom i metafizičkim transformacijama stvarnosti.

Složenost Bućanovih opažanja i njegova fascinantna moć neočekivatnog asocijativnog povezivanja oduvijek su bile jedne od bitnijih karakteristika autorova umjetničkog prosedea, a ta rafinirana i profinjena moć, koja jednim jedinim znakom ili potezom sažima složenost misli i pojmove, prvi je put zablistala punim svijetлом na njegovoj samostalnoj izložbi u zagrebačkoj Galeriji suvremene umjetnosti 1976. godine. Na toj izložbi autor se poigrava ključnim ličnostima i pojmovima iz povijesti umjetnosti, svodivši ih krajnje minimalističko-redukcionističkim postupkom na (po Bućanu) esenciju njihova bitka. Eksplicitna duhovitost prisutna na toj izložbi ostala je karakteristična za autorovo djelovanje, a ludičnost koja iz toga proizlazi bila je vodiljom koja je njegovu

umjetnost izdizala iznad stilskih i povijesnih odrednica. Visoka samovrijest i individualizam izdvajali su Bućana od dosljedne pripadnosti stilu što je definiralo njegovu umjetničku slobodu koja se manifestirala posezanjem za citatima povijesnih avangardi kao i mješanjem raznolikih formi izričaja te dovela do specifičnog *gesamtkunstwerka*. Vjeran takvom razmišljanju Bućan ostaje i u ovom ciklusu slika u kojem spaja različita formativna, izražajna i medijska sredstva, često ih objedinjujući na jednom platnu. Reinterpretacija povijesnih pojmoveva ili čak citata oduvijek je bila dio autorovog umjetničkog oruđa, a sada je potencirana i autoreferencijalnim slikanim kompozicijama poput *Partenona*, *Moje palete* (klavir) ili *Poslje sunčanja* gdje Bućan transferira svoje ranije plakate u medij slike, kao što je prije tridesetak godina učinio obratno. Uostalom, nije li ponишavanje metatarskih granica, odnosno njihovo objedinjavanje jedno od osnovnih načela umjetničkih postupaka današnjeg vremena? Bućan je svojim ranijim radovima dakako preduhitrio sadašnje medijsko objedinjavanje umjetnosti, odnosno inzistirao je na dokidanju granica između umjetničkih disciplina i stilova tretirajući vlastitu umjetničku produkciju kao idejno estetski čin snažna intelektualnog predznaka. Bućan je na premissama kasne moderne, poglavito *action paintinga* s jedne i *pop arta* s druge strane, te *konceptualizma* kao umjetničkog pravca vremena kojem je pripadao, uspio stvoriti specifičan umjetnički izraz kojeg nikako ne možemo nazvati stilom, jer njegov cjelokupni opus izmiče svim stilskim kategorijama.

Slikam posljednjeg slikara platno je, gdje autor iz ptice perspektive (kroz prozor) slika radnika cestarskog poduzeća kako označuje pješačku

zebru. Ta me slika, osim što nazivom aludira na *Posljednju sliku* Ad Reinharta, podsjeća na plakat s motivom zebre za Omladinski klub Kulušić, koji je bio jednim od prvih koje je autor izveo u velikom formatu, odnosno kada je počeo izlaziti slikom na ulicu. Doista, njegovi plakati osamdesetih godina predstavljaju ulične slike, jer su slikarskim rafiniranim rađeni na velikim formatima te su ili narativno deskriptivni, kada je riječ o seriji rađenoj za HNK Split, odnosno apstraktne fantazmagorični, kada se radi o plakatima za Zagrebačke simfoničare. Osim navedenog plakata, motiv zebre Bućan je dosta često rabio u svojem opusu (serija *Košulje*, 2009.) stoga mislim da navedena slika ima u sebi nečeg autobiografskog isto kao što je i autorov osobni čin jasno odaslana, na gornjem rubu slike ispisana, poruka o kraju slikarstva. Međutim, taj je kraj u povijesti suvremene umjetnosti bio već više puta najavljuvan, ali do njega nikada nije došlo. Autor odgovara takvom mogućem ishodu na sebi svojstven način. On je sada prvenstveno slikar i kao takav brine se o mediju kojeg većina pripadnika recentne umjetničke prakse odbacuje. Bućan je jedan od rijetkih umjetnika koji se bavio gotovo svim vizualnim medijima i u svakom je postizao izuzetne rezultate da bi na kraju, sigurno ne bez razloga, odabrao slikarstvo.

Koliko god današnje vrijeme, potpomognuto novim tehnologijama, sustavno radi na odumiranju umjetničke kreativnosti i intelektualne misli, a time i na dokidanju slikarstva, Boris Bućan argumentirano svojim slikarskim hedonizmom educirane duhovitosti, dokazuje da je individualnost jača od uniformnosti.

Autorove slike zrače otvorenošću njegova duha, a jednostavna i često neočekivana rješenja ukazuju na umjetnika bez kompleksa koji vjeruje

u sebe i ispravnost svojih misaonih i umjetničkih postupaka. Ignorirajući vrijeme u kojem živi i kojem pripada, Bućan će i sada, kao što je oduvijek i činio, izaći iz okvira i klišea što nameću recentne umjetničke prakse, te će učiniti svojevrstan *come back* i decentno se vratiti na svoja ishodišta u nekim slikama koje diskretno, ali dovoljno sugestivno prizivaju modernizam. Tako će *Crna svjetlost noćne lampe u podne* i *Bila je tako lijepa ko crni kvadrat* evocirati Maljevića, dok će lucidni crteži iz serije *Ruke*, minimalnim zahvatima zadobiti stilske ili osobne karakteristike velikana modernističke misli. Inventivne i minimalne pretvorbe crteža šake u prepoznatljiva svojstva Picasso, Matisse, Giacometia, Morandia ili Oldenburga, podsjećaju me na spomenutu izložbu u Galeriji suvremene umjetnosti koja je označila i Bućanov rastanak s praksom visokog modernizma. Od tada se Bućan u potpunosti posvećuje preispitivanju slikarskog jezika i njegovih izražajnih mogućnosti te apliciranju njegovih karakteristika u druge medije i obratno. Autorov novi ciklus nije slučajno naslovljen *Dan kad je kiša padala naopako* po jednoj od slika iz te serije, jer sve one ukazuju na postojanost i snagu njegovog osebujnog autorskog jezika izmaknutog općim poimanjima umjetničkih trendova. Bućanov rad suprotan je mišljenu većine koja smatra da slikarstvo nije immanentno našem vremenu, jer on je suvremen i stoga što izmiče svim uvriježenim granicama. Slikarstvo je vječno ma kako ga stilski ili terminološki nazivali. A Bućan je slikar.



Golman; *Grana smokve*, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Pantera i platana, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm

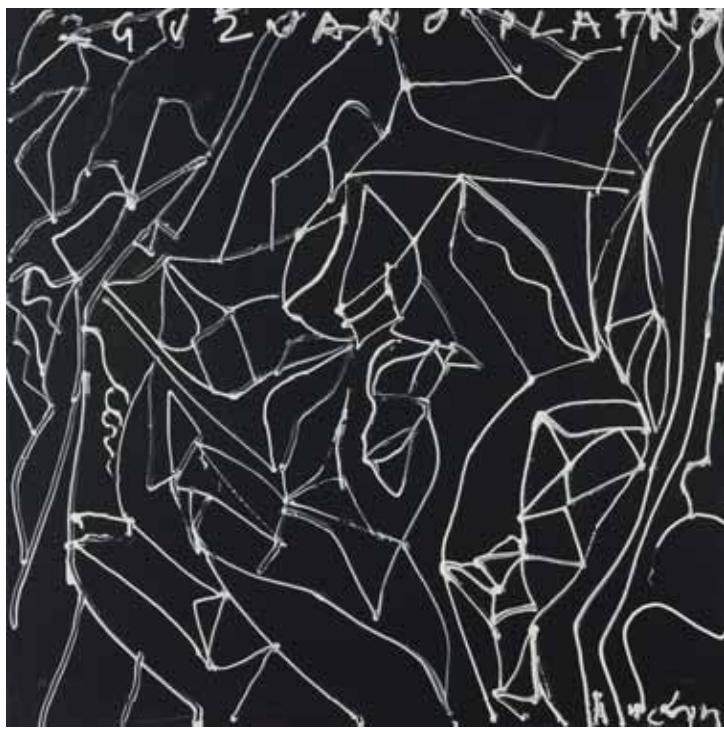


Šišmiši u mojoem gradu 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Cvjetni trg pod kišom, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm





Zgužvano platno, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



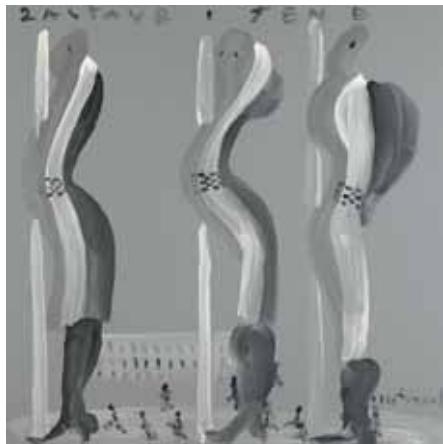
Grašak ili čamci na Nilu, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Kit ili Žena, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Ševa; muškarac i žena na prijemu, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Zastave i žene, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Žena u amarilisu, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Grad od kukuruza, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



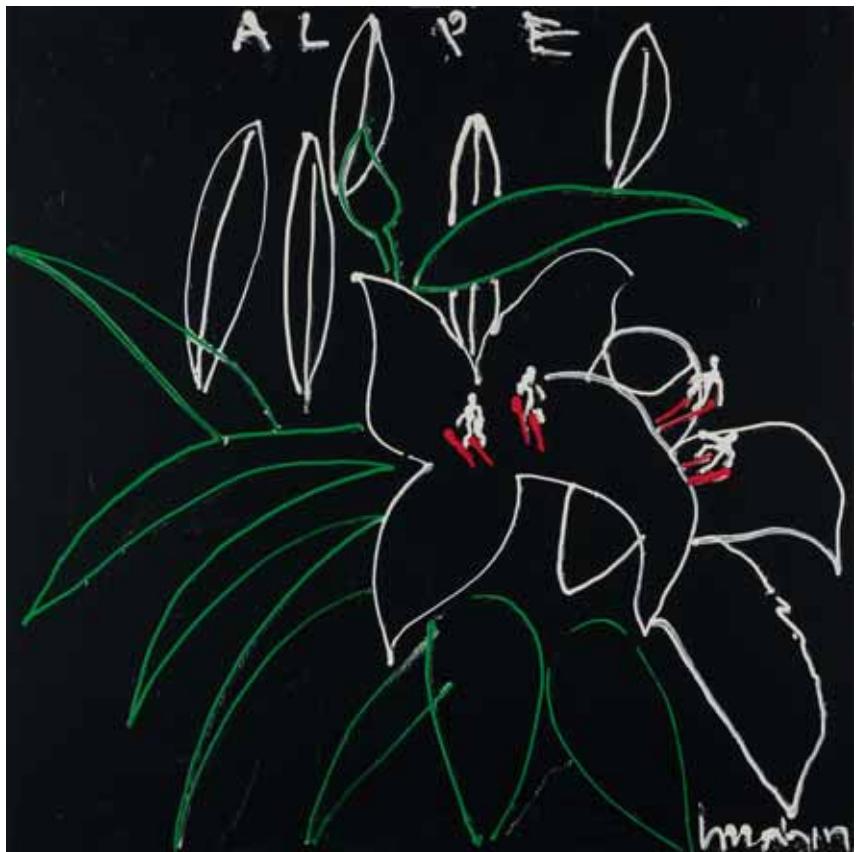
Stolac, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Slikam slikara posljednjeg, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Crna svjetlost noćne lampe u podne, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



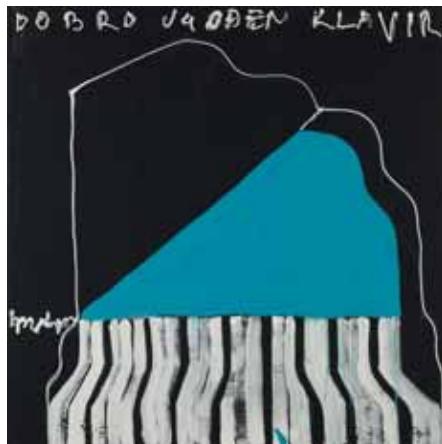
Alpe, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



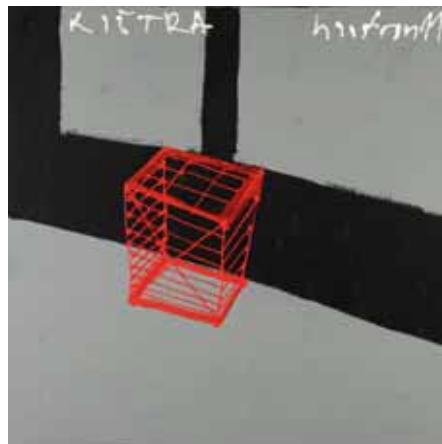
Barokni anđeli u ljiljanima, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



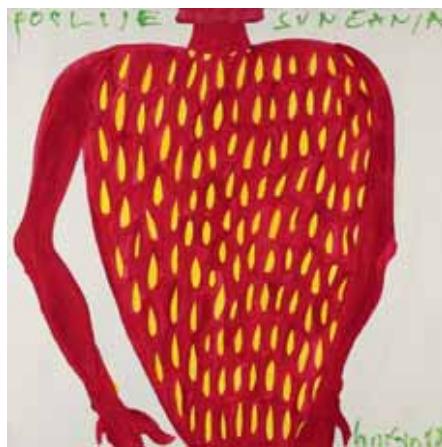
Ringišpijl u ljiljanu, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Dobro ugoden klavir, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Kištra, 2011.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Poslje sunčanja, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Grana sa jabukom, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm

The Day When Rain Fell Upside Down

Looking at the new pictures of Boris Bućan, I see a kind of retrospective of his exceptionally rich creativity to date unfolding before my eyes. The paintings of the new cycle in a certain way sublimate and recycle the painter's earlier experience, from that of a conceptual pedigree, via urban and environmental interventionism, work in design and posters, the many prints and drawings, all the way through to the paintings of the cycle *Woman in the Moonlight* shown last year in the Klovićevi dvori Gallery in Zagreb.

I do not think the author has drawn a line and created a kind of *résumé*, a condensation of his previous work in art, but I simply recognise, which is by all means a subjective impression, some of the earlier works of the author produced in a new context, most often in a different medium. There is something of the poster in Bućan's paintings, which refers above all to his insistence on placing the title of the painting on the canvas, or the positioning of text within a painting composition, making it a structural part of the painting, as well as an interpreter of its associative and metaphorical character. This title is simultaneously an integral part of and a linguistic superstructure to the composition, which explains the complexity of the author's thinking in the visualisation of objectness. All the paintings are done fast, corporeally, in a breath, often

as drawings as well; in fact they follow the speed of thinking and the perceptive complexity of his ludic spirit. Although the mass of ideas that are born in the creative process are in painting terms necessarily resultant in gesture and eloquent expressiveness, Bućan's canvases are a reflection of his wide education and inquisitive spirit, which is almost never still, rather, attentively comprehends the world of objects around it, connecting the current visual prompting with personal experience and with metaphysical transformations of reality.

The complexity of Bućan's observations and his fascinating power to make unexpected associative connections have always been essential characteristics of the author's artistic procedure. This refined and sophisticated power, which with a single sign or stroke sums up the complexity of thoughts and concepts, first shone forth in its full light at his individual exhibition in Zagreb's Gallery of Contemporary Art in 1976.

At this exhibition the artist played with key personalities and concepts from art history, reducing them, in an extremely minimalist and reductionist procedure to, according to Bućan, the essence of their being. The explicit wit present at this exhibition remained a characteristic of the author's activity, and the sense for play that came out of it was a guiding thread that raised his art above stylistic and historical determinants.

A high degree of self-confidence and individualism detached Bućan from consistently belonging to a style, and defined his artistic freedom, manifesting itself in the resort to quotes of the historical avant-gardes, and the mingling of diverse forms of expression, leading to a specific kind of Gesamtkunstwerk. Bućan remains loyal to this way of thinking in this cycle of paintings, too, in which he combines different formative, expressive and media resources, often bringing them together in a single canvas. Reinterpretation of historical concepts or even quotations has ever been part of his artistic toolbox, and now it is raised a power by self-referential painted compositions like *The Parthenon, My Palettes* (piano) or *After Sunbathing*, where Bućan transfers his earlier posters into the medium of the painting, as thirty years ago he did just the opposite. After all, is not the cancellation of the borders of craft skills, or their merging, one of the basic principles of the artistic procedures of this day and age? In his early works, Bućan of course anticipated the current media-unification of art, insisting on doing away with borders between art disciplines and styles, treating his own artistic production as an ideational and aesthetic deed with a powerfully intellectual sign. Bućan on the premises of late Modernism, particularly Action Painting on one hand and Pop on the other, as well as Conceptualism as the artistic line of development of the time to which he belonged, managed to create a particular artistic idiom that we cannot call a style, because the whole of his oeuvre slips out of the fingers of stylistic categories.

I Paint the Last Painter is a canvas in which the author from a bird's eye perspective (through a window) paints the workers of the road-maintenance firm painting the zebra crossing. This picture, apart from the title

recalling the *Last Picture* of Ad Reinhardt, reminds me of the poster with the zebra motif for Kulušić Youth Club, which was one of the first that he did in the large format, or when he started showing his paintings on the street. Indeed, his posters of the eighties constitute street paintings, for with still painterly refinement they are done on large formats and are either narratively descriptive, such as the series done for the Croatian National Theatre in Split, or abstract and phantasmagoric, like those made for the Zagreb Symphony Orchestra. Apart from in these posters, Bućan has used in his oeuvre the motif of zebra fairly often (the series *Shirts*, 2009), which makes me think there is something autobiographical in the painting, just as, written on the upper edge of the painting is a message about the end of painting, the author's clear personal deed. However, this end has been several times heralded in the history of contemporary art, without ever actually having come about. The author responds to such an outcome in his typical way. He is now primarily a painter, and accordingly cares about the medium that most recent art practitioners have rejected. Bućan is one of the few artists who deals with almost all visual media and has achieved outstanding results in all of them, and ultimately, and surely not for no reason, he has chosen painting.

However much today's time, abetted by the new technologies, systematically works on the extinction of artistic creativity and intellectual thinking, and hence on the abolition of painting, Boris Bućan, with the proof of the painterly hedonism of his educated wittiness, shows that individuality is stronger than uniformity.

The artist's paintings give off the openness of his spirit, and the simple and often unexpected solutions suggest an artist without complexes,

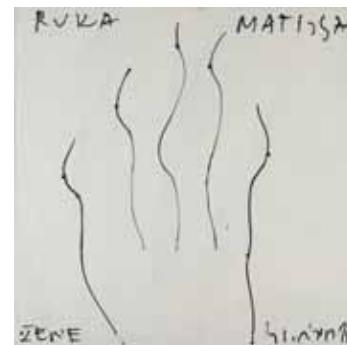
who believes in himself and the correctness of his intellectual and artistic procedures. Ignoring the time in which he lives, to which he belongs, Bućan will now, as he has always done, come out of the box, out of the cliché imposed by recent art practice, and will make a kind of come-back, return with dignity to his origins in some paintings that discreetly but suggestively enough invoke Modernism. So *Black Light of a Night Light at Noon* and *It Was As Nice as a Black Square* evoke Malevich, while the lucid drawings from the series *Hands*, will with minimal operations take on the stylistic or personal characteristics of the big names of modernist thinking. The inventive and yet minimal transformations of a drawing of a hand into the recognisable properties of Picasso, Matisse, Giacometti, Morandi or Oldenburg recall the earlier mentioned exhibition in the Gallery of Contemporary Art, which actually marked Bućan's parting with the practice of High Modernism. Since then, Bućan has devoted himself entirely to the re-examination of the language of painting and its expressive capacities as well as to the application of its characteristics to other media, and vice versa. The author's new cycle is not accidentally called *The Day the Rain Fell Upside Down* after one of the paintings of the series, for all of them show the constancy and power of his individual creative language which is at a remove from the general conceptions of artistic trends. Bućan's work is in contrast to the majority opinion that painting is not a real part of our time, for it is contemporary and hence evades all the inveterate borders. Painting is forever, however it is named terminologically or stylistically. And Bućan is a painter.



Ruka Oldenburga 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Ruka Picasso 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Ruka Matisse; žene, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm



Ruka Morandia; mrtva priroda, 2010.
akril na platnu, 140x140 cm

Boris Bućan / Životopis

Boris Bućan rođen je 1947. godine u Zagrebu. 1967. upisuje ALU u Ljubljani, a 1972. diplomira je na Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti u Zagrebu. Redoviti je član Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti od 2006. godine. Dobitnik je brojnih domaćih i inozemnih nagrada. Živi i radi u Zagrebu.

Sve slike nastale su 2010. i 2011. godine, rađene su tehni-kom akrila na platnu i dimenzija su 140 x 140 cm.

Anton postavlja moju sliku na zid galerije / Autun Hangs
My Painting on the Wall of the Gallery
Nogometničar; grana smokve / Footballer; Fig Branch
Borovi / Pines
Servirana marelica / Apricot Served Up
Bor / Pine
Grašak ili čamci na nilu / Pea or Boats on the Nile
Kit ili žena / Whale or Woman
Konj i žena / Horse and Woman
Pantera i platana / Panther and Plane
Ugljen pred kućom / Coal in Front of the House
Golub u ljiljanima / Dove in the Lilies
Alpe / Alps
Ševa; muškarac i žena na prijemu / Skylark; Man and Woman at a Reception
Dobro ugođen klavir / Well Tempered Piano
Grana sa jabukom / Bough with Apple
Mačka mi je skočila na vrat / The Cat Jumped on My Neck
Prenos slike na platno oko TV antene / Transmission of Painting onto Canvas around TV Aerial
Streljanje / Shooting
Crna svjetlost noćne lampe u podne / Black Light of Night-light at Noon
Pas i mačka na mojim čarapama / Dog and Cat on My Socks
Šupa / Shed
Vrh drveta čovjek i pantera / Treetop, Man and Panther
Pas, klinac i žena zakapa svog muža / Dog, Kid and Woman Burying Her Husband
Grana drveta / Branch of a Tree
Poslijе sunčanja / After Sunbathing

Partenon u mom dvorištu / Parthenon in My Yard
Auf henger / Coat Hanger
Moja paleta (klavir) / My Palette (Piano)
Moja paleta (žena) / My Palette (Woman)
Umjetnik na kuli upozorenja (Rols Royce) / Artist on Alarm Tower (Rolls-Royce)
Umjetnik u dvoru bjelokosnom / Artist in Ivory Palace
Zvonar i njegova žena / Sexton and His Wife
Paučina na mom plafonu / Cobweb on My Ceiling
Partenon / Parthenon
Nebo nad Dalmacijom / Sky over Dalmatia
Žena u Amarilisu / Woman in Amaryllis
Bila je tako lijepa ko crni kvadrat / It Was As Nice As a Black Square
Seljak u tvornici / Peasant in a Factory
Gavranovir / Ravenforte
Žena u vazi / Woman in Vase
U kadi / In a Bathtub
Krv je šiknula iz mene (vaza s tulipanim) / Blood Spurted Out of Me (Vase of Tulips)
Šišmiši u mojojem gradu / Bats in My City
Cvjetni trg pod kišom / Flower Square in the Rain
U bolnici / In the Hospital
Posljednji pozdrav (torta) / Last Farewell (Torte)
Sklizanje / Skating
Nogomet / Football
Vaterpolo / Water Polo
Ruka japanke / Japanese Woman's Hand
Na-ma / NaMa
Zastave i žene / Flags and Women
Latice od ljiljana - pingvini / Lily Petals - Penguins
Simfonijski orkestar / Symphony Orchestra
Dve papige u ljiljanima / Two Parrots in Lilies
Dan kada je kiša padala naopako / The Day When the Rain Fell Upside-Down
Isus ili kruh / Jesus or Bread
Majmun; ruka / Monkey; Hand
Na groblju / At the Cemetery
Šetnja dva pudla na boru / Two Poodles' Walk on a Pine Gola žena / Nude Woman
Ruka u oblacima / Hand in the Clouds
Ruže i portreti / Roses and Portraits
Zgužvano platno / Crumpled Canvas
Mona Lisa / Mona Lisa
Skok konja; ruka / Horse's Jump; Hand TV / TV
Zvuk zvona crkve sv. Blaža kroz krošnje / The Sound of the Bells of the Church of St Blaise through Crown of a Tree
Puž; ruka / Snail; Hand
Nosorog; ruka / Rhinoceros; Hand
Barokni anđeli u ljiljanima / Baroque Angels in Lilies
Ringišpel u ljiljanu / Merry-Go-Round in Lily
Krik / Cry
Palma pod kišom / Palm in the Rain
Ruka Michelangela i Boga / Hand of Michelangelo and God
Ruka Moora / Hand of Moore
Ruka Oldenburga / Hand of Oldenburg
Ruka Picassa / Hand of Picasso
Ruka Duchampa / Hand of Duchamp
Ruka Van Gogha / Hand of Van Gogh
Ruka Matisse; žene / Hand of Matisse; Women
Ruka Morandia; mrтva priroda / Hand of Morandi; Still Life
Majmuni na mom boru / Monkeys on My Pine
Majmuni na grani smokve / Monkeys on a Fig Branch
Uvenula ruža / Wilted Rose
Golman; grana smokve / Goalkeeper; Fig Branch
Otpale latice / Fallen Petals
Uzburkano more / Choppy Sea
Muškarac na livadi / Men on a Meadow
Glumci / Actors
Kištra I / Crate I,
Kištra II / Crate II
Kava za dvoje / Coffee for Two
Henri de Toulouse - Lautrec; Mačuhica / Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec; Pansy
Talibani / Talibans
Stolac / Chair
Grad od kukuruza / City of Corn
Servis za kavu / Coffee Service
Slikam posljednjeg slikara / I Paint the Last Painter
Ubit ću ovu sliku / I Shall Kill this Painting
Pas čuvar / Guard Dog
Gušter i jastuci / Lizard and Cushions