



PRESS RELEASE

D.Rad (Complicating the Narrative- in a time of false Simplicity)

April 1 to 22, 2023

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Curator:

Maggie Laidlaw

Artists : Allan Stanners, Emilie Brooks Millar, Lew-C, Frances Ryan Chambers, Veljko Vučkovič, Stefan Lukič.

Espace Canopy gallery is excited to host the second installment of the D.Rad Project exhibition which took place in Belgrade, Serbia last December by welcoming the artists and their works in Paris in April.

The D. Rad Project (DeRadicalisation in Europe and Beyond : Detect, Resolve, Reintegrate) is run by Glasgow Caledonian University and piloted locally in Paris by the Center for Critical Democracy Studies of the American University of Paris. It is first and foremost an academic research project composed of researchers, scientists and professionals from myriad international universities that use a multitude of research methods. This project is supported in part by the European Commission Horizon 2020.

Led by Professor Umut Korkut, the project questions individual perceptions and the interactions between human beings by demonstrating that any social, cultural or religious behavior can be perceived as a difference that can lead to the radicalization or polarization of an individual.

In a desire to transmit the results of their research to as many people as possible, the D.Rad research team decided to extend the

project through the artistic prism by asking six artists to interpret and report on their understanding of the D.Rad Project via works of art.

Here, art acts as a medium, between academics and the general public, to facilitate the understanding of the researchers' intentions. From these artistic products, the "D.Rad: Complicating the narrative" exhibition was born and presented for the first time in Belgrade last December.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

The opening of the exhibition in Paris will coincide with an academic conference organized at the American University of Paris by professors Stephen Sawyer and Roman Zinigrad to discuss radical violence. D.Rad researchers from the consortium will join the professors in Paris to present their results, attend the exhibition and reflect on the intellectual and aesthetic links between the works of art presented at the Espace Canopy and their research.

PROJECT LEADERS

UMUT KORKUT is the leader of the D.Rad Project in addition to being a professor of international politics in the Department of Economics and Law at the Glasgow School for Business & Society at Glasgow Caledonian University. Broadly, his research questions how political discourse, aesthetics and visual imagery create different audiences. He uses theoretical interest in various central empirical areas of European politics including political regime change, gender and politics, populism, and migration research. He is also the leader of

two other projects funded by the European Commission Horizon 2020.

DR. MAGGIE LAIDLAW is the curator of the exhibition and a postdoctoral researcher in the Economics Department of the Glasgow School of Business & Society at Glasgow Caledonian University. Her interest is focused on using arts-based research to explore temporary practices across diverse communities and voluntary practices. Additionally, she is an ethnographer and is familiar with creative and collaborative qualitative research methodologies.

STEPHEN SAWYER is the first Ballantine-Levitt's Professor of History and Director of the Center for Critical Democracy Studies at the American University of Paris. The heart of his work is articulated in a history and a theory of democracy as a method for judiciary administrative and popular policy regulation.

ROMAN ZINIGRAD is a professor of public law in the Department of History and Politics and a member of the Center for Critical Democracy Studies at the American University of Paris. His research relates to constitutional and theoretical law, comparative constitutional law, and to the themes of law and religion. His research focuses on international human rights law and children's rights.

THE ARTISTS

Emily Brooks Millar is a self-taught visual artist from Glasgow, Scotland whose work focuses primarily on American and British political debates and controversies. Her works deal with complex subject matter while being imbued with dark humor and satire. Through painting and animation, her works are supported by her training in oral history. As the winner of

the Neil Rafeek Prize, she transforms broad interview discussions into creation for a wider audience. Additionally, it is deeply inspired by internet culture, identity and interactions between users. Through her work, Millar's main objective is to carry voices forward for those who do not have one.

Lew-C is a musician and visual artist based in Glasgow. Their work centers on questions of identity and spirituality. With a background in film composition and musicology, Lew-C is interested in exploring the different interactions possible between sound, symbolism and the notion of self.

Frances Ryan is a Scottish artist from Denny in Stirlingshire. She first studied Fine Art and Printmaking at Duncan of Jordanstone, Dundee University of Art and Design and then completed an MFA at Edinburgh University of Art. Her work is based on collage, using various materials such as found images or **vintage ephemera** (these are vintage prints whose usefulness was originally for something else and were not supposed to be preserved but which today are prized and collected) and using various techniques such as **mixed media** (mixture of techniques, painting, collage added to other processes and mixed with other mediums, all on a single medium) or **mark making**. (a mixed technique inspired by abstract expressionism allowing the realization of abstract compositions with multicolored backgrounds adorned with lines, dots, patterns, random textures, or repeated and spontaneous shapes). In this image-saturated world, Frances believes collage sheds light on exploring and discovering hidden meanings in connected stories and shared experiences.

Alan Stanners is a Scottish painter from Glasgow. He completed his Bachelor of Art just before heading to London to complete his Masters of Fine Arts at Goldsmith University in 2012. He continued to live and work in London

for seven years, during which time he exhibited several times, notably at the MOT Gallery with a solo exhibition. He then moved back to Glasgow where he continues to work and exhibit today.

Veljko Vučković is a Serbian artist. He obtained his master's degree at the University of Applied Arts in Belgrade. He is currently a doctoral student and assistant professor at the same institution. He has exhibited his works in 110 exhibitions in Serbia and around the world, in addition to 16 solo exhibitions. He received the Momčilo Moma Marković award for the best drawn small format. His work is characterized by a digital approach in forming the composition and content of his works, which are then shaped and materialized using the traditional oil on canvas technique. As for the subjects he deals with, he is very interested in creating ambiguous works allowing him to make fine associations of a social and political nature.

Stefan Lukić is a Serbian artist who obtained his master's degree at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade in 2022. He graduated from the Faculty of Applied Arts in Belgrade in 2018, the third year of which was spent at the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris. In 2021, he was a resident in Gothenburg in Sweden then at Homession Art Space in Barcelona in Spain. He currently lives and works in Belgrade, Serbia.

ARTWORKS

"THE STEVE WHITE EXPERIENCE" (5 videos) by Emily Brooks Millar & Lew-C is a series of cartoon music videos showing the social rise of Steve White, a fictional news anchor. We witness his confrontations between the notions of Me and the Other and his role in perpetuating cycles of hatred.

"BY YOUR SIDE" by Stefan Lukić is a performance taking place first on the bridge linking Albania to Serbia and then on Kosovska

Street in Belgrade, some parts of which have been photographed. He uses spaces with political and historical connotations to reclaim them and create a unification between the people treading this space by reminding them of the bond that unites them. “**STATE CONTROL**” & “**ALL HANDS ON DECK**” by Veljko Vučković are two small format paintings created especially for the exhibition. They are both oils on canvas whose inspiration comes from a monograph on Tito dating from 1971.

“**UMWELTEN GAP**” by Alan Stanners are two paintings specially created for the D.RAD project that aim to confront stories linked to cultural differences using insects as a metaphor.

“**WORKS**” by Frances Ryan is a series of collages about experiences and cases of social isolation and how they can be challenged through everyday interactions and collective engagement with others on many levels. She takes the example of football in particular. To create this series, the artist uses several techniques including that of mark making and mixed media.

For more information on the project:

<https://dradproject.com/>

<https://www.espacecanopy.fr/>

For more information about the artists :

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1 Alan Stanners



'Umwelten Gap (Oakworm Moth)'



'Umwelten Gap (Silkworm Larva)'



State Control
oil on canvas, 50x50 cm, 2022



All Hands on Deck
oil on canvas, 50x50 cm, 2022

2 Veljko Vučković



3 Frances Ryan Chambers – “Works” (Series)



4 Stefan Lukić - "By your side"



5 Emily Brooks Millar & Lew-C - "The Steve White Experience"



6 Umut Korkut (professor and director of the project), Filip Brusić Renaud (director of Kuća Legata/House of heritage), Dr. Maggie Laidlaw (curator), Paul-Henri Presset (responsible for information, communication and media). From left to right.