





# Sislej Xhafa

*brko like bird*

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BRKO LIKE BIRD | 15.VII.2011

SISLEJ XHAFA



Brko like bird

## Crnice uz performans »Brko kao ptica«

Jedna od dominantnih specifičnosti savremene umetnosti jeste osobina da ona često, svoj profil i identitet ne pokazuje direktno i očigledno kroz stil, metje ili tehniku već posredno, posredovano ili sakriveno čime se potvrđuju mišljenja da je umetnost danas u simbiozi sa institucijom ili pak ambijentom, odnosno kulturnom teritorijom na kojoj se odvija.

No, ako se može reći da umetnost realizovana u tradicionalnim medijima poput slikarstva, skulpture, pa čak i instalacije, u svom životu nakon razlaza sa primarnom simboličkom vezom zadržava identitet u kome usput može da nosi i svoje poreklo, za radove realizovane u formama koje se odigravaju kao proces u ograničenom i neponovljivom vremenskom intervalu teško je naći oslonac koji bi ih katapultirao direktno u kontekst umetnosti čime se održava stalna napetost između artifijeljnog i realnog. Pre bi se moglo reći da ona mimikrički preuzima osobine konteksta kojime se bavi što je čini posredovanom i skrivenom.

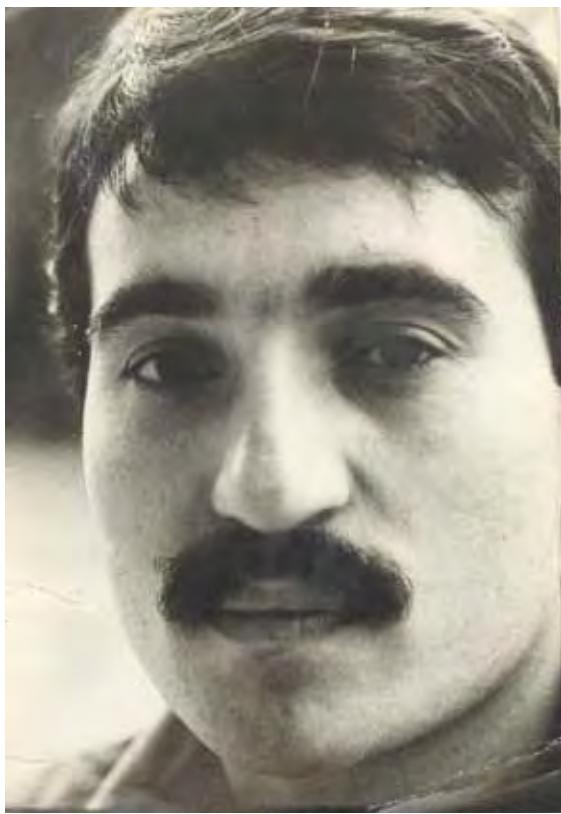
Performans se, za razliku od spontanosti hepeninga ili entuzijazma akcionista, pojavljuje kao paradoksalna energija ravnoteže koja podržava, razdvaja ali i spaja hladnoću mentalne diskurzivnosti konceptualne umetnosti i fizičku toplinu realnosti (realne prisutnosti) tela. Taj skučeni prostor delovanja u kome se mogu odvijati samo ultimativno lične istorije, egzistencije i reprezentacije poput performansa Đine Pane, Marine Abramović ili Vita Akončija uvukao je u igru, tokom evoluiranja sopstvenih praksi, čitavo društvo oduzimajući mu doživljaj kondenzovane performativne energije u zamenu za ekskluzivne analize. Uvlačeći društvo i njegove fenomene, prakse i običaje u prostor umetnosti taj se prostor transformiše u društvo sa umetničkim predznakom. Zato danas svako ozbiljno društvo ima integriran kulturalni prefiks.

Kada Joseph Kosuth kaže »Sva umetnost posle Dišana je konceptualna po prirodi stoga što umetnost i postoji samo konceptualno« mi danas ovakav stav možemo da prihvatimo samo ako prihvatimo i činjenicu da su su se manifestacije konceptualnog razgranale, umnožile i infiltrirale u sam život u procesima simboličke razmene iskustava.

Sislej Xafa svoj rad pod nazivom »Brko like bird« izvedenim u Galeriji 42° na Cetinju konstruiše kao rad In Situ unutar specifične teritorije koju čini Fakultet likovnih umjetnosti na Cetinju gde je gostovao u okviru umetničkog rezidencialnog programa. Tokom desetodnevnog boravka studentima je održao predavanje a u galeriji je »izveo« performans pod nazivom »Brko like Bird«.

Ali, rad pod nazivom »Brko kao ptica« (Brko like bird) nije samo performans već višeslojni program istraživanja i predstavljanja simboličkog iskustva umetnika i nove teritorije, gde je performans finalna pozicija sa značenjem ludičkog, duhovitog i ekstremnog iskaza preko koga se dolazi do ostalih slojeva rada.

Scenska postavka performansa *Brko Like Bird*, smeštena je u gornji, na prvi pogled teško vidljivi rakurs galerije. Brko, ne vršeći nikakve radnje ili gestove, sedi u okviru tavanskog prozora i time više zauzima poziciju žive slike,

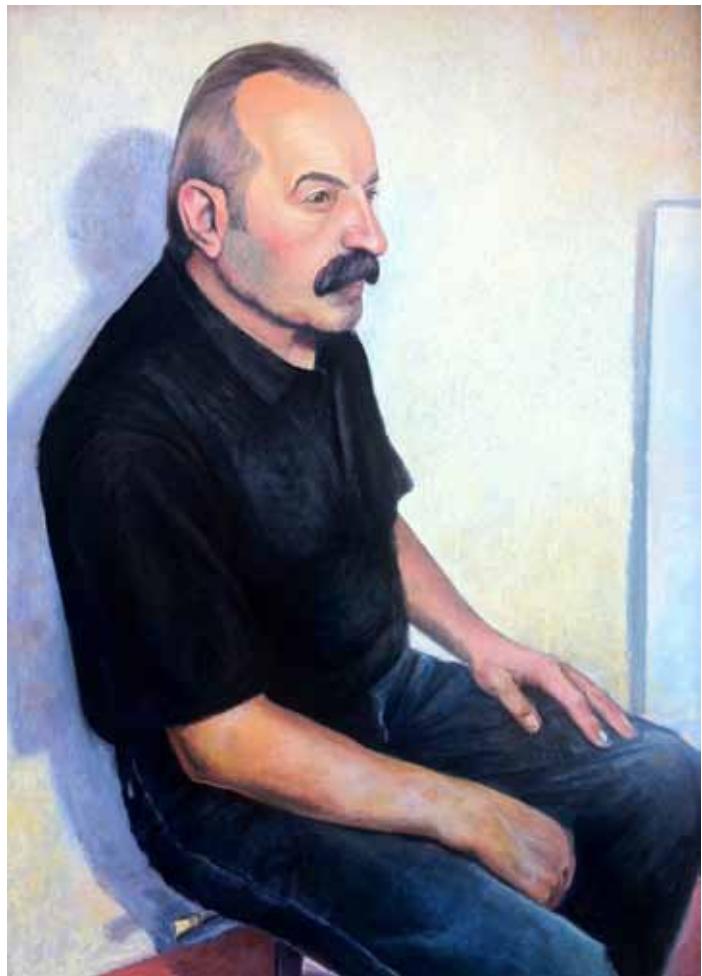


skulptura ili pak pozicije za fotografisanje ili snimanje, dakle za konstrukciju rada u duhu filmskog stila, nego što izvodi performans u klasičnom smislu reči. Xhafo ipak insistira na performansu zbog veze između Brka kao tihog aktera, fizičkog prostora galerije/fakulteta, naziva rada i publike koja takođe u većoj meri pripada kulturnoj teritoriji o kojoj je reč. Xhafo, zapravo, ovim performativnim aktom, nazivom i katalogom koji je sastavni deo rada, procesuirala temu GENIUS LOCI gde je Brko reotkriveni i performansom potvrđeni subjekt teme.

Xhafo je, de facto, preselio obrnuti kontekst svoga dosadašnjeg rada u život dugogodišnjeg radnika (domara) Fakulteta likovnih umjetnosti na Cetinju da bi afirmisao poziciju sa kojom je iznenada suočen. Naime, u svom prethodnom radu Xhafo se bavio pitanjima migracije i emigracije, statusima migranata i društvenim aspektima tih situacija. I sam emigrant kome su kosmopolitizam, multietičnost i kretanje egzistencijalni milje i platforma za rad, on se na Cetinju susreće sa, za njega gotovo neverovatnom situacijom, da je jedna ličnost čitav svoj život vezala za jedan ograđeni prostor i jednu instituciju te njegovu poziciju »čuvara teritorije« afirmiše kroz svoj rad.

Da je kojim slučajem umetnikova vokacija sklonija literaturi onda bi mogući ishod kataloga bio romansirana biografija i priča o Brku, no pošto se radi o vizuelnim umetnostima u krajnjoj instanci, fotografski album iz Brkovog života koji sledi u katalogu ima nameru da svaku od objavljenih fotografija iz Brkovog života konstituiše kao fotografiju iz simultanih performansa dobrog duha koji bdi nad mestom od izuzetne važnosti za čitave generacije profesora, službenika i mladih umetnika koji pohađaju fakultet.

Slavko Timotijević



## Brko Like Bird performance sketches

One of the most prevailing idiosyncrasies of modern art is the trait of not showing its profile and identity directly and conspicuously throughout style or technique, but rather indirectly, through mediation or secrecy asserting the claims that nowadays, art is often in symbiosis with an institution or even the surroundings, embodying the cultural terrain where it is taking place.

Though it can be said that art expressed through traditional media such as painting, sculpture, and even installation, after the divergence from the primary symbiotic link, throughout media's existence, preserves identity in which, simultaneously, it can pass itself through its origin. Therefore, for the works of art that are designed as a process in the limited and irrevocable time span it is hard to find the prop which would launch them within the context of art that nurtures constant tension between artificial and real. It could rather be said that it mimically takes over the characteristics of the context that makes it hidden and mediated.

Performance unlike the spontaneity of happening or actionist's enthusiasm appears like a paradoxical energy of balance that initially supports, separates but it eventually unifies coldness of conceptual art's mental discourse as well as the physical warmth of reality (the real presence) of the body.

The confined acting area where only the ultimately personal life stories can take part including representations such as performances of Gino Panna, Marina Abramović or Vito Acconci while throughout their practice they animate whole society depriving it of the condensed performative energy experience in exchange of exclusive analysis. While inserting society into its phenomena, as well as society's practices or customs into the area of art, it transforms that area into the society with an artistic token. That is why any serious society has an integrated cultural prefix.

When Joseph Kosuth says "All art after Duchamp is conceptual in itself as the art can only exist conceptually". Nowadays, we can accept such a statement only by accepting the fact that manifestations of conceptual started branching, multiplying and infiltrating into the very core of life throughout the processes of symbiotic experience exchange.

Sisley Xhafa's work Brko like bird performed in the gallery 42° in Cetinje, constructs his work as In Situ inside the specific surrounding of Faculty of Fine Arts in Cetinje where he was a guest within the Artist in Residence programme. During his 10-day stay he gave lecture to students, and acted his performance entitled Brko like Bird.

Not only is the work entitled Brko like Bird a performance but it is a multi-layered program of doing research and presenting a symbiotic experience of artist and new territory, where the performance is the final position denoting ludic, humorous and extreme statement which is passed through to reach the other layers of work. Performance stage setting Brko Like Bird, is placed in the upper, at first sight hardly visible angle of the gallery.



While being motionless, Brko, sits in the ceiling's window ledge and by doing it he takes the tableau vivant/living picture/sculpture position or the position for taking photo or shooting a movie which by far belongs to the inherent cultural terrain. In his performative act, title and catalogue, Xhafo, actually, processes the topic known as GENIUS LOCI, within which Brko becomes freshly revealed and performance-line-confirmed subject of the topic.

Xhafo, has, de facto, moved the reverse context of his previous work into the life of a longstanding worker (a superintendent) of Faculty of Fine Arts in Cetinje to assert the position he has, suddenly, been faced with. Namely, in his previous work, Xhafo, dealt with migration and immigration issues, migrant's status and sociological aspects of such situations. The migrant himself, who establishes cosmopolitanism, multiethnicity and movement as existential milieu and platform for his work, coming to Cetinje, comes across, almost, an unbelievable situation, that one personality has bounded his life to a limited area and one institution. Therefore, he affirms the superintendent's position of the 'terrain's custodian' throughout his work. If in any case, artist has been more prone to literary artistic expression, the possible catalogue's outcome would be a novel-like biography and a story about Brko. But, as the chosen artistic style, eventually, belongs to the area of visual arts, a photo album made out of Brko's life photos, resembling a movie, constitutes stills from simultaneous good spirit performances that wake over the places of exceptional importance for the generations of professors, clerks and young artists who have attended, are or will be attending the Academy.

Slavko Timotijević







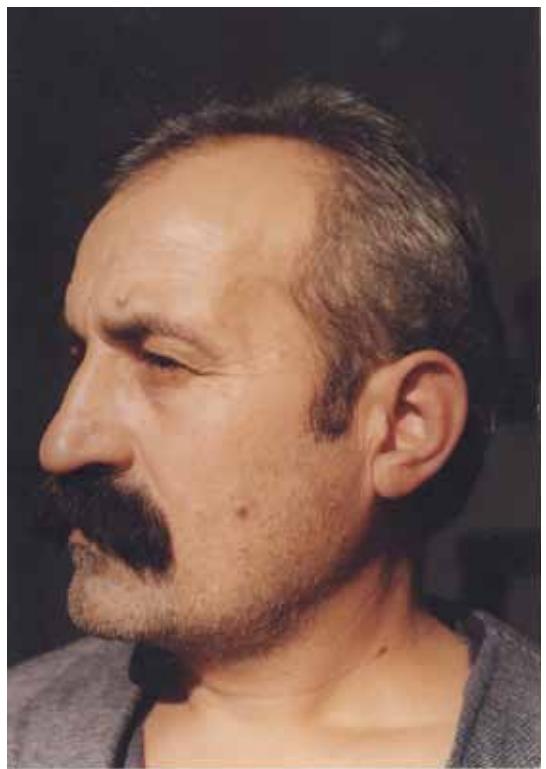
























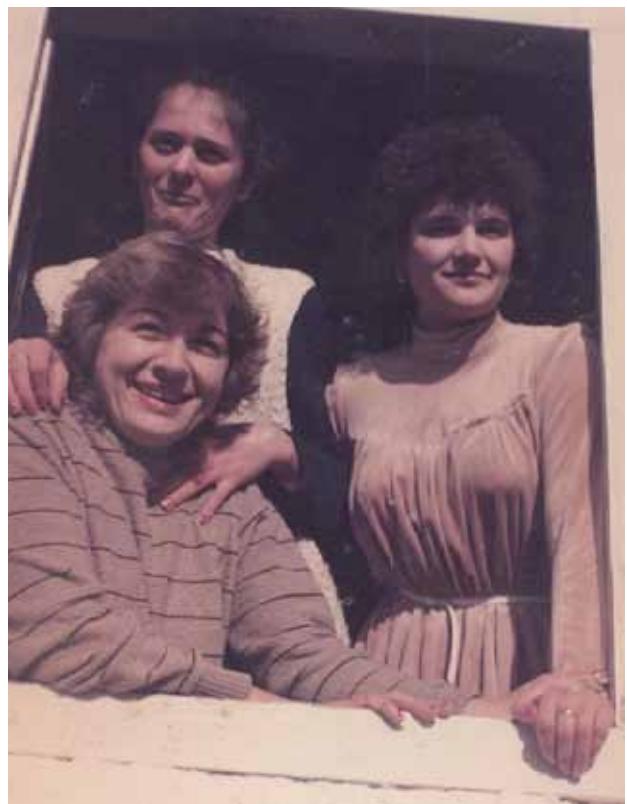












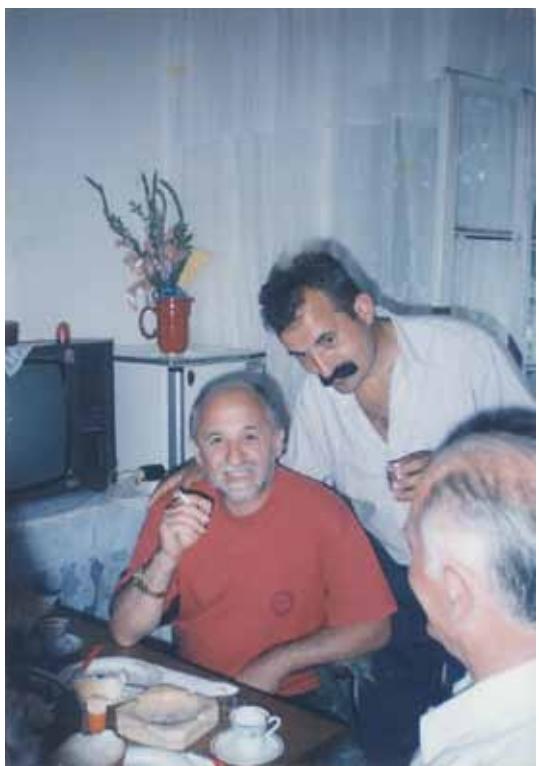








































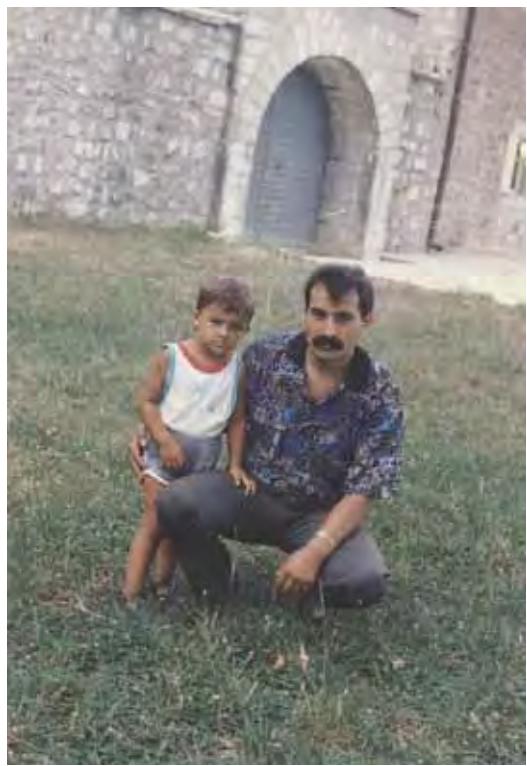


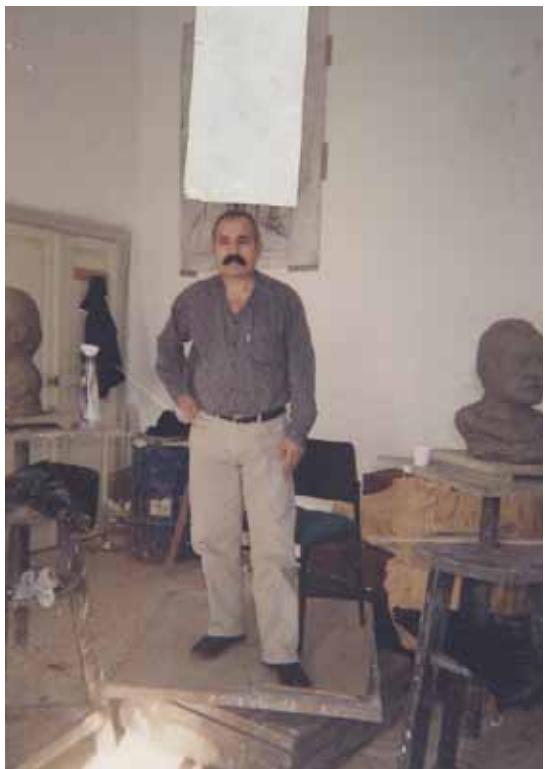








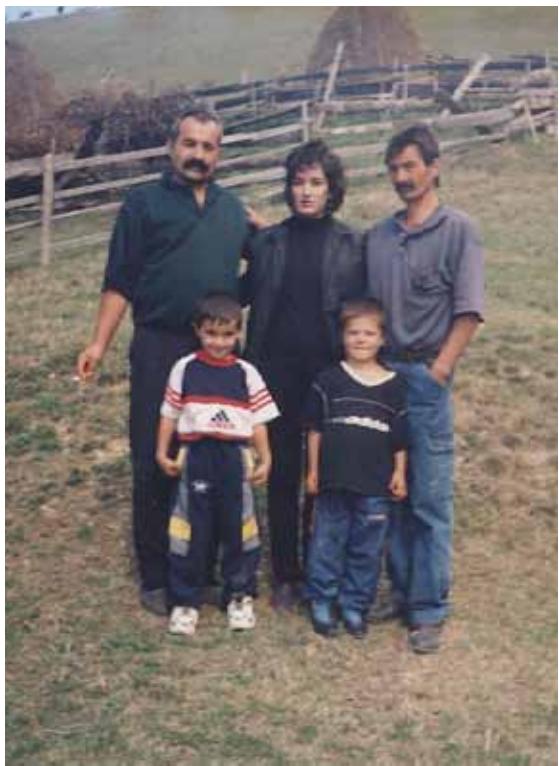






































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