



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 20, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 46

## Gabriela Babnik at the Library of Congress

**The Embassy of Slovenia in cooperation with the European Division at the Library of Congress organized on Tuesday, December 17, a literary event, in which the acclaimed Slovenian author Gabriela Babnik discussed her latest novel, *Dry Season*.**

The young writer was recently honored the European Union Prize for Literature for her novel *Dry Season* (Sušna doba), in which she examines interaction and cultural clashes between Europe and Africa. The novel is a record of an unusual love affair. Anna is a 62-year-old designer from Central Europe and Ismael is a 27-year-old African, who



Ms. Babnik was recently honored by the EU Prize for Literature.

was brought up on the street where he was often the victim of abuse. What unites them is the loneliness of their bodies, a tragic childhood and the dry season, or Harmattan, during which neither nature nor love is able to flourish. She soon realizes that the emptiness between them is not really caused by their skin color and age difference, but predominantly by her belonging to the Western culture, in which she has lost or abandoned all the preordained roles of daughter, wife and mother. Cleverly written

as an alternating narrative by both sides of the relationship, the novel is interlaced with magic realism and accurately perceived fragments of African political reality.

*Dry Season* is Ms. Babnik's third published novel. Her debut novel, *Skin of Cotton* (Koža iz bombaža), won the Best Debut Novel Award in Slovenia in 2007. She also adapted the novel for a radio play for the Slovene national radio. The play was one of three nominees for the Best Adapted Drama Award



at the Prix Italia in 2011. Her second novel, *In the Tall Grass* (V visoki travi), was short-listed in 2010 for the Kresnik Award, the Slovenian highest national literary award, for best novel.

Ms. Babnik regularly contributes literature reviews, essays, travelogues, interviews and commentaries to various publications in Slovenia. She holds a master's degree in comparative literature from the University of Ljubljana with a dissertation on the contemporary Nigerian novel, and is currently writing political comments on African issues for the foreign edition of the main newspaper, Delo.



Ms. Babnik reading an excerpt from her book *Dry Season*.

## FILM

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# Dual at the AFI European Union Film Showcase

The 2013 AFI-EU Film Showcase opened on Thursday, December 5, at the historic AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, Maryland. Presented by the American Film Institute (AFI) in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to the United States and E.U. Member States, the festival in its 26th edition showcases the best in European filmmaking. This year's selection features more than 50 films, including multiple-award winners, international festival favorites, local box-office hits and debut works by promising new talents, including several official Oscar submissions for best foreign language film.

Slovenian film *Dual* (Dvojina), directed by Nejc Gazvoda, was screened on Saturday December 14 and Monday December 16. The film

had its world premiere at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and is a second feature-film directed by young Slovenian writer and director Nejc Gazvoda.

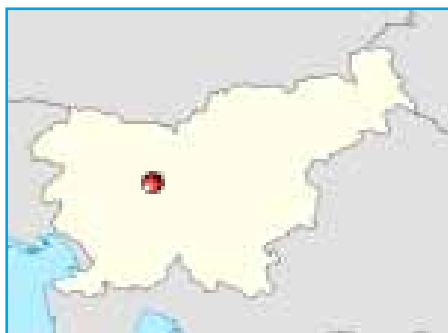
"A delicately crafted charmer of a film, for a while Nejc Gazvoda's colorful, funny and insightful film feels like a lesbian equivalent of *BEFORE SUNSET* as two young women wander the warm nighttime streets of Ljubljana, talking, having fun and gradually coming under each other's spell." wrote Mark Adams of the *Screen Daily* about the film, which narrates a story about Iben (Mia Jexen), a free spirited Dane, who is stopping in Slovenia on her way to a holiday in Greece. When her flight is delayed, she crosses paths with Tina (Nina Rakovec), the straitlaced bus driver who picks her up at the airport.



The AFI-EU Film Showcase festival runs through December 22. The full schedule of films and additional information are available at <http://www.afi.com/silver/EUShowcase/>



# Medvode



The municipality of Medvode is located in the central Slovenian region, only a 20-minute drive from the capital Ljubljana, and extends from lake Trboje and the remains of the Old Castle of Smlednik in the northeast across the edge of the Šmarna gora and Grmada hills to the Medanski hill, the Topol hill and the southern edges of the Polhov Gradec Dolomites in the southwest. Over 15,000 inhabitants live in 32 settlements spread across around 78.5 sq.km. (30.3 sq. mi.). Its economic and topographic diversity ranges from villages to industrial settlements on hills and in the plains.

The center of the municipality is Medvode, a town at the confluence of the Sora and Sava rivers (hence the name, which means "between waters"), where the Sora Plain meets the Ljubljana Basin. The town is situated on the main road Ljubljana–Kranj, some 12 kilometers (7.5 mi.) northwest of Ljubljana, at an altitude of 316 meters (1035 ft.) above sea level.

The territory of the present-day settlement has been inhabited since prehistoric times, a fact demonstrated by the find of a bronze axe during the construction of the hydroelectric plant on the river Sava at Medvode, the traces of a Roman settlement in Rakovnik and by gold coins in Ladja – proof that the area was crossed by important routes linking the Primorska (Littoral) and Koroška (Carinthia) regions with the Gorenjska (Upper Carniola) region. At the southern edge of Medvode, a local road branches off past the Goričane Manor and the famous church of St. Andrew in Gosteče in the direction of Škofja Loka.



View on Medvode from an airplane.

The surroundings of Medvode are full of popular destinations for many visitors looking to take a trip for recreation and relaxation. Geographically, the area is very diverse and is known for its rich vegetation and wildlife. Like the surrounding hills, the plains around Medvode offer many possibilities for walking, hiking, biking trips around the Sora Plain or boating on lake Zbilje.



Lake Zbilje (Photo courtesy: Iztok Pipan)



Manor Goričane (Photo courtesy: Aleš Nanut).

# The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, is looking for a locally employed administration staff member in the Consular section of the Embassy

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Communication/work with consular clients
  - Official communication/administrative work with Slovenian and U.S. authorities
  - Communication/administrative work with foreign diplomatic missions and foreign governments
  - Records keeping for consular section and other administrative work
  - Preparation of publishable written material including press releases, official business letters
  - Assistance to diplomatic staff
- Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree
  - Excellent communication skills
  - Fluency in Slovene and English

- language (both oral and written)
- Basic knowledge of Slovenia, Slovenian Government, Administration
- Basic knowledge of the European Union
- Technology/computer skills (PC software (Power Point, Word, Excell) skills
- Discretion in managing sensitive informational and personal data
- Committed sense of customer service
- Excellent interpersonal, team and organizational skills
- Self- motivation and eagerness to independently research/acquire new skills as needed
- Ability to prioritize and ability to handle multiple tasks
- Readiness to work overtime

Application should consist of a cover letter, evidence of education, CV and a recommendation letter in case you already have relevant experience.

All those interested in working in an international environment and obtaining experience in diplomacy and administration are welcome to send the application online to [vwa@gov.si](mailto:vwa@gov.si) with "Job Application" as the subject.

Deadline for applications is **January 5, 2013**

Location of work: Embassy of Slovenia, Washington, DC

Beginning of work: February 2014

Contract type: annual contract with the possibility of extension

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

# BIO Biennial of Design 50

In 2014, the Biennial of Design (BIO), organized by the Museum of Architecture and Design in Ljubljana, Slovenia, reinvents itself and launches an ambitious call for applications. Entering the realm of collaboration, where design is a tool to rethink everyday life, the Biennial is looking for individuals to shape possible futures for design. BIO is looking for team members with diverse backgrounds and a multidisciplinary approach, students and professionals alike,

integrating and contributing to the outcome of each group that will tackle themes of everyday life. Deadline for applications is January 12, 2014.

On its 50th anniversary, the 24th Biennial of Design, curated by Belgian critic and curator, Jan Boelen, builds on the event's tradition and history, advancing into an experimental, collaborative territory. From September 18 to December 7, 2014, BIO 50 will present the outcomes of each team's work in an exhibition, and

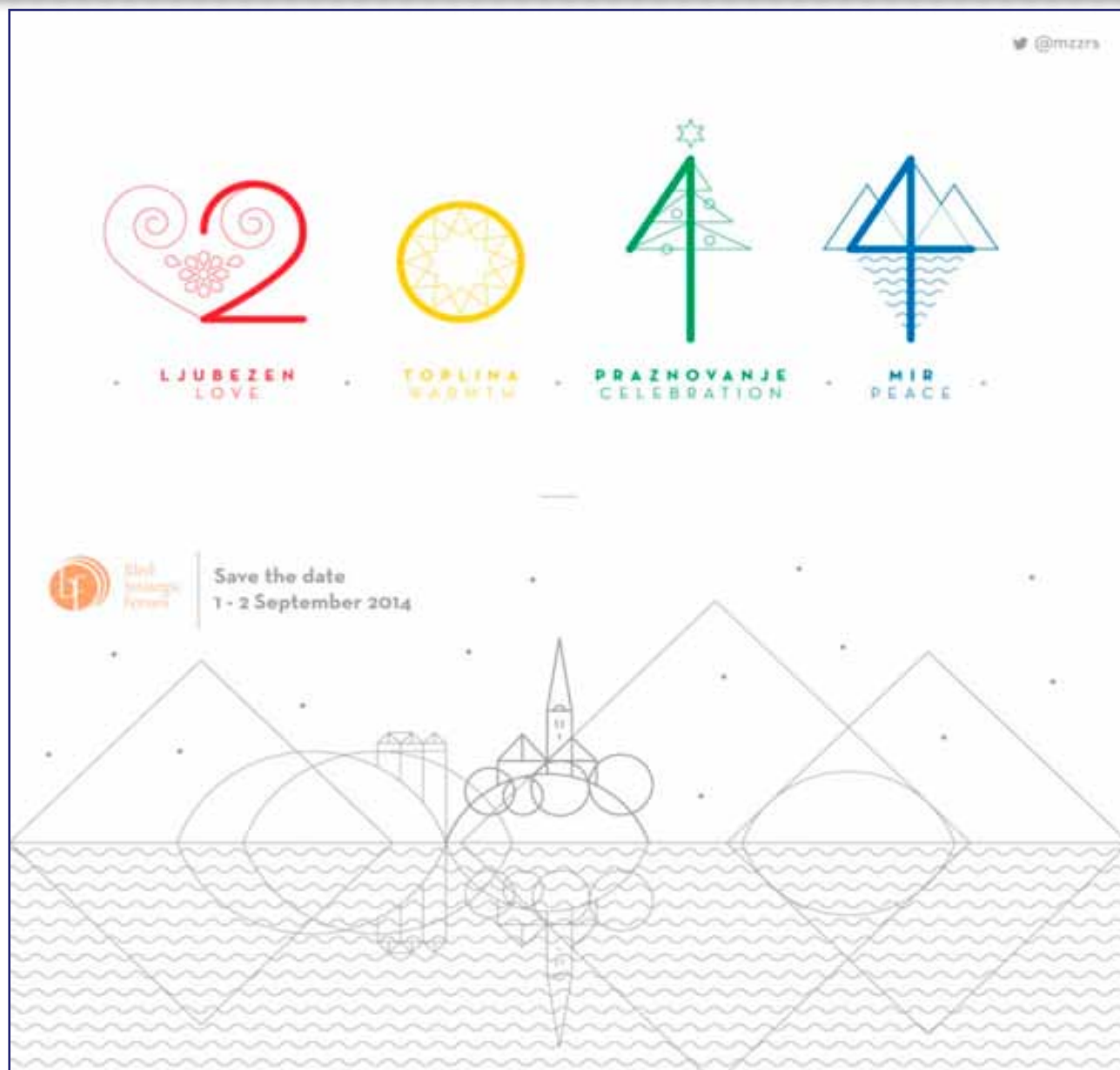
projects will be published in an accompanying catalogue. An international jury (<http://bio.si/en/#jury>) will grant an Award for Best Collaboration, and a compelling series of events will enrich the Biennial's core program and serve to explore ways in which collaboration can continue beyond the event.

More on Biennial of Design: <http://bio.si/en/> More about Call for Applications to BIO 50: <http://bio.si/en/#call-for-applications>

Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for the New Year 2014!  
 Prijetne božične praznike in srečno novo leto 2014!



Dr. Božo Cerar  
 Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the U.S.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

[The next issue of the Slovenian Embassy Newsletter will be published on Friday, January 10, 2013.](#)

The weekly Embassy Newsletter, produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, is available on: [www.washington.embassy.si](http://www.washington.embassy.si).  
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