



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
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Zoran Pungerčar's illustration in New York Times

Just before the end of last year, Zoran Pungerčar's illustration work found itself in a most reputable newspaper, The New York Times, making the dream of a young artist come true.

Zoran Pungerčar is a young Slovenian graphic designer who also conceived many posters for concerts organized by the Agency Buba Booking & Promotion of Ljubljana, designed compact disc covers for Nikki Louder and Werewolf bands. He is a creator of posters for the Ljubljana festival Ana Mono, illustrator of the advertising newspaper Simply Clever for the Czech car manufacturer Škoda and much more.



Zoran Pungerčar's illustration.

The collaboration with New York Times was established when he sent his portfolio to one of the art directors at the newspaper. To his surprise, he received an answer in a few days with an offer to illustrate the theme of deer hunting. Pungerčar's illustration accompanied letters titled The Tragic tale of the Deer Hunter,

in which readers responded to the article Hunting Deer with My Flintlock, published in the op-ed section of the New York Times on December 26.

In the future, he wants more similar collaborations, and the publication of his work in The New York Times certainly is a good motivation and recommendation.



140th Anniversary of Jože Plečnik

Jože Plečnik, born on January 23, 1872 in Ljubljana, was a Slovene architect who left a distinct mark not only in Ljubljana, but also in Vienna, Belgrade and Prague. Plečnik studied at the Vienna Art Academy and got his first job in a workshop headed by Otto Wagner, the head of the architecture department at the academy.



Interior of National and University Library.

Plečnik left for Prague in 1911, where he was appointed head architect in the renovation of the Prague castle in 1920. He moved back to his birth-town Ljubljana in 1921 to teach at the newly established architecture department. Plečnik died on January 7, 1957, in Ljubljana, and is buried in Žale, Ljubljana's central cemetery, also one of his monumental works.



Žale.

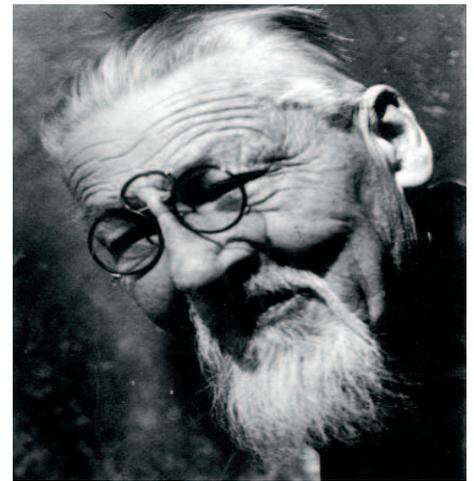
His most notable works in Ljubljana include the central market place, the National and University Library, the recently renovated Congress Square, and the capital's former central stadium in the Bežigrad borough.

Some 50 works by Plečnik were proclaimed cultural heritage of national importance in 2009, 37 more are expected to be so listed in 2012. Furthermore, the Museum of Art and Architecture (MAO) is participating in a Czech-Slovenian task force preparing material to nominate Plečnik's work for the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Plečnik's chair design.

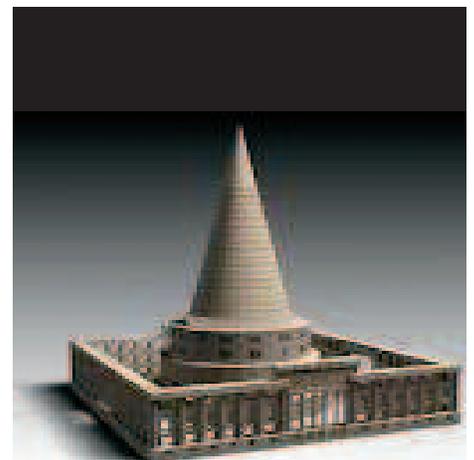
The 140th anniversary of Jože Plečnik's birth will be honored throughout the entire year with a series of events taking place in Ljubljana and other towns in Slovenia. MAO will host a series of evening lectures and talks featuring artists and experts discussing



Jože Plečnik.

the inspiration Plečnik's work still provides. The series will be headlined by guided tours of a different Plečnik work each month, given by Plečnik experts.

In Ljubljana, visitors can still see Plečnik's house just as it was at the time of his death, complete with a collection of over 17,600 items, including an archive of drawings, models and photographs of his work, and a number of private items.



Plečnik's vision of Slovenian Parliament Building.

140th Anniversary of Glasbena Matica

This year, we mark the 140th anniversary of Glasbena Matica, a cultural society established in 1872 with the objective of enriching the Slovene musical scene. Already in the first year after its foundation, it began publishing a variety of compositions by Slovene composers. Within its framework were also archives, an art section for the publication of sheet music, a concert agency, a bookshop, an orchestral society, a school of music and a choir.

The society played an important role in preserving and expanding of Slovene musical heritage by establishing musical institutions such as the Ljubljana Music and Ballet Conservatory, the Academy of Music, and the sheet-music publisher Muzikalije.

At present, Glasbena Matica focuses mainly on producing and publishing choral music and maintaining choral schools as well as promoting



concert activities. Every year, Glasbena Matica Ljubljana organizes up to 20 concerts and a few other musical events, including discussions with well-known Slovene musicians and music experts.

The celebrations of the 140 anniversary began on January 11. There will be over 100 events taking place all year around. In February, a lieder concert by Slovenian mezzo-soprano Bernarda Fink and bass baritone Marcos Fink together with pianist Anthony Spiri will take place. In March, panel

discussions of Glasbena Matica's significance for Slovenian musical heritage, framed by Slovenian Musical Days and the Ljubljana Festival, will be held. Moreover, RTV Slovenia will produce a documentary about Glasbena Matica.

The main ceremony will take place in June in Kongress Square in Ljubljana to be followed by a concert coproduced by the National Opera and Ballet Theater performing the cantata *Povodni mož* by Viktor Parma and cantata *Stara Ljubljana* by Tadeja Vulc.

CULTURE



Culture.si is a website that offers information on Slovene cultural productions, venues, festivals, and support services, all in one place. A beta version was launched in April 2010. It encourages international cultural exchange in the fields of arts and culture. It offers four major services: an up-to-date address book, image and logo banks for

downloading and use according to their specific licenses, calendar of international events, and referential articles on Slovene culture.

The Culture.si portal is based on the experience with the Cultural Profiles databases project. From 2002 till 2008, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia in partnership with the British Council Slovenia actively supported

the establishment and maintenance of the Slovenia Cultural Profile, a comprehensive English-language guide to culture in Slovenia, aimed at both cultural professionals and the general public.

Culture.si hopes to broaden and promote international cultural cooperation, as well as knowledge and recognition of Slovene cultural heritage.

Bobby and Boris

Slovenian director and playwright Dušan Jovanović, essayist and literary editor Mitja Čander and stage manager Eva Mahkovic are the authors of a must-see play that depicts the legendary world chess championship in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1972, which also involves the exciting chess battle between Bobby Fisher and Boris Spassky, and which will forever be remembered as the chess game of the 20th century, as it reflected the complexity of the cold war relations between East and West.

This drama was premiered in the Slovenian National Theater SNG Drama in Ljubljana on January 7, 2012. Jovanović, Čander and Mahkovic see many similar patterns in a game of chess and in a play making process in the theater.

The first part of the play is a dynamic set presented as a TV show and it takes a backdoor look



Igor Samobor as Boris Spassky and Aljaž Jovanović as Bobby Fischer.

to the world chess championship in which a chess master reports on the contest of the two great chess players. The second part leads us to the psychological warfare between the two players.

The play acquires a lot of documentary credibility with back-screening videos in a black-white technique, in which great chess masters and public figures of the time talk about the two

players. Many public figures from the '60s and '70s are shown, from a formal U.S. president Richard Nixon, to Marilyn Monroe, Yugoslav chess master Dimitrije Bjelica, and others.

The play Bobby and Boris reveals a complicated psychological background of the chess championship and various manipulations which affected the final result, and it is shown as a peculiar psychological war.

SPORTS

Anže Kopitar Helps Kings to Win

Slovenian Anže Kopitar's team, the Los Angeles Kings, took on the Washington Capitals this Monday night at the Los Angeles Staples Center, in the Kings' 21st sellout of the year. After giving up an early goal, the Kings turned the things around.

After the first goal scored against them, the Kings caught on that they can actually put the puck in the net, as Anže Kopitar scored his 12th goal of the season with under a minute left in the first period. Anže Kopitar's goal was enough to secure another Kings' victory.



Bled Tourist Board

The fabulous beauty of Lake Bled has for millennia attracted people's gaze with its marvelous power. Now there is even more reason to visit Bled, according to the busy schedule Bled Tourist Board takes care of.

The Bled Tourist Board is responsible for the promotion and marketing of the tourist destinations Bled and Julian Alps, regions with famous cultural and natural attractions. The Bled Tourist Board is also a great source of information on various events taking place in the region.

Recently, visitors had the opportunity to witness the presentation of the medieval life in the Bled castle. The Deva Puri Gallery in



Bled is currently hosting an exhibition of the works of Pablo Picasso. Those with a distinguished taste for sweets still have time to catch the "Culinary workshop – the Secrets of the Promenade sweets" on January 15.

There are plenty of events to look forward to. The 5th International Balloon festival is taking place in

February. Also, the Bled Cup in Winter Swimming will be held on February 11, when courageous swimmers will dive into 41° Fahrenheit cold water.

The Bled Tourist Board has already scheduled all the major events taking place in 2012. For more information, please visit their website at www.bled.si.

TO DO LIST

Green Light World Flight

Matevž Lenarčič's arrival in [Sebring, Florida](#), is scheduled for [January 16](#). He is taking off from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and flying 1936 km (1202 mi.) to the southeast coast of the United States. From Sebring, he is headed first to Canyon Lake, Texas, and then to Calexico, California, and Manzanillo, Mexico.

More information on the itinerary: www.worldgreenflight.com

"Polka! The Movie"

A film documentary about Slovenian music in America written and narrated by Mr. Joe Valencic for RTV Slovenija.

When: [Sunday, January 15, 2012 at 1:30 pm](#)

Where: [Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130](#)

More information: www.ClevelandArt.org or www.PolkaFame.com.

SEE Fest

If you are a filmmaker, do not forget to submit your film for SEE FEST 2012; a nonprofit festival presenting films from Southeast Europe.

Deadline: [January 15, 2012](#).

More information: www.seefilmla.org.

The weekly Embassy Newsletter, produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, is available on: www.washington.embassy.si.

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