

From Richard Noyce
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To Branimir Karanovic
President of the Board
Galerija Graficki kolektiv
Belgrade, Serbia

Dear Branimir,

I have read the reports and postings concerning the problems currently facing Galerija Graficki kolektiv with great concern.

I appreciate that the legal situation regarding restitution is a complex one, and also understand that there are commercial interests that complicate the situation further.

However, from the point of view of one who visited Belgrade to speak at the conference that celebrated the 60th anniversary of the gallery, who knows very well the reputation that this institution has within Serbia and the Balkan region, and much further afield, and who has written about the work of a number of contemporary Serbia artists, I would like to write in support of your efforts to find a just solution to the current problems, or otherwise to gain the necessary support to re-establish the gallery in alternative premises in the centre of Belgrade.

My work as a writer and artist has taken me to many parts of the world, with a strong focus on exploring, interpreting, lecturing and writing about the work of contemporary and historic graphic artists. I have a very particular, unique perhaps, knowledge of the world of printmaking, and the advantage of being able to observe it from the point of view of an independent commentator, as I am not connected with any academic institutions or associations. From this position I can state with absolute certainty that Printmaking is the only discipline within the contemporary visual arts that has such a strong tradition and reputation of being able to transcend cultural and social borders and to have developed what is rightly called an international community.

It is within that community that Galerija Graficki kolektiv also finds a honoured and respected position, and not only within the national and regional contexts. For a single gallery not only to survive for an unbroken period of over 60 years but also to have developed continually throughout a period of considerable social and political change, is indeed remarkable and worthy of celebration.

While my personal ability to do more than offer my unequivocal support may be limited, I will gladly make use of my considerable network of international contacts to spread the word of the situation in which the gallery finds itself and the strategies that will be developed by the Board in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the gallery. Please let me know how I might best be of some service to the gallery.

It is my sincere hope that the future of Galerija Graficki kolektiv may be assured so that the important work that has been done so far can be continued into the future.

I send you, your colleagues on the Board and in the gallery, as well as the artistic community of Belgrade and Serbia, my warm good wishes for your success.

Sincerely,

Richard Noyce

Wales, 12 September 2016