



Potential Agrarianisms

Will There Still Be Sugar After the Rebellion?

Exhibition Dates: 21 August – 31 October, 2021

Exhibition Opening: 20 August, 2021, 6 pm

Kunsthalle Bratislava – 1st floor

Curators: Maja & Reuben Fowkes

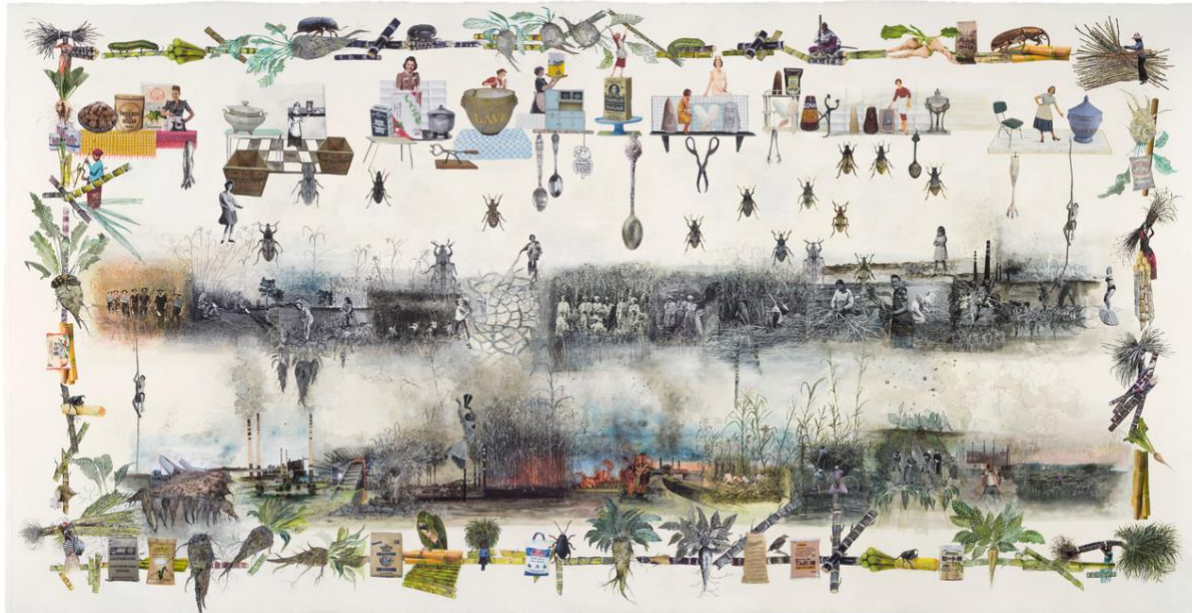
Organizers: Ilona Németh, Katarína Karafová, Katarína Figula

Architecture of the Exhibition: Peter Liška

Graphic Design: Eva Šimovičová

Production of the Exhibition: Slovak National Gallery, Kunsthalle Bratislava & Eastern Sugar

Participating artists: Melanie Bonajo, Gerard Ortín Castellví, Anetta Mona Chişa, Annalee Davis, Ferenc Gróf & Jean-Baptiste Naudy, Oto Hudec, Marzia Migliora, MyVillages, Ilona Németh, Uriel Orlow, Prabhakar Pachpute, Alicja Rogalska



The exhibition *Potential Agrarianisms*, subtitled *Will There Still Be Sugar After the Rebellion?* is the climax of the major European project *EASTERN SUGAR*, which is implemented by the Slovak National Gallery in cooperation with its international partners and Kunsthalle Bratislava, supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. So far, three international exhibitions have been held within the project, with one more to be held in Graz, Austria, in the autumn. “It is a good signal for our art scene that through cooperation, our institutions can generate a full-fledged international project. Larger affairs are much better organised in broader collectives, the good cooperation with KHB continues with the new management and together with the contribution of Ilona



Németh's energy we have become a full-fledged stop on the map of contemporary artistic operations," Alexandra Kusá, Director General of the SNG, says.

The new exhibition at Kunsthalle Bratislava was curated by Maja and Reuben Fowkes - co-editors of the publication *Ilona Németh: Eastern Sugar*, which is an integral part of the aforementioned project. "*Potential Agrarianisms* situates industrial agriculture within larger transformations of economic, social and political systems across histories and world geographies. *Agrarianism* is about understanding working the land as an integrated way of life and worldview, while *potential* is a call to rediscover rural knowledges and soil relations in order to re-envision the farming of plants and animals," described by the exhibition curators, Maja and Reuben Fowkes. The project organiser, Ilona Németh, adds: "The exhibition explores the inevitable systemic changes in agriculture, the man's relationship to natural resources and the provision of food for humanity. Twelve artists from various countries ranging from India to Spain will offer their perspectives on the old and innovative possibilities of agrarianism that will be essential for the global survival of humanity. In cooperation with the architect of the exhibition, Petr Liška, we modified the gallery space by reducing the accumulated building material."

"If the subtitle of the exhibition asks whether sugar will still be available after the rebellion, in direct reference to Orwell's *Animal Farm*, then it accurately describes the general curve of shift between ideals and the resulting reality, which often develops in a completely different direction. The whole *EASTERN SUGAR* project by Ilona Németh and her collaborators explores and maps these parameters, necessary for a conscious and critical understanding of the course of history. It is an extraordinary opportunity for local audiences and KHB as an institution to present and host the latest episode of this large-scale international project, the political potential of which has an unprecedented urgency in our turbulent times, far beyond considerations of an alternative agricultural economy," Jen Kratochvíl, director of Kunsthalle Bratislava, concluded.

On the occasion of the exhibition opening, the English publication of *Ilona Németh: Eastern Sugar* will be presented, issued by SNG in cooperation with the Sternberg Pres Publishers, along its new Slovak version, which is the first publishing collaboration between the Slovak National Gallery and Absynt Publishers.

You can buy the publication in Slovak and English language in the Ex Libris bookstore, from the SNG e-shop and in all bookstores.

For more information on the *EASTERN SUGAR* project please visit www.easternsugar.eu or www.facebook.com/easternsugar.eu.



International exhibitions of the *EASTERN SUGAR* project

12. 11. 2020 – 11. 1. 2021, **Sucre de l'est / Sugar of the East**, La Box Gallery / ENSA, Bourges, FR, Curator: Ferenc Gróf
15. 1. – 18. 4. 2021, **Listening to Voices**, Centre for Contemporary Art FUTURA, Prague, CZ, Curators: Mira Keratová, Caroline Krzyszton
23. 4. – 6. 6. 2021, **Eastern Sugar Oberbayern: Ilona Németh – Manufacture and Archive; Crossing Borders**, Schafhof – European Center for Art Upper Bavaria, Freising, DE, Curators: Nina Vrbanová, Eike Berg
21. 8. – 31. 10. 2021, **Potential Agrarianisms. Will There Still Be Sugar After the Rebellion?**, Kunsthalle Bratislava, Bratislava, SK, Curators: Maja and Reuben Fowkes
8. 10. – 30. 11. 2021, **Eastern Sugar Graz**, < rotor > Center for Contemporary Art, Graz, AT, Curators: Margarethe Makovec and Anton Lederer

Accompanying program

20/8

Exhibition Opening

Friday / Kunsthalle Bratislava – 12 SNP Square

- 2 pm** | Slovak guided tour: Ilona Németh, Jen Kratochvil, Maja & Reuben Fowkes
- 4 pm** | Book launch: Maja & Reuben Fowkes, Ilona Németh, Ferenc Gróf, Lucia G. Stach, Anetta Mona Chişa, moderator: Michal Hvorecký
- 6 pm** | English guided tour: Maja & Reuben Fowkes

23/9

Discussion: Farming the Future – how to rethink the way we produce our food?

Wednesday / 6 pm / Kunsthalle Bratislava – 12 SNP Square / voluntary fee

Discussion with experts on the future of agricultural production is an accompanying event to the current exhibition *Potential Agrarianisms. Will There Still Be Sugar after the Rebellion?* Participants: Carolien Spaans, Agricultural Counsellor at Embassy of the Netherlands for Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia and Helena Patasiová, statutory representative of the Agrarian Chamber of Slovakia. Moderator: Michal Havran.

Discussion will be held in English with Slovak translation. Supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

The *EASTERN SUGAR* project is implemented by the Slovak National Gallery in cooperation with partners: < rotor > center for contemporary art (AT), Centre for Contemporary Art FUTURA (CZ), The Schafhof – European Center for Art Upper Bavaria (DE), La Box gallery of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Art (FR), T-TUDOK Inc., Centre for Knowledge Management and Educational Research (HU) and associated partners – Kunsthalle Bratislava (SK), Muzeum Sztuki Łódź (PL).



The project is funded by the European Union's Creative Europe program and co-financed by the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through the Visegrad Grant of the International Visegrad Fund, whose mission is to promote sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe. The project was supported by the ERSTE Foundation.

Project and Exhibition Organizers

Project and Exhibition Co-organizer



**EASTERN
SUGAR**

Project Partners

