

Events within the closing days of exhibitions on the island of Rab

Report prepared by Vesna Teršelič, Director of Documenta, 30th October 2020,

On **Friday, October 2, 2020 at 11:00**, guided tours were organized for the principal, history teachers and high school librarians from Rab and Varaždin who showed interest in teaching about fascist camps on the Adriatic coast, as well as other teaching content related to innovative teaching of history.

On **Friday, October 2, 2020 at 18:00**, a conversation with Nikola Petković, professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka, and the author of the award-winning book "Trip to Gonars" was held in the lobby of the Rab Cinema. In his book Petković presented the small histories of the City, which is, in a unique way, also the main character. Taking the main motif of the camp, changing narrative strategies and perspectives, the author builds a chronicle of Bakar in World War II, whose characters, stories and legends are on the edge of grotesque and phantasmagoria, while in the same time it is a kaleidoscope of individual destinies, sufferings, futile and incredibly ironic stories and events on the ruins of one world. Based on his grandfather's writings, the novel by this contemporary Croatian author is an intimate family chronology whose narrative moves between autobiography and fiction. Through the story of Nikola Luzer, whose wife Jelena was taken to the fascist concentration camp Gonars, and was left alone with his four-year-old daughter Jasna, the history of Bakar during the Second World War is told. The story is told from several different angles, which blur the boundaries of fiction and reality, but the ideologies of several regimes that cruelly play with human destinies are being crystallized. For this work, the author received the portal's literary award for the best Croatian novel in 2018.



On **Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 10:30** in the City Library of Rab a conversation "Memories of the fascist camp Kampor on Rab - a conversation with witnesses of the time" was held. This event was dedicated to the memories of the interment witnesses,

their children, grandchildren and others interested in contacts with internees. After visiting the exhibition, we started a conversation with witnesses of the time.

The exhibition “The last Witnesses” in the City Library in Rab starts with a photograph of Mimi Perc, born Vesel (1925, Loški Potok), who was arrested as a partisan in Kočevski Rog and interned in Rab. Along with her portrait in the photo there is a little bag, sewn from stolen tent canvas, as well as embroidered handicraft with the signatures of co-workers from the sewing room, made from threads obtained from local women. In addition to the exhibition “Textiles of Resistance: Women's Voices“, objects from the collection of curator Roberta Bačić were also on display. A dozen gathered witnesses of the time, their children and grandchildren evoked memories of the period of the fascist occupation, of communication and support for the internees in the camp in Kapor. We arranged to record several video interviews to preserve the memories for the younger generations.

The final events were organized by Documenta, the Apis Institute, the City of Rab, the Library of the City of Rab, the Public Open University and the Association of Antifascists of Rab.



Photos, family's memorabilia as part of closing activities of the exhibition.

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