

Cross-Art residencies in the field of comics between Serbia and France

As a part of French president Emmanuel Macron's official visit to Serbia, on July 15th there was a Cooperation Agreement in the Segment of Comic Books and Culture signed between French and Serbian institutions – French institute in Serbia who is the initiator of the Agreement, International Comic Book and Illustration Center (Angouleme, France) The City of Pancevo and Komunikart Agency.



The Agreement introduced establishing of the first residential programme in the segment of comic books between France and Serbia, that took place in two cities, Angouleme and Pancevo as of this year. Among other activities, the agreement proposes mutual organization of workshops and courses for the artists, the development of scientific cooperation in the form of studies and articles that are in connection with Serbian comic books with the purpose of establishing bibliographic database, the exchange of documents and bibliographic data, coproducing work on exhibitions, the organization of comic books borrowing, etc.

In the ending of January 2020, the open call for Serbian resident in Angouleme was announced. 13 male authors and 10 female authors applied for the Open call.

Press conference related to the Open call took place in French institute, and information about the open call were published in many national and local media.



Prior to final selection, domestic partners on a Cross-Art Residency Project – French institute in Serbia, The City of Pančevo and Komunikart Agency – made a narrow choice of three open call participants. Among 23 applicants, the best three were projects by Dragana Radanović, Boris Stanić and Iva Atoski.

In April 2020, the expert jury in Angouleme had chosen Dragana Radanović and her work “New picture of childhood – experiments”, which explores the construction of childhood in comic books and finds new ways of storytelling about that time of life. Dragana Radanović’s choosing for residency was featured in national media in Serbia.

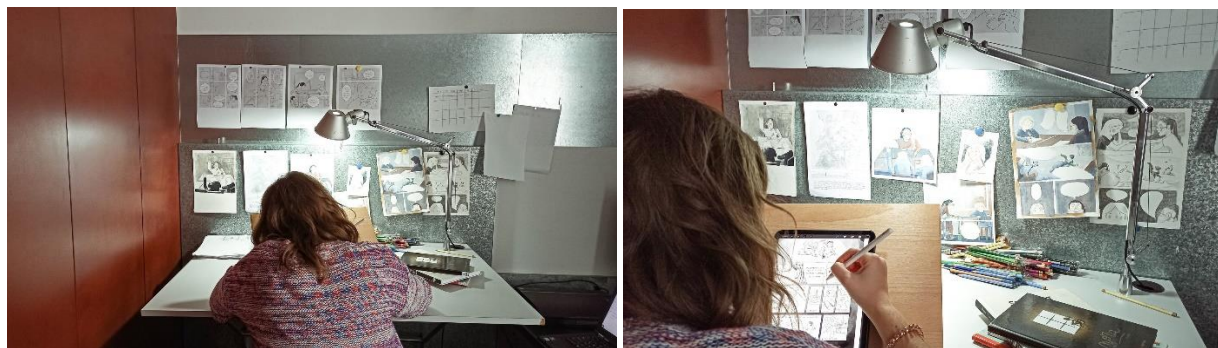
During the April 2020, the open call for French resident in Pančevo was announced. In July, the jury from Angouleme made a narrow choice of three candidates – Maurane Mazars, Mireille Nyangono Ebene and Alizee De Pin.

After the insight in portfolio, projects and motivational letters, the jury in Serbia had chosen Alizee De Pin. She applied with the project about the nuclear disaster, based on the script of Jean-François Julliard, director of „Greenpeace“ organization in France. As the jury concluded, her works are tightly connected with the actual reality, everyday life of the author and experiences

she makes by travelling and meeting new people and places. This was also covered by many national media in Serbia.



Dragana Radanović, resident from Serbia, was in Angouleme during Cross-Art Residential Programme from 1. October until 31. November 2020.



Dragana wrote about her residence: „I was treated great. I can say that they have “spoiled” me unintentionally, because I was placed in a house otherwise arranged for two residents instead of one. The apartment was less than 3-minute walk from studio I’ve shared with French artist Jonathan Phanhsay-Chamson, so my working day was filled with conversations about the animation and creation. I was also learning about the culture and lives of artists in France. House of authors has several floors with many artists, and just on my floor there were 7 people. The

biggest surprise was that my studio was next to Ivan Stojković's – he is another artists from Serbia, so I've managed to talk in Serbian as well on occasion. Angoulême is a beautiful city, and the comic book culture is visible on every step. Street names are written in comic-book balloons, and the buildings are filled with comic book tables. I've tried to go on a city walk every day, and take pictures of interesting parts.

Alizee De Pin, artist in residency from France, stayed in Pančevo during her Cross-Art Residential programme from 10th November to 10th December. During her stay, she conducted several workshops and talks in the field of comics.



Few days after her arrival, Alizee stated: „Three days after I've arrived in Pančevo, it feels like so much time has passed. I've felt a warm welcome here, because everyone connected to Residential programme took a really nice care for me. I'm staying in the ideal location in the center of Pančevo and enjoying my studio apartment. Before noon I'm writing my new script in cosy Pančevo coffee shops. After that I'm working on my first book at the writing, and finally I spend some time walking in the evenings. I've packed in my suitcase three comic books of Aleksandar Zograf in French, which helps me understand the past and the spirit of Pančevo, more than ever“.

Many national and local medias in Serbia made reports about her arrival and residential stay.

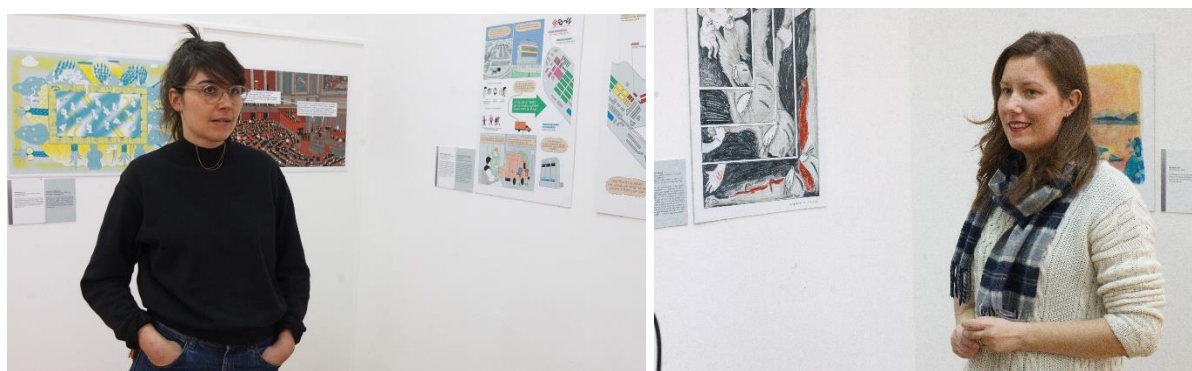


Ambassador of France in Serbia, mr. Jean-Louis Falconi, hosted Alizee De Pin and organizers of Residential programme during their official visit to the Embassy.



Residential comic book programme and Nova Festival

Works of Alizee De Pin and Dragana Radanović, first participants in the programme of Cross-Art Residencies in the field of comics between France and Serbia, were exhibited in two segments of the Nova Festival 2020 exhibition, held from 1th to 12th December in Milorad Bata Mihailović Gallery in Pančevo. In one part of exhibition, there were works in progress from residency open call, and in second - there were 10 works from each author, revisiting their work prior to residencies in Angoulême and Pančevo. 6th edition of Nova Festival this year was dedicated to collaboration between Serbia and France in the field of comics.



The exhibition was visited by Catherine Faudry, cultural attache of French institute in Serbia. On this occasion she stated:

“The exhibition of Nova Festival is very important for my understanding of relation between French and Serbian comics, since it’s very important for us to have a vision on what exist in that field, and what’s done so far. Also, this is a very strong foundation for the new road we plan to follow. Ending the first year of big work of Nova Festival and represented artists, and also Cross-Art Residencies between France and Serbia, is something we plan to follow up in next years, and our first residents could be ambassadors of this programme in France and Serbia. I’m sincerely thanking the whole team of Nova Festival and artists, without whom we would never be here”



Also, both artist in residency had an opportunity to meet each other, discuss their work and collaborate in a joint workshop.



During their stay in Pančevo, both residents were guests in TV and radio programmes on a national and local level, and both of them had several interviews.

Also, for six finalist of open call – 3 authors from Serbia and 3 from France – there was an exhibition on Nova Festival 2020 in December. On this exhibition audience was able to meet their projects from open call applications, along with previous work from both residence, featured in a separate exhibition.



Having in mind that Nova Festival was held during the Covid-19 pandemic, organizers recorded and provided 5 online guidings through all the segments of festival exhibition. About all the 4 parts of the exhibition, the guides were festival selectors Jana Adamović and Aleksandar Zograf, first residents from the Cross-Art Residency programme – Dragana Radanović and Alizee De Pin, and also festival director Monika Husar. All the guidings are available on Nova Festival Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOGLzQLT2QA&list=PLexEXz2X5GavmGgnDdK5ckzYi3O7Mmcsi>