

Boris Beja

Na meji: @srcozlom / On the Border: @heartbreak, 2020

prostorska postavitev (različne dimenzije) / spatial installation (various dimensions)

les, keramika, zvok 2'31" / wood, ceramics, sound 2'31"

26. 6.–6. 9. 2020

The work *On the border: @heartbreak* originates from a reflexion on the border that divided the region of Carinthia between the Republic of Austria and the Kingdom of SHS, thus interlacing geographical facts, such as the drawing of border lines onto the landscape, personal memories and projections of the neighbouring country, as well as a deliberation on the broader social consequences of the political arrangement of borders. The spatial installation consists of a wooden construction that is divided by a borderline, inspired by the actual drawing of the land border in the micro-location where the church of St. Urban above Zgornji Kozji vrh in the municipality of Dravograd is still standing today. The border, which was established in 1920 and was supposed to divide the church in two parts, was incorporated in the Slovenian part – according to historical testimonies, this happened after a self-initiated vote by the surrounding population and in line with an agreement between the owners of the land. At first sight, the drawing of the border is reminiscent of a heartbeat dividing the wooden construction into two parts; the upper part is supported by “Kinder Eggs”, symbolically numbering 100 for the 100th anniversary of the Carinthian plebiscite. The musical background, the Carinthian folk song “N’mau čez izaro”, which is performed polyphonically by the author, envelops the space in a glum melody. These intertwined elements offer the visitor an integrated experience and encourage them to think about the significance of borders – the Carinthian border that has separated families, friends and neighbours, but also the border as a universal socio-political fact, which shapes and influences the destiny of many.

After graduating from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology course Graphic Techniques, Boris Beja (1986) continued his studies in 2009 at the Academy of Visual Arts and Design in Ljubljana (ALUO), where he studied sculpting. In 2012, he won the Prešeren Award for students (ALUO) and graduated a year later. In 2015 and 2016, he was nominated for the OHO Group Award. He was an assistant to the artistic director of the ŠKUC gallery

from 2014 to 2017. Since 2015, he has regularly collaborated with Pionirski dom – Centre for Youth Culture. Boris Beja's artistic practice can be described as highly versatile, with an emphasis on integrated spatial installations that address current social topics.