

MAKING IT_The Artist's Survival Guide



JAŠA, Apnea's Rhapsody, Action 2, (New York, 2012)

Did he crash back down to earth after he jumped, or did he linger up there in the air?

Context

When JAŠA (Mrevlje-Pollak) was a young student of painting in Venice, he sought someone to show him the ropes, to answer his myriad questions about how it all works beyond the academy walls. He wanted a master illusionist to teach him how the tricks are done out there, in the field. Revealing their secrets doesn't detract from the magic; in fact it enhances it, and the admiration for the art. So many artists feel that, because they were self-made, they need to keep what they know to themselves, so as not to reveal their mistakes and to oblige younger artists to travel the tortuous path that they walked, while they observe from afar. It doesn't have to be that way.

The keystone of JAŠA's work since the very beginning is collaboration. It came as a necessity, since a collective is always stronger than a solo artist, especially when you're just starting and figuring out how the art world works. Although it's still very hard to make a big break, it's much easier to do it as a group.

But what at first arrived as a necessity, became an advantageous praxis, which he still follows. Learning is a never ending process and to know everything is impossible. But you gain invaluable knowledge and experience from connecting with your up-and-coming peers, working with artists with similar or completely different visions and stylistic principles, and collaborating with experts from various fields.

As contemporary art is becoming more and more interdisciplinary and intertwined with technology, a successful artist needs not only be skilled in art in the strict sense of the word, but also needs an understanding of production, technology and technical possibilities. So an artist needs to have a wide range of knowledge in different art forms as well as knowledge on how to execute his or her work. Oh, and you also have to be a manager, an entrepreneur and a PR agent. All of these things help you to make it in the art world. Easy, right?

It's true that you learn on the go, but help is always welcome. That is why JAŠA is more than happy to share his knowledge to younger generations, who are just starting on their journey. Actually, he wrote a book that does just that. The activity we are inviting you to, is based on his handbook *Making it_The Artist's Survival Guide* (with Noah Charney, Rowman&Littlefield, 2021), which offers exactly what Jaša needed as a young artist, but could not get from more established colleagues – helpful tips, tricks and insights based on actual experience; an idea about the »rules«, and more importantly, how to break them.

About the workshop

Workshop is organized by PiNA, in cooperation with JAŠA, Glasilka, Škuc and BEJ.

When?

The workshop will take place from 20th of August until September 4th in CUK Kino Šiška, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Participants will work with art coordinator JAŠA for approximately 6 hours/day – both in groups and on the individual projects.

What can you learn?

Workshop will be a part of an interdisciplinary contemporary art project BLOOM on September 3rd by renowned Slovenian contemporary artist JAŠA. BLOOM will consist of performances, installations, sound and light interventions. Participants will learn about the artistic process, production and technical aspects of an eclectic, immersive contemporary art creation as it is being made.

As a participant of the workshop, you will:

- gain first-hand insight into just how much effort and skill goes into planning and preparation of a complex site-specific art show
- gain insights and useful knowledge based on practical experience. Since the venue is a multipurpose art center with technical equipment of the highest standard, you will have an opportunity to get familiar with various technical capabilities, which you can then apply to your project
- you will have an opportunity to present your project, work, institution etc. on stage to a real audience as part of BLOOM in CUK Kino Šiška on the day of the art project- 3rd of September.

Overview of the activities?

1. Theoretical overview of contemporary art practices
2. Presentation and group evaluation of your own project
3. Insights and useful knowledge based on practical experience
4. Production and technical aspects of a contemporary art show
5. Cultural management
6. Present your work to an audience as a participant of BLOOM

Who is the workshop for?

12 Young people from 18 – 30, preferably young artists, interested in working on the festival and creating their art piece with an amazing mentor JAŠA.

Participants can come from any EU or partner countries.

What do we cover?

The activity is supported from European Solidarity Corps programme. We will cover:

- Travel.

If you are up to 500 km from Ljubljana, we cover 180 eur.

If you are up to 2000 km from Ljubljana, we cover 275 eur.

- Accommodation and food will be covered.

Accommodation will be in shared rooms (maximum 2 people). You will get the money for food and be able to prepare it yourself.

There is as well 56 eur of pocket money assured for each participant.

- Health insurance for the period of the project.

Applications

You can apply through the [application](#), latest by 30th of June 2022.

If you have any additional questions or dilemmas you can contact maja.drobne@pina.si.

European Solidarity Corps INFO:

The European Solidarity Corps is a funding programme of the European Union that creates opportunities for young people to volunteer, work, train and run their own solidarity projects that benefit communities around Europe. Among the opportunities offered by the programme, young people can apply for Volunteering teams. Our project is also a volunteering team activity that allows young people from different country to volunteer together.



Art mentor



JJAŠA (Mrevlje-Pollak, born in Ljubljana 1978) is a contemporary artist who cuts visual arts with a conceptual practice that is rooted in the extensive use of space as a medium and context for either spatial or performing interventions. His approach to art has elements of polystylism, neo-romanticism and geopolitical consciousness. His work has made him one of the most prominent voices of his generation and altered the art scene in Ljubljana and Venice, propelling him onto the international stage. In 2015, he represented Slovenia at the 56th Venice Biennale. There he presented a monumental site-specific installation and durational performance that lasted for 29 weeks (*UTTER / The Violent Necessity for the Embodied Presence of Hope*). He has been featured in numerous publications, including *Modern Painters*, *The Art Newspaper* and *Art in America*. Based in Ljubljana and Berlin, his work has been exhibited around the world, including at Frieze London and New York and at the Venice Biennale.

Starting in 2008, JJAŠA has taught at the renowned Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia with Carlo Di Raco holding individual studio talks or engaging with smaller groups in numerous targeted workshops throughout the year, involving students at all stages. His main approach is to work with students simultaneously on individual works and on the general idea or concept of their work, combining hands-on and reflection methods in and out of the studio. He has co-curated or mentored numerous presentations, end-of-the-year exhibitions, and both individual and group projects. In 2015, he included a group of students in his preparations for *UTTER / the violent necessity for the embodied presence of hope / Pavilion of the Republic of Slovenia*, which was part of the 56th Venice Biennial. Students were involved as mentored assistants and performers for the whole seven month duration of the work. This provided the chance to peek behind the veil of one of the most prestigious and important art shows in the world while being proactively involved in the process. Through the years, he has given numerous talks, presentations, lectures and performing workshops that ended as collaboration pieces, around the world, including at Viafarini in Milan, Halle fur Kunst & Medien in Graz, Fondazione Marignoli di Montecorona in Spoleto, Pioneer Works and at with Ulay at Sotheby's Institute of Art in New York.

He recently wrote a book with Noah Charney, [Making It: The Artist's Survival Guide](#), published by Rowman & Littlefield. Currently he is on a long-term residency in Kuhlhaus, Berlin, where he is doing an immersive, site-specific art project *Monuments* in seventeen individual chapters.

"The process of diving into something I wanted for a long time, but did not know if I could pull it off felt like pushing myself over the cliff, but with a safety net around me. The experience of working with others under a mentorship gave me confidence in myself and in the ideas I could develop on my own. It was challenging to follow somebody else's ideas while confronting my own, but knowing that I am being mentored by somebody whose honesty I could trust has led to growth in my way of thinking and working."

(Participant of JAŠA's workshop; Crystal C, Pioneer Works, New York, 2014)

Learn more at www.jasha.org.



Project coordinator



Maja Drobne is an educational expert at Association for Culture and Education PiNA. She is a member of the pool of trainers of Slovenian National agency for E+ programme. She cooperates with various international organizations on the topics of project management, cultural management, communication, participation, group dynamics and strategic approaches. Led several NGO managers training, training for trainers, staff retreats as well as training in the field of human rights and global learning. Her passion is discovering the potential in people and groups and encouraging them to realize it. Firmly believes in approaches like Art of hosting, non violent communication and explorative learning. Creating and designing the learning processes is something she really enjoys, especially exploring different learning styles and how to address them through different methodologies. She believes that individual, included in the learning process and actively involved in all of the phases of the learning cycle can bring the best of themselves and also can support the group of people working with.

She finished the BA in Political science with the topic of solidarity and the importance of it in the community. She partially works with the University of Ljubljana on development of different curriculums and developing projects that are student centered and are bringing new approaches in higher education. She was also one of the cocreators of the first Design.Science summer school that was done in the cooperation of PiNA and University of Ljubljana and will also be implemented this year.

The workshop is organized by PiNA in cooperation with JAŠA, Glasilka, ŠKUC and BCJEM.

PiNA is an association of culture and education that has a 20-year long tradition in strengthening the well-being of the societies, developing individual competences, encouraging cooperation, empowering civil society organizations and promoting sustainable development. It involves more than 15 full-time employees with many years of experience who are informing, educating, innovating and activating citizens to initiate positive social change and growth.

For many years, PiNA has been the Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC), the regional hub of NGOs, youth center, and in 2022, became a CERV National Contact Point. With more than 1500 yearly visitors to their center, they host more than 50 educational, networking and information events annually.

In 2021 they opened laboratory HEKA, a physical space and a concept that combines art and science approaches with citizen science to bridge citizens with science by using creative forms of reflection and expression. HEKA is a platform for connecting, activating potentials, education, transformation and humanization through the empathic fusion of science, art and economy, allowing researchers, students and artists to explore and experiment in the form of internships and residencies.

PiNA also organizes festivals where artists and researchers can present their work and provide opportunities for contact between the research and the citizens.

Learn more at www.pina.si.

ŠKUC is one of the leading non-governmental organisations promoting non-profit cultural and artistic activity in Slovenia. It holds the status of an association working in the public interest in the cultural field. Its beginnings date back to Ljubljana's first radical student movement of 1968, while it was formally established on 31 January 1972. In the late 1970s and in the 1980s ŠKUC was one of the key initiators, supporters and promoters of alternative culture. Today, ŠKUC's main goals are to support young and promising artists by including them in the cultural sphere and to organise creative spare-time activities for young people.

In the past few years the activities of ŠKUC have expanded to areas such as providing information and counselling for young people, education, library and archive resources, social affairs, prevention, social sciences, the humanities as well as research activities.

ŠKUC actively co-operates with similar youth centres from across Slovenia, as well as with other organisations, mainly through programme exchange. The ŠKUC premises located at 21 Stari trg, Ljubljana, are open to many organisations organising events such as round tables, seminars, talks with journalists, dance performances, lectures on various social, art and topical issues, video projections etc.

www.skuc.org



Biennale des jeunes créateurs de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (BJCEM), was founded in Sarajevo in 2001.

BJCEM believes that art and culture play a fundamental role in our societies by fostering respect and understanding for diversity through the discovery of the values of different cultures that enrich our own. Art is a universal language and, as such, it contributes to bridge borders and resolve conflicts.

Initially created to oversee the Biennale, today BJCEM is a solid network with 45 members, ranging from cultural institutions to independent organizations, with partnerships throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa, also with organizations and projects focused on the Mediterranean Diaspora. We are present in 15 countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Republic of San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom. We also cooperate with an external partner in Austria.

BJCEM aims at fostering mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and collaboration in the arts among young creators, around the Mediterranean. Our projects and activities provide training, mobility, and exchange opportunities that, in turn, support artists' creative processes, through personal and professional growth.

Registered as an international association in Belgium with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and an executive office in Turin, Italy, BJCEM is an independent organization, open to all those who shares its aims and interests without cultural, religious, political, social or moral distinction. It is a member of the Anna Lindh Foundation and of [Culture Action Europe](#). BJCEM acknowledges the support of the City of Turin.

<https://www.bjcem.org/>

