



# EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

**21.9.2011 – Biljana Isjanin – NaN**

<http://11moments.org/biljana-isjanin-mk-aleksandar-grozdanovski-mk/>

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

INTERVIEW #14: Today we have an appointment with Biljana Isjanin – a freelance curator and artist from Bitola, Macedonia, who has recently created a group with Aleksandar Grozdanovski named NaN. But next to that Biljana is also a co-organiser of this festival. Hi Biljana, where are you at the moment?

### **Biljana Isjanin**

Hello, Silvia, I am fine. I am in Bitola, in my house at the moment.

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What does NaN mean and how did it begin?

### **Biljana Isjanin**

It is a gloomy day after a very long and hot summer. NaN is the first project we are doing together. What we are trying to do is to use the customary way of correspondence for one year (through e-mails) in a kind of different way. It is a process through which we were trying to penetrate into each others personal being as a contrast to the nowadays superficial and shallow communication.

NaN means "Not a Number". It refers to the idea of exchanging the radical moments as "radical" means a root of a number of quantity. Almost a year we were exchanging the thoughts and images which will be finally realized as an edited book on 11.11.11, waiting for the public to fill some of the empty pages.

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How do you plan to invite the people to fill the book? What do you expect from them?

### **Biljana Isjanin**

Well, it should be an interactive communication. We will give the books to a lot of people on the streets, in the pubs, in the institutions and try to discuss with them. After these talks we expect them to show an interest in the content of the book and the whole idea. They are supposed to write, draw or create anything else inside of the book.

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Can you explain us in one sentence what NaN is about?



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## **Biljana Isjanin**

The book shall emphasize our interest in what we utopically believe and our efforts to reach what we dream of. Staying between utopia and reality is like entering an eternity process which is very close to the idea of exchanging radical moments

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Once you wrote us, NaN tried to open the gate between art and life? Can you give us an example for that? Where is the border between art and life, and is it so easy to determine?

## **Biljana Isjanin**

Maybe the answer on this question lies again, as I wrote before, in the space between the real and the utopian. For me, to open the gate between art and life is an endless journey, but at least it is a journey, and that is what is worth.

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Can we find works of NaN online?

## **Biljana Isjanin**

There are images and texts waiting to be edited, but they are still not online as we are still thinking about the best way to introducing this idea to the public. But we open a NaN e-mail account which we like to use for communication with all interested people to discuss this idea, the idea of "not being a number".

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Please post it here as soon as you have it! But let us go on to your other role in the festival. You are not only an artist, you are also the curator of a part of the festival called „Autonomy Zones“. Can you tell us about it? Who will be part of it and what is the aim of it?

## **Biljana Isjanin**

"Autonomy zones" is a project of "Elementi" and it is a construction of few so called "Autonomy zones". The first one has been realized in October last year, as part of Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival, and the next will be on the very day of 11.11.11. Igor Toshevski is already working on this for the last two months and he is continuing in October by outlining the borders in the South-West of Macedonia according to Malevitch's "Black Square and Red Square". He will go even further, investigating geopolitical discourses. The result of this research through action will be exhibited on 11.11.11 in the Old Market of Bitola



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as a public event. Rob Andrews will transform the main street in Bitola for about 8 hours into a ritual cleaning zone and Martin Zet in Libushin in Czech Republic will try to prepare a "Goose dinner" by creating a "private zone" together with two artists, which actually is a kind of irony directed at the tradition and culture in general.

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Is it important for you personally to create "Autonomy Zones"? How do you define autonomy for yourself?

#### **Biljana Isijanin**

I forgot: Yes, we have something about NaN online and that was posted on the Exchange Radical Moments! Facebook site a month or two ago. I think that each person should try to have (or get) its own "autonomy zone" because it is in direct relation to independent behaviour. So, yes, the "autonomy zone" for me is very important thing as it means independence. I am trying to be free of any outside control or influence.

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The festival is looking for special moments. The Japanese call them „Satori“ – a flash of sudden awareness, a moment when time stands still. For me such moments can only appear when I am in the presence and free of the past and future. How is it for you? Did you have a moment like this lately and what does it mean to you?

#### **Biljana Isijanin**

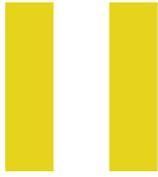
Yes, of course it is always the moment of flash and sudden awareness... I have them and these moments are very important to keep you "in life". It is a moment which I tried to "explain" in a performance many years ago called "Nunc Stans" about a moment of eternity.

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Do you think moments of this kind are radical moments or do they have a different quality? What is "radical" for you anyway?

#### **Biljana Isijanin**

I was about to write that! Yes, of course... for me radicality is very close to the relation with the roots, with the essence and simplicity, not something which is loud and strong, but on this contrary, very quiet, but essential.



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## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

Thank you for this interview. Please keep us informed about NaN and the other projects of "Autonomy Zones"!

## **Biljana Isjanin**

Thank you and have a nice day!