

***International contemporary art exhibition: DOBRE NOVICE!***

***Invitation to the pre-opening event for media - 14 March 2024***



***DOBRE NOVICE!*** (DOH-breh noh-VIT-seh) is a six-month-long art event with a creative dialogue between the celebrated Belgian sculptor **William Sweetlove** and more than **20 renowned international artists**.

From eye-catching installations of monumental William Sweetlove sculptures at the largest botanical park in Slovenia – the internationally-acclaimed Arboretum Volčji Potok, to multiple exhibitions throughout the medieval streets of Kamnik, ***DOBRE NOVICE!*** art event includes:

- a major exhibition in **Miha Maleš Gallery** that will reveal the creative story of William Sweetlove and the other artists,
- a wonderful cocktail of contemporary art at the **Intermunicipal Museum of Kamnik (MM:K)** at **castle Zaprice** alongside its permanent collection of local and national Slovene treasures,
- monumental sculptures exhibited in the botanical park of **Arboretum Volčji Potok** and a more intimate art exhibit in a gallery inside its historic farmhouse, and
- exhibitions in the **local art galleries** and some **surprising locations** in the Medieval core of Kamnik.

**6 MONTHS: 16 March – 22 September 2024**

## **PARTICIPATING ARTISTS**

William Sweetlove (BEL), Victor Kastelic (USA/ITA), Daniele Galliano (ITA), Pierluigi Pusole (ITA), Sergio Cascavilla (ITA), Bart Ramakers (BEL), Garrett Speirs (USA), Elke Warth (GER), Francesco Di Lernia (ITA), Mark Brest van Kempen (USA), Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen (USA), Nina Koželj (SVN), Raja Khairallah(LBN/ITA), Bartolomeo Migliore (ITA), Tazio Kastelic (USA/ITA), Zjos Meyvis (BEL), Federico Caputo (ITA), Enrico T. De Paris (ITA), Ginny Speirs (USA), Philippe Badert (BEL), Paolo Cassarà (ITA), Ira Marušič (SVN), Tina Konec (SVN), Bodil Fox (USA), Larnie Fox (USA).

## **WILLIAM SWEETLOVE**

Yes, that is indeed his real name! Sweetlove was born in 1949 in Ostend, Belgium, from humble beginnings in the European countryside right after the war. Decades of painting and sculpture have brought him worldwide recognition, and his work, which has been exhibited in over 600 exhibitions worldwide, has delighted everyone from art critics to the very young. From giant schnauzers wearing rubber boots to penguins carrying plastic bottles on their backs, Sweetlove's cloned animals act as a creative antidote to the mass production of material goods and over-consumption in our society. His sculptures, with their critical undertones, draw attention to contemporary society while maintaining a strong connection to nature, as the artist points out in his statement, "Climate change is the basis of my work."

## **PRE-OPENING PREVIEW**

### **Thursday, 14 March 2024 - MEDIA & VIP Day**

- 10.30 - Opening reception with refreshments - Arboretum Volčji Potok
- 11.00 – Press conference - Arboretum Volčji Potok
- 11.30 – Guided tour of the exhibition - Arboretum Volčji Potok
- 12.30 – 14.00 Guided tour of exhibitions in Kamnik

Invited: media, leadership of the municipality of Kamnik and representatives of the government of Republic of Slovenia, diplomatic missions to Slovenia and key representatives from business, tourism, education, culture and art communities.

## **PUBLIC OPENING**

### **Saturday, 16 March 2024**

- 10.00 - Public opening event - Glavni trg, Kamnik
- 10.00 - All locations and exhibits open to the public

## **TICKETS**

- An all-in-one ticket provides access to all *DOBRE NOVICE!* art event sites (Arboretum Volčji potok and Kamnik city locations).
- Tickets can be purchased at Arboretum Volčji Potok and at Tourist Information Center (TIC) Kamnik.

## PROJECT CONSORTIUM

*DOBRE NOVICE!* art event is an ambitious undertaking by a consortium of partners who share the interest of showcasing excellent international contemporary art as a complement to what Kamnik already offers to its visitors as a destination rich in cultural history and breathtaking natural Alpine surroundings:

- Kamnik Municipality
- Arboretum Volčji Potok
- William Sweetlove - participating artist and art coordinator
- Kspaces (Torino, Italy)/Victor Kastelic - participating artist and art coordinator
- Galerija Prečna/ Matthew McQuarrie - organizer *DOBRE NOVICE!* art event
- Noah Charney - art historian, author, *DOBRE NOVICE!* PR ambassador
- Kamnik Institute for Tourism and Sport
- Intermunicipal Museum Kamnik (MM:K)

## STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR OF KAMNIK

Mr. **Matej Slapar**, mayor of Kamnik municipality: "I sincerely believe that the international exhibition *DOBRE NOVICE!* will attract the attention of local and international media and the public in Slovenia and abroad. This will put Kamnik, Slovenia, on the map of the world of contemporary art and make it an indispensable destination for all art lovers. The project has already reached beyond the municipality of Kamnik with the support of the **Embassy of the United States of America in Slovenia, the Slovenian Tourist Board and Tourism Ljubljana.**"

## WEBSITE

[www.dobre-novice.art](http://www.dobre-novice.art)

## CONTACTS FOR MEDIA

**Zavod za Turizem in Šport Kamnik** (Institute for Tourism and Sport Kamnik):

Ms. **Nina Irt**, public relations +386 (0)40 67 41 22, [nina.irt@visitkamnik.com](mailto:nina.irt@visitkamnik.com) and  
Mr. **Luka Svetec**, director, +386 (0)40 35 07 33, [luka.svetec@visitkamnik.com](mailto:luka.svetec@visitkamnik.com).

