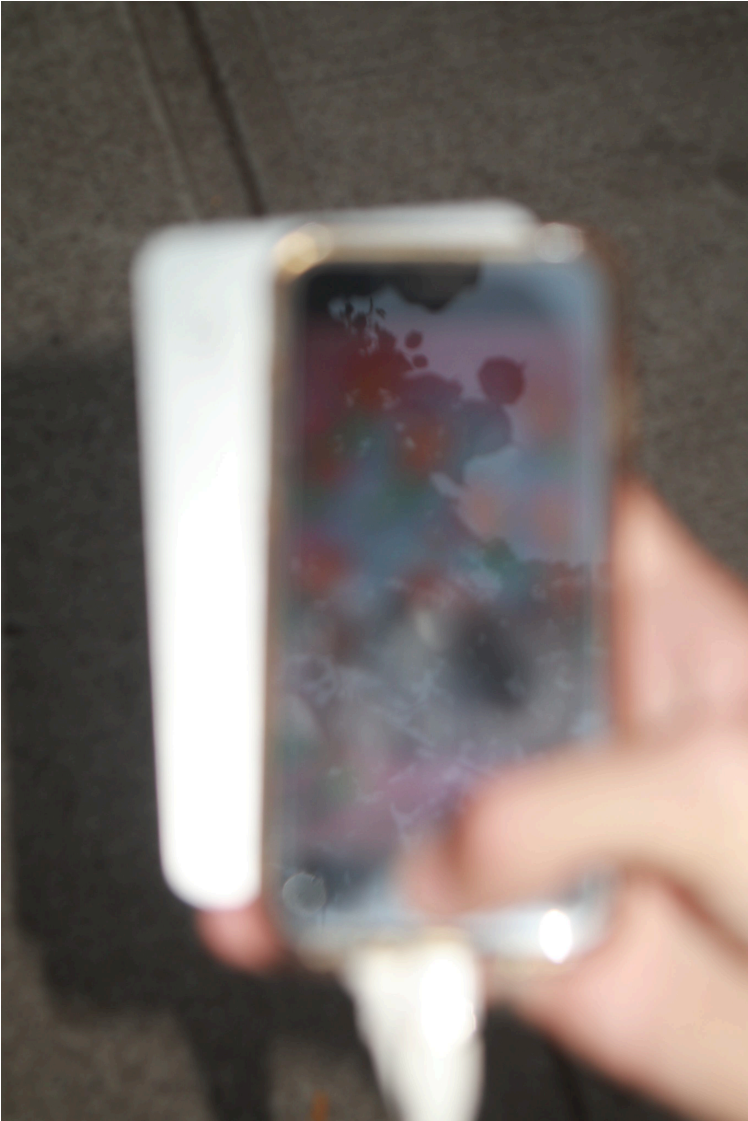


Pavle Banović

Portfolio 2025





# Yes, Judith, The body is a dynamic field of relations

Split-screen video work

4'34"

2025.

The video work centers around a collaged audio narrative, consisting of excerpts from Judith Butler's conference titled *Why Bodies Matter*, coupled with my personal writings on protests, being queer and the meaning of public presence in my hometown, Belgrade, which is oversaturated with the history of public disobedience and protests. Together, they form a fictional conversation, a phone call of sorts, between the two of us, recontextualizing her topics of the subjective and collective body, which are also explored in the visual part of the work. The archival footage used in the video shows massive protests in Belgrade from different years: 1969, 2000, 2014, 2022, and the ongoing student protests (2024-25).





# WHEN MERLINKA BUILT TOWERS OF STONE\*

\*Title taken from the article by Marija Đoković and Milan Živanović for the XXZ portal

Working Group (Pavle Banović, Marija Iva Gocić, Leah Rivka Lapiower, Sara Pantović, Chloé Sassi)

2024

Archive / Documentation of the Action



**Vjeran Merlinka** was the first publicly declared trans person in Yugoslavia and a public figure of great significance to the community and culture. During her time in Belgrade, she lived and worked at the Belgrade Planetarium on Kalemegdan. There, she contributed to the Astronomical Society of Serbia, maintained the planetarium and its surrounding area, and left behind her creative works. Over the years, she created what she called her "concrete nest" in the courtyard of the building, collecting and making small-scale sculptures, ceramics, and ornaments which she collaged on the walls of her home.

On the entrance doors are her initials, M.V.

After her murder on March 22, 2003, her home and creative works remained locked behind these doors, while the stone garden in front of them was gradually forgotten. Due to the obscurity and neglect of the space, over time it became a makeshift toilet and a dumping ground, covered in condoms and used needles.

In June 2024, the reconstruction of the Belgrade Planetarium began, during which the concrete installation, along with Merlinka's works, was destroyed and discarded in a pile. By chance, the working group was at the site during the demolition and managed to save part of the artwork.

Believing that Merlinka, along with her life's work, holds cultural significance for our society, we present the documentation of this story and everything that remains of it, so that at least a part of it can find a permanent place within the institution to which it truly belongs.

The archive is currently held at the Belgrade Cultural Center, achieved through the project "The rotten smell is you" by Jelisaveta Rapajić.





Site-specific action on the remains of the sculptures



"A white, massive structure from the last century, in which I built my stone nest, seemed to smile at me with its whiteness as I hurried toward it. Would he and I have the luck to survive this whirlwind of war and hell in which we find ourselves, both helpless to defend ourselves?"

From the book Terezas Son



# Dream Streams

Site-specific intervention  
2022 - ongoing

The intervention Dream Streams examines and utilizes the visual language and logic of smart TVs. Standardized formats of system error notifications and messages often disrupt the simulation of space or the uniformity of content being sold when they appear on screens in public spaces or retail outlets. By breaking the simulation, we gain insight into the system behind it—that is, the extended apparatus. The work is based on the idea of playing with this apparatus and incorporating recorded dreams and notes about dreams as a subversive action that subverts the given system. Dreams were collected through an open call on social networks, inviting volunteers to submit the contents of their dream diaries and notes.

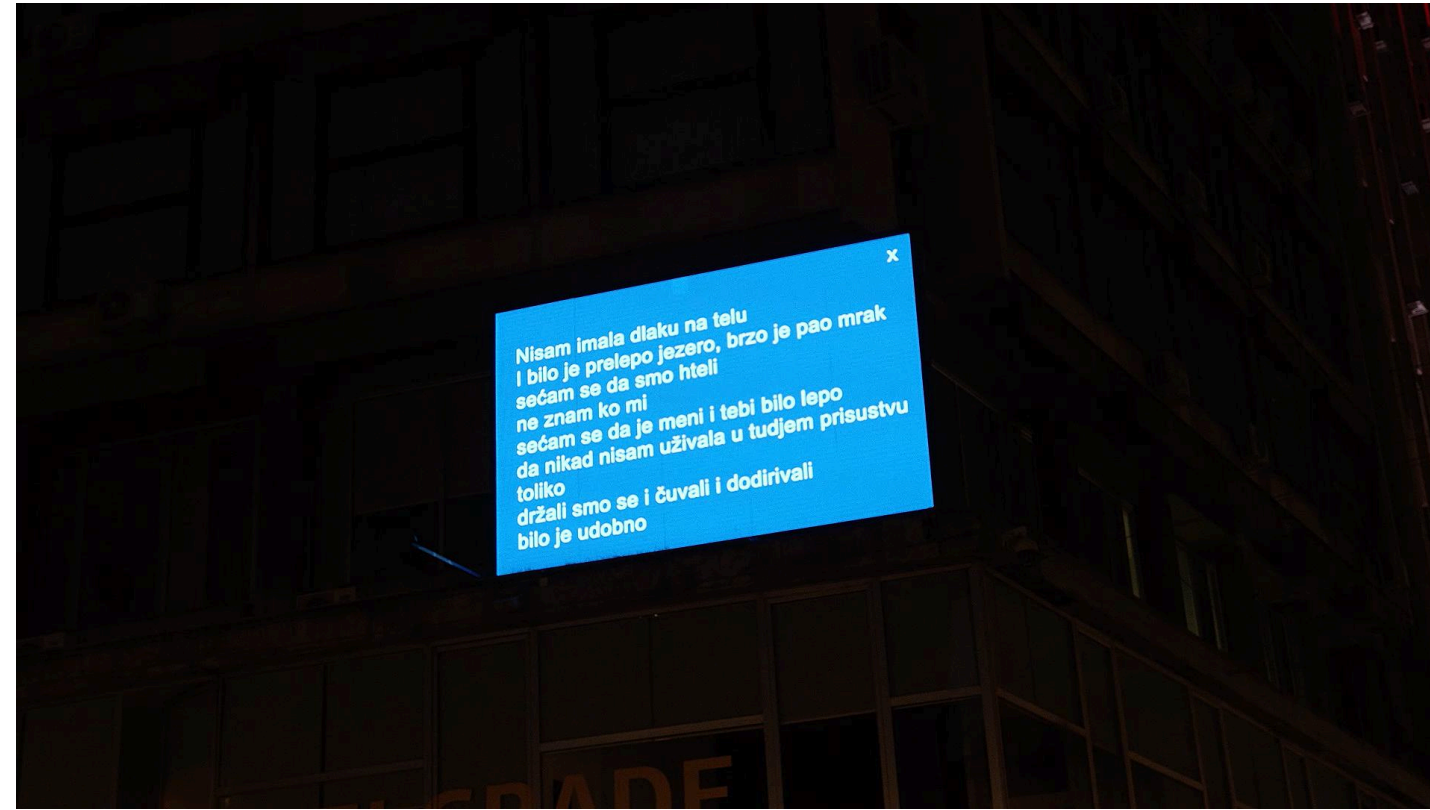
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J00ro50sNZY>



\*In a dream, it becomes clear to me why my whole life I dream of swimming through the air, because I can really do it. And it became clear to me what Tesla said that people once flew but they forgot.\*



Project documentation across various versions



Billboard screen in Belgrade City center (2022)

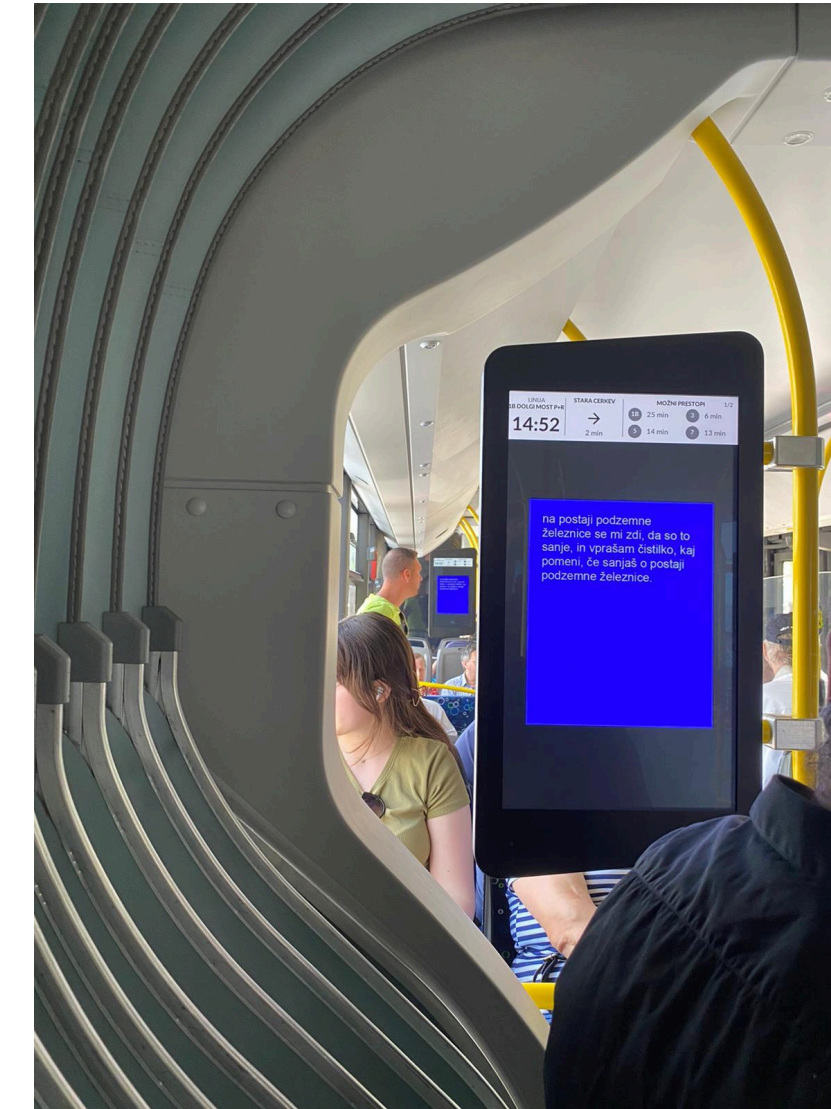


Window of a ticket shop (2022)

\*I had no hair on my body  
We didn't leave the lake and  
the nightfall came soon  
I remember that we wanted  
I don't know who are we  
It felt nice for you as well as me  
I have never enjoyed  
someone's presence so much  
We held and cared for and  
touched each other  
It was comfortable\*



Screen in a cafe (2022)



Public transport in Ljubljana as part of the \*Fever Dream\* Exhibition (2023)



A proposition for the end of the world

A plane takes off  
At sunset

But it goes nowhere

It just spins in circles

So the passengers enjoy  
The play of light an shadow  
That takes place inside

They all take beautiful pictures

In the background , a song is playing  
It is by Amanda Lear

It goes something like –

*I am a glossy photograph*

*My lips are parted  
But they're not for kissing  
My eyes are open  
But I'm not listening  
My breasts are round  
But my heart is missing*

*I'm a photograph, I'm a photograph  
better than the real thing*

*I am appearing by the magic  
Of a Nikon Automatic  
Maybe I'm just a piece of paper  
But some think that I am better  
Cause photographs do not complain  
Or cry, or love, or suffer*



# The world is just a word

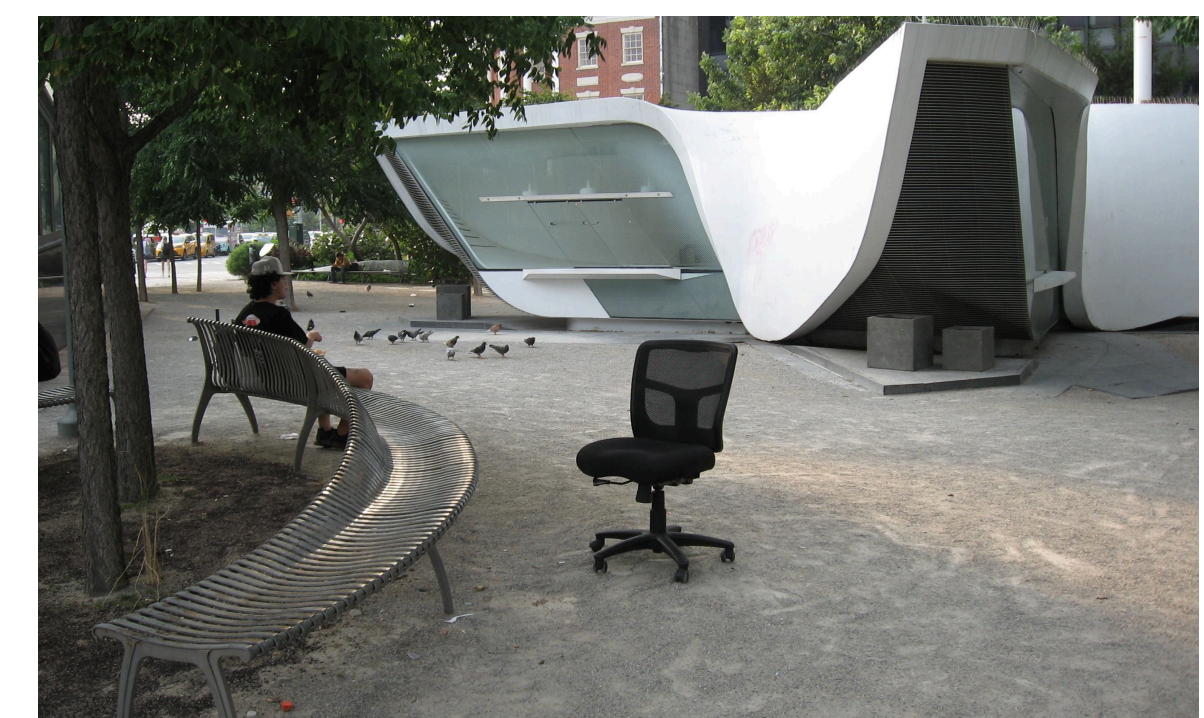
Video work / Photography

10'59"

2023

The World is Just a Word is a photographic and video exhibition by Serbian YVAA/RU artist Pavle Banović. Realized as a sort of diary over a period of two months in New York City, the footage addresses topics such as personal and public space, documenting and creating subjects/portraits, the absurdity or importance of intimate storytelling, and the blurred lines between the real and the imagined, all viewed through the lens of a camera and the perspective of the person holding it.

<https://youtu.be/U5tXQgdryxY?feature=shared>





Photographs from the project





# Love stories and Hate crimes: Analogies of the poor image

Audio-visual photographic instalation  
2023

In order to articulate ambivalence as a sentiment that largely defines the contemporary moment, as well as what Hito Steyerl defines as a poor image, the artist develops a unique situation or action somewhere on the thin line between exhibiting and performative practices. Using selected images and text, Banović expresses his own experience while simultaneously questioning our collective relationship with contemporary technologies and the significance of memory. Love Stories and Hate Crimes represents a new form of the artist's exploration of interpersonal relationships mediated by current ideological and technological phenomena. The audience will have a unique opportunity to create their own narrative flow, which will unpredictably unfold in the artistic space of the Tower, guided by pre-prepared instructions.





# Project documentation





place is a place  
is a place

Net-art / site-specific installation  
2021 - ongoing

The work consists of a series of playful interventions on the platforms Google Maps and Google Street View, such as marking and archiving glitches—surplus, artificially generated visuals that appear at the seams of stitched-together images. After identifying these glitches, I created 3D models of them, printed them in clay, and placed them in physical reality at their corresponding locations, thereby synchronizing the two spaces. In some instances, I also posted a poem about heartbreak as a review for my physical location at that moment, similar to a note carved into a tree found on the same spot.





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