

# Emil Memon: Three Steps to Madness. Social Sculpture and Other Short Stories

Audio-visual installation, Project Room SCCA, Metelkova 6, Ljubljana, March 1 – 8, 2019

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## **Newton, triptych installation, 1993/2019**

It is based on William Blake's monotype of Isaac Newton on the bottom of the sea, featuring his comment on science and rationalism. I was re-enacting Blake's image and incorporating into the work few other references. On the left panel in the image is, as the stamp on Chinese antique scrolls, my etching from the set "City planning", on the right panel, is Jože Plečnik's city plan for Ljubljana. Work is, apart from homage to William Blake and Arte Povera, also about coexistence of different systems.

The work consists of two-panel projections on the wall, red plastic, glass, copper pipe and my recorded music being played during the show. (I produced the images at MTV offices since they had some first computers using Photoshop).

Installation "Newton" was a part of the 42 23th art show, which I curated in the early 1990s at multiple floors of 23 St. townhouse in NYC. Participating Artist were Australian artist and friend Ilmar Caruso, German/Swedish artist Jarg Geismar and me. At that time, I curated few art shows and events, part of my ethics of self-reliance that goes through my work including using NYC nightclubs as art venues.

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## **Vladimir Memon: Meje [Borders], a book of poetry**

(Pota mladih, Mladinska knjiga, Ljubljana 1979)

### **+ Emil Memon: an original artwork for the cover of the book, 1979**

The drawing was inspired by Antonioni's *Blow Up* film, particularly, the ambiguous scene in the park. Later, this connection between my brother's collection of poems and my visual art was in a way repeated in *DC Project* work that I did in collaboration with Tobias Putrih for The Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C., 2009.

In the 1980s I made also the art design (photographs with scenes from my short films) for a special edition of the *Problemi* magazine entitled »Fantastic Prose« (Year 18, No 198/199, 1980).

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## **Mishima Film, series of works connected to Memon's feature film, 2015/2019**

(Author: Emil Memon, DOP: Pawel Wojtasik, Actresses: Yuko Torigara as Yukio Mishima and Lucie Tripon as a journalist.)

"Mishima Film Video Sculpture No. 1", "Mishima Film Video Sculpture No. 2"

"Mishima Film Still", Digital C-Print

**Music videos:** Slayer / Caravaggio, 2010; Schizophrenia / Blue Movie, 2009; Ghandi & Salt, 2010; Titan / Doomed and Celestial, 2009; Dark Night, 2012; New York, the time is right, 2010; Ill., featuring Momo Takanashi, 2011; Check it out, featuring Jaleel Bunton, 2010; Twilight of the Gods,

featuring Hayley McCulloch, 2016; On the Run / An American song, 2018; It's a Line, 2018; Park Avenue Samurai, 2019.

**Music tracks:** Hot in a Disco, Slayer, Three in the Morning, Mishima Film Theme, Mishima Film Theme / Heavy Family, Leonardo, Park Avenue Samurai, Blood Vampire Song, Diamonds Are, 3 in the Morning, Dick Song, Washington Square Valhalla.

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### **The Lemon Set, series of works, 2015/2019**

(After iconic multiple sculpture by Joseph Beuys's he did a year before his death: Capri Batterie, edition, 1985.)

Object No.7 / Lemon Set + series of posters: No. 1 / Fassbinder / Lemon Set /, No. 2 / Warhol, Basquiat / Lemon Set /, No. 3 / Aalto / Lemon Set /, No. 4 / Mishima / Lemon Set /, No. 5 / Yuko with a poster / Lemon Set /, No. 6 / Poster Social Skulpture / Lemon Set / (collaboration with Tobias Putrih).

The Lemon Set was shown for the first time at the *History of the World Vol. 2* show which I curated with Kyoko Sato in frame of *The Week of Frieze Art Fair* in New York, SoHo, NYC, 2015.

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### **Salvator Mundi, video sculpture, 2007/2019**

*Salvator Mundi*, a painting by Albrecht Dürer, is in the Collection of Metropolitan Museum in NYC. My video sculpture is from a set of video works I did by using Met's photo library, did research there, using first colour slides they have from the 1930's.

The video sculpture was shown for the first time at the show *Loneliness and Melancholy* curated by Pawel Wojtasik and Susan Classen-Sullivan, Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery, Manchester College, Connecticut in 2007.

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### **Fireworks / Hot in a Disco, video, 2015**

Video consists of dystopian footages of the spectacle of the 4th of July Independence Day celebration on West Side of Manhattan recorded two years in the row. With the glow saturation of the colour it is a reminiscence of a battlefield and of the glow of atomic bomb, or a public spectacle in the historical prints of various victorious kings celebrating their victories. It is also a homage to Kenneth Anger, a very influential filmmaker for me, and his great experimental film *Fireworks*. The music in the video is a live recording from a rehearsal of *Hot in a Disco* song with Micah Gaugh and Michael Durek.

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**References:** Joseph Beuys · Andy Warhol · Jean Michele Basquiat · William Blake · Issac Newton · Jože Plečnik · Rainer Werner Fassbinder · Sylvia Plath · Vladimir Memon · Yukio Mishima · Alvar Aalto · Tobias Putrih · Albrecht Dürer · Kenneth Anger

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