

- BLOCKFREI -

*presents*

**INDEPENDENT**



**ART**



**FROM**



**SERBIA**

*at the*

*10<sup>th</sup> Viennafair*



- STAND C23 -



## BLOCKFREI PRESENTS

### INDEPENDENT ART FROM SERBIA

BLOCKFREI is an independent cultural organization based in Vienna since May 2013. It is conceived as a platform for innovative contemporary cultural praxis, with the goal to support the cooperation between cultural groups from Austria and South-Eastern Europe. Such an interaction increases the visibility of cultural variety present in Austria today, where ethnic groups from the mentioned region form a significant part of the society.

BLOCKFREI embodies the concept of mobility of artists and cultural professionals and strongly believes that multicultural projects are of the highest importance and a significant contribution to the global cultural and geopolitical sphere. BLOCKFREI therefore stands for the principles of a multicultural, open society and respect for different identities where critical discourse, freedom of thought and progressive ideas

are manifested through direct engagement and action, endorsing the aforementioned values.

For one of BLOCKFREI's missions is to promote and affirm contemporary art and culture from Serbia, it strives to present an overview of the Serbian scene by introducing several different initiatives to an international audience. BLOCKFREI considers VIENNAFAIR, to be a significant platform for achieving such a goal, having in mind its international importance as well as its special influence on Serbia due to its close ties to Austria.

On the 10th VIENNAFAIR BLOCKFREI presents Independent art from Serbia, aiming to provide an opportunity for interaction with other exhibited art and furthermore contributing to a higher presence of art from South-East Europe - one of the focuses of the VIENNAFAIR itself.



## THE INITIATIVE

The social and political environment in Serbia influenced in a large degree the ways in which art scene developed. Although certain public bodies within the state apparatus recognize the importance of culture and art for the development of modern society, the majority exercises a level of ambivalence and a tendency to marginalize contemporary art production. More traditional and patriarchal cultural models are prioritized and implemented, while some of the pillars of cultural identities are closed for public eyes nearly a decade now, e.g. National Museum and Museum of Contemporary Art.

As a result, a number of civil initiatives have risen to the challenge to create and nurture a different and independent culture, influenced by many complex and intense processes and events that took place in the last two decades – from war, isolation, transition, political instabilities, corruption, etc. From this pool of ideas and aspirations, a fresh and original production of art came out, which will be presented in this project - a colorful, imaginative and vibrant community, creating their art in a self-constructed environment, with their own rules and directions of development. In the presented artworks, one can see the obvious links to the contemporary art in Europe,

while at the same time these works are radiating with authentic features and characteristics, developed in the complicated and harsh social, political and cultural context of Serbian society.

With restricted means and inadequate resources, it is very hard for these initiatives to introduce most significant Serbian contemporary art beyond country borders. Manifestations of utmost stature such as VIENNAFAIR are generally not in their reach, which leaves the artists alone to present themselves in international scene and try to develop their careers individually. As one of the BLOCKFREI's mission is to promote and affirm contemporary art and culture from Serbia, we are acting as an umbrella association and with this project we strive to present the scene as a whole, in contrast to single artist, and to facilitate promotion of Serbian artists and initiatives outside the country's borders.

This project is realized in a cooperation with The Ministry of Culture of Republic of Serbia and its department for International cooperation and Contemporary Visual Arts and Multimedia, as this department stands out among public bodies for its positive role in the support of the independent art.

## THE EXHIBITION

Five artists closely connected with the independent initiatives active on the Serbian contemporary art scene will be exhibited at the stand. Selected artists have been chosen in the cooperation with the civil initiatives which are taking part in this project, on the basis of their achievements at home and abroad, transmitting messages related to the questions of responsibility, manipulation, variables of violence, critic of populist ready-made philosophies, phenomenon on globalization and other dominating

elements of the society they are living in.

The selection of artists has been done also in a relation to the media they are using, in order to represent in an adequate manner the current scene in Serbia (drawing, painting, photography). Aside from presenting the selected artists, BLOCKFREI will include in this project also an internet portal with Serbian contemporary art database, a long term project by REMONT - Independent Artistic Association from Belgrade.

### PRESENTED ARTISTS AND INITIATIVES:

Aleksandrija Ajduković / *The Street Gallery - Micro Art*

Dejan Kaludjerović / *BLOCKFREI*

Mane Radmanović / *The Big Gallery - KC GRAD*

Siniša Ilić / *TkH - Walking Theory*

Žolt Kovač / *Supervizuelna*

Remont Contemporary Art Data Base / *Remont*

## Aleksandrija Ajduković - *The Street Gallery - Micro Art*



*Orlando Magic*, 3 photographs selected from the installation of 10, presented in 2014 by The street gallery - Micro Art, Belgrade, A4 format

### MAGIC FROM ORLANDO

Exhibition "Magic from Orlando" is a retrospective view on the first actions of the artist Aleksandrija Ajduković to materialize her guiding idea in the spirit of original and subtle strategies of exposing the reality phenomenon in which fashion, society, media, sports and the market are intertwined. Taken in 2002 near the Flea Market in Novi Beograd, photographs captured a complex cultural phenomenon present on the streets of Belgrade, which dates back to the 1990s.

*Excerpt from the text "Magic from Orlando" by Mara Prohaska Markovic*

Aleksandrija Ajduković - (1975, Osijek, Croatia) graduated photography at the Academy of Arts "BK" in Belgrade. Member of ULUS ( Association of Fine Artists of Serbia). Completed Master studies (photography) at Academy of Art, Novi Sad. Guest student in Post Conceptual Artist Practicies at Academy of Art in Vienna in a class of Marina Grzinić. Currently at a doctoral studies at Faculty of Drama in Belgrade at a department for theory of film, culture and media. Through the portraits of passers-by she captures the phenomena of modern life and its daily reflections on the world of fashion, pop-culture and lifestyle of (non) urban areas in an elaborative and humoristic way. Last two years Ajduković was working on a crime scene as a visualization of a death in media and popular culture. Lives and works in Belgrade.

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### THE STREET GALLERY BELGRADE - MICRO ART ASSOCIATION

Street gallery project represent a pioneer venture in the attempt to reconstruct and revive ruined and neglected public space in downtown Belgrade, in order to refurbish it for cultural and artistic purposes. Guided by the idea of "the right to the city", and inspired by the poor situation in the public cultural institutions in Serbia, Micro Art, an independent association behind this initiative which deals with public spaces, successfully lobbied the city's officials to transform a neglected public space in Belgrade city center into the city's first open air Street Gallery, composed of nine exhibition niches (each 1,4 m wide and 1,8 m high), placed on the walls of the abandoned, burned-out cinema. It shows works in the display cases which used to hold movie posters. From its forming in April 2012, Street Gallery has hosted more than 40 solo and group exhibitions with over 35000 visitors. Main objectives of Micro Art organization are relocation of art in public space, creation of new centers of art within the city's unused potential and incorporating art in the creation of the system of values of the society.

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## Dejan Kaludjerović / *BLOCKFREI*



*Grau Monument*, from the series *Children's Playgrounds - The Monuments Of A Void Childhood*, Acrylic and graphite on canvas paper, 93 x 200 cm, 2010

### CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS - THE MONUMENTS OF A VOID CHILDHOOD

With his newest body of work Kaludjerović investigates childhood signifiers, such as playgrounds, electric cars and swings leaving the protagonists out of the picture, quite literally. Instead of having the children climb up the ladders, cross over playground bridges or sweep down slides, Kaludjerović leaves an empty and hollow field, making the viewer feel slightly perturbed.

*Excerpt from the text "Where Have All the Children Gone?" by Božidar Bošković*

Dejan Kaludjerović -

was born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. For the achievements in visual arts, Kaludjerović has been granted honorable Austrian citizenship. He was studying in the class of Erwin Wurm at the Academy of Applied Arts in Vienna, and gained MFA in visual arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Belgrade, in 2004.

Since the beginning of his career in Belgrade, Dejan Kaludjerović has been exploring the conjunction between consumerism and childhood, to analyse identity formation and stability of representational forms. Most of his paintings, drawings, objects, videos and installations, employ the processes of recycling, copying and reenacting, thus creating patterns that simulate mechanical reproduction, and criticise homogeneity embedded in popular culture.

Kaludjerović's work is part of many private and public collections, among others, MUSA Museum, KONTAKT collection and Artothek des Bundes in Vienna and Salzburg Museum der Moderne, City Museum Belgrade, October Salon collection, STRABAG collection etc. He has exhibited internationally at numerous solo and group shows in Europe, USA, Australia and Asia, etc.

His forthcoming shows includes:

*Invisible violence*, Artium - Basque Museum of Contemporary Art, Vitoria, Spain, September 2014 – January 2015

*Ferne Nähe – Contemporary Art from Middle-Europe and Danube Countries*, Stift Lilienfeld, September – October 2014

*Flashback << Rewind. Meditations on film and memory*, Smac, Berlin, September 2014

*Disappearing Things*, 55th International October Salon, Belgrade, September – November 2014

*The Dignity of Men*, The Brno House of Arts, Brno, Czech Republic, September – November 2014

*Gambling*, Galleria Bianconi, Milan, Italy, October - November 2014

*Conversations*, YAY Gallery, Baku, Azerbaijan, November – December 2014 (solo)

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### BLOCKFREI

BLOCKFREI presents artwork from Dejan Kaludjerović specific for his engagement on both Serbian and Austrian contemporary art scenes, as well as internationally. He is an example of well thought through art closely related to both mentioned contexts.

www.blockfrei.org





## Mane Radmanović / *The Big Gallery* - KC GRAD



*You know what is best for me.*  
from the series of altars entitled *About Faith Love and Hunger*, Laser cut graphic, 42 x 30 cm, 2013

### ABOUT FAITH LOVE AND HUNGER

Radmanović introduces to public his sarcastic experiment entitled *About Love Faith and Hunger*. The mentioned series allocates to the era of cheap and populist philosophy that is proclaimed to be *The Meaning of Life* (indeed *About Faith Love and Hunger* corresponds to that *Eat.Pray.Love*). Radmanović is experimenting with slogans, usually of pathetic nature, and facilities them in a kind of new age altars. Ironic to begin with, the idea continues to reflect in contrast of rich textual contents resolved with coloristic minimum. White images perfected with a technical maximum (laser cut graphics), contributes to the unique visual effects: as new age "philosophy" requires new age unification, where a micro world of contemporary mini-altars, unequivocally reminiscent of cyber prayer books that disseminate new-age religions.

*Excerpt from the catalogue text by Jordan Cveticovic*

Mane Radmanović - (1976, Belgrade) is a visual artist, graphic designer and founder of the graphic design studio Pure. He was educated at the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the Faculty of Applied Arts in Belgrade. Radmanović's interests are oriented towards the visual arts and experimental approach to graphic design. He has exhibited and participated in many solo and group international and national exhibitions and festivals. He has published two books "Studio Pure presents 5" and "I don't like hanging around with graphic designers. They are self-obsessed and boring.". His works have been published in ICON and Print. He is member of *Belgrade Raw* photography group ([www.belgraderaw.com](http://www.belgraderaw.com)).

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### CULTURAL CENTER GRAD - THE BIG GALLERY REPRESENTING MANE RADMANOVIĆ

The GRAD *European Centre for Culture and Debate*, also known as *Cultural Center GRAD* (KC GRAD), was opened as an independent art and culture space on April 16, 2009. It is a product of a joint initiative of the *Cultural Front Belgrade* and the *Amsterdam Felix Meritis Foundation*. KC Grad is situated in an old 1884 warehouse located in the old, neglected and rundown industrial neighborhood in the very heart of Belgrade, on the banks of the Sava River. The KC GRAD building consists of two levels of a total of 397 square meters in size. It houses a large gallery space and an art library on the upper floor.

In 2010 The Big gallery of the Cultural Center Grad was granted the status of the city of Belgrade's galleries and has been project funded by the City of Belgrade and the Serbian Ministry of Culture. The program of The Big Gallery is conceived on the basis of a competition which is announced each year from May till September. Projects are selected by an international jury: Imelda Ramović (Bosnia and Hercegovina), graphic designer; Davor Burketa (Croatia), creative director of Bruketa & Žinić; Rickard Lindquist (Sweden), fashion designer; Marija Skoko (Serbia), visual artist; Monika Lang (Serbia), graphic designer and Ljudmilla Stratimirović (Serbia), art director of the Cultural Center Grad. Each year the jury selects projects that will be presented as part of annual program of the gallery, trying to promote young artists as well as to show the diversity of projects. The gallery is therefore positioned in the Belgrade art scene as a gallery for the affirmation of mostly younger artists, regardless of the nature of their media and artistic expression (whether it comes to graphic design, costume design and other forms of applied art, sculpture, painting, performance..).

Nonspecific orientation of The Big gallery annual program opens space for pluralism of artistic expressions that makes its annual program interesting and rich and assert the real highlights of the production of art in all media.

The choice of artists invited to take part in this exhibition is designed not around a precise theme or medium, but about principles of galleries and fact that they were selected among many projects and presented as part of previous annual programs.

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## Siniša Ilić / *TkH - Walking Theory*



*Precarious*, 3 drawings, selected from the 40 drawing installation, felt tip pen on paper, 21 x 29,5 cm, 2010

Installation view, Calvert 22, London, 2013, Photo: Stephen White



### THE PRECARIOUS

'While dealing with the construction of various representation regimes Siniša Ilić's drawings engage with number of transitory states, such as uncertainty, tension and ambiguity, often related to the topic of immaterial labor or institutionalized monitoring. The figures in his drawings seem estranged, vulnerable and unable to fully articulate or fulfill their actions.'

*What, How and for Whom / WHW, "Dear Art"*, Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Ljubljana and Calvert 22, London; 2012 / 2013

Siniša Ilić - (1977, Belgrade) is a visual artist working also in the field of performance art. His work includes drawing, painting, installation, video and artist books. Ilić's practice addresses social phenomena and mechanisms, exploring forms of labour, tension, social violence and states of uncertainty. Ilić collaborates with Bojan Đorđev on long term artistic research *Desert of Picture* project, and with other artists and authors, on a range of collaborative projects. He showed his works at: Tate Modern, galleries Calvert 22 and Forham London; Residency Unlimited, New York; Lofoten International art festival, Norway; Metelkova Museum of Contemporary Arts, Ljubljana; Open Space, Vienna; Belgrade Cultural Centre Art Gallery, Salon and Museum of Contemporary Arts, Belgrade; Gallery Nova Zagreb; The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space, Prague; DEPO, Istanbul; Mestni Muzej, Ljubljana, Arsenal Gallery, Bialystok... In 2010, Ilić and Tina Gverović, who collaborated on several art projects since 2006, received 25. *I am what I am* Nadežda Petrović Memorial Award for their collaborative work *Uncomparables. Forming a Suspicious State*. Ilić received Dimitrije Bašićević Mangelos Award (2006) and has undertaken residencies at Tate Modern, London; Kamov, Rijeka; ITD, Zagreb; KulturKontakt, Vienna; ISCP - International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York, and Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart. He holds a BA and MA from the Faculty of Fine art, Belgrade.

His forthcoming shows includes:

*Dear Art*, Gallery Nova, Zagreb, September 2014

*Ko to tamo peva*, Nadežda Petrović Memorial, Čačak, September 2014

*I want to talk about war*, Klovićevi dvori, Zagreb, September 2014

*Mundus Vade Retro*, Kibla, Maribor, November 2014

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### TkH – WALKING THEORY

Siniša Ilić is a co-founder and member of TkH (Walking Theory) art and theory platform which was founded by a group of theoretician and artists at the end of 2000 in Belgrade. TkH main objective is to reinforce the critical and experimental practices/discourses in contemporary arts in the local context, as well as to affirm them in a wider, regional and international context. TkH is run by the editorial collective whose members are theorists and artists coming from performance theory and practice, theatre, cinema, and visual arts (Ana Vujanović, Bojan Djordjević, Bojana Cvejić, Katarina Popović, Marta Popivoda, Siniša Ilić and producers Dragana Jovović and Jelena Knežević). TkH publishes TkH Journal for Performing Arts Tehory.

[www.tkh-generator.net](http://www.tkh-generator.net)

## Žolt Kovač / *Supervizuelna*



*Islands of Interestad*, metallic paint on aluminium, 92 x 124 cm, 2013

### THE BRILLIANT PAINTINGS

The Brilliant Paintings series reflect on the important role education plays in forming the public. With the clear intention of getting the text messages to establish the direct communication with the audience, his paintings are exercising the position of the educator. Žolt Kovač emphasizes importance of art and artists to directly communicate with the public, to animate them and interest them, and i.e. indirectly create new consumers. At this point in Serbia there is a necessity for artists to pass on an instant message therefore Kovač finds that it is no longer enough to create a painting with the fine print beside it with a name that defines the content. He paints to directly communicate. Thus, the name has become a slogan, present on the image. The complete package is deliberate and, also, engaged in the context: there are metallic crystals in color, high gloss, industrial layout, painting as an object... to better communicate and establish new audience, new appreciators of art.

Žolt Kovač -

(1975, Pančevo) after accomplishing Mathematical High School, studies on Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade. M.A. from the same faculty. Attended School for History and Theory of Images at CCA Belgrade. Currently on Doctoral Studies of Art from FFA Belgrade. Has exhibited on 17 solo shows and many group exhibitions at home and abroad (Slovenia, Germany, Austria, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, France, Czech, Estonia, Greece, Russia, Macedonia). Works as lecturer on Belgrade Politechnical College. Co-founder of online magazine for contemporary art *Supervizuelna* ([www.supervizuelna.com](http://www.supervizuelna.com)). Plays bass guitar in influential alternative rock band Jarboli. Lives in Belgrade. Interested in socially engaged art through mediums of painting, drawing and printmaking, not just by criticizing only but trying to add small constructive contributions and new views on different topics. Trying to promote new positions and roles of artists and visual art in Serbian society against old modernistic traditional understanding of art, mainly as a co-founder and editor of online magazine *supervizuelna.com*. He has exhibited internationally at numerous solo and group shows in Serbia and the region.

His forthcoming shows includes:

*Use of Painting*, Požega, Serbia (solo)

Pančevo Biennial, Pančevo, Serbia

*Who's Singin' Over There?*, Memorial of Nadežda Petrović, Čačak, Serbia

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### SUPERVIZUELNA (SUPERVISUAL) – CONTEMPORARY ART JOURNAL

# SUPERVIZUELNA

Supervizuelna is an electronic journal with a flexible forms of content on contemporary art topics, founded in may 2013. It comments and designates current ideas, themes, events and phenomena in the field of contemporary art with no geographical definition, with special emphasis on the local art scene. Resulting from the need to write about art and discuss it in an open platform accessible to large community, Supervizuelna fosters and initiates variety of views from both local and global environment, creating a forum for the articulation of impulses and thoughts on contemporary art practice, from the perspective of artistic activity and visual language. The content of the magazine is based on interviews with artists and by artists, curators, workers in the field of culture, etc. texts written in the Blog section, as well as a variety of visual materials in columns Map and Monitor, while the visitor can also be acquainted with the artists in their studios through the Sneak Peek section. Supervizuelna was founded as a collective initiative of a small group of people who approach art from different positions, believing in its prominent social and cognitive role. Collective behind Supervizuelna journal are: Žolt Kovač, Ana Bogdanović, Isidora M. Nikolić, Saša Tkačenko, Ivan Šuletić .

[www.supervizuelna.com](http://www.supervizuelna.com)

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## Remont Contemporary Art Data Base / *Remont*



Remont, exhibition *Prešlišavanje*, Ivana Smiljanić "I Dance, Dance, Dance" exhibition view, 2012, photo by Milan Kralj

### REMONT - INDEPENDENT ARTISTIC ASSOCIATION

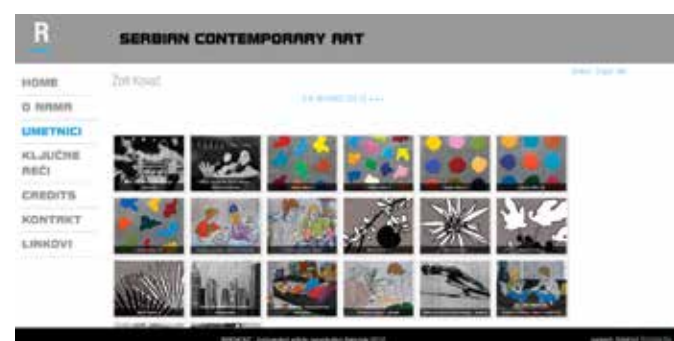
REMONT - Independent Artistic Association has been considered as one of the most important and the most active organizations on the Belgrade cultural map for the last fifteen years. Since its very beginning Remont has been dedicated to the promotion and development of contemporary artistic practices and production. Through the years, an intensive gallery activity, print and electronic publishing were accompanied by a number of project programs, as well as local, regional and international collaborations implemented in the context of Remont's permanent efforts to establish new professional standards and to activate the younger generation of visual artists and art professionals. Continuous questioning and search for new approaches and working models, a broader cultural engagement and communication with both the professional and the general audience brought a great professional experience and expertise to the Remont team. Our persistence and quality, recognized on both the local and the international level, have introduced Remont as one of the leading cultural organizations and the first contact point when it comes to contemporary art in Serbia. Since late 2011, along with its move into the new physical space, Remont has entered another chapter in its history, continuing its many activities, reflections on different models of presentation, valorization and historization of recent artistic production, implementing new ventures in the full activation of its resources and standing as an important cultural legacy. After years of distinguished practice of supporting the young artists, art professionals, engagement in the field of active participation in improving local cultural policies, Remont has become a significant pillar of the development of contemporary art and cultural scene in Serbia.

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### SERBIAN CONTEMPORARY ART – WEB DATE BASE

Since the opening of the first gallery space in 2000, REMONT - Independent Artistic Association has been gathering the documentation on artists in the course of its everyday work. Our ad hoc archive includes numerous catalogues, books, portfolios and electronic editions, serving as a valuable chronicle of happenings in the contemporary local and regional artistic scene. In 2006, in collaboration with the Department of History of Modern Art at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, a number of students were engaged in systematization of this material. One of the results of this work was the online database containing brief portfolios of selected local contemporary artists who collaborated with Remont. Offering basic information on artists (short biographies, photos of their most significant works) active since 2000, aim of this project was to make this information available to a wider circle of local and international art professionals. This database turned out to be very useful to those who want to be introduced to Serbian contemporary art scene and many of the projects or personal contacts were initiated or facilitated using this source. The idea we have been developing for a year now is to improve and introduce few more categories to our database, including texts/essays, search engine with keywords. At this moment, this new form of our web database is under construction. Widening the scope of information about contemporary art in Serbia and its protagonists, our intention is to create a relevant source for further researches by curators, artists (local and foreign), art professionals, collectors... As we are continually developing different strategies in promotion of contemporary art and raising the level of professional standards, in our opinion this project is a necessary adaptation to a contemporary way of online operating, providing quick and easy access to the information. Main idea is to build this database to the extent where it can be a satisfying professional tool easily accessible to all.

www.serbiancontemporaryart.info





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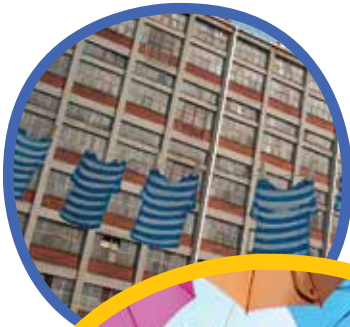
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**BLOCKFREI PRESENTS INDEPENDENT ART FROM SERBIA**

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