

GALERIE EMANUEL LAYR
SEILERSTÄTTE 2/26
1010 VIENNA

T +43 1 945 1791
GALLERY@EMANUELLAYR.COM
WWW.EMANUELLAYR.COM

Plamen Dejanoff
Plamen
6/2/16 - 7/30/16

Central to Plamen Dejanoff's current exhibition at Emanuel Layr Gallery is the project *Plamen*. Composed of books, posters, sculptures, a stage, and a series of photographs, the presentation concentrates on a Czechoslovakian magazine from the 1960s by the same name. *Plamen* (meaning flame), was distributed in Prague between 1960 ù 1968, and managed to incorporate critical viewpoints in politics, art and culture, despite a repressive political regime.

50 years after the original magazine was banned, Plamen Dejanoff orchestrated, among other things, the publication of a new edition, *Plamen (Literature, Art, Life) (1/2015)*, on the occasion of his solo show at 21er Haus in 2015, compiling articles from various writers, advertisements and exhibition images. The new magazine contained art, social concerns and politics, and served simultaneously as a catalogue to Plamen Dejanoff's show.

On display at Emanuel Layr are fragments and previews of a second issue of *Plamen*. A selection of cover page designs, page layouts, and a new photo series titled *Foundation Requirement (Trifon)* give an overview of the magazine in-progress and the associated production processes. During the course of the show, critics, artists and football experts will be invited to participate in interviews and contribute texts, which will be collected for inclusion in the final publication. A stage in the form of a large table installed in the gallery functions as a collection point for issues of *Plamen* from the 60s, the 2015 edition, as well as a platform for lectures, discussions and presentations of assorted materials.

Another main element of the exhibition and the new issue of *Plamen (1/2016)*, is eccentric, cult icon football player Trifon Ivanov, who is originally from Veliko Tarnovo, the same city as Dejanoff. Alongside diverse architectural and construction elements featured in the show, such as a medieval stone floor, the football player and cultural asset of recent Bulgarian history is a substantial motif in Dejanoff's new work series. The fragment of stone floor is reconstructed from the original plans of buildings in Veliko Tarnovo, and is displayed in 3m² scale. It belongs to a larger project titled *Foundation Requirement*, in which Dejanoff develops various artistic projects to conserve old buildings in his hometown, and turn them into cultural institutions before they fall to ruin.

Singular streams can be seen to conjoin in an inclusive, specifically Bulgarian cultural tradition, that stretches back from medieval architecture, to recent history ù with football star Ivanov ù and right up to Plamen Dejanoff himself. His practice can be seen as a form of historiography, into which he inscribes himself, both directly and indirectly.