

BIOGRAPHIES

Bajramović, Rifet (1953, Bosnia and Herzegovina). Born in Zavidović in 1953, currently residing in Kakanj. He began creating in the 1970s, and had his first solo exhibition in Serbia in 1980. He was awarded a gold badge at the International Camp of Fine Arts in Trebnje in 1987. He learned the craft from his father, and he now passes it down to his son in such a way that the family heritage is passed down from generation to generation.

Baker, Daniel (1961, United Kingdom) is a Romani Gypsy artist, researcher, and curator. Originally from Kent, and currently based in London, his work is exhibited internationally and can be found in collections across the globe. Baker earned a PhD in 2011 from the Royal College of Art, with his dissertation, “Gypsy Visuality: Gell’s Art Nexus and its Potential for Artists”, after previously earning an MA in Sociology/Gender and Ethnic Studies from Greenwich University, and a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Ravensbourne College of Art and Design. Baker has contributed to numerous exhibitions, held various residencies, and curated several commissions. He previously worked as an exhibitor and consultant for the first and second Roma events at the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia – “Paradise Lost” and “Call the Witness”, which took place during the 52nd and 54th International Art Exhibitions of La Biennale di Venezia, respectively. For more information about Baker and his revolutionary work, visit www.danielbaker.net

Barica, Emanuel (1995, Romania) is a self-taught Romanian Roma artist based in Berlin. He started making art at the age of 15 without understanding the art world. Initially, he drew only portraits and caricatures. Later, when he came to Berlin, he developed his artistic style by meeting artists from all over the world. He tries to push the boundaries of what he can do with his art, with the tools that are given to him, such as ballpoint pens, fine liner, ink, and acrylic. His work focuses on the human condition, with his interpretations manifesting strong expressions and emotions. Fears, insecurity, identity and values of individuals are themes which commonly resurface in his work. Over the years, Barica has developed a unique and recognisable performative drawing style, using a single continuous line to unravel complex images. He draws while listening to music, and lets intuition move his body and the energy of the music and the people around him.

Cortés, José Manuel Fernández (1993, Spain) was born in Granada. He studied Fine Arts, specializing in painting and scientific illustration of extinct animals. Cortés continues to use nature as his subject, which symbolizes spiritual strength and freedom, that the artist sees in parallel with the Roma culture. In his work, Cortés deals with concepts of lost paradise, identity and dehumanization.

Gabor, Lajos (1968, Romania) was born in Oradea, and currently lives in Cluj-Napoca in Romania. He inherited the craft from his grandfather. As a blacksmith, he works with various metals and silver. Lajos Gabor exhibited his work together with Joar Nango at the Art Encounters Biennale in 2019, where they together created household objects, jewellery and sculptures inspired by the traditions of the Roma and the indigenous Sámi people of northern Scandinavia.

Kotlár, Luboš (1991, Slovakia) is a 2018 graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, at the Department of Photography and New Media. During his studies, he completed student exchanges at Aalto School of Arts Design and Architecture in Helsinki (Visual Culture and Contemporary Art) and Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem (Photography). He is a multiple Slovak Press Photo award laureate. He is one of the founders and active members of the dsk. artist collective founded in 2012. Kotlár’s focus is his own artistic practice, which he presents at solo and group shows in Slovakia, as well as abroad on a regular basis, with his photography, editorial and curatorial work.

Mihaly, Renata (2000, Romania) is a second-year student at the University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca, at the Department of Fashion Design. She is involved in volunteer activities at Young Roma Maramures Baia Mare Association, but also in Cluj-Napoca, in the INTERSECT informal group. For her, art is everything: through art, she expresses herself, and it helps her to reproduce the personal vision related to any theme, subject, or context. Balance represents the desire for tranquillity, the search for freedom, the place where we

feel best and most free, specifically in nature. Nature is the place where we find balance, where we find peace of mind, where every thought leads us to positive, creative and powerful thoughts to move forward every day. The place where man can communicate directly with the universe, and which receives and transmits the most positive energy, which only Nature gives.

Moldovan, Zita (1979, Romania) is one of the best-known Roma actresses and journalists in Romania. For more than 15 years, she has been the host of the Roma TV show, *From the Life of the Roma*, and a fashion designer for the “Romany Dreams” collection, inspired by the cultural heritage of traditional clothing of Roma community. She is the co-founder and an actress of the first Roma theatre in Romania, *Giuvlipen Theatre Company*, whose work has been critically acclaimed both in Romania and abroad. *Giuvlipen's* performances have a feminist and anti-racist rhetoric, and bring to life the issues of early marriage, anti-Gypsyism, hate speech, hyper-sexualization, evictions, and heteronormativity in order to promote discussion and critical thinking in our society. Together with her colleagues from *Giuvlipen*, Moldovan is lobbying for the founding of a State Roma Theatre in Romania. Over the years, she has been working for the renowned *Ion Dacian Musical and Operetta Theatre*. She is also a trainer at *Theatre of the Oppressed*, where she works with Roma women on their specific issues in Romania. In 2018, she was part of the Romanian-French production, *Déracinés*, directed by Bogdan Zamfir, and presented in Paris during the Romania-France 2019 season. Over her 15-year career, Moldovan has been actively involved in the Roma movement, working on various campaigns for Roma rights.

Nango, Joar (1979, Norway) lives in Tromsø. He is an architect with a degree from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and his work with site-specific installations and self-made publications explores the boundary between architecture, design and visual art. Nango is a Sami architect and indigenous artist, living in Norway. Nango's work investigates the nomadic conception of space, territories and ideas of the concept of home. He focuses on different ways of dealing with materiality, movement and space.

Oláh, Norbert (1990, Hungary) studied animation in high school in Eger, and is a holder of the Béla Gruber Prize. He studied at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts (2010-16) and completed one year on the Erasmus programme at the Faculdade de Belas-Artes da Universidade de Lisboa. Since 2015, he has received several awards and scholarships, and had exhibitions in Hungary and Austria. His recent artistic work focuses on a kind of painterly cartography of one of Budapest's rapidly changing urban districts (the 8th District, with the highest concentration of Roma residents), where he also lives and works.

Pušija, Nihad Nino (1965, Bosnia and Hercegovina) is an art photographer. His work focuses on documentary and portrait photography, and aims at capturing Roma identity in Europe, especially in Berlin, where he has been based for the past twenty-eight years. Since 1992, Pušija has been working on many art projects and photo studies, supported by the nGbK Berlin (New Society for Visual Arts), Haus der Kulturen der Welt, and Allianz Cultural Foundation. His main topics are the politics of recognition, minority positions in contemporary artistic and curatorial practice, Southeast Europe, refugees, conflict resolution, integration, and Roma in Europe. He was part of the 1st and 2nd Roma Pavilions at the Biennale Arte in Venice in 2007 and 2011. See: <http://www.fotofabrika.de/>

Ruiz Molina, Estefanía (1995, Spain) is a Roma fashion designer and activist. She studied social integration, specialising in social intervention and mediation. She later moved to Madrid, where she began studying psychology while working for the Municipal Housing Company as a social integration technician and mediator. She continued to broaden her knowledge, and specialised as a gender violence technician, which led her to work in different agencies for women and single-parent families who had suffered from gender-based violence. Since she was 14 years old, she has been involved in Roma activism, joining different associations, movements and carrying out protests through art. This led her to work as a designer for a recognised fashion brand in Madrid, and to invest that experience in creating her own brand. Through fashion and design, Ruiz Molina is doing her bit in the fight against anti-Gypsyism and the recognition and pride of Roma identity. Her brand is called *Mil duquelas*, and in less than a year her products have already reached more than 20 countries. In addition, as a result of *Mil duquelas*, she carried out an artistic project in a historic area of Madrid dedicated to commemorating the struggle and resistance of the Romani people. Her project gained recognition and was

featured, among other places, in the Washington International Law Journal.

Rosselle, Marina (1980, France) says, “I am part of the so-called ‘People of Travel’ (from the French ‘gens de voyage’), commonly referred to in English as Gypsies. This lifestyle is characterised by the multiple spaces we cross and by successive appropriations. Such places – discredited or disregarded – are generally those that will ultimately be transformed by urban development. Having myself lived in places that some might not even consider ‘places’ at all, I felt it was important to describe those spaces which I have inhabited, and which continue to play an important role in shaping my identity. My work refers to a direct perception and personal experience; it is a work designed to oppose condescending or indifferent views of this way of life and does so by presenting a landscape that contains its own poetry. Recuperation and appropriation are pivotal activities of the scrap-metal merchants I frequent. I operate in a similar fashion, recuperating and bringing together. What seems important to me is that, in collecting objects this way, I myself am required to move about, even – perhaps above all – within places that are not picturesque. This involves paying close attention to objects and materials of the most humble, most unusual kind. The idea of vulnerability and perpetually changing matter is important; both help anchor the work in the ephemeral, insecure activity of pottering and tinkering”.

Selman, Selma (1991, Bosnia and Herzegovina) is of Romani origin. She earned her BFA in 2014 from Banja Luka University’s Department of Painting, and in 2018, she graduated from Syracuse University with an MFA in Transmedia, Visual and Performing Arts. In her artworks, the ultimate aim is to protect and enable female bodies, and to enact a cross-scalar approach to the collective self-emancipation of oppressed women. Selman’s search for functional, contemporary political resistance stems from her own personal experience with oppression from various directions and scales. Selman is also the founder of the organisation, “Get The Heck To School”, which aims to empower Roma girls all around the world who have faced poverty and ostracization from society.

Tairović, Zoran (1966, Serbia) is an academic painter with a doctoral degree in interdisciplinary studies in applied arts management, a creative multimedia artist, activist, and Director of the Intercultural Theatre. Winner of prestigious world awards for painting, author of the first Roma opera and musical, and also many award-winning documentaries. He has participated with his artistic performances in many important festivals and events in Serbia and around the world. He is the initiator and director of the international documentary film festival with Roma themes, FROM, which is held every year in Mali Idoš. He was an advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of the RS for the social inclusion of Roma. A day in the life of a Roma family that collects secondary raw materials is depicted in the documentary, Paper, Horse and Birds. An understanding of their everyday lives helps us understand the challenges that many families face in their battle for survival.