

## Presentation of the collection

MGLC holds Slovenia's largest collection of fine art prints and original art publications by local and international artists produced after the Second World War.

The activities relating to international classic printmaking, in whose centre Ljubljana was from the 1950s, blossomed into the only public collection of art prints by international modernist artists in Slovenia, encompassing more than five thousand works to date.

The majority of the collection is made up by the donations of the artists that exhibited in the Graphic Arts Biennials. Among them are the members of the École de Paris, like Jean Arp, Osip Zadkin, Pierre Soulages, Hans Hartung, Serge Poliakoff, Zao Wou-Ki, Victor Vasarely, the representatives of the COBRA avant-garde movement, like Corneille, Karel Appel, Asger Jorn, artists of Eastern Europe, like Jiří Anderle, Albin Brunovsky, Tadeusz Lapinski, those of Latin America, like Maria Bonomi, Raul Cattelani, Isabel Pons, Artur Luiz Piza, as well as other internationally acclaimed artists, like Nancy Spero, Damien Hirst, Bill Morris, Max Bill, Emilio Vedova, Günther Uecker, Robert Rauschenberg, Pablo Picasso, Dóra Maurer, Görgy Galántai, Mangelos, Ivan Kožarić and Ivan Picelj.

Included in the collection are also the complete or partial print oeuvres of Vladimir Makuc, Janez Bernik, Danilo Jejčič, Bogdan Borčič, Jože Ciuha, Lojze Spacal, Andrej Jemec, Tinca Stegovec, as well as others.

An important part of the MGLC collection is represented by the International Centre of Graphic Arts collection of art publications and artists' books, which includes about 4000 items. Out of these, approximately 992 are registered as artists' books, while the rest are all those forms and genres that are commonly referred to as art publications since what they have in common is the fact that they can be reproduced, issued and/or published. In our collection these genres are categorized as book objects, art newspapers and magazines, newspaper projects, ephemera, such as posters and invites created by artists, photographic editions, postcards, stamps, stickers, graphic works (not fine art prints), photocopies, sound art (on records, cassettes, audio CDs). 150 units are also contained in the accompanying literature category, which includes theoretical pieces on original art publications and artists' books, as well as catalogues of the more prominent makers of artists' books and exhibitions of this type.

The collection of art publications became established in 2001, encouraged by the long-term loan of the French Cultural Centre, which comprises 378 units of art publications of French origin. It contains works by most of the significant representatives of the avant-gardes of the 1960s and 1970s, including: Daniel Buren, Christian Boltanski, Marcel Broodthaers, Sophie Calle, Henri Chopin, Hanne Darboven, Robert Filliou, Jochen Gerz, Anette Messenger, Roman Opalka, Roland Topor and Ben Vautier etc., as well as issues of the prominent art journals: *Agentzia*, *Chorus*, *Humidité*, *Opus International*, *VH 101*.

This donation prompted MGLC to make a commitment to researching and collecting artworks of this kind. The number of purchases in this field rose after 2002, whereas after the revitalization of the Biennial, the institution opened its doors by widening its programmes to also include other forms of art printing. Through donations and purchases between 2001 and 2012, MGLC acquired 455 objects from authors such as Vito Acconci, George Brecht, James Lee Byars, Hans-Peter Feldmann, the Fischli-Weiss duo, Roni Horn, Sanja Iveković, Ilja Kabakov, Thomas Kapielski, Allan Kaprow, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long, Mangelos, Miha Maleš, OHO, Iztok Osojnik, Dušan Pirih Hup, Sigmar Polke, Dieter Roth, Edward Ruscha, Jean Tinguely, Andy Warhol, Lawrence Weiner, Franz West, Emmett Williams, Franci Zagoričnik etc., whereas a marked change is represented by the donations that increased greatly after the 25th Biennial in 2003.

The 25th Biennial in 2003 addressed information, documentation and communication in terms of

promotion and production, and included a mobile library as part of its presentation.

Publishers, artists and art dealers from around the world contributed several copies of artists' books, book objects, posters, magazines and newspapers to it. The final number of 425 units, as well as the *museum in progress* collection of original newspaper projects from Vienna published in *Der Standard* newspaper between 1990 and 2002, were left to the MGLC collection.

Important museum and study materials are also represented by the FV archive donated to MGLC in 2006 by Neven Korda, the archive of The Scarecrow Statelet, a donation by Milena Kosec, the extensive archive of the events of the Zagreb art scene between 1970–1990 collected over the years by Darko Šimičić, the extensive archive of Bernard Villers' self-published Éditions du Remorquer (1978–2008), and most of the issues of the *Point d'Ironie* hybrid periodical (1997–2010).