

Mijo Mijušković Summary

Mijo Mijušković, sculptor, was born in Montenegro, where he lives and works in an environment where abundant vegetation, hard stone and the sea touch, combine or divide on a relatively small space.

Wherever he went on his journeys to different ends of the world, first of all to discover the diversity of nature, or visit the treasures of museums or galleries, he always returned to the land of his roots. He is now settled in his atelier in Sutomore near Bar, on the frontier between stony hills and the sea, among the vegetation struggling to survive among the rocks.

Slobodan Marković writes about such environment: '...Stone is the first substance to greet us in this world, and then all our lives pass conducting discourse with stone and grappling with it... Once we have snatch a piece of land from it, we thank it for being so yielding, and when we build our homes from it, or our last abodes in which we chisel crosses and names, we thank it for being so enduring, so adamant, and so imperishable....'

This exhibition and the accompanying catalogue arrange and present Mijo's stone statues in cycles for the first time. They are arranged either by material out of which the works are sculpted, or the colour of stone, or its origin. Sometimes they are connected by inspiration that initiated their creation. These include:

- the cycle devoted to Milutin Milanković
- the Ostrog cycle
- the Stone in Stone cycle, devoted to St Paraskeva of Serbia
- the collage cycle
- the cycle entitled *The colours of stone and the Tara Canyon*
- the cycle entitled *Stone puppets also have souls*.

Mijo wrote about these:

Travelling around Montenegro and other parts of the world for years, I have encountered the beauty, plenty and complexity of nature, striving to express what I feel in my own way. I have visited museums and galleries around the world, studying Giacometti, Brancusi and Moore, Etruscan and African art and classical sculpture, but it has always led me to the conclusion that I could adequately express only the way I feel.

Mijo Mijušković's work has been reviewed with a lot of respect by art critics and theoreticians, art historians, painters and poets, teatrologists, biologists and journalists. Several TV documentaries on culture. This catalogue also includes a number of reviews.

Mijo Mijušković's sculptures are placed in several galleries and museums, as well as numerous collections at cultural institutions.

Apart from galleries, many private collections also include Mijušković's sculptures, owned by celebrities, anonymous people, or friends.

Mijo's sculptures are also awarded as prizes for the best artistic achievement. His *Little Prince* is traditionally given to authors of the greatest achievements at the prestigious International Festival of Children's Theatres in Subotica. Mijo's sculpture was also awarded to poet Tomas Tranströmer as the European Poetry Award.

MIJO MIJUŠKOVIĆ – biographical data

Sculptor, born in 1931, in Nikšić, Montenegro, where he has created an extensive artistic opus over a long period of time and simultaneously practised meteorology. Today he lives and creates in Bar, Sutomore, below Rumija mountain slopes.

In the period from 1964 to the present he has had 34 individual exhibitions in the country and abroad, and he also participated in several collective exhibitions.

He has been awarded several prizes for his creative work and social contribution to development of arts and culture in Montenegro.