

ARTIST PORTFOLIO

Meet the nominees



Ana Krstić, *Meet the nominees*. installation, prints, photographs, variable dimensions, 2012.

We do not know what it is, but it is certainly not what you think it is



Robert Morris, *Untitled*, 1970, felt, 189x453.8 cm
Courtesy the National Gallery of Victoria,
Melbourne



Ana Krstic, *We don't know what it is , but it is certainly not what you think it is*, sculpture, metal, paper, 565 x 310 x 400 cm, 2012.

Happy New Democracy



Ana Krstić, *Happy new democracy*, installation, wood, paper, variable dimensions, 2012.



Ana Krstić, *Happy new democracy*, installation, wood, paper, variable dimensions, 2012.

We can not stop now



Ana Krstić, *We cannot stop now*, installation, video and paper cups with the title of the exhibition written on them, variable dimensions, 2012.

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Ana Krstić

“Happy New Democracy”

“Srećna Nova demokratija” –

Happy New Democracy is an installation consisting of three Christmas trees decorated with small paper cubes, 600 of them. The installation was part of “We Cannot Stop Now” solo exhibition held in Čačak, Serbia, between May 19 and June 18, 2012.

The entire exhibition was prepared in the midst of parliamentary and presidential elections.

I actually produced this work in an office, where I was working at the time.

I was terribly bored at work, and terribly annoyed by my co-workers. We had to share the same office, ten of us, and I had to go through a lot to make these people like me.

To keep my head straight, I started making small origami cubes of bright-coloured office paper. It was noticed as a very strange activity. Questions came quickly – why was I making these cubes?

- To kill time, I answered.

But this wouldn't do, a purpose had to be found.

- You can use them as Christmas tree ornaments!

So I did.

Later, a perfect title came to my mind – *Happy New Democracy*. As in Happy New Year. (Christmas trees are actually called New Year trees in Serbia and it was the same in Yugoslavia.)

New Democracy was a liberal political party formed in 1990 as a faction of Slobodan Milošević's Socialist Party. Later, however, it formed a coalition government with Milošević. In 1998, it rejoined the opposition and took part in the so-called democratic changes of in 2000.

The party was very active in my area and hometown.

My father also joined the party. His joining coincided with an earthquake that struck my hometown in 1998. My mum used to say that he only joined the party so that his brother (my uncle) could get a new house. New houses were built after the earthquake, but to this day (2015), a number of people are still waiting for their houses to be finished, and the Cultural Centre is still awaiting reconstruction.

The same Cultural Centre where I worked. The same one where I made my paper cubes.

Although I was the first qualified person who got a job in this institution in the last 20 years, I was on probation work for 14 months and afterwards, when I got the job of programme manager, all members of my family had to vote for the ruling party in the municipality (New Serbia, a centre-right party). The voting was, as ever, anonymous, but the word is – they always know in these small towns. They always know who votes for whom.

Ana Krstić

translated by Marina Krstić
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