

## ARCHIVE

## Marjetica Potrč

Marjetica Potrč – Exhibition  
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**"Rural Studio: The Lucy House Tornado Shelter"**  
 Berlin, April 28th - July 14th, 2007



Rural Studio: The Lucy House Tornado Shelter, 2007, 3,40 x 4,10 x 4,45 m

Galerie Nordenhake is very pleased to present an exhibition by the Slovenian artist Marjetica Potrč, an architect turned sculptor who works at the interface of art, architecture and social science, exploring local innovations in the built environment. For the exhibition, Potrč has installed a site-specific structure that evolved from her case study of the Lucy House in Greensbro, Alabama, designed by the Rural Studio in 2002 for Anderson and Lucy Harris and their three children. Rural Studio is a program founded in 1992 by Samuel Mockbee for architecture students at Auburn University in Hale County, Alabama, one of the poorest regions in the United States.

Potrč's work negotiates with the gaps in knowledge that result when urban planners and architects insist on creating order. Notably, Potrč is interested in what architects and planners cannot predict. Notions such as homelessness, the shantytown, outsider communities, and the role of imagination are united in Potrč's work with an architecture of immediate, personal response.

The 'Lucy House Tornado Shelter' is an organic, 'living' structure based on the metaphor of the human body's spontaneous and unplanned behavior. The house includes a built-in tornado shelter topped with a 'crumpled' dome. This dome is not the actual shelter; rather, it is protecting the structure underneath. Potrč's design takes into consideration her work with Buckminster Fuller's tensegrity domes, which she encountered while at the Burning Man Festival. A tensegrity dome involves a coordination of pressure and release, push and pull. The dome is built by adjoining segments at different angles together so that in the overall structure an equilibrium of push and pull occurs between segments weighed on and those weighing.

Potrč's study evolved out of her interest in architecture that emphasizes 'self-reliance' and 'individual empowerment.' This is accomplished through the usage of alternative, environmentally sustainable

construction materials, combined with little money and much creativity. She investigates how to improve relations between society and the individual, asking what sort of space is available to us for freedom. Transforming scrap material and 'junk' into a solid, sturdy structure, Rural Studio's work has provided the opportunity for many underprivileged families living in substandard housing to move into a house that is not only a home, but a shelter for the soul.

The Lucy House' unites residential architecture with an emergency provision, the permanent need with the temporary necessity. As with her previous projects, Marjetica Potrč is continuously exploring fundamental human needs: community, safety, and shelter. In addition to the house, Potrč will also exhibit new drawings that are somewhere between an architectural plan and a mental association chart. These drawings give insight into her idiosyncratic process of thinking about urgent problems in urban architecture.



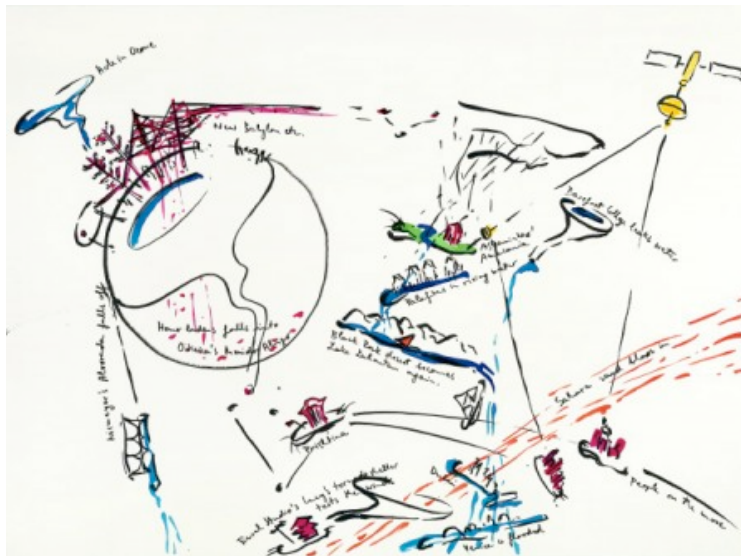
The Great City of Medellin: A Work of Symbiosis I., 2007, 56 x 76 cm



Installation view



Installation view



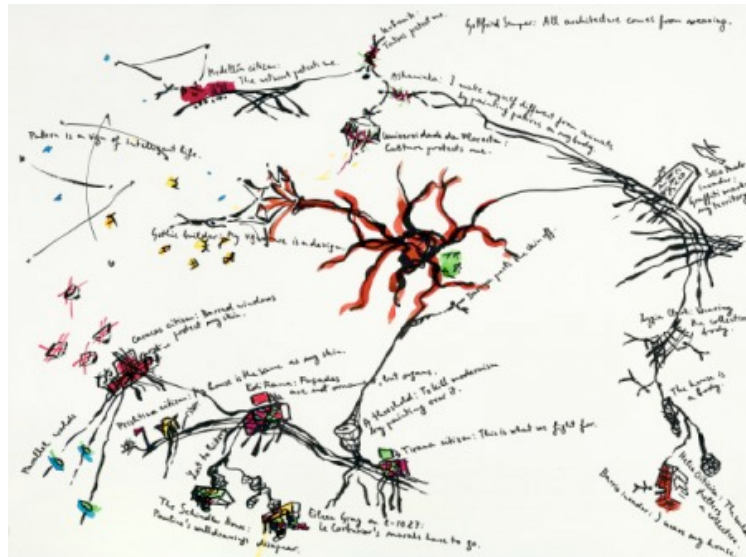
Visionaries of the 60s Confront the Upheavals of Today I., 2007, 56 x 76 cm



Acre: Architecture is a Social Structure, 2007, 56 x 76 cm



Installation view



All Architecture Comes from Weaving, 2007, 56 x 76 cm



Installation view

Marjetica Potrč was born in 1953 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She has an upcoming exhibition at the end of May at the Barbican Arts Center in London. Her work has been exhibited extensively throughout Europe and the Americas, including at the Sao Paolo Biennial (1996 and 2006), the Venice Biennial (2003), and Manifesta 3 (2000). She has had solo exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum (New York, 2001), Max Protetch Gallery (New York, 2002 and 2005), Galerie Nordenhake (Berlin, 2003), PBICA (Lake Worth, Florida, 2003), the List Visual Arts Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2004), and at the De Appel Foundation for Contemporary Art (Amsterdam, 2004). Her many on-site installations include Dry Toilet (Caracas, 2003), Balcony with Wind Turbine (the Liverpool Biennial, 2004) and Genesis (2005), which is on permanent display at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo. Potrč has published a number of essays on contemporary urban architecture. In 2005, she was a visiting professor at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, most notably the prestigious Hugo Boss Prize (2000) and recently an IASPIS artist residency in Stockholm, Sweden (2006).

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