The sweet taste of transformation - "To Our Delight". Olja Grubić, Slovenia, 2026-10-10

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In the performance "To Our Delight" by the Sloven artist Olja Grubić, joint action becomes a metaphor for social change and responsibility for the shape of reality, which we share with others. The artist shows that the breakup does not have to mean the end - it can be the beginning of another change.

"To Our Delight" is a performance created according to the concept of Olja Grubić, who performed at the Body/Mind Festival together with co-authors and performers: Anita Wach and Nina Goropečnik. The work in an ingenious, tangible way depicts the continuous cycle of disintegration of the world and building it on new principles. Seemingly simple culinary activities carry a deeper meaning, and the destruction of the work meticulously built during the performance becomes a gesture of purification, a kind of catharsis.

Every generation, trying to rebuild the world, first destroys the one it has inherited. Before reality takes on a new shape, chaos often occurs. Using the metaphor of community building a city, destroying it and creatively transforming the ruins, the artist looks at social changes, which are difficult to see on a full scale from the perspective of one generation. In retrospect, we see how much the world has changed, although we often look at these changes with fear or nostalgia, saying: "Once these were the times...".

The performance also encourages reflection on the responsibility for the shape of a common reality, conscious choices and the need for a balance between what has been proven and what is new and opening up new possibilities. In the background, there is a question about the patterns of functioning of society and the formation of interpersonal relationships, which are preserved in the collective consciousness, as well as about the forms of violence hidden in them, which, due to their universality and repetition, are sometimes considered for granted.

During the event, which took place in Warsaw on October 10, 2026, building the city together became an experience of a large group of participants.

We created a mini-society in which everyone tried to find a place for themselves in collective action. Some, supporting the performers, were actively involved in working on individual elements of the future city. Others preferred to look at the whole project from a distance. Someone even agitated in favor of joining the workers, especially since the very idea of performance assumed joint action. And the whole thing was supervised by the artist, observing the development of the situation and the next stages of joint work.

In the background, there was a sublime marching music, encouraging to work - like during the May Marcade in the times of the People's Republic of Poland.

In the back of the foyer there was a board with motivational slogans, the content of which changed from time to time. The artist wrote them down in chalk, encouraging the participants both to find themselves freely in this space and to create the work together.

A real cottage factory operated at one of the tables. Simple buildings were made from biscuit semi-finished products, the walls of which were connected with chocolate mortar. At the second table - a huge foyer set in the central point - larger structures grew out of individual houses, which gradually made up the whole city. You could let your imagination run wild here and play the constructor. So buildings of various sizes and layouts were created. Some creators were carried out by imagination - they erected more and more elaborate structures, reaching even several floors. Roads were poured from ground nuts. Nuts combined with dried dried fruits and cocoa formed tree crowns, and dried fruits loosely scattered between the buildings imitated shrubs.

As a result, a miniature city with buildings, paths, shrubs and trees was created.

When the city had already reached considerable size, the artist stepped into action with a large wooden board and began to systematically destroy its next parts. This caused embarrassment among some builders, who had already become attached to the structures they created. The city was shattered into small pieces. The artist sprinkled the ruins with fruit juice and a lot of alcohol. She knead the resulting mass, then divided it into several parts and laid out on small tables prepared by the support group.

In this way, more workstations were created, where everyone could get involved in the creation of the next work. At this point, the music changed dramatically. She still motivated to act, but this time she was light and cheerful - as if hard work had been replaced by a joyful and energetic march towards adventure. In economic gloves, the formation of "power balls" began. The balls rolled in coconut shavings were then packed and distributed to everyone.

In this way, the old work became the beginning of a new one - nothing was wasted. There was no lack of destruction or dramatic moments in this process, but in the end everything ended well and even tasty.

The performance, thanks to its original form and ingenious course, encourages reflection on how we want to shape the common reality. The maturity of the idea, in which reflection on society is translated into a simple, physical, engaging and enjoyable action, is impressive. Building, destroying and transforming the city together becomes not only a metaphor for social change, but also an experience in which you can participate with your whole self. The artist reminds us that the reality we share with others is not given once and for all. Its shape also depends on our choices, on what we agree to and what we are ready to question.

Olja Grubić, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Body/Mind 2026 International Dance and Performance Art Festival

Performance: "To Our Delight (Recipe for a new world)"

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Place of presentation: STUDIO teatrgaleria, Warsaw