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The International Interdisciplinary Research Camp for gifted

"Debeli rtič 2013"

Slovenia, 18th - 23rd August



UMMI, the Institute of Education Koper, with more than a 20-year tradition of coordinating programmes for the gifted, is organising a research camp for young people aged 15 to 18 at Debeli rtič, on the Adriatic seaside, between Trieste and Koper, from August 18th to August 23rd, 2013.

The research and creative meetings will take place outdoors, in locations between Trieste (Italy) and Višnjan (Croatia), as well as in workshops where you will be able to use standard and modern technology. The participants of the research camp will be staying at Hotel Bor in the Debeli rtič youth health and summer resort, in Slovenia.

Experts from different disciplines will run the so-called days of creative activities in two at first sight seemingly distinct fields of study – natural sciences and arts – which represent together the starting point of the work in our programmes and combine art and science activities in original ways. The foundation of the former is the Adriatic Sea and the coast with their economic and research activities, while latter relates to the rich cultural heritage of the Istrian area and its current artistic production.

We have tried to motivate young people to deal with topical issues through work and to do research and be able to create while discovering original and well-informed solutions. Their ideas have already yielded concrete results.

Vlado Batista

musician, violinist, composer

"The sound appears together with the silence. In nature, there are plenty of both."

"There the sound is one of the principal factors of survival. At the same time, its function is that of ritual and, in our society, of relaxation and entertainment. In ancient cultures it also represented a connection to the afterlife, especially when accompanied by rhythm.

In the musical workshop, we will be able to create sound images using materials from nature (stone, wood, the human body) and through sounds express our emotions and moods."









Marjan Krebelj M.Arch., photographer, designer

From the eye onto the paper.

Western man has always had the insatiable desire to steal from the ravages of time the images seen before his eyes; whether a beautiful girl, a fantastic landscape or a constructed environment, the man has always attempted to preserve the transient beauty by drawing, painting and, more recently, by shooting photographs and videos. But before long artists realised that these tools were useful for much more than just preserving beauty. They can also speak about less pleasant visions, internal or external, and even analyse the space and objects around us in a thoroughly scientific manner. We will do all this at the workshop, where we will mostly sketch and photograph the beautiful but also the problematic spots of the Slovene coast. Our experiencing of the space will be combined with the study fields of natural science and music, so that we will be able to express our experience of space and time as fully as possible.

Jurij Jermančič academic painter



"Our work will primarily be oriented towards a free flow of ideas, notions and impressions. The inspiring coastal landscape, old towns, salt pans, the port and the like, will supply plenty of motifs and cues for creative expression and learning about the local characteristics, traditions, customs and peculiarities."



Iztok Geister



ornithologist, environmentalist, writer

How can art further elevate nature, which is, in our eyes, already a work of art?

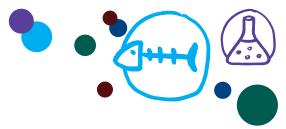


Be it rocks formed by sediments of dead mollusc shells or washed out soil deposits in the sea shallows pushed up by the Earth's tectonic force into limestone drops that stretch from Duino to Trieste (the Duino Cliffs) and flysch rock faces extending from Izola to Piran (the Strunjan Cliffs), which are admired today because of their scenic grandeur, be it the sea salt sucked by the wind from the motherly breasts of the seawater that are gently stroked by sunrays - and this formerly family task can today still be admired in the salt pans (Sečovlje Salt Pans) as part of our ethnographic heritage - be it halophytic plants, water birds or dragonflies, which animate all these seashores in a cruel interdependence. Be it plants or animals that inhabit the sea, paying no attention to the developments on the dry land, but rather living in good faith that they are safe from human vanity, be it a star

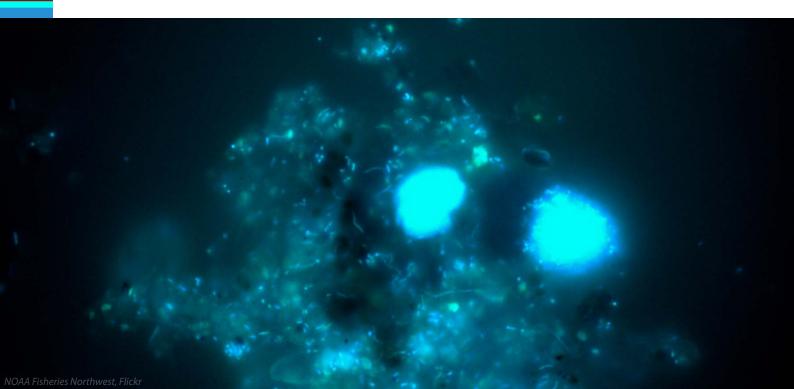
studded sky pulsing and watching over the dreaming Earth – all this natural diversity of habitats and forms of living organisms people experience as something beautiful.

What is then the purpose of painting; versifying and setting music to nature if no one can paint a leaf more subtly than a tree or talk in more playful rhymes than a dragonfly with its flight or play a bird melody more movingly than a bird sings it on a dewy morning? But still, precisely this subtlety, playfulness and emotion inspire us to paint (or photograph), versify and set to music everything we experience in nature, realising that all this inexhaustible creative drive represents our divine heritage. Only by reproducing nature can we fill the emptiness of our consciousness. Without the ability to create we would lose the spiritual purpose of being.

Valentina Turk



Valentina Turk is associate professor for the field of Microbial ecology. She has been lecturing at the University of Nova Gorica and supervised numerous BSc, MSc, and PhD students as well as regularly visiting postgraduates within the EU Leonardo programme. Her research background is in marine microbiology and marine pollution studies. In the last 5 years she has been involved in 4 national and 10 European research projects. She is a coordinator for the National monitoring program of Slovenia - Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region (MED POL) (UNEP/MAP). She has considerable experience in training courses and events for popularization of science such us >Otroci in morje< (Children and the sea) and World Oceans Day within UNESCO/IOI programmes.



Many other experts from the fields of natural sciences and art will accompany you in your work. For more information check the following web sites:



If this invitation has succeeded in persuading you to join us at this year's research camp, do let us know by sending an e-mail to **marija_ksenija@t-2.net** and providing your personal details (name and surname, e-mail address, age and data on any person accompanying you). You will then receive detailed information about the programme which will be expanded by sport (swimming, diving, archery, climbing, games etc.) and entertainment activities (dancing, cultural events etc.). Your applications are expected by the end of March 2013.

The research camp fee is $500 \in$ and covers accommodation, full board, transportation to and from the field, materials, partly the involvement of instructors and 20% VAT.

Kind regards, For UMMI, Institute of Education Koper, Slovenia Marija Mahne