

Educational programs accompanying the exhibition "Of Animals and Humans". Zagreb, The Ethnographic Museum, 22nd April – 12th November 2017

The exhibition "Of Animals and Humans" by authors - Željka Petrović Osmak, Tea Rittig Šiško and Gordana Viljetić curators, from Ethnographic Museum in Zagreb was put on from the 22nd April to the 12th November 2017. The aim of the exhibition was to showcase the complex and multidimensional relationship between humans and animals throughout the history of mankind, and to showcase how our perception, our feelings and our attitudes towards animals in our cultural environment, but also towards animals in nature, have changed. This complicated topic was presented in a passionate and engaged manner which was reflected in the rich supplementary educational program aimed at the widest possible audience.

The educational program was designed to cater to all groups of visitors, the most numerous being organised groups of kindergarteners and pupils, especially groups of pupils in early elementary grades. In total 35 guided tours and 26 workshops (9 different topics) were organised for these visitors - most were art workshops ("Painting Animal Designs on Fabric," "Aboriginal Art with Animal Motifs," "Colouring Animal Shaped Patterns," "Unusual Collage Paper Dolls"), and workshops in which soft motor skills such as sawing had to be used ("Animals Made of Cardboard and Thread"). Storytelling sessions in which traditional folk tales about animals were told were designed for the youngest visitors, as well as storytelling plays "Stories from afar" by Katarina Bargh. The Ethnographic Museum traditionally cherishes storytelling as intangible heritage. On the basis of the Museum's previous pedagogic experience it can be concluded that reading rooms, storytelling sessions and short plays are in fact ideal programs for the youngest visitors.

Prior to workshops guided tours tailored to visitors' age were conducted. Children actively participated in guided tours. Various sub-themes based on the exhibition were chosen depending on the group's interests and age - they were encouraged to express their opinion and the discussion was geared towards critical thinking which in turn lead to children being more active and engaged. Younger children especially liked talking about relationship with pets, and older children were keen to discuss the problem of raising animals for food. Interactive workshops were organised for high school students - a discussion within workshop "We Are All a Part of the Same World" was carried out in cooperation with non-governmental organisation Animal Friends, and a debate on "Bioethical Dilemmas Regarding Animals" took place.

Programs which stimulate creativity and learning designed for children patients in children's wards at hospitals in Zagreb constitute a separate group of programs. A storytelling session "Summer Stories about Animals and Humans" was organised for the youngest patients in children's ward at Department of Hematology and Oncology at University Hospital Centre Zagreb.

Two reading sessions were organised outside of the Museum; folk tales which feature animals were read at Tin Ujević Library.

In addition to workshops for kindergarten children and elementary school pupils, numerous family workshops were organised which targeted the widest possible audience. Family workshops were mostly held on Saturdays, and in these workshops children and adults worked together. These workshops differ from workshops for school children in that there was no guided tours prior to workshops themselves, and in that these workshops were about 90 minutes long, which was much longer than workshops for pupils, but this meant that several various activities could be carried out. In total 14 such workshops were organised, 11 of which were different. Within these programmes storytelling and reading are encouraged, thus storytelling sessions "The Bell and the Cats," "Hedgehog's Home," "Summer Stories of Animals and Humans," "Tales from the Indian Jungle," and "Birthday Storytelling Program with Animal Stories" were organised. Those who participated in family programs were also interested in handcrafting workshops. Felt was chosen as the perfect material to accompany the exhibition. Felting is a technique which is used for crafting solid shapes from raw combed wool through a mechanical and thermal process - in this way thick solid material (felt) is obtained. Therefore, material used in this workshop is of animal origin. People have been using felt for a very long time for various purposes. In these workshops participants could learn a lot about using wool in the past and nowadays and learn an interesting technique. The shapes crafted in these workshops were linked to the exhibition so workshops on "Sheep Felting" and "Crafting Felt Animals" took place, as well as another sewing workshop in which felt animals were stitched together.

Two smaller exhibitions were put on in addition to the exhibition "Of Animals and Humans" which were also accompanied by supplementary programs. In order to celebrate the World Beard Day the program "Use Your Head and Beard - Think and Adopt!" was organised which went on from the 31st August to the 30th September 2017. Within this program an exhibition of photography was put on as a part of campaign by the Shelter for Abandoned Animals of the City of Zagreb and MC Hollister, and a family workshop was organised under the heading "Why do Animals Have Beards and Moustaches?" in cooperation with the Zagreb Zoo. An exhibition in which unique handmade wall decorations "Glavatari: Zoo Wall: For Contemporary Creativity Hunters" by Ana Grzunov were displayed took place from the 14th September to the 8th October. Two family workshops on "Unusual Collage Paper Dolls" which accompanied this exhibition were organised by the Fun Laboratory.

During summer recess several-day workshops are conducted at the Ethnographic Museum. These are entitled "Stay Cool at the Museum" and are intended for pupils aged 7 - 12. During the exhibition three cycles of four-day workshops were held, and an additional workshop cycle "Summer eco-camp" was organised. These workshops are set up as collages of various activities - drama games which make it easier for children to get to know one another and to relax, familiarization with permanent exhibition and other exhibitions at the Museum through short museum tours, and creative workshops. In each cycle a workshop was organised in cooperation with Animal Shelter

Dumovec entitled "Child and Dog" within which children could interact with a therapy dog named Sisi - children are taught how to approach animals, how to take care of them, and in this way a positive emotional attitude towards animals is developed. In these workshops children learn about the Shelter - they are shown educational videos and are given presentations, and at the end an art workshop in which children paint coats for dogs in the Shelter and make postcards for the Shelter is held. In this way children feel that they can contribute to abandoned dogs being adopted. In addition to the workshops previously mentioned, a storytelling workshop for pupils in which animal stories were told and a felting workshop were held.

The four-day workshop cycle "Summer eco-camp" focused exclusively on the exhibition "Of Animals and Humans" and the environment. Children learned about the importance of recycling and about the interconnectedness of caring for the environment and caring for animals. Various materials were used within this programme to build birdhouses, boxes and toys. In total 9 such workshops were held to supplement the exhibition "Of Animals and Humans".

A programme comprised of guided tours, lectures, a movie screening, a round table and a performance was designed for adult visitors. In total 11 lectures were held. Pero Kvesić, a writer, gave the first lecture - "Did the Little Prince Really Meet the Fox?". Vedran Romac, a social worker and animal rights activist, gave two lectures - "A Fairytale about a Happy Cow and Calf" in which he talked about marketing and misconceptions which accompany the dairy industry, and "Invisible Animals, Invisible Humans" in which he talked about our relationship with animals as a pathological process with extreme consequences on a collective level. Prof. Predrag Zarevski, Ph.D., gave a lecture on "Psychological Benefits of Owning a Pet" in which he presented a short history of humans and animals coexistence and gave an overview of well documented psychological benefits of having pets. The renowned cynologist Boris Špoljarić, MA, gave a talk on "Croatian Breeds Through History" in which he talked about dog breeds as a consequence of the achievements we have accomplished as a society. World Alzheimer's Day was marked with a lecture on "Dogs as Protectors of Memory" in which the audience was introduced to therapy dogs. Spending time with dogs was mentioned as something that has an effect on people who suffer from Alzheimer's disease. More information was given on Alzheimer's disease in this lecture. The lecture was given by Ana Čizmin, the head of the Adult Day Centre for People with Alzheimer's at St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Snježana Bolančić, a volunteer at a non-governmental organization "Blue Paw," and Koraljka Kocijančić from "Merida." Olga Orlić, Ph.D., gave a lecture on "Introducing Sustainability into our Eating Habits" and answered the question of what each one of us can do to implement sustainability in our diets. We have to change our current eating habits because we, as consumerists, encourage unsustainability. In order to mark World Animal Day two lectures were organised on the 4th October 2017 - Željka Biščan and Miroslav Krušlin, who founded Noah's Ark Educational Centre, presented their work in the lecture entitled "Meet Noah's Ark." Rujana Jeger, MA, talked about "Animal Assisted Therapy Throughout History." In this lecture, which attracted a lot of visitors, Rujana Jeger talked about dogs being used for medical purposes in the past, and the CEO of the Rehabilitation Centre Silver, Marijan Sesar talked about the work the Centre

does - namely, trains therapy dogs and guide dogs for the blind. Hrvoje Jurić, associate professor and Ph.D., talked about "Nonhuman Animals from Bioethical Perspective" - he opened the talk with the definition of bioethics as "a space where various scientific and non-scientific approaches meet and interact in order to articulate, consider and resolve ethical dilemmas regarding life as a whole, in all its shapes and forms, degrees, phases and manifestations," worked his way to setting up a bioethical framework for discussing moral status of animals and their rights. This cycle ended with a lecture on "Visual Animals - Art and Performance Animalistics and/or How to Perceive Animals" by Suzana Marjanić, Ph.D. a senior research scientist at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research in Zagreb and Dajana Vlaisavljević, a museum advisor at the Modern Gallery. Suzana Marjanić summarized theory from "The Postmodern Animal" (2000) by Steve Baker, a visual cultural theorist. Dajana Vlaisavljević put on the exhibition "All Our Animals" - animal themes in Croatian modern art history (Modern Gallery, Zagreb, 9th March - 9th May 2017).

As a part of programme for adults a documentary movie "The Woman Who Talks to the Animals" directed by the acclaimed director Dana Budisavljević was shown. A round table was held to mark the publication of the Croatian translation of "Animal Theology" by Andrew Linzey, a prominent theologian who deals with animal theology and the status of animals in comparison to other living forms. Rubina Abramović, Željka Biščan, Jadranka Brnčić, Stjepan Kušer, Suzana Marjanić and Robert Međugorac talked about the book and the problem of animal theology.

To mark the closing of the exhibition performances "Of Migrations of People and Other Animals" by Irena Bočkai, and "Skholē" by Roko Nakić took place .

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