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Artist Statement – professional biography

I was born in 1950 in Celje, Slovenia (EU).

My work with clay began in 70s. Artistical knowledge I gained at the Pedagogical Academy (art studies) in Ljubljana (1971-1973). After that I worked at school as an art teacher, till 1983. Then I moved to a small medieval town Grožnjan in Istria, Croatia (ex Yugoslavia), where I settled and organized my art work in renovated atelier. This moment I mention because it was an important step for me and my artistic expression, as Grožnjan is a small, but vivid art town, with numerous galleries, ateliers, concert spaces and all kinds of art workshops. Many artists live, work, and have their galleries or shops there. Grožnjan is also known all over Europe as young musicians center. But also as visual arts center and especially as ceramics art center. In one period the town had 33 private galleries of international authors from all over the world, and the exhibition inaugurations were held there almost every day. A lot of authors were ceramists, from Croatia, ex Yugoslavia, or abroad. Those days, in 1986, I also opened my own gallery in Grožnjan – and it is still in function.

Experience in ceramics I gained through various workshops, and the best experience I got in Italy. In the city Nove-Basano dell Grapa I had the opportunity to work in various workshops and there I learned to work on the pottery wheel. That knowledge is today the basis and the starting point for my artistic expression.

Here is the list of a few professional facts of my work in ceramics, which are important for me:

- Since 1986 I have participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions at home and abroad.
- My work was mentioned in the book »CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS IN CROATIA« (1990, 1994; author: Marina Baričević, art critic, member of the IAC Geneve) All the authors mentioned in the book also exhibited at the big exhibition in MUSEO NATIONAL DA AZULEO, LISABON.
- My work was published in the book »CRITIC SELECTION OF CERAMICS AND GLASS FROM 1950 to 1999« (2016, author. Marina Baričević). The book include 50 authors.
- My work is included in the book »CERAMICS AND CONTEMPORARY ART« (2016, author: Višnja Slavica Gabout, art critic and curator). The book is based on nine thematically profiled group and solo juried contemporary exhibitions and discusses a medium of ceramics in the context of contemporary art. I was mentioned as a participant in the group as well as in a solo exhibition.

- I am a member of ULUPUH – Croatian Association of Artists of Applied Arts (Section for Ceramics, Glass and Porcelain) and HDLU – Croatian Association of Artists
- I actively participate in all annual and biennial exhibition projects of ULUPUH ceramists of the Section for Ceramics, Glass and Porcelain
- In 2012 I founded the ceramists group G12, with the intention of working and exhibiting together at home and abroad.
- In 2016 I participated in two ceramics simposia in China.

At the end I can say that ceramics is my art, my life and my existence.

Karel Pavlinc