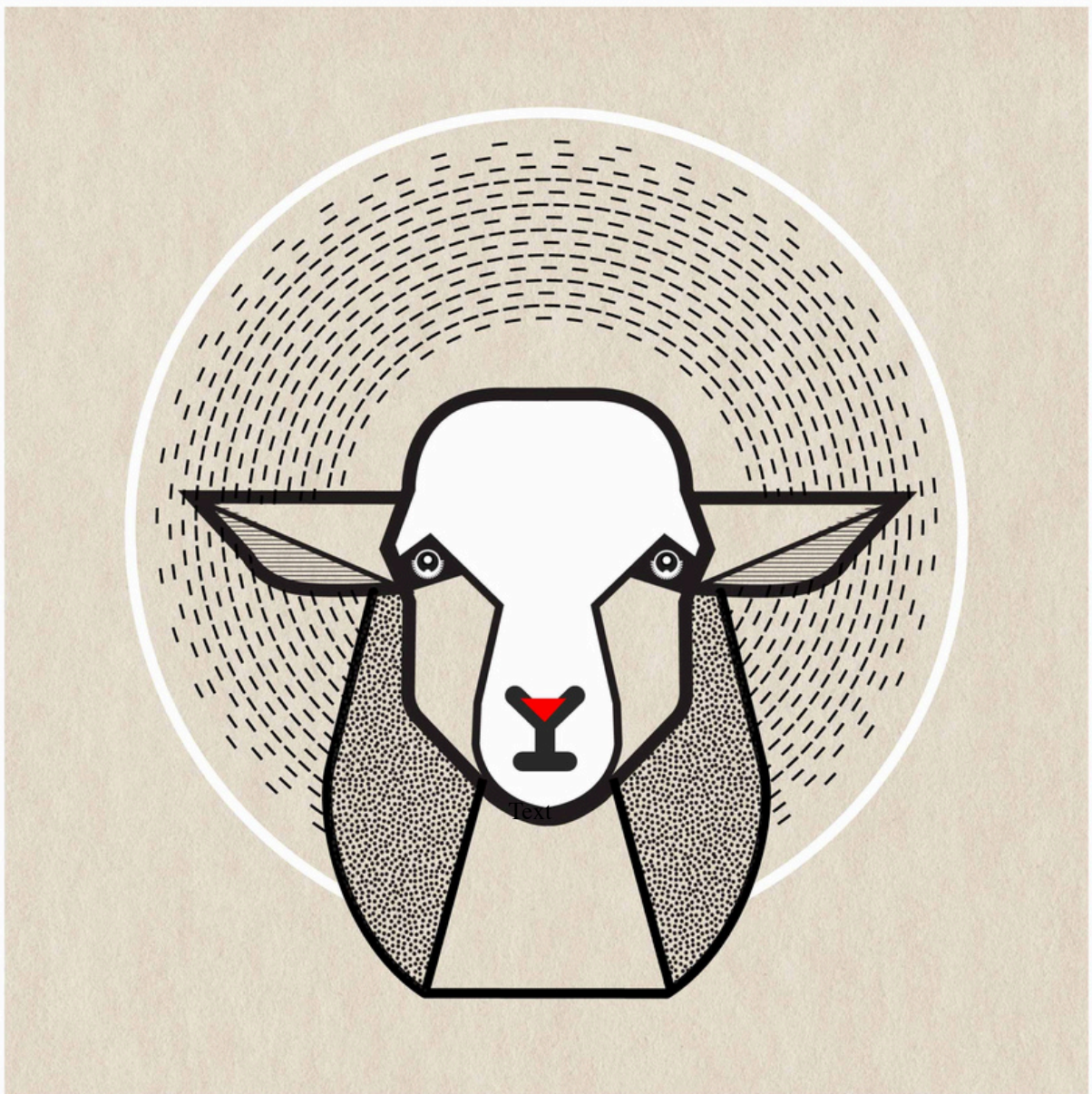


OVIS

BORING SHEEP THAT HAVE BEEN
CHANGING THE WORLD



documentary opera by Karmina Šilec

CREATIVE TEAM

Karmina Šilec, concept, project design, music, texts

Dorian Šilec Petek, concept, set, video

Danilo Ženko, sound

Andrej Hajdinjak, light

PERFORMED BY

Mladen Dolar, PhD, philosopher

Lochlann Jain, PhD, anthropologist and artist

Samatha Balaton Chrimes, PhD, political sociologist

Marjeta Ciglencečki, PhD, art historian

Andrej Hozjan, PhD, historian

Teya Brooks Pribac, PhD, philosopher and animal rights activist

Maja Rupnik, PhD, microbiologist

Juan Manuel Tebes, PhD, research historian

Terezija Snežna Vrečko, PhD, biblicist

Gregor Zorc, actor

Minca Lorenci, actress

Gregor Luštek, dancer

Andrej Fon, musician

Jasmina Črnčič, Eva Germ, Mojca Borko, singers

Project choir CHOREGIE:

Ensamble Kebataola (Karmina Šilec)

Vocal group A Cappella (Tone Žuraj)

Mixed choir Škrjanček (Tone Žuraj)

Vocal group Fantje na vasi (Tone Žuraj)

Vocal group Ad Hoc (Matevž Rebevšek)

● **THIS IS WHERE THE STORY BEGINS**

ACCESS POINT

● **WHAT SHEEP HAVE DONE FOR US**

DANGEROUS MEMORIES

Andrej Hozjan, Samantha Balaton-Chrimes, ensemble Ketabatola

● **THE LAMB WHO GIVES HIMSELF FOR US**

FOR THE KISS OF HIS MOUTH

Snežna Večko, Lochlann Jain, Jasmina Črnčič, Project choir Choregie

● **A SIGN TO EASE SADNESS**

ARE YOU WATCHING?

Marjeta Ciglencečki, Karmina Šilec, ensemble Ketabatola

● **A CROSSBREED**

OTHERWISE

Mladen Dolar, Maja Rupnik, ensemble Ketabatola

● **THE SHEEP MUSEUM**

ENTAGLED OBJECTS

Juan Manuel Tebes, Minca Lorenci

● **TRANSITIONS**

WHAT IS THIS COLD FEELING?

Teya Brooks Pribac

● **A PASTORAL**

ANYTHING IN RETURN

Gregor Zorc, Gregor Luštek, Andrej Fon, ensemble Ketabatola

● **ORPHEUS**

THE CADAVEROUS PRESENCE

Project choir Choregie

THIS IS WHERE THE STORY BEGINS

ACCESS POINT

Sheep are not just cattle waiting to become meat.

OVIS brings this everyday species to the fore. It explores some of the profound impact sheep have had on humanity and natural world, their origin, and other extraordinary things humans have learned from them. Their role in our diets has changed us biologically; they are essential to modern medicine, science and industry; and they hold huge symbolic value in many cultures. The success or failure of civilisations has depended on sheep.

OVIS gives these creatures a chance to tell their story.

OVIS is a canvas on which the history of the world is projected through the sheep: from ancient Mesopotamia to the Medici family and the beginning of opera; from the wool trade that ended wars to sheep intestines for birth control and prevention of syphilis spread. OVIS questions the relationship between humans and animals. The project is conceived as a space of integration and collaboration of various disciplines: religion, music, philosophy, chemistry, medicine, art, history, and others.

A symbolic starting point is the sheep as a marginalised subject.

It talks of the past, present and future coexistences of Man and sheep, confronting both, the fascination with dimensions, but also the brutality of history and the present that speaks from these stories, objects and ideas. It emerged from the process of the enduring bond between these two species.



Animality and humanity are political categories, social constructs, and above all the starting point for the establishment of a hierarchical superiority to human beings and the resulting rights. OVIS aims at the urgency of changing human attitudes towards animals and, consequently, towards our own species. At first sight, the project may seem to be concerned with the care of sheep. In reality, it is mostly about ourselves (and our feelings of guilt).

Sheep as a historical subject add new dimensions and new levels of understanding to many disciplines, including economics, politics, environmental and medical history, history of science, gender studies and cultural history.





WHAT SHEEP HAVE DONE FOR US

DAINGEROUS MEMORIES

Today, there are more than one billion sheep in the world. 1,000,000,000,000. Mathematically 109.

- China is the largest breeder of sheep with 200 million, followed by Australia with 70 and the UK with 33 million heads.
- Cain is the tiller of the soil, Abel is the keeper of the sheep. God judges sheep to be more valuable, which prompts Cain to murder his brother. Sheep farming is an opportunity.
- Sheep inhabit every continent except Antarctica.
- Humans kill 1.7 million sheep a day.
- The Viking fleet possessed a million square metres of sails made from the annual wool harvest of two million sheep.
- Agrarian societies developed misothery (hatred and contempt for animal-like aspects) and other cultural tools that give man a sense of dominance and allow him to exploit sheep.
- Coombidee, coombidee, coombidee. Bac, na bac, su, su, su, su! Shooooooooooooooooopeeeeeeeeeee!
- Three men's suits can be made from the wool of one merino sheep.
- A shepherd with a crook is as noble as a bishop with a crosier.
- In the slaughterhouses there is a trained ram who leads sheep into the slaughter room; he is called Judah because he betrays his own kind. The shepherd's essential tools: dog, crook, knife, scissors, bottle of tar for wound care. Most of them date back to antiquity, only the medical ones change over time.
- Meat is a king. Important people have always eaten large plates of it.
- About 20% of sheep are involved in cases of zoophilia.
- "He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he opened not his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)
- Over a hundred years ago, the mother of all skin creams was created - Nivea, which contained lanolin with astonishing effects.
- Sheep led to the American War of Independence, and the Founding Fathers considered sheep a matter of national security.
- Sheep's wool is stronger than steel rope.
- The spindle is an attribute of mythical creatures: Jaga Baba, Mara, Rusalka, Torklja, Kilmora.
- Mega flocks are still herded along the two-hundred-year-old trails in Queensland, Australia, which cover a total length of 72,000 km. By law, they must keep a safe distance and travel 10 kilometres a day.
- Sheep intestines have been used for catgut for centuries. The tone of these strings is warm and rich - golden sound, while cattle strings sound silver.
- One of the saddest and most controversial chapters in the history of sheep is the Scottish Highland Clearances, the mass forced evictions of clans.
- Sheep are central to Navajo life and spirituality. Sacred sheep = Mother Earth.
- Since sheep are objects of possession, they cannot possess, so we say a leg of lamb, not a lamb's leg.

SEDEMLETNI OTROCI SO V TOVARNAH
TEKSTILA DELALI PO 14 UR NA DAN,
PRIČAKOVANA ŽIVLJENJSKA STAROST
DELAVCEV JE BILA 18 LET.



- Sheep on the cutting edge of technology to save human lives uncover traces of mysterious and devastating diseases.
- Seven-year-old children worked 14 hours a day in textile factories, with a life expectancy of only 18 years.
- When we talk about meat, we do not mean slaughtered, exsanguined one-year-old sheep, but mutton.
- On a Scottish island, the sheep wait patiently for the waves to bring them their dinner. Together with the Galapagos iguanas, they are the only animal species that feed exclusively on algae.
- One of Satan's manifestations is the black fleece.
- Dubrovnik was once a centre of wool processing and trade, supported by the dyeing factories of Florence, and skilled weavers from France, Germany and Italy settled in the city.
- Sheep bones are three times stronger than wood and more resistant to deterioration in humid climates, so that roofs used to be fastened with bone nails.
- If the egg is a symbol of the beginning (birth) and milk (breastfeeding) is a symbol of life, wool is a symbol of the transition between the living and the dead.
- Odysseus and Penelope: he rescues himself from the cave of the Cyclops by clinging to a ram's fleece, she defends herself from suitors by weaving and steaming.
- Sheep bones were used to make a wide range of tools, from spinning wheels to combs and spoons.
- Eat sheep. Shear sheep. Boil sheep to make glue. Become a sheep as you make your way to your shepherd.
- Sheep droppings were once the third most important sheep product, after milk and wool, even before meat.
- Turning animals into meat: by cooking, seasoning and dressing them with sauces we disguise the meat's original nature.
- Sheep bones were once used to pave cockfighting pits.
- The Navajo people were turned from herders into prisoners after the US government brutally slaughtered one million of their Churro sheep.
- The musical theme of Pink Floyd's song Sheep is based on a variation of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd. He hangs me high on hooks and turns me into lamb chops."
- The name of the Vedic god of fire - Agni - is close to the Latin agnus (lamb) and the name Agnes.

- Our ancestors stored and transported liquids and loose substances in sheep stomachs that were tied up and sewn.
- The horn can be softened by boiling it in water and then cut, flattened or moulded into various shapes. Horn is a kind of protoplastic.
- Sex with animals used to be part of the male tribal rite of passage into adulthood: a boy had to successfully copulate with a specially selected sheep in front of a circle of elders.
- The invasive plant piri-piri, which arrived in the UK with sheep products, can become entangled in the feathers of birds and incapacitate them for flight, leading to death by starvation.
- Castrated rams grow faster, have a more favourable body structure, gain weight faster, accumulate fat better, lose interest in mating and calm down.
- Chris, the sheep, was sedated after living in the wild so that 40 kg of wool could be shorn off it.
- Wool garden bedding increases the yield by 24-82%.
- More land for sheep means less land for other animals.
- Wool has had a profound impact on human mobility, on key intercontinental migrations.
- 12 of the 48 surviving copies of the Bible are made of parchment.
- Wool can absorb up to 40% of humidity in the air without feeling damp to the touch.
- Delicate face, delicate nostrils, soft lips. No wrinkles, neither present nor absent, inaccessible innocence. A lamb? The ideal animal. An angel.
- In the Third Reich, sheep were treated more kindly than biologically unfit humans, which were targeted with genocide.
- The patriotic knitting of the Americans during the First World War resulted in 24 million products for military use.
- During the French Revolution, knitters (tricoteuse) sat in front of the guillotines and bore grim witness to the public executions by knitting the red caps of liberty.
- Sheep were also domesticated by women who nursed newborn lambs. Breastfeeding lambs prolonged the lactation period and prevented women from becoming pregnant again.
- The image of the ram is a sign of strength. It is also included in the logo of the popular American truck RAM.
- In Islam, a third of every slaughtered sheep is given to the poor.
- Never show your back to a ram.

- The poet Virgil wrote about sheep farming in his didactic poem Georgics.
- The development of the sheep farming empire is a testimony to the emergence and transformation of global capitalism.
- Gelatine is used in the production of cosmetics, ointments, capsules, photographic film, paper, textiles.
- Wool production is one of the five most environmentally damaging industries, more so than acrylic, polyester, spandex and rayon.
- We owe sheep a debt of gratitude for man's best friend - the dog. The first sheepdogs were the Tibetan Terrier and the Hungarian Puli.
- The oldest tattoo was found on the arm of a 5,000-year-old mummy, in the shape of a ram.
- In the world of sheep there is no malice, ambition, revenge or betrayal.
- The shepherd's crook has a hook large enough to hold the animal's neck, or narrower to encircle the sheep's leg.
- Knittwear has survived since as early as the 11th century AD, but the first significant evidence of crocheting in Europe only dates back to the 19th century.
- There is no quarrelling for supremacy among the sheep, no rebellion, conspiracy or murder.
- Pecus (Latin: herd) is the root of pecunia (Latin: money).
- Caesar's political ambitions were thwarted by making him the guardian of the pastures and cattle trails.
- With the expansion of their empire, the Romans spread sheep all over Europe.
- The three wonders of England are ecclesia, foemina, lana - church, women, wool.
- The ram is a symbol of success. It is the mascot of the state of North Carolina and of the American football club LA Rams.
- According to Herodotus, travellers in Arabia came across sheep with huge tails dragging on the ground. To avoid injuries, shepherds made them support carts.
- England's Wool Churches, 635 of them in Norfolk alone, built with the profits from the wool trade, are the finest achievements of mediaeval architecture and craftsmanship.
- The organetum, an instrument of European secular music between the 12th and 16th centuries, has a bellows made of sheepskin.
- A 14th century wool merchant from Hull lent his king a fortune worth 197,600,000 EUR today. Because he could.
- Knitted turtlenecks became famous in yachting fashion magazines. They were popularised by celebrities such as Steve McQueen, Grace Kelly and Marilyn Monroe.

- Dehorning is painful: boiling metal rods with acid paste are inserted into the horns to burn the growth rings, all without painkillers.
- During the reign of Elizabeth I, sheep and wool were the main source of tax revenue for the English Crown.
- The wool of the black sheep is less valued because it cannot be dyed.
- A sheep's wool can absorb 30% more moisture than its basic weight and still not get wet.
- Sheep wool is dirt, oil and grease repellent, drains liquids and is resistant to bacteria, mould and microscopic parasites.
- In the UK, lamb is enjoying a renaissance after the current King Charles founded the nose-to-tail eating movement.
- Before the pilgrimage to Mecca, the head of a Muslim family slaughtered at least one sheep to provide meat for seven people. He slit the throat of the sacrificial sheep with its head facing Mecca.
- Galileo, da Vinci, Brunelleschi, Donatello, Botticelli, Fra Angelico, Michelangelo, Raphael, Machiavelli were all supported by rich and successful wool merchants – the Medici family.
- Tuscan Prince Ferdinand I of Medici supported Cristofori's development of the piano.
- One piano contains more than 2,000 pieces of felt.
- Flocks of sheep created the trails that still exist today across the landscapes of Europe. On the Spanish *vias pecuarias*, around 5 million merino sheep once travelled 125,000 km per year.
- In Libya, sheep grazed vegetation, including the prized ancient plant *Silphium*, and a desert was created.
- Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Gary Cooper, Ernest Hemingway and Cary Grant wore knitted ski jumpers.
- When Joan of Arc was asked during her trial what she did in life, she replied that she spun wool, and did it very well. The heroine was often depicted in idyllic pastorals.
- Sometimes the horns are removed physically: with a knife, wires, a saw or scissors.
- Queen Isabella of Spain used the profits from the wool trade to finance the voyages of Christopher Columbus.
- A highly prized instrument in the court music of mediaeval European kingdoms - the *symphony* - produces its sound when a cranked wheel rubs against strings made of sheep intestines.
- The liver, lungs, heart, brain, spleen, blood, tail and ears are used in the production of animal feed, food additives, hydrolysed proteins and flavourings.
- The Aztec conquistador Cortés left sheep in Mexico, from which the famous Navajo churro breed emerged.
- Sheep are an integral part of the slaveholding system, herded by indigenous and black slaves.

- In 1652, the Dutch established a permanent livestock station at Cape Horn and traded sheep with the natives.
- Natural fear makes sheep restless during shearing, and the shearers often use violence to force them to obey. One shearer bit off an ear out of anger.
- In Massachusetts, a law was passed in 1664 requiring children to learn to shear and weave. This was considered a patriotic act.
- The Medici commissioned new music from composers such as Guillaume Dufay, Heinrich Isaac, Bartolomeo Cristofori, Antonio Vivaldi.
- Shearers sometimes beat sheep with their fists and electric shears, kick them, kneel on their necks with their full weight, break their legs, cut off part of their faces or gouge out their eyes.
- The American Revolution was greatly fuelled by the restrictions in sheep-related industries imposed by English monopoly interests.
- Captain Cook brought the first sheep to New Zealand in 1773, and settlers occupied half of the island's land and turned it into pasture.
- To supply the insatiable English textile mills with wool, New Zealand once had a ratio of twenty sheep to one man.
- Many of the founding fathers of the USA, including Thomas Jefferson, kept sheep.
- Before shearing, sheep are deprived of food and water to weaken them and minimise their resistance.
- Norway, Iceland, Finland, Scotland, Canada, Ireland, Germany and Peru have long pedigrees of distinctive knitting patterns.
- Sheep bleed after shearing, have gaping wounds which are roughly stitched with no sedation.
- The sheep Corporal Derby XXXII is the highest ranking sheep in the British Army. Although it spends most of its time grazing, not on the battlefield, as a member of the army it has its own identity card and military number.
- Sheep are as intelligent as it is good for them to be. If they were more intelligent, they would not be ecologically competitive due to the additional energy requirements of advanced cognition.
- Gelatine is a by-product of collagen-rich tissues such as skin and bone. It is used in the production of desserts: marshmallows, candies, bakery products, ice cream.
- The shearing shed is one of the cruellest places in the world. Workers compete with time because they are paid by quantity, which encourages wanton poaching.
- Since the Middle Ages, the sheepskins of the drums have been strung with cords and metal rings to achieve a higher tone and better sound quality.

- Sheep tallow used to be used to make soap and candles, but today it is processed into a biofuel with a cleaner burn and lower emissions.
- Sheep were involved in the development of the first reconstructed vein that can grow with a baby.
- Modern sheep, descendants of the 18th and 19th century human desire for fat, when fat was worth twice as much as meat, are prone to excessive obesity.
- Sheep saliva stimulates plant growth.
- Sheep help spread seeds that get caught on hooks in their fur.
- The Slow Food Foundation has listed the Bovec sheep and the Istrian sheep, the churro and the pramenka among the foods threatened with extinction in the Ark of Taste online catalogue, .
- In Spain, the highly prized Merino sheep prevailed in the heyday of the wool trade; the export of a single animal was punishable by death.
- George Washington kept sheep on his Mount Vernon estate and had at least 90 cm of woollen cloth woven every day.
- In the textile mills, mankind was at its most advanced and most brutal; here civilisation worked wonders, and civilised man reverted to the role of a slave.
- In 1667, a doctor in the service of the King of France performed the first blood transfusion between a sheep and a man.
- The semi-nomadic Illyrians contributed to the pastoral culture of the Balkans with their sheep breeding.
- The 16th century chronicler Leo Africanus described a sheep's tail weighing 80 kg, the fat of which is an excellent preservative.
- Boats made of sheepskin sail better in rough seas than those made of wood.
- The troops of the Han Dynasty used rafts made of inflated sheepskin to travel down the Yellow River.
- Research on sheep led to the development of dialysis machines.
- Sheep are used for the development of heart surgery techniques and research into heart valves, high blood pressure and heart failure.
- Successful births with ram semen frozen for 50 years give hope for the conservation of endangered species.
- Multiple sclerosis is more common in areas with large numbers of sheep.
- The taste of lamb is described as agamic (wise), earthy, even pastoral.
- It took 300-500 animals to produce parchment for one book of four gospels.
- Bone charcoal is used to make steel ball bearings.
- Penelope's weaving of the shroud for Laertes during the day and steaming it at night during the siege by the suitors is seen as a kind of attempt to reverse time.

V Avstraliji je veliko zgodb, povezanih z ovčarni.



- The Medici commissioned the Florentine Camerata to prepare a musical theatre performance. Gli Intermedi della Pellegrina is the forerunner of the opera.
- Scottish herders in the 18th century ate sheep's blood mixed with oatmeal.
- Lambs are test subjects for the development of artificial wombs.
- Yarn leads from the world of the living to the world of the dead.
- Nomadic African pastoralists drink blood mixed with milk, charcoal and urine. Around half a litre of blood is collected monthly from a cut above the eye of a sheep.
- The wool in raised beds regulates soil moisture, repels wolverines, promotes growth and prevents the wood from decaying too quickly.
- In India, shepherds are paid to graze their sheep on stubble because they fertilise the soil.
- In the USA in the 19th century, tea made from sheep droppings was used as a cure for measles and whooping cough.
- The Chinese used sheep to make sheep wine, which was believed to strengthen the stomach, kidneys and testicles.
- At some universities, PhD students still have the opportunity to have their diploma written on parchment by a calligrapher.
- Sheep carry loads along Himalayan trails.
- Wool is only flammable at 720 °C. Normally it does not burn, it only smoulders.
- Where there was knitting, there was also spying during the war; a pair of eyes often lurked between the clicking of two needles.
- Orthodox Jews still only use sheepskin parchment for Torah scrolls.
- Yarn is also well suited for the Morse code: a single knot corresponds to a dot, a double knot to a dash line.
- In film and literature, a sacrificial lamb is a side character whose sole purpose is to die in order to spur the protagonist into action.
- A soul ram is the ritual slaughter of a lamb for the funeral feast of the Serbian Orthodox: it must be of the same sex as the deceased and white in colour.
- The Romans made toothpaste from ground bones, pulverised glass, volcanic rock dust, crushed shells, sheep's sweat and wolf's head ash.
- The European Convention for the Protection of Farm Animals (Strasbourg, 1967) aims to protect farm animals from unnecessary suffering or injury.
- The spindle is an attribute of Eve after her expulsion from Paradise and of the Virgin Mary during the Annunciation.

- Sheep are mentioned more than five hundred times in the Bible.
- When wool absorbs moisture, it gives off heat. It is a heat generator.
- Sleep experts advise against counting sheep because it is thought to have the opposite effect.
- The sheep will appear in the Chinese zodiac in 2027.
- In Western astrology, Aries (whose patron saint is the god of war Ares, after whom the sign is said to be called ovis aries) is the first of the twelve signs of the zodiac.
- The mythological mountain sheep is seen on earth as the North Star.
- Witches use a spindle as their vehicle.
- Aries was present at the birth of Buddha.
- Glamorous brands Chanel and Dior use lambskin for their iconic bags.
- Many paint rollers are made from sheepskin.
- In traditional Croatian culture, sheep's stomach was used to make sheep's cheese, known as 'mišina cheese'.
- Traditional Chinese medicine claims that eating lamb helps to improve kidney function.
- Today, bone paste is used to prepare sausages and potato wedges.
- Dolly is the only cloned lamb from 277 experiments to have reached adulthood.
- In the Shang Dynasty in China, sheep bones were used in divination.
- The patron saint of hat makers, Saint Clement, used to stuff wool into his shoes, which turned to felt as he walked and got wet.
- Millions of sheep are crammed into multi-storey cargo ships every year. The journey takes weeks, while the animals are exposed to all kinds of extreme conditions.
- Sheep can remember up to fifty faces, even if there is only a 5% difference between them. Even in profile.
- Sheep meat accounts for around 5% of world meat consumption.
- The Chinese add sheep bone powder to their rice noodle mix.
- In Mongolia, 45.1 kg of sheep meat is consumed per person per year, in Slovenia it is 0.81 kg.
- Lanolin is produced by the skin glands, and today there is virtually no cream, lipstick, mascara, lotion, shampoo or hair conditioner without lanolin.
- Celebrities Victoria Beckham and Simon Cowell use a face mask made from sheep placenta. The cost of one treatment is 700 EUR.

- Wool can be folded up to 20,000 times without breaking, cotton breaks after 3,000 folds.
- Sheep droppings are one of the main causes of dead zones: they reduce the amount of oxygen in the water and suffocate other species.
- In the cave of the Cyclops Polyphemus, Odysseus found racks full of cheese and many lambs. The Cyclops' cheesemaker made feta.
- Pesticides and insecticides are used to rid the sheep of parasites. These are the cause of the decline in fish numbers.
- Chemicals used to clean wool pollute water sources.
- 300 kg of sheep manure has the same energy value as 1,000 kg of cow manure.
- Lanolin is used to lubricate brass knuckles, soften baseball gloves and toilet paper or clean shoes.
- The most important symbol of the Freemasons is the white sheepskin apron.
- The small intestines of sheep are used to make surgical sutures for internal cuts and wounds.
- Hormones from animal tissues and glands are important for the production of pharmaceuticals.
- Sheep have been used to test parachute jumping.
- Sheep meat, unlike pork and beef, is not taboo for any race or nation.
- Medicine Heparin, which is extracted from the lungs or liver, prevents blood clots.
- Intestines are used for the high-performance strings of tennis rackets and the suspension of weights in old clocks.
- Bagpipes are the only musical instrument designated as a weapon of war.
- Dried sheep dung - as a free source of energy - is used for heating in many places.
- The earliest evidence of bagpipes in Slovenia dates back to the 13th century.
- A sheep was a passenger on the first balloon flight.
- The world's oldest cheese was found in Croatia. Remnants of sheep's feta-like cheese can be seen on the pebbles of a vessel from around 5300 BC.
- Wool removes 90-95% of mercury contamination in 24 hours.
- In the 15th century, Cardinal Nicholas Cusanus developed a hygrometer to measure humidity based on the change in the weight of a wool ball.
- Wool is used as a binding agent in the production of plaster and paper.
- A skilled carpet weaver can make more than 1,000 knots in an hour.
- Scottish shepherds carried whisky in a ram's horn.
- The shofar is still played at Jewish services.

- The Odyssey mentions a bow with a string made from sheep intestines.
- Genghis Khan's soldiers carried dried meat in a sheep's stomach.
- Some types of kebab are wrapped in sheep's intestines before being cooked on the fire.
- The image of a sheep in coffee grounds means good luck.
- In Sardinia, a popular sheep's cheese is produced which contains live insect larvae and is usually eaten with the larvae.
- When strange noises are heard from the attic, it is said that one hears the rolling of bloody balls of wool being spun by the soul of a sinful deceased.
- In the Middle Ages, inflated sheep stomachs were used as toys – as balloons for children.
- There are 400 registered plant species that came to Europe with the sheep from Australia, South Africa and South America.
- Sheep shearers claim that their work is the hardest in the world and that they use 5,000 calories a day. By comparison, a marathon is just under 2,600.
- David struck Goliath in the temple with a single stone and a sling made from a sheep's shoulder blade and defeated him. The biblical sling was made of wool.
- Don Quixote tried to attack an army of moving sheep with a sling in Mancha.
- When sheep choose between portraits, they prefer the sheep faces of their own species to the faces of other species.
- Half a kilo of wool is enough for almost 14 km of yarn.
- Italian supply airplanes parachuted sheep to their soldiers at the front, who then slaughtered and cooked them.
- Wool production does not mean the death of animals. Therefore, wool is considered alive because it was obtained from a living animal.
- In Slovenia, around 20 tonnes of undyed white, grey, brown and black yarn and 5 tonnes of dyed yarn are spun every year.
- After shearing, sheep can go into shock, fall ill and lose weight, some even die.
- For the last 20 years, Slovenian wool has been washed in Belgium.
- Sheep's milk has a much higher fat and protein content than cow's or goat's milk, and is also rich in calcium, zinc, magnesium and other minerals.
- The unwinding of the thread given to Theseus by Ariadne when he entered the labyrinth is a sign of entering another world.

- Jason sought the magical fleece of the golden-winged ram, which represented power and authority.
- The oldest known knitwear in Europe was made by Muslim knitters at Las Huelgas Abbey in Spain.
- Wool is a chameleon; it is as delicate as silk and at the same time coarse to resist wear and tear.
- The early sheep farmers removed the fur by plucking, tearing, combing, cutting it with stones or knives, and then invented the shearing shears.
- On Noah's Ark, the floor became a felt carpet made from trampled animal hair.
- Sheep can recognise familiar faces of humans or sheep even after two years.
- Homer mentioned felt as part of Odysseus' uniform, and Caesar wrote about the use of felt clothing as defence against arrows.
- The Greeks made raincoats from felt and the Romans made the forerunners of berets called pileus.
- Birrus Britanicus, a hooded woollen cloak, was so highly prized that Diocletian imposed a tax on it equal to the price of 500 litres of wine.
- The music of the spinning wheel became a top theme of the 19th century as a musical reflection of nostalgia for a turning point in the history of the craft.
- During long journeys, many sheep fall ill or starve to death because they are not used to pellet food.
- Pliny wrote of wool soaked in vinegar, which is resistant to iron weapons and fire.
- During mulching, sheep have patches of skin removed on each side of the anus down to the back of the knees while fully conscious and without anaesthetic.
- Pasteur developed the first successful anthrax vaccine in an experiment with 50 sheep.
- Three 18th-century sheep condoms were sold at Christie's for 400-600 pounds.
- Sheep skin, cartilage and bones are used to make glue for sandpaper, toys, ornaments, frames, billiard balls, straw hats and bookbinding.
- Albumin extracted from blood plasma is used to make glue for plywood and wood veneers.
- The spinning wheel enabled women, especially unmarried women and widows, to become financially and socially independent.
- Women told each other stories while weaving, and Grimm, Perrault, Giambattista wrote them down, pretending to be the authors; they became rich and famous, even immortal.
- Glycerol from sheep fat is used in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, explosives, cosmetics, toothpaste, plastics, antifreeze and paints.
- Wool enabled Genghis Khan to rule the largest empire in human history, an area that accounted for a fifth of the Earth's land mass.

- The classic Italian Easter dish is lamb with artichokes.
- God said to Moses that humans are allowed to eat mammals that have completely split hooves and chew the cud.
- Berets attract soldiers as well as freethinkers, intellectuals, macho commanders, revolutionaries, e.g. Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, the Black Panthers, and artists, including Rembrandt, Picasso, Monet, Cezanne, Wagner.
- Stearic acid from sheep fat is used to make car tyres.
- In the story of the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land, it is said that 600,000 men and their children and possibly millions of sheep were on the march.
- Urine, so important that it was taxed in ancient Rome, was once used to wash wool.
- The Scots love to tell the story of the sheep's head that bites the dumpling when it is cooked with it.
- Sheep are a symbol of antinarcissism. Who but a sheep can achieve absolute submission to itself?
- In northern Europe and the British Isles, it is said that on Christmas Eve all sheep turn to the east, bow three times and have the gift of speech from midnight to sunrise.
- The smell of sheep is said to cure tuberculosis, and sick children were also rolled in the dew of the sheep pasture.
- Wool, especially black wool, was very important for healing - a broken or twisted limb was wrapped in black yarn.
- The name of the meat ravioli agnolotti comes from the Italian word for lamb, agnello.
- Fatty acids are used in soaps, detergents, insecticides, herbicides, paints, lubricants, asphalt, car polishes and waxes, shaving creams, deodorants and perfumes.
- Rubbing greasy wool or sheep's fat on sore areas ad a healing effect.
- In 1648, Massachusetts passed a law that punished dogs that harassed sheep by hanging them.
- Shepherds are particularly fond of fellatio, when they smear honey or sugar on their penises to get the lambs to suckle.
- Pope Sergius I. is said to have introduced the Agnus Dei into the Mass in 687. In the context of the liturgy, it reflects the reality of the transformed individual in the community.
- In the eyes of the law, animals were no different from houses, furniture or other possessions.
- The first animal welfare laws were passed more than 200 years ago, yet today we exploit more animals, and more cruelly than ever before in history.
- Because sheep are property, we humans are in principle allowed to use them for any purpose we please.

- Sick or injured people were once wrapped in the skin of a freshly killed ram.
- The oldest recipe in the world is a recipe for lamb broth, written on clay tablets from Larsa in southern Mesopotamia dating from the 17th century BC.
- A Roman recipe book known as Apicius contains lamb and beans, a kind of forerunner of today's French country cuisine.
- The positive effects of wool have also been recognised by radiesthesists.
- Wool is used to clean formaldehyde from the air.
- The first frozen sheep meat was shipped from New Zealand to Europe in 1882.
- In 2017, 2,400 sheep died of heat exhaustion on a single ship travelling from Fremantle, Australia, to the Middle East.
- The sheep are cut open at the legs and their testicles are grabbed with metal tongs, then hit several times with a hammer.
- Many New Zealand sheep farmers sell land to reforest it with fast-growing pine trees - they get six times more for reforestation than for agricultural use.
- George III. put a ball of wool in the ear for toothache, while the British wore black woollen socks for rheumatism.
- Megaherds are prone to pandemics, which are combated by the industrial use of antibiotics, affecting the whole ecosystem.
- Lamb is the meat of young sheep, usually a year old and younger. Mutton is the meat of adult sheep, aged between two and three years.
- When one sheep moves, the others follow. In Turkey, a sheep made a deadly leap into a 15-metre deep ravine, followed by 1,500 other sheep in the flock.
- Sheep can detect danger at a distance of 1,000 to 1,300 metres.
- A sheep farmer paid 273,000 EUR for an eight-month-old Scottish ram.
- A video of the shearing of an overgrown Baarack sheep has reached 18.5 million views on TikTok.
- Sheep have a gland between their hooves that secretes a scent which is transferred to the ground as they walk, and each member of the flock recognises the scent of members of the same flock.
- 30% of rams are homosexual.
- The characteristics and intensity of mourning of sheep are comparable to human mourning.
- Sheep have a matriarchal social order.
- The sheep's intestine is capable of breaking down TNT into harmless residues without any harmful effects on the animal.

· The sheep has a four-part stomach.

· Together with the printing press, the internal combustion engine, the electric light and anaesthesia, the spinning wheel is one of the most influential inventions in human history.



THE LAMB WHO GIVES HIMSELF FOR US FOR THE KISS OF HIS MOUTH

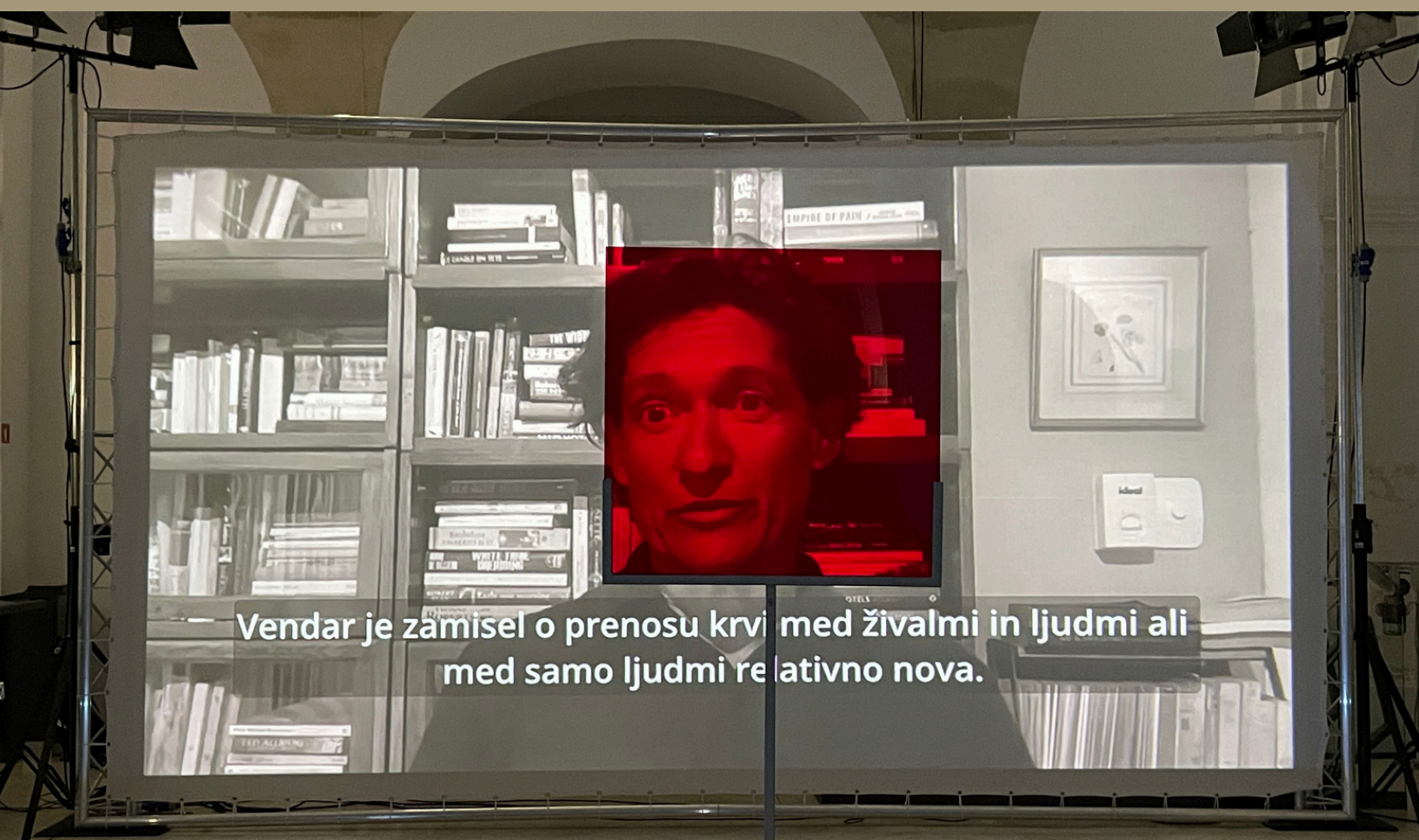
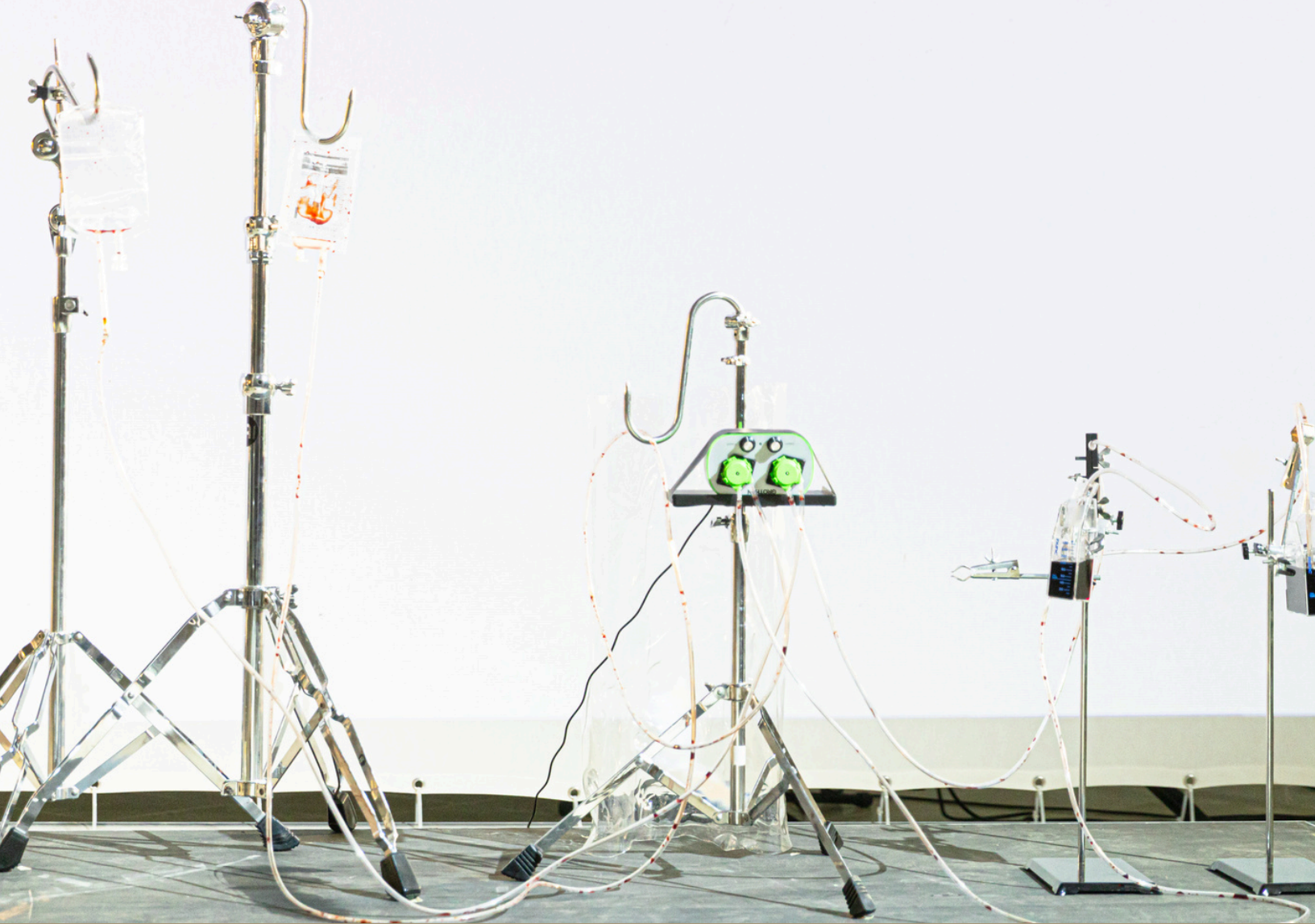
We search for ourselves in each other
Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world
in poems on familiar and unfamiliar eyes
who by the cross restored life to human kind
in the reality of death and in the doubtfulness of birth
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world
in the final screams and the last sighs
save us miserable ones; King, you who created all good things
in dismembered corpses, in scraped yeast
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world
in the losses and victories of the seven horns and seven eyes
join us to those above who are set above the stars
we need no sun nor moon
we say with a voice like thunder, Give us a break.









A SIGN TO EASE SADNESS ARE YOU WATCHING?

I will take the nails.

I will take long nails and
slowly drive them into your body.

You hammer long nails slowly,
then they bite deep into the swollen flesh.

I will draw a cross into your ribs,
a gloomy cross, unreachable to the rage of the living.

You will stretch out dead gazes
into the edges of the space
as death settles on your drooping eyelids.

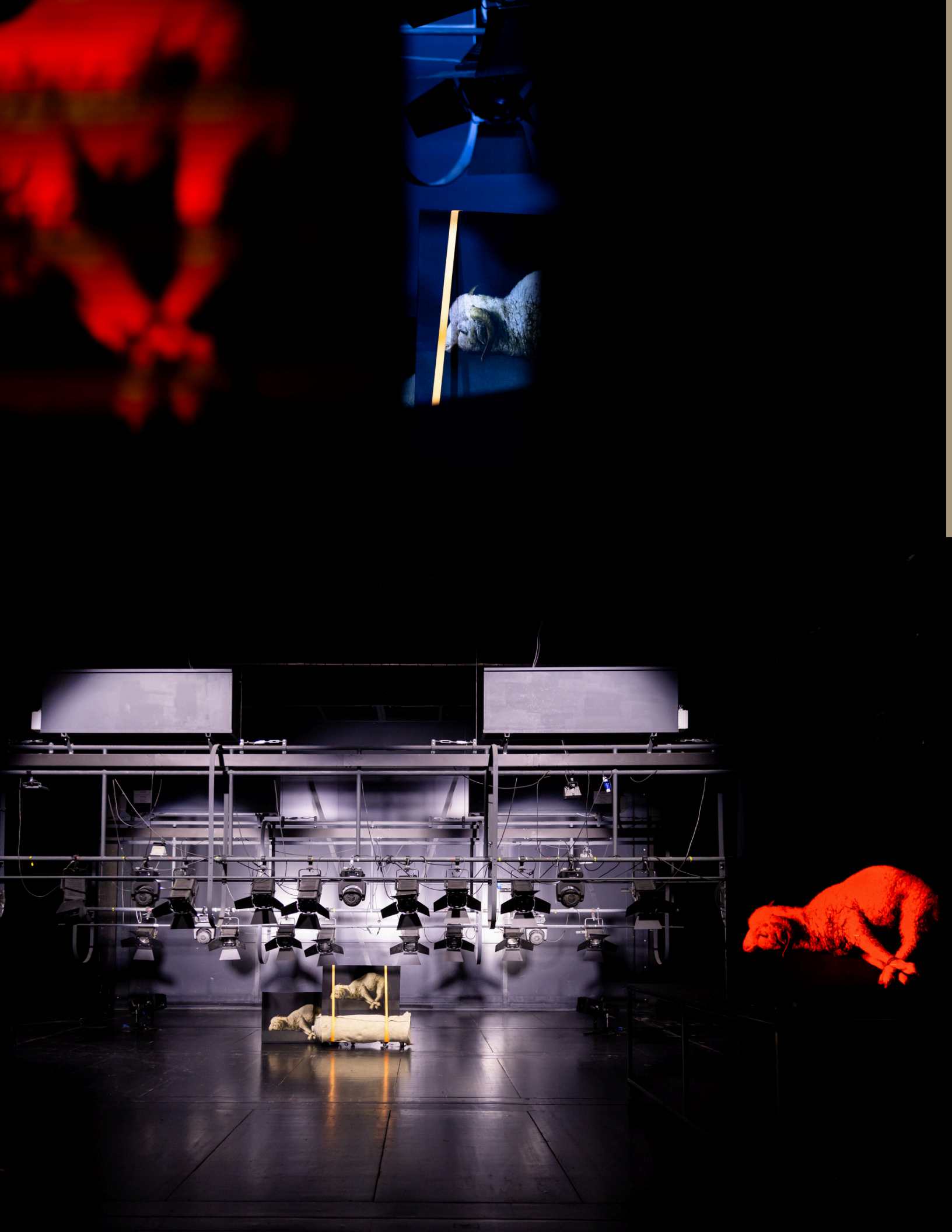
Weeping lashes will stick together
like the tassels of a damp curtain.

I will watch how Time
scratches over your innocent flesh,
humiliated into a scream of a wound.
And while I sing the Agnus Dei in English
I will count the weary sins.

What a blissful proof
riddled with myths, virgins and wombs
and angels rising from the sea.

You, the kneeling catalogue of sorrow,
(sealed in a package of humility)
fall upward!

Will the sky hold out,
If you, the Lamb turned into a tallow, arise?







A CROSSBREED OTHERWISE

1. FLOMASTER
2. BABYLONIAN STEW, recipe from 2140 BC.
3. CELOPHANE
4. HAIR BALM
5. BIODIESEL, a fuel made from fat
6. BRICKETS for heating
7. NIPPLE CREAM
8. FURNITURE CLEANER
9. WALLPAPER POLISH
10. PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM
11. WASHING-UP LIQUID
12. SHOE POLISH
13. FLOOR WAX
14. VITAMIN D3
15. NITROGEN FERTILISER
16. EMULGATOR for hair dye
17. FILTER
18. FERTLISER
19. HAGGIS
20. HYDROISOLATION for concrete
21. SHEEP PLACENTA FACE MASK
22. DOG FOOD
23. COOLANT
24. CONDOM
25. INDUSTRIAL HAND CREAM
26. INSECTICIDE
27. HANSAPLAST
28. CABLE INSULATOR
29. TOUGHENING MAT
30. OIL LUBRICANT
31. CAPSULE
32. CATGUT
33. BONE PASTE
34. SHAVING CREAM

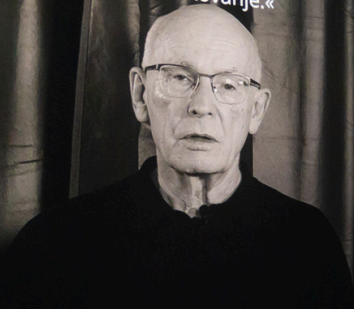
35. BALL BEARING
36. SHAVE BAG
37. POTATO WEDGES
38. HAIR SPRAY
39. ADHESIVE STRIP
40. SUNSCREEN
41. NAIL POLISH
42. PLASTER
43. ICE CREAM
44. LANOLIN
45. MASKARA
46. ADHESIVE
47. MARGARINE
48. LOTION
49. COLOUR
50. MARSHMALLOW
51. HAND SOUP
52. BURN OINTMENT
53. TOILET PAPER
54. OLITO, a traditional dessert from the island of Cres made from sheep's tallow
55. PARAFFIN
56. PECORINO
57. TENNIS BALL
58. PNEVMATICS
59. CHEWING GUM
60. LAUNDRY DETERGENT
61. AGNOLOTTI
62. NAIL POLISH REMOVER
63. OIL for musical instrument strings
64. PROLARIX, medicine
65. BABY FORMULA
66. RATTLESNAKE ANTIVENOM
67. LIPSTICK
68. WOUND DESINFECTANT
69. RICE NOODLES
70. ROQUEFORT

71. SHEEP-NANNY TEA
72. CORROSION INHIBITOR
73. CANDLE
74. REPELLENT
75. HAIR SHAMPOO
76. PRINTING INK
77. SOLID
78. ARTIFICIAL TEARS
79. ASPHALT BINDER
80. SUGGER
81. SHEEP'S MILK VODKA
82. BRAKE FLUID
83. BEARD WAX
84. JELLY BEANS

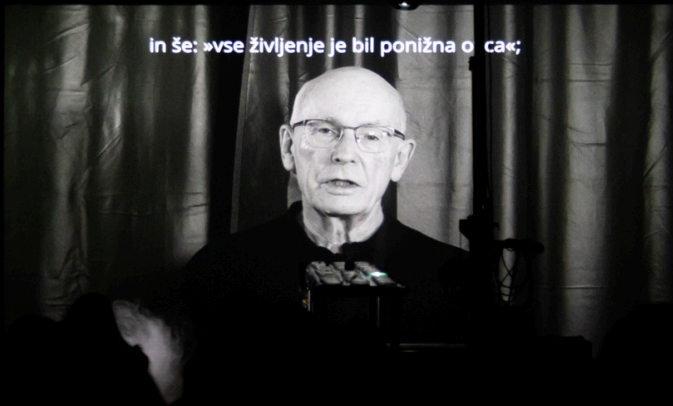




ki je bel in se tesno prilaga, gibe, ki so hkrati plazenje
in poskakovanje.«



In še: »vse življenje je bil ponižna o ca«;



THE SHEEP MUSEUM

ENTAGLED OBJECTS

The Sheep Museum includes four sections: Naturalia, Artificialia, Scientifica, and Magica. Groups of objects organized thematically and taxonomically follow the principle of a wunderkammer. Cabinets of curiosities originated in Renaissance Europe when private collectors began gathering exotic, marvellous, fantastic, or unusual objects during travels, scientific experiments and research, or through other means. By organizing and displaying the artifacts, they aimed to rationalize and categorize a vast amount of information.

The Sheep Museum tells history through objects. It seeks to address diverse human experiences and narrate entire social environments through simple items from everyday life, complex ideological constructs, or great works of art – employing the principle of the part(s) for the whole and the whole for the part(s).

The objects and ideas representing the history of the world revive things that man have made from sheep, awakening their meaning, which often exceeds the original intention of the maker. The exhibits bear witness to the journey of humans and sheep through centuries and millennia: some carefully crafted, admired, preserved others worn and discarded; some reliable, others speculative. All equally important, all interconnected.

The Sheep Museum is an exhibition about the interaction between humans and sheep and the ethical-political consequences of this relationship, from dressing in fur to the development of global industry, starting with wool production. By deciphering the messages that objects convey through time, the exhibition speaks of people and places, of moments in history and our time, of how we think and act. Its purpose is to acquaint visitors with the history, ecology, and global dynamics of obtaining and producing sheep products, to show the connection between animals and humans, and thus enable a broader understanding of how objects and ideas work within the entire ecosystem.









A PASTORAL ANYTHING IN RETURN

finding, hunting, breeding, admiring
herding, eating, milking, favouring
tagging, observing, castrating, mystifying
marking, shearing, transforming, adoring
docking, investigating, killing, glorifying
examining, mulesing, studying, invoking
transporting, recording, exploiting, praising
mapping, testing, painting, honouring
researching, exploring, glancing, portraying
classifying, registering, abusing, idolising
exporting, defining, describing, revering
documenting, interpreting, listing, cherishing
sorting, buying, surveying, venerating
cloning, analysing, utilising, extolling
archiving, arranging, importing, lauding
positioning, reflecting, cataloguing, reverencing
illustrating, photographing, representing, appreciating
assuming, claiming, speculating, adoring
mistreating, valuating, comparing, respecting

diagnosing, diagramming, advocating, killing
commodifying, affecting, incarnating, killing
publishing, manifesting, explaining, killing
perceiving, progressing, cataloguing, killing
provoking, resolving, insinuating, killing
interacting, exposing, theorising, killing





Pastoral is not a story about what the sheep did for us, it is a necrography – a history of deaths and ultra-violence taking place over decades, centuries. This violence is not a thing of the past, it is an ongoing act. Human victories over primitive and stupid sheep act as an extension of events, a timeless, almost eternal repetition and escalation of violence against animals. Their remains demonstrate our (un)awareness and animal (un)worthiness.

Pastoral is a curiosity of this centuries-long, ongoing relationship between human and non-human animals. It is an abstract of relativisations, justifications, obfuscations, concealments and inanities of the belief in human supremacy. And of human necropolitics determining who (and how) lives and who (and how) dies.

Pastoral arose in the process of enduring a bond between two animal species – of a man and seven types of sheep, 1,200 breeds of Ovis Aries. Pastoral is both a moment of anxious recognition and a challenge to the self-sufficient subjectivity of the human species.

What could be more idyllic than the sight of fluffy lambs grazing joyfully with their mothers?

But at least half of the lambs we watch in spring will have died before the end of the year: millions will perish of malnutrition or disease within early days after birth, others will be slaughtered for meat just ten weeks old. In their short lives, they will be forced to painful mutilations such as tail docking or castration without painkillers. They will often be shamefully neglected, suffering from lameness, painful infections and parasites. Many will freeze to death or collapse in cold. Before being sent to a horrific death in slaughterhouses, these delicate animals will be subjected to harsh treatment and long, traumatic journeys in overcrowded lorries, often without adequate food, water and ventilation, on their way to market. When live animals cruelly exported overseas, their suffering will be prolonged as they are crammed onto boats on a grim weeks-long journey. Meanwhile, machines will endlessly milk their mother instead of them nursing their lambs.

From the ancient fascination with these sacrificial animals, global imperialism, industrialisation, slaughterhouses, brutal animal husbandry, genocides, over modern entertainment (ewe-topias), Christian art, pastorals, to idealised fluffy toys, it is inherent that, historically speaking, sheep have somehow failed. Today, there are 1.2 billion sheep in the world forced to live as Man has chosen for them.

What could be more idyllic than the sight of fluffy lambs joyfully grazing with their mothers?





ORPHEUS
THE CADAVEROUS PRESENCE

wrapping up with silence

blades of blessing
necks of the establishment
stains of silences
ends of trying
embraces of blows
forgotten sanctities
lowered eyelids
submissive muscles
open veins
trembling nostrils
absent faces
consecrated torment
parched throats
numb intestines
sensual gains
calculating deceptions
numb udder
enchanted eyeballs
overgrown shame
transformed bellies
living disgusts
narcotic freedom
stacked vows
insolent indifference
sensitive detachment
immersing in another myth
prayers stamped in leather
deaths united

take your deaths with you



SOUND AND MUSIC

Karmina Šilec: Flock

Folk song from Bela Krajina: Pobeležo pole ofcama (arr. Matija Tomc)

Tropus: Agnus Dei (Agnus Humano generi) Wolfenbüttel, Herzog-August-Bibliothek
Cod. 628 Helmst.

Henry Purcell: Hear my prayer, O Lord

Karmina Šilec: Up again

Karmina Šilec: A Crossbreed

Samuel Barber: String Quartet No. 1 in B-Minor, Op. 11: Adagio (arr. for organ),
performed by Jens Koerndorfer

Karmina Šilec: Ewe suite / Jacob Cooper: All we take (backing track)

Samuel Barber: String Quartet No. 1 in B-Minor, Op. 11: Adagio (arr. for mixed choir)

ART WORKS

Anka Krašna: Sheep (1987)

Francisco de Zurbaran: Agnus Dei (1640), Museo del Prado, Madrid*

Ivan Grohar: Črednik (1910), Moderna galerija, Ljubljana*

Hubert in Jan van Eyck: The Ghent Altarpiece (1432), St.Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent*

*Wikimedia Commons

TEXTS

Teja Brooks Pribac: Pumpkin

Karmina Šilec: Up again, Wrapping up with silence, I will take the nails, We search for ourselves in each other, This is where the story begins, Cataloguing, Pastoral, The sheep museum

VIDEO

Dorian Šilec Petek, Linas Korta, Eyes on Animals



Mladen Dolar, PhD, is a philosopher, a cultural theorist and professor at Ljubljana University. His area of research stretches from German idealism to contemporary French philosophy, psychoanalysis and art theory. Apart from numerous books in Slovene his books in English include *A voice and nothing more* (MIT 2006), *Opera's second death* (with Slavoj Žižek, Routledge 2001) and *Rumors* (Polity 2024).

Lochlann Jain, PhD, (USA) is an award-winning author and Professor of Anthropology at Stanford University, Visiting Chair of Global Health and Social Medicine at King' College London, and a Research Affiliate at VIAD, University of Johannesburg. His work aims to unsettle some of the deeply held assumptions about objectivity that underlie the history of medical research.

Juan Manuel Tebes, PhD, (Argentina), is a Near Eastern historian with areas of specialization in the history and archaeology of the southern Levant and northwestern Arabia. He is researcher at the National Research Council of Argentina and teaches at the Catholic University of Argentina.

Samantha Balaton-Chrimes, PhD, (Australia) is a Lecturer in International Studies in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. Her research is interdisciplinary in nature, cutting across politics and political theory, development studies and anthropology.

Maja Rupnik, PhD, is a microbiologist, researcher and lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine in Maribor and at National laboratory for health, environment and food. She is well known for her research on *Clostridium*, a bacterium causing infections after antibiotic therapy. Her research topic is microbiota. She is also active in popularization of science.

Teya Brooks Pribac, PhD, (Slovenia / Australia) is an animal studies scholar with a particular interest in cross species grief as well as spirituality as a bodily-focused, non-denominational engagement. She lives in the Australian Blue Mountains with sheep and other animals.

Terezija Snežna Večko, PhD, is a nun, biblist and a lecturer, some time was a missionary in the Solomon Islands. As a translator, she worked on the Slovenian Standard Version and the Jerusalem edition of the Bible. She writes for different publications and collaborates with mass media, she published the book *Favor in your sight*.

Marjeta Ciglencečki, PhD, is an art historian. She lectured at the Department of Art History at the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor. Her research has contributed to various under-researched areas such as castle furnishings, especially tapestries, the architectural and urban development of Maribor, photography and the history of Slovenian art history with a focus on Styria.

Andrej Hozjan, PhD, is currently works as an Associate Professor of Early Modern Period at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor. His research focuses on the political, social, and cultural dynamics of the Slovene lands and neighboring regions during the early modern period.



COLLABORATORS, SOURCES AND DONATORS

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Mojca Redjko and Marisa Filipčič, creative associates

Maribor Puppet Theatre associates:

Tanja Lužar, Grega Tanacek, Gregor Dvornik, Gašper Bohinec, Lucijan Jošt

During the event the audience moves between the different venues of the Minoriti Cultural Quarter.

Premiere: November 15, 2024, The Minoriti Cultural Quarter, at 18.00

Production: Carmina Slovenica, 2024

in cooperation with: The Minoriti Cultural Quarter, Maribor Puppet Theatre, Newmusic-theatre Choregie

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