

Dancer Mala Kline presents her new dance theatre project Bliss

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*Last night at Stara elektrarna in Ljubljana, dancer Mala Kline presented her new dance theatre project, entitled Bliss. She performed in collaboration with four dancers and performing artists: Leja Jurišič from Slovenia, Mike Winter from Great Britain, Vania Rovisco and Massimiliano Cuccaro, both from Italy. In the performance, the artists try to answer the question on why art is so urgently needed. A review by Ana Rozman.*

In Bliss, Mala Kline continues with her, by now already distinctive, dance poetics. In the beginning she establishes a certain topic, which she then deconstructs through dance and theatre performance in order to convey its essence. The topic of the this time's performance was art. What is the purpose of art in a time, when also art is subjected to laws of supply and demand? Can artists, trapped in institutional framework, truly fully express themselves, do we still believe in the power of art and, after all, do we believe in anything anymore at all? These are the questions that Bliss poses to the spectator, sometimes in a highly direct manner. Performer Mike Winter addresses the audience with fragments from his actual life. The spectator thus learns that Winter used to be a bank employee and decided to leave his job to become an artist. The other three dancers also contribute to the performance with their specific stage expression. Leja Jurišič represents the female beauty ideal, obsessively putting on make-up and thus portraying the masks we wear. Vania Rovisco, dressed as a bear through the majority of the play, later takes off her costume, as if trying to strip herself of her animalistic nature. With his dancing and singing Massimiliano Cuccaro loosens the sexual stereotypes about men who know no gentleness. Towards the end, after all the saturation with words, movements and sounds, the performance becomes extremely silent and minimalistic. The dancers undress, literally, but above all symbolically, to attain what they really are – artists, and this is their bliss.