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ALEKSANDAR DENIĆ





@nebojsa_babic_photography

ALEKSANDAR DENIĆ

(1963, Belgrade)

Aleksandar Denić, visual artist, stage and film production designer, widely recognized for his long-term collaboration with German theater director Frank Castorf and his influential work in major European theaters, including Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Bayreuth, Paris, Zurich, Vienna, Salzburg, Cologne, and Munich.

Denić graduated from the Academy of Applied Arts at the University of the Arts in Belgrade, specializing in painting, film, and set design and is currently dedicated as Associate Professor at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade. His career spans both film and theater, with notable contributions to productions such as *Underground* by Emir Kusturica. He has also worked on over 100 television commercials for well-known brands.

Collaboration with Castorf has been particularly influential, leading to acclaimed stage designs for productions such as *Journey to the End of the Night* at the Munich Residenztheater, which earned him the title of “Set Designer of the Year” in 2014. He also worked on Richard Wagner’s *Ring Cycle* at the Bayreuth Festival.

Denić has received numerous awards, including a nomination for a Primetime Emmy Award in 1996, the International Opera Award nomination for Best Designer in 2014, and multiple recognitions from *Theater heute* and *Opernwelt* magazines.

Aleksandar became a member of the prestigious Berlin Academy of Arts, making him the first artist from the Balkans to receive such recognition. This prestigious institution gathers leading figures in the visual arts, and Denić’s membership underscores his international reputation and influence on contemporary art.

Since 2012, he has collaborated with leading European institutions, including the Burgtheater (Vienna), Volksbühne (Berlin), and Odéon-Théâtre de l’Europe (Paris), bringing a postmodern sensibility to contemporary stagecraft. His scenographies examine history, identity, and the performative aspects of both politics and everyday life, placing him among the most critically acclaimed European stage designers working today. At the 2024 Venice Biennale, Denić presented *Exposition Coloniale*, a striking and politically charged

installation addressing the enduring impact of colonialism. Drawing on his scenographic expertise, Denić created complex, symbolically inverted architectural spaces that embodied social tension, loss of intimacy, and the ongoing struggles over power, identity, and cultural displacement. The exhibition’s charged atmospheres and disorienting spatial compositions challenged viewers to confront both historical and contemporary forms of domination and alienation.

In the past decade, he became one of the busiest European scenographers. In his visual interpretations of dramatic texts, the scene becomes a peculiar and elaborate semiotic system that considers postmodernism through artistic means everyday life, history, identity, the relationship between the theatrical and the media spectacle, as well as social tasks and opportunities of art itself. It is for this reason that Denić’s stage designs represent some of the most successful and critically acclaimed European and global visual dramaturgies that self-consciously explore their own communication potentials.

His work continues to shape the European theater scene, making him one of the most prominent stage designers in contemporary performing arts.

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**That's The Real Thing What the
World Wants Today, Part 1**

Photography and Set Design for
Das Duell, Volksbühne, 2013
104.5 x 136.5 cm
2025

Edition 1/1





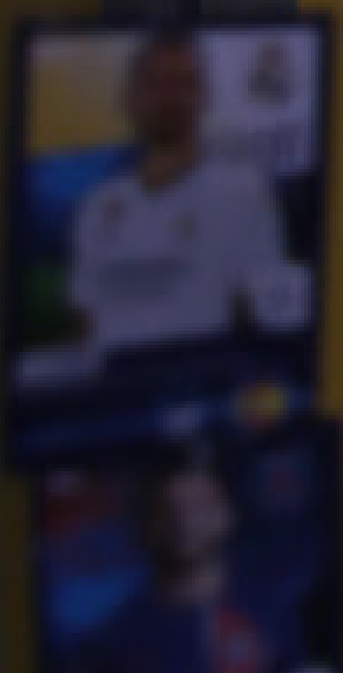
**That's The Real Thing What the
World Wants Today, part 3**

Mixed media object
168 x 137 x 230cm
2024

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**That's The Real Thing What the
World Wants Today, Part 2**

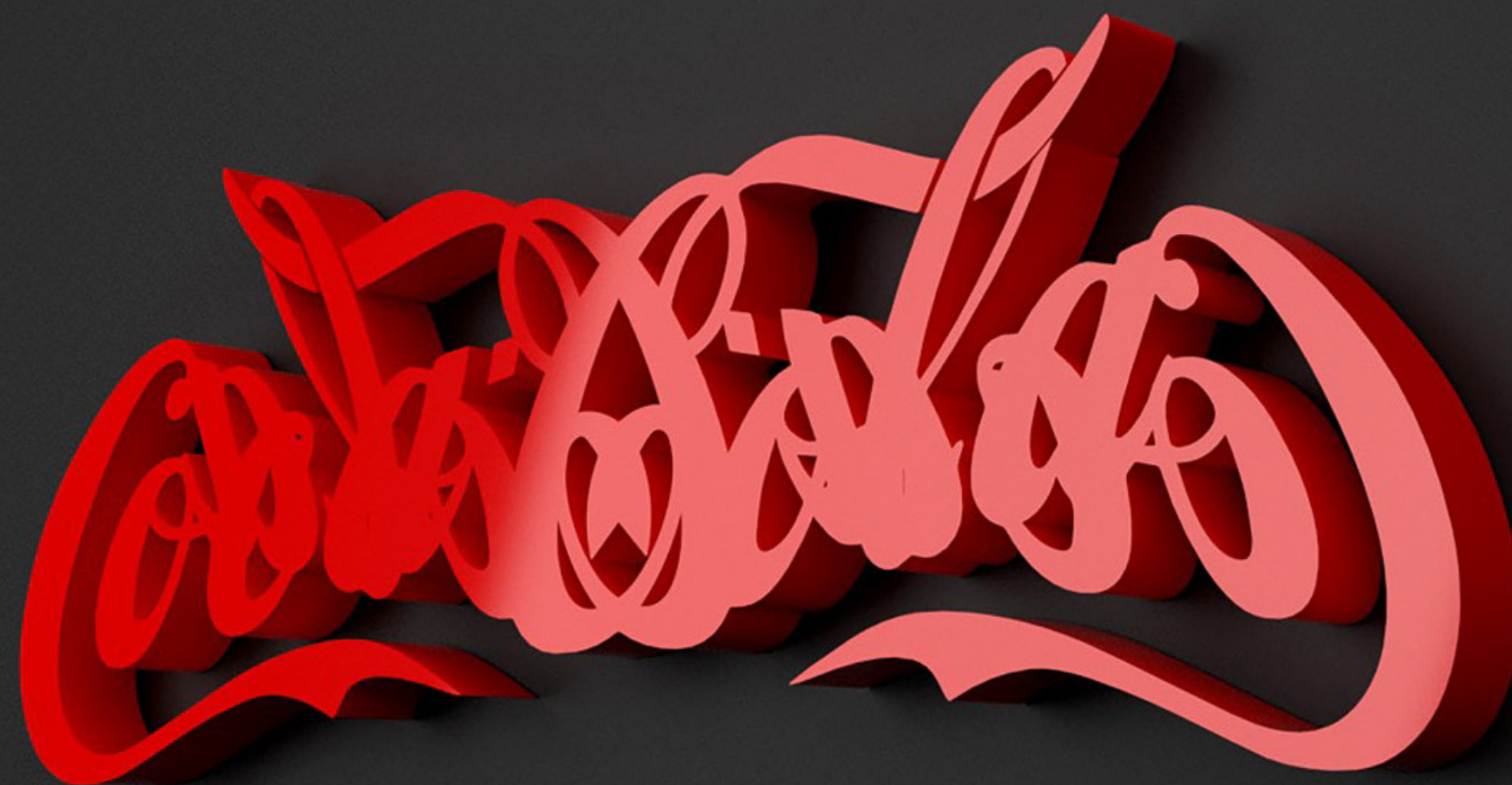
Photography and Set Design for
Fabian, Berliner ensemble, 2021
117 x 172 cm
2025

Edition 1/1

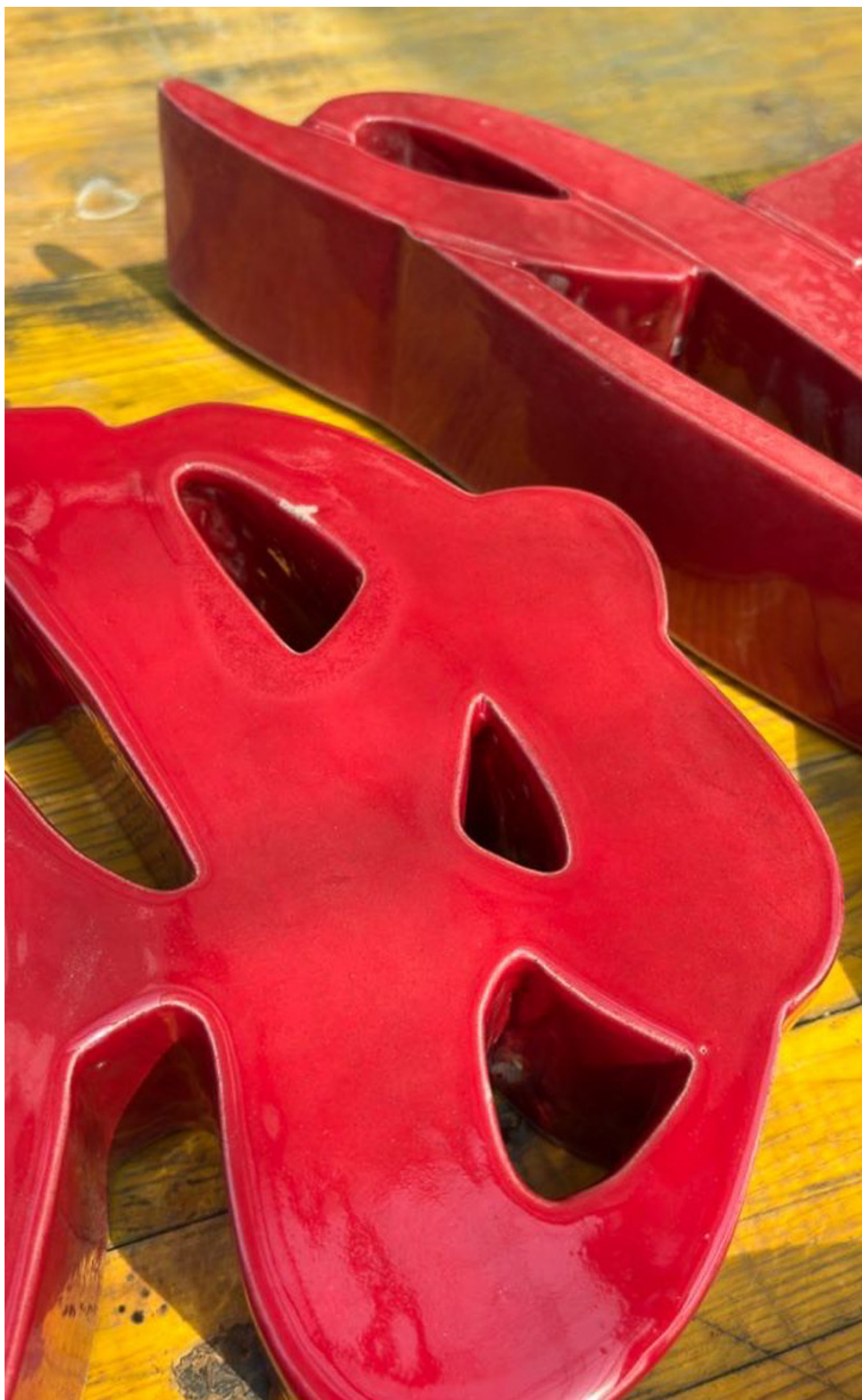


**That's The Real Thing What
the World Wants Today, part 4**

Porcelain sculpture
150 x 57 x 10 cm
2025

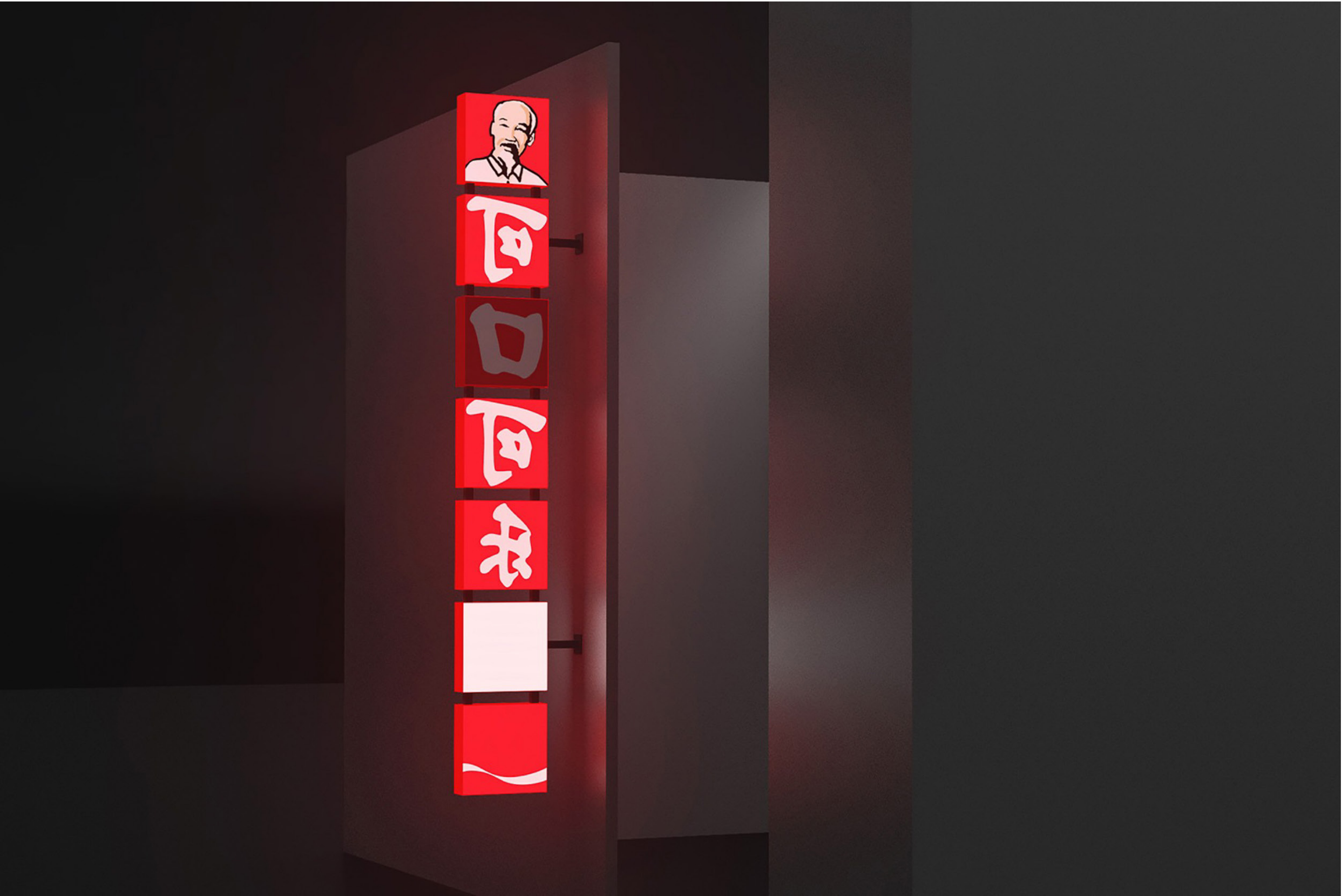


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That's The Real Thing What the
World Wants Today, part 5

Neon Sign
47 x 250cm
2022





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Selected works

Film Scenography (1985–2021)

2021	<i>Faust</i> (TV film) directed by Frank Castorf, Jakob Pitzer,ORF, Staatsoper Wien
2018	<i>From the House of the Death</i> (TV film) directed by Frank Castorf, Andy Somer, Bayerische Staatsoper
2017	<i>Zona Zamfirova 2</i> , directed by Jug Radivojević, RTV Pink
2016	<i>Götterdämmerung</i> (TV film) directed by Frank Castorf, Festspiele Bayreuth; <i>Siegfried</i> (TV film) directed by Frank Castorf, Festspiele Bayreut; <i>Die Walküre</i> (TV film) directed by Frank Castorf, Festspiele Bayreuth; <i>Das Rheingold</i> (TV film), directed by Frank Castorf, Festspiele Bayreuth
2015	<i>Darknes</i> , directed by Jug Radivojević, Inat entertainment.
2014	<i>Travelator</i> , directed by Dušan Milić, Film DELUX international; <i>Mala istorija Srbije</i> , (TV series) directed by Jug Radivojević
2012	<i>Chernobyl Diaries</i> , directed by Bradley Parker, Alcon entertainment
2011	<i>Cat Run</i> , directed by: John Stockwell, WORK IN PROGRESS, Lleju Production
2009	<i>Zone of the Death</i> , directed by: Milan Konjević, Milan Todorović, TALKING WOLF PRO
2008	<i>Die rote Zora</i> , directed by: Peter Kahane, STUDIO HAMBURG FILM PRODUKTION
2007	<i>Agi & Ema</i> , directed by: Milutin Petrović, MONTAGE, ART & POPCORN
2006	<i>Guča</i> , directed by: Dušan Milić, RASTA FILM, Pandora, Deluxe film
2004	<i>Pad u raj</i> , directed by: Miloš Radović, MACT Productions, Neue Impuls Film, Rocketta Film
2002	<i>Deathwatch</i> , directed by: Michael Basset, FAME Production
2001	<i>Boumerang</i> , directed by: Dragan Marinković, Film Link Inc., Vans, Zillion production; Super 8 Stories, directed by: Emir Kusturica, Fandango, Pandora, Rasta Film
1998	<i>Rane</i> , directed by: Srdjan Dragojević, COBRA Production
1997	<i>Tempête dans un verre d’eau</i> , directed by: Arnold Barkus, Double A Productions
1996	<i>Rasputin</i> (set designer/props scenographer), directed by: Uli Edel, HBO
1995	<i>Underground</i> (set designer/ props scenographer), directed by: Emir Kusturica, CIBY 2000
1993	<i>Vizantijsko plavo</i> , directed by: Dragan Marinković, Vans Production; <i>Heidi</i> (assistant scenographer) directed by: Michael Rhodes, Walt Disney TV, Harmony Gold Ltd.
1992	<i>Mi nismo andjeli</i> , directed by: Srdjan Dragojević, Avala Film Production
1988	<i>Jednog lepog dana</i> , directed by: Boža Nikolić, TV Belgrade Production; <i>Za sada bez dobrog naslova</i> , directed by: Srdjan Karanović, Centar Film Production
1985	<i>Jagode u grlu</i> (assistant scenographer), directed by: Srdjan Karanović, Centar film; <i>Tajvanska Kanasta</i> (assistant scenographer), directed by: Goran Marković, FRZ Beograd

Scenography for theatre, opera, and ballet in Yugoslavia (1988–2012)

2012	<i>Dabogda te majka rodila</i> Vedrana Rudan, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Pl.Ivan Zajc Rijeka
2011	<i>Jovča Borisav Stanković</i> , directed by Jug Radivojević, Šabačko pozorište; <i>Zli dusi</i> Fjodor M. Dostojevski, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Narodno pozorište u Beogradu; <i>Heda Gabler</i> Henrik Ibsen, directed by Snežana Trišić, Narodno pozorište u Beogradu; <i>Producent</i> Mell Brooks, directed by Jug Radivojević, Pozorište na Terazijama
2010	<i>Na slovo na slovo</i> Duško Radović, directed by Darijan Mihailović Pozorište na Terazijama; <i>Rita</i> Gaetano Donizetti, directed by Stefan Sablić, Opera Madlenijanum; <i>Anželika</i> Jacques Ibert, directed by Stefan Sablić, Opera Madlenijanum; <i>Igra u Tami</i> Djordje Milosavljević, directed by Jug Radivojević Pozorište Boško Buha; <i>Put oko sveta</i> Branislav Nušić, directed by Jug Radivojević, Kruševacko Pozorište
2009	<i>Svici</i> Tena Štivičić, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Atelje 212; <i>Moć sudbine</i> G.Verdi, directed by Darijan Mihailović Opera Narodno Pozorište Beograd; <i>Protuve piju čaj</i> Dragoslav Mihailović,directed by Jug Radivojević, Šabačko pozorište; <i>Dečko koji obećava</i> Nebojša Pajkić,directed by Žanko Tomić, Pozorište Boško Buha; <i>La Strada</i> F. Felini, directed by Slavenko Saletović, Pozorište na Terazijama
2008	<i>Talenti i obožavaoci</i> J.Ostrovski, directed by Slavenko Saletović, Narodno Pozorište; <i>Instant seksualno obrazovanje</i> Djordje Milosavljević, directed by Jug Radivojević, Pozorište B. Buha; <i>Seksualne neuroze naših roditelja</i> Lucas Barfus, directed by Tanja Mandić ,Narodno Pozorište; <i>Bog Pakla</i> Sam Shepard, directed by Svetlana Dimčević, Atelje 212; <i>Sudija</i> V. Moberg, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Narodno Pozorište
2007	<i>La Kapinera</i> balet directed by Mikele Merola, Pozorište na Terazijama; <i>Hitler i Hitler</i> K.Kostjenko, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Atelje 212; <i>Krčmarica</i> Mirandolina K.Goldoni, directed by Jug Radivojević, Pozorište Bosko Buha
2006	<i>Spusti se na zemlju</i> Gordana Goncić, directed by Jug Radivojević, Pozorište na Terazijama; <i>Heroji</i> Predrag Perišić,directed by Slavenko Saletović , Pozorište na Terazijama; <i>Poseta stare dame</i> Fridrih Direnmat, directed by Stefan Sablić, Bitef teatar
2005	<i>Ledeni svitac</i> Vladan Radoman, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Madlenijanum; <i>Kiseonik</i> Ivan Viripajev, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Belef festival- Jugoslovensko dramsko pozorište
2004	<i>Terasa</i> Jovan Hristić, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Jugoslovensko dramsko pozorište; <i>Sumnjivo lice</i> Branislav Nušić, directed by Stefan Sablić, Kruševačko Pozorište
2001	<i>Čovek slučajnosti</i> Jasmina Reza, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Narodno pozorište
1999	<i>Rodoljupci</i> Jovan Sterija Popović, directed by Dejan Mijač , Jugoslovensko dramsko pozorište
1992	<i>Nega Mrtvaca</i> Aca Popović, directed by Radmila Vojvodić, Srpsko Narodno pozorište, Novi Sad; <i>Sveti Nik - Nikolas Edvard Kejv život i veze</i> Gorčin Stojanović, directed by Gorčin Stojanović, Bitef teatar
1990	<i>Hajde da se igramo</i> collectively directed by, Jugoslovensko dramsko pozorište
1989	<i>Draga Jelena Sergejevna</i> Lj. Razumovska, directed by Gorčin Stojanović, Jugoslovensko dramsko pozorište
1989	<i>Životni venac i drug Slovenjac</i> Aca Popović, directed by Puriša Djordjević, SKC Beograd

Scenography for theatre, opera, and ballet on the international stage (2012–present)

2023	<i>Idiot</i> Fjodor Dostojevski, directed by Ivica Buljan,BDP,Beograd; <i>(PRA)Faust</i> Johan Volfgang Gete, directed by Boris Liješević, BDP, Beograd
2022	<i>My name is Goran Stefanovski</i> Goran Stefanovski, directed by Branislav Mićunović, Drama Theatre Skopje; <i>Shakespeare in love</i> Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, directed by Ana Tomović
2021	<i>Tiho teče Misisipi</i> Vladimir Tabašević, directed by, Ivica Buljan Beogradsko dramsko pozorište; <i>U čeljusti medveda</i> David Crook, directed by Svetlana Dimčević, Bitef teatar; <i>Gospodjica Julija</i> Avgust Strindberg, directed by Haris Pašović, Madlenijanum
2020	<i>Sa druge strane jastuka</i> directed by Jug Radivojević, Pozorište na Terazijama
2019	<i>Tri sestre</i> A. Čehov, directed by Bobo Jelčić, Hrvatsko narodno kazalište; <i>Knjeginja od Foli Beržera</i> George Feydeau, directed by Jug Radivojević, Narodno pozorište Niš
2018	<i>Svetozar</i> Milovan Vitezović, directed by Jug Radivojević, Srpsko Narodno pozorište, Novi Sad; <i>Briljantin</i> Warren Casey, Jim Jacobs, directed by Jug Radivojević, Ljubljana Slovenija; <i>Zašto je poludeo gospodin R.?</i> Rainer Werner Fassbinder, directed by Bobo Jelčić, Jugoslovensko dramsko pozorište
2017	<i>Ljudožerci</i> Gregor Strniša, directed by Ivica Buljan, SNG Maribor; <i>Fantom iz opere</i> Andrew Lloyd Webber, directed by Jug Radivojević, Pozorište na Terazijama; <i>Kos</i> , David Harrower, directed by Miki Manojlović, Radionica integracije, Beograd; <i>Ciganin ali najljepši</i> , Kristian Novak, directed by Ivica Buljan, Hrvatsko narodno kazalište Zagreb
2016	<i>Pijani</i> Ivan Viripaev, directed by Boris Liješević, Atelje 212; <i>Hotel Slobodan promet</i> George Feydeau, directed by Bori Liješević, Jugoslovensko dramsko pozorište; <i>Tri zime</i> Tena Štivičić, directed by Ivica Buljan, Hrvatsko narodno kazalište, Zagreb
2015	<i>Mamma Mia</i> Benny Andersson Björn Ulvaeus, directed by Jug Radivojević, Pozorište na Terazijama; <i>Elementarne čestice</i> Michel Houellebecq, directed by Ivica Buljan, Dubrovačke ljetne igre; <i>Jugoslavija moja dežela</i> Goran Vojnović, directed by Ivica Buljan, SNG Ljubljana
2014	<i>Ana Karenjina</i> Lav Tolstoj, directed by Jug Radivojević, Madlenijanum; <i>Naši sinovi</i> Vojislav Jovanović Marambo, directed by Tanja Mandić Rigonat, Narodno pozorište u Beogradu; <i>Striček Vanja</i> Anton Čehov, directed by Ivica Buljan, SSG Trieste; <i>Vučjak</i> Miroslav Krleža, directed by Ivica Buljan, Hrvatsko narodno kazalište Zagreb
2013	<i>Konstantin</i> Dejan Stojiljković, directed by Jug Radivojević, Narodno pozorište u Beogradu; <i>Še vedno vihar</i> Peter Handke, directed by Ivica Buljan, SNG Ljubljana
2012	<i>Adio Kauboju</i> Olja Savičević Ivančević, directed by Ivica Buljan, Splitski ljetni festival

Collaboration with prestigious European theaters and cultural institutions (2012 – present)

2024	Heldenplatz Thomas Bernhard directed by Frank Castorf, Burgtheater Wie
2023	Boris Godunow Modest P. Mussorgsky, directed by Frank Castorf, Hamburgische Staatsoper; Medea , directed by Frank Castorf, Epidauros Festival; Angeli v Ameriki Tony Kushner, directed by Ivica Buljan, Mini Teater Ljubljana; Jutranja zvezda Karl Ove Knausgård,directed by Ivica Buljan,SNG Drama Ljubljana; Red Water Jurica Pavičić directed by Ivica Buljan HNK Split; Roberto Zucco Bernard-Marie Koltès ,directed by Ivica Buljan, Det Norske Teatret, Oslo
2022	Schwarzes Meer , directed by Frank Castorf, Landestheater St. Pölten; Wallenstein , directed by Frank Castorf, Staatsschauspiel Dresden; Kdo se boji Virginie Woolf? Edward Albee, directed by Ivica Buljan, Mini Teater Ljubljana; Božanstvena komedija Dante Aligijeri, directed by Frank Castorf,BDP Beograd
2021	Fabian Erich Kästner, directed by Frank Castorf, Berliner Ensemble; Vsi ptice Wajdi Mouawad, directed by Ivica Buljan, Mini teatar Ljubljana; Faust Charles Gounod, conductor Bertrand de Billy, directed by Frank Castorf, Wiener Staatsoper; Lärm. Blindes Sehen. Blinde sehen! Elfride Jelinek, Directed by Frank Castorf, Akdemietheater Wien; Zdenek Adamec Peter Handke, directed by Frank Castorf, Burgtheater Wien; Der Geheimagent Joseph Conrad, directed by Frank Castorf, Deutsches SchauSpielHaus Hamburg 2022 Molière – Ich bin ein Dämon, Fleisch geworden und als Mensch verkleidet , directed by Frank Castorf, Schauspiele Koeln
2020	Bestialitetens historie Jens Bjørneboe,directed by Ivica Buljan, Det Norske Teatret Oslo; Molto Agitato György Ligeti/Johannes Brahms/Georg Friedrich Händel/Kurt Weill, conductor Kent Nagano, directed by Frank Castorf, Staatsoper Hamburg; Die Vögel Walter Braunfels, conductor Ingo Metzmacher, directed by Frank Castorf, Bayerische Staatsoper München; “Vererben der Wut” Oder John Heartfield erfindet das epische Theater Rückblick und Nachwirkungen, Online-Projekt der Sektion Darstellende Kunst/Akademie der Künste, Berlin
2019	Galileo Galilei-Das Theater und die Pest Bertolt Brecht, directed by Frank Castorf, Berliner Ensemble; Bajazet Racine/Artaud, directed by Frank Castorf , Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne; Justiz Friedrich Dürrenmatt, directed by Frank Castorf, Schauspiele Zürich; La forza del destino Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Frank Castorf, Deutsche Oper Berlin; Faust J.W.Goethe, directed by Martin Kušej, Burgtheater Wien
2018	Der haarige Affe Eugene O'Neill, directed by Frank Castorf, Deutsches SchauSpielHaus Hamburg; Der Balkon Jean Genet, directed by Ivica Buljan, Residenztheater München; Aus einem Totenhaus Leoš Janáček, conductor Simone Young,directed by Frank Castorf, Bayerische Staatsoper München; Don Juan Molière, directed by Frank Castorf, Residenztheater München; Hunger Knut Hamsun, directed by Frank Castorf, Salzburger Festspiele; Ein grüner Junge Fjodor Dostojewski, directed by Frank Castorf, Schauspiele Koeln
2017	Faust J.W.Goethe, directed by Frank Castorf, Volksbühne Berlin; Die fremde Frau und der Mann unter dem Bet Fjodor Dostojewski, directed by Frank Castorf, Schauspielehaus Zürich; Eines langen Tages Reise in die Nacht Eugene O'Neill Schauspiel Stuttgart, directed by Armin Petras; Les Misérables Victor Hugo, directed by Frank Castorf, Berliner Ensemble
2016	Die Abenteuer des guten Soldaten Švejk im Weltkrieg Jaroslav Hašek, directed by Frank Castorf, Residenztheater München; Der Schweinestall Pier Paolo Pasolini, directed by Ivica Buljan, Residenztheater München; Die Kabale der Scheinheiligen. Das Leben des Herrn de Molière Mihail Bulgakov, directed by Frank Castorf, Volksbühne Berlin; Faust Charles Gounod, conductor Bertrand de Billy, directed by Frank Castorf, Wiener Staatsoper

2015	Gemetzel Albert Ostermaier directed by Thomas Schadt, Nibelungenfestspiele Worms; Pastor Ephraim Magnus Hans Henny Jahnn, directed by Frank Castorf, Deutsches SchauSpielHaus Hamburg; Baal Bertolt Brecht, directed by Frank Castorf, Residenztheater München; Tschewengur Andrej Platonov, directed by Frank Castorf, Staatstheater Stuttgart
2014	Faust J.W.Goethe , directed by Martin Kušej, Burgtheater Wien
2013	Das Duell Anton Čehov, directed by Frank Castorf, Volksbühne Berlin; Das Rheingold - Der Ring des Nibelungen Richard Wagner, conductor Kiril Petrenko directed by Frank Castorf, Bayreuther Festspiele; Die Walküre - Der Ring des Nibelungen Richard Wagner, conductor Kiril Petrenko directed by Frank Castorf, Bayreuther Festspiele; Siegfried - Der Ring des Nibelungen Richard Wagner, conductor Kiril Petrenko directed by Frank Castorf, Bayreuther Festspiele; Götterdämmerung – Der Ring des Nibelungen Richard Wagner, conductor Kiril Petrenko directed by Frank Castorf, Bayreuther Festspiele; Reise ans Ende der Nacht Louis-Ferdinand Céline, directed by Frank Castorf, Residenztheater München
2012	La Dame aux Camélias Alexandre Dumas, directed by Frank Castorf, Théâtre de l’Odéon, Paris; Amerika Franc Kafka, directed by Frank Castorf, Schauspielehaus Zürich

Theater direction

2008	Atlas Anja Djordjević, Yugoslav Drama Theatre, Belgrade
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Selected exhibiting activities

2024	Exposition Coloniale, 60th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Pavilion of Serbia.
2022	Exhibition Poetics of the Real. German avant-garde stage design 1989-2019, Madrid; Decade, Belgrade, Bioskop Balkan, Saša Marčeta Foundation
2019	Exhibition Aleksandar Denić, the world builder: photos of his stage sets, Deutsche Oper Berlin
2004	Exhibition True Lies, Ludwig Museum, Budapest
1990	Exhibition Iz života veverica, SKC, Belgrade
1987	Exhibition To Frizure, SKC, Belgrade

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