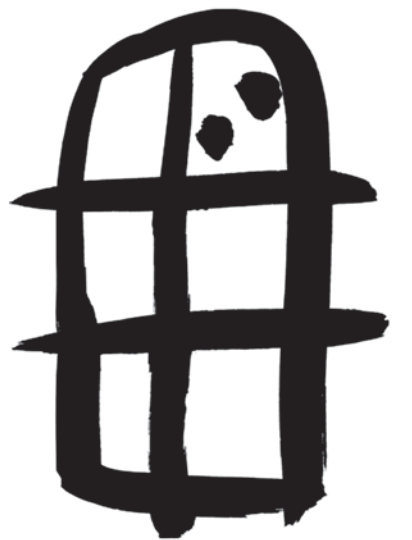
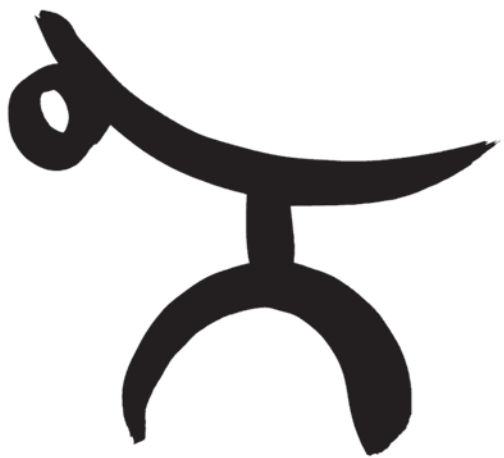
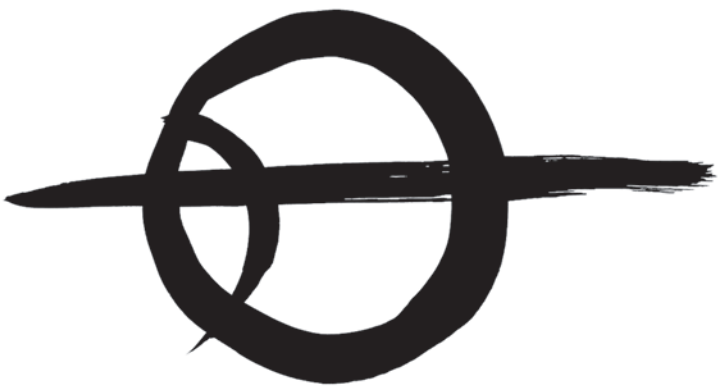


Ironworks ABC



We,
atoms
liberating electrons
interlacing ourselves
in molten
iron.

You,
workers
and artists,
made the carbon
glow,
reducing
us,

to the
beginning
of a new
transformation!

Željezari!

the germs
of change
spread!

*With cylinders and hammers,
with cunning and imagination,
you,
workers and artists,
shape us into the dangerous
germs of change!*

We,

sculptures,

formed through the process
of emancipated labor

of workers and artists,

in the altering motion

of matter and mind,

we stand as iron-wrought

evidence of the possible.

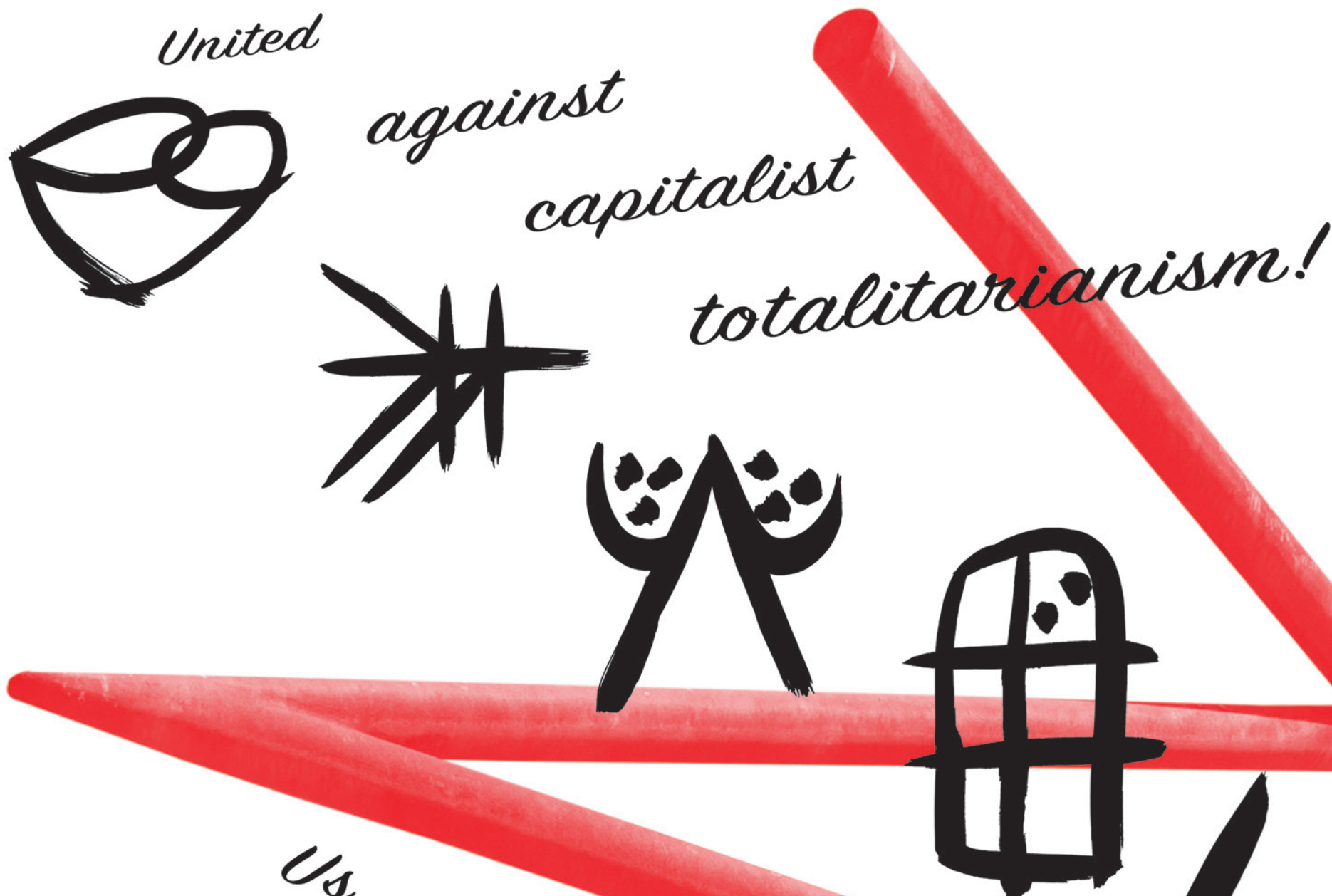
!

AMZ

United despite

fragmentation and

precariousness of work!



Us.
steel pipes.
you,
artists and workers.
unexpectedly
delivered
from a predetermined form.
More importantly,
you have moved us beyond the control,
of profit-driven motives.

We,
molded sheets,
are witnesses to
the *incomplete* struggle
for the dignity of work
and self-determination.



For the socialization and valuation
of reproductive work!

You,
workers,
abandoned
self-management.
Your future
is left to the
managers of privatisation.
The furnaces have melted,
disappointment
flowed to the
workplace.

We are not allowing
the future to be woven by war profiteers!
For the audit of every privatization!



Us ,
steel pipes,
through whose cavity
flew deadly bullets,
have you ,
workers,
converted
to irrigation
fields and cities.

Let's defend the fruit
of collective labor!

Umroć!

Let's fuel the transformation

Željeza!

with the class consciousness of iron ore!

We,
iron ore
from the deep Bosnian
mountains, make a pact
with workers and artists.
We do not serve
the war on the poor.
let's sabotage the
reinforcement of palaces
for the 1%!



*We,
sculptures,
created
by workers and artists,
from the joyful awareness
of the possibility
of liberated work,
exercise
a militant
optimism.*

For a strong optimism without sentimentality!

h w n e !

on the principle of the objective hope of matter.

We ,
sculptures of semi-finished metal,
are much more
than mirrors of conditions.
We stand here,
despite war and robbery.

Us,
displaced atoms,
through the heat,
push dreams forward,
in the refreshing cold reality.
If you are realistic,
we can progress
from theory to practice.
Speculation about
bankruptcy
is not realistic.

We demand
the cancellation of debt!



The content of the act of hope, as consciously elucidated with knowledgeable interpretation, is a positive utopian function; the historical content of hope, primarily represented in ideas, investigated exhaustively in real courts, is human culture referring to its concrete-utopic horizon.
Ernst Bloch, The Principle of Hope

Ironworks ABC proceeds from the form, spatial points, and status of existing sculptures that were produced in the Ironworks Sisak art colony from 1971-1990. A former giant that employed 14,000 workers, Ironworks Sisak was practically destroyed by war and privatization. The sculptures were created in the colony as the result of a collective process of production between artists and workers, and they continue to stand as witnesses to the era of self-management and creation in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The majority of the sculptures have survived in a park in the Caprag neighborhood, despite the fact they would normally be destroyed. Such is the attitude toward the heritage of socialist monuments in the Republic of Croatia.

Ironworks ABC deals with the language of social transformation, which references the recent past of collective work between workers and artists. It is conceived as a kind of alphabet for thinking work as liberated practice and struggle for creation. Ironworks ABC is composed of banners in the public space, intended for the neighborhood of Caprag, and text-based graphics pages in the form of newspapers, in which matter itself appeals to us: iron ore, pipes, sheets, steel, and sculptures.

Because the artistic work lies in the creative collaboration of artists and workers and not in the extant form of the sculptures, this project is interested in the history of production, presenting transformative speech through language and symbols. It is not a question of affirming the sculptures as objects which are in need of protection from deterioration, but rather the revalorization of the relations at the core of the creative process. Ironworks ABC aims to speak about those relations as art, locating the symbols and language with which this is possible.

Rena Rädle and Vladan Jeremić

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galerija miroslav kraljević
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Ironworks ABC

