CHRONOLOGICAL BIOGRAPHY

URŠA ŠTRUKELJ
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In brief

Artist, designer, dancer and mentor connecting visual art, sustainable design, dance and creative education through an ecological perspective.

Her practice explores the transformation of materials, clothes and spaces and ways of living in balance with nature. She co-founded the cultural and ecological association Smetumet and subsequently founded DILIGHT, the Association for a Conscious Culture of Living, where ecological awareness, aerial silk dance, clothing transformation and creative education come together.

Education and professional development

1990—1994
Attended the painting school of Zmago Modic, Ljubljana.

1994
Completed the Secondary School of Design and Photography, industrial design.

2002
Degree in Philosophy and Sociology of Culture at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, with a focus on aesthetics and film sociology.

2005—2011
Self-employed cultural worker registered with the Ministry of Culture as a multimedia artist.

2006—2014
Co-founder of KED Smetumet; conceptual and creative director of its projects in 2007—2014.

2017—present
Founded DILIGHT, the Association for a Conscious Culture of Living; conceptual and creative direction of projects and their implementation.

Visual art and design

1994 · The Diary of Miha Zgaga
Book illustrations.

1994 · Šentvid Kindergarten
Designed the complete visual identity, Ljubljana.

1999 · Collage Exhibition
Exhibited collages at Casablanca Gallery, Ljubljana.

1999—2006 · Art Market
Presented one-of-a-kind design works at the Art Market, Ljubljana.

2001 · Collages and Mosaics
Solo exhibition at Ljubljana Castle Gallery.

2001 · With Pleasure
Participation in an international multimedia fashion project and exhibition of glass poetry at Kresija Gallery, Ljubljana.

2001 · Dance Across Borders
Exhibition of translucent images and candleholders at the festival in Gothenburg, Sweden.

2002 · A Delicate Contrast
Light installation of translucent images, candleholders, textile artworks and photographs at KUD France Prešeren Gallery, Ljubljana, with photographer Jernej Valenčič.

2002 · International Painting Ex Tempore
Exhibition and third prize, Izola.

2002 · Ljubljana Souvenir
Received the Ljubljana Souvenir mark for two unique products.

2003 · Touch of Dutch
Set design for a festival performance at Salon, Ljubljana, with Valentina Čabro (spelled 'Touch of Dautch' in the source).

2006 · Tango Fashion Show
Presentation of clothing collections at Bernardin, with the Labod fashion brand.

2006 · Fly, Fly… Ljubljanica
Visual installation in Ljubljana, in collaboration with Prostorož.

2007 · A Taste of Red
Solo exhibition of translucent textiles, curtains and jewellery, Lična hiša Gallery, Ajdovščina.

2008 · A Book Come to Life
Set design for the main stage of the Living Literature festival, Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

2008 · Meet in Front of Škuc
Set design for the festival main stage, Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

2008 · Flying Little Books
Spatial installation at the Azil Bookshop, Ljubljana.

2009 · A Book Come to Life

Main-stage design for the Living Literature festival, Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

2009 · Say Light!
Group exhibition of recycled lamps at the Lighting Guerrilla festival, Vžigalica Gallery, Ljubljana, Kranj and Belgrade.

2009 · Second Biennial of Slovenian Independent Illustration
Participating artist, Ljubljana.

2009 · Brands & Signs Design Expo
Exhibited during the Month of Design.

2021 · Live
Multimedia project and exhibition of visual poetry and oil paintings, with an aerial silk performance at Lična hiša Gallery, Ajdovščina, with Ronja Štrukelj Kreč.

2024 · Christmas Gathering
Designer at a fashion show presenting upcycled clothing collections, Žalec.

2025 · Circular Fashion Show
Presented collections of transformed clothing in Postojna, as part of Green Tex at the Dragon Youth Festival.

Dance and aerial art

1995 · Fragments
Performer in a dance production with Juliette Bonarius, Ljubljana.

1996 · When We Had Not Yet Lied, At Least Not So Much
Performer in a dance and movement work by Branko Potočan, presented in Hrastnik, Ljubljana, at Exodos, the Primorski Summer Festival and in Sarajevo.

1998 · G.U.I.D.
Performer in a multimedia production with Valentina Čabro, Ljubljana and Kranj.

2000 · White Noise of Stories
Performer in a dance work with Gregor Kamnikar, Ljubljana.

2001 · Because I Missed the Colours
Co-author, scenographer, poet and performer, with Valentina Čabro; Dance Across Borders, Gothenburg, and Ljubljana Dance Theatre.

2004 · Wings in Flight
Co-author and aerial silk performer in a movement and visual installation by Trupa Aduta with textile installations and an aerial stage, Zvezda Park, Ljubljana, and Ana Desetnica. Third audience prize and student Prešeren Award for scenography.

2005 · Golden Pear

Aerial movement and visual performance with Trupa Aduta at Ana Desetnica, Ljubljana.

2008 · Opening of Tartini Square
Opening aerial silk performance with Trupa Aduta, Piran.

2008 · Opening of Technopolis Celje
Opening aerial silk performance with Trupa Aduta, Celje.

2009 · Echoes
Multimedia performance by Neven Korda, Ljubljana.

2010 · Galerie Gmurzynska Exhibition Opening
Aerial performance at Galerie Gmurzynska, St. Moritz, Switzerland.

2011 · Festival in Jordan
Led workshops in Jordan.

2011 · Festival in Lapland
Led workshops in Lapland.

2012 · Fire Brigade Anniversary
Performance at an anniversary celebration, Kino Šiška, Ljubljana.

2015 · Midsummer Night
Performance at the event in Bohinj.

2015—2026 · Medieval Day at Rajhenburg Castle
Performance at Rajhenburg Castle, Brestanica.

2016 · Ford Presentation
Performance at PCL, Ljubljana.

2016 · PCL First Birthday
Celebration performance at PCL, Ljubljana.

2017 · TPV Opening
Opening performance.

2017 · Wine Festival
Performance at the event.

2017 · Thermana Laško Anniversary
Celebration performance, Laško.

2018 · Triglav Insurance
Performance at a celebration at Ljubljana Castle.

2019 · Youth Day
Performance in Ormož.

Professional development

Contemporary dance, dance and choreography workshops in Slovenia and abroad, including work with Krishna Lee Hanks, Mark Tompkinson and Jordi Cortes.

Cultural and Ecological Association Smetumet

2006—2014
Co-founder of KED Smetumet and conceptual and creative leader of projects in 2007—2014. Co-developed the manifesto connecting art and ecology, sustainable collections from waste, exhibitions, workshops, awareness events, public interventions and ecological activities.

2006 · Giving from the Heart
Conceived and led jewellery workshops, Ljubljana City Museum.

2007 · Eco Day
Conceived and led workshops and an exhibition of children's work, Šentvid Kindergarten, Ljubljana.

2007 · Ana Desetnica Festival
Conceived and led creative workshops at Zvezda Park, Ljubljana.

2007 · Disposable Packaging, Lasting Value
Group exhibition of recycled art and design objects by Smetumet at Meet in Front of Škuc, Škuc Gallery and Tri Muhe store, Ljubljana.

2007 · Workshops Accompanying Disposable Packaging, Lasting Value
Conceived and led Smetumet workshops at Meet in Front of Škuc, Ljubljana.

2008 · Festival of Creativity and Innovation
Conceived and led workshops at the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre.

2008 · Play with Me
Conceived and led workshops at Zvezda Park, Ljubljana.

2008 · A Book Come to Life / Living Literature Festival
Conceived and led workshops at Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

2008 · Meet in Front of Škuc
Led workshops at Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

2008 · Waste Swap
Group sales exhibition of recycled art and design works at Meet in Front of Škuc, Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana.

2008 · Library Under the Treetops
Conceived and led workshops in Tivoli Park, Ljubljana.

2008 · Worn Seven Times
Conceived and led clothing transformation workshops, Monokel, Ljubljana.

2008 · Guerrilla Experiments
Conceived and led a workshop at the Open Doors and Minds festival, Ljubljana streets.

2008 · Frockarije
Conceived and led workshops in the ZRC SAZU courtyard, Ljubljana.

2008 · Prostorož Festival

Conceived and led workshops at children's playgrounds, Ljubljana.

2008 · Creativity Squared
Creative workshops at Škuc Gallery and Oton Župančič Library, Ljubljana.

2009 · World/Waste & Dump/Sanctuary
Group spatial installation of recycled objects by Smetumet, glass atrium of Ljubljana City Hall.

2009 · Coffee, Anyone?
Group exhibition of shopping bags, handbags, backpacks and wallets made from coffee packaging, Bi-Ko-Fe, Ljubljana.

2009 · Ode to Life
Public intervention with Smetumet, Ljubljana streets.

2009 · Healthy School Day
Led creative workshops at Šentvid Grammar School, Ljubljana.

2009 · Me Too
Participated in a travelling interactive exhibition of recycled clothing and shoes, with workshops at its opening events across Slovenia.

2009 · Green Day
Conceived and led a workshop at Centre Evropa, Ljubljana.

2009 · Young Lions
Co-creation of public space with Prostorož, Ljubljana.

2009 · Worn Seven Times
Conceived and led workshops, Monokel, Ljubljana.

2009 · Choose, Browse and Collect: Words, Waste and Books!
Smetumet exhibition in the window of Konzorcij Bookshop and accompanying workshops, Ljubljana.

2010 · 3RE
Fashion show and presentation of recycled clothing and accessories, Ljubljana, with the Clean Up Slovenia initiative.

2011 · European Parliament Exhibition
Business gifts made from waste originating at the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium.

2012 · European Parliament Exhibition
Second display of business gifts made from the European Parliament's waste, Brussels, Belgium.

2012 · Ljubljana Marshes — My Inspiration
Conceived and led creative workshops in the Ljubljana Marshes with Prostorož.

2007—2014 · Youth Centres in Bežigrad, Zalog and Šiška
Led creative and design workshops.

And at many other festivals and events.

DILIGHT — Association for a Conscious Culture of Living

2017—2026
Developed regular and individual aerial silk classes for children, teenagers and adults; Clothing Transformation workshops; and multi-day programmes connecting movement, creativity, sustainability, nature and self-sufficiency.

Organised aerial silk performances and workshops at Medieval Day in Lemberg, Popi's Birthday in Postojna, the Children's Festival in Ljubljana, Argonaut Days in Vrhnika, Athlete of the Year events in Krško and Domžale, Sports Evening in Medvode, Changemakers in Ljubljana and other celebrations.

2020—2024 · Regular Aerial Silk Classes
Led classes at Waldorf School Ljubljana.

2020—2024 · Regular Aerial Silk Classes
Led classes at Partizan Medvode and Medvode Sports Hall.

2018—2024 · Celebration on Silks
Organised and staged 15 end-of-school-year performances by workshop participants in Ljubljana and Medvode.

2020—2026 · Scented Aerial Holidays
Multi-day children's holiday programme combining aerial silk, creative workshops and environmental awareness.

2020—2023 · Present Body
Led dance, movement and voice workshops.

2021 · Scented Aerial Retreat
Five-day women's retreat in the Karst, with creative, dance and movement workshops and integrating experiences through art.

2022—2023 · Touch of Stories
Led creative women's circles, art workshops and movement processes.

2023—2026 · Scented Aerial Getaway
Multi-day holiday programme for teenagers with aerial silk, creative workshops and environmental themes.

2025—2026 · Clothing Swaps and Transformation Workshops, Ig
Organised events and led creative clothing transformation workshops at Ig Cultural Centre, with the Municipality of Ig.

2026—2027 · Clothing Transformation / MAKE-A-THEK
Monthly clothing swaps, upcycling workshops and circular fashion show at Kranj City Library, part of MAKE-A-THEK.

2026—2027 · Playing with Nature / MAKE-A-THEK
Original programme introducing children to sustainable practices, Kranj City Library.

2026—2027 · Reuse Festival

Creative clothing transformation workshop at the Reuse Festival in Škofja Loka, with Ecologists Without Borders.

2026—2027 · Regular Aerial Silk Classes
Aerial silk classes for children, teenagers and adults at Waldorf School and Studio Vitkar, Ljubljana.