

Katarina Šević

DLA Dissertation Title: **A Paraphrase of Craft**

DLA Dissertation

DLA Department, Hungarian University of Fine Art, Budapest

Supervisor: Dr. habil. Sugár János DLA

Summary

The main standpoint of my dissertation is to elaborate the interconnectedness of art, design, and society through the prism of craft. The thesis reflects my own artistic interests and practice.

The purpose of the dissertation is to investigate the notion of craft and to locate its shifting presence in our society. The reason for making this the topic of a dissertation lies in my long-standing inquiry into interdisciplinary art activities and role-taking. My interest in the notion of craft arose while trying to identify and name a common denominator, or concept, to challenge post-disciplinary thinking in the contemporary (art)world. The first sources of inspiration and reference go back to the nineteenth-century Arts and Crafts Movement. Reconsidering their work today can reveal insights relevant to the complexity of the contemporary world. The dissertation also reconsiders the traditionally assumed division between making and thinking, manual and non-manual, material and immaterial. I am interested in the ways these dichotomies are implemented in contemporary society, and in art and design. The terminology and general understanding of the notion of craft are also addressed. Craft is frequently exploited to assert and promote traditional values or national identity. Hopefully, viewing society from the standpoint of craft can open up new perspectives.