

International Research Camp “Debeli rtič 2013” Slovenia

UMMI, the Institute of Education Koper, with more than a 20-year tradition of coordinating creative gatherings, is organising a research camp for young people aged 15 to 18 at Debeli rtič, on the seaside between Trieste and Koper, from August 18 through August 23, 2013. The research and creative gatherings will take place in the field, in locations between Trieste (Italy) and Višnjan (Croatia), as well as in workshops fitted with classic and modern technology. The participants in the camp will be staying at the Bor Hotel in the Debeli rtič youth health and summer resort, in Slovenia. <http://www.zdravilisce-debelirtic.org/en/Hotel-Bor-5/>.

Experts from diverse fields will prepare for the participants days of creative activities in two at first glance seemingly distinct fields – natural sciences and arts – which nevertheless together represent the starting point of the work in our programmes and combine art and science activities in original ways. The basis of the former is the rich cultural heritage of the Istrian area and its current artistic production, that of the latter is the sea and the coast with their economic and research activities. Through work, we have been motivating and guiding the youth in dealing with topical issues. By researching and creating they can discover original and well-informed solutions. Their ideas have already yielded concrete results. <http://www.ummi.net/>

The research camp fee is 500 € and covers: accommodation, board, transportation to and from the field, materials, partly the involvement of instructors and 20% VAT.

OUR INSTRUCTORS IN ARTS AND NATURAL SCIENCES INVITE YOU:

Vlado Batista, musician, violinist, composer:

“The sound appears together with the silence. In nature there’s plenty of both.

In nature, the sound is one of the principal factors of survival. At the same time, its function is that of ritual and, in our society, of relaxation and entertainment. In ancient cultures it also represented a connection to the afterlife, especially when accompanied by rhythm.

In the musical workshop, we can create sound images using materials from nature (stone, wood, the human body) and through sounds express our emotions and moods.”

Marjan Krebelj, B.Arch., photographer, designer:

“From the eye onto the paper. Western man has always had the insatiable desire to steal from the ravages of time the images seen before his eyes; whether a beautiful girl, a fantastic landscape or a constructed environment, man has always attempted to preserve the transient beauty by drawing, painting and, more recently, by shooting photographs and videos. But before long artists realised that these tools were useful for much more than just preserving beauty. They can also speak about less pleasant visions, internal or external, and even analyse the space and objects around us in a thoroughly scientific manner. We will do all this at the workshop, where we will mostly sketch and photograph the beautiful but also the problematic spots of the Slovene coast. Our experiencing of the space will be combined with the fields of natural science and music, so that we are able to express the experience of space and time as fully as possible.”

Jurij Jermančič, academically trained painter

“Our work will primarily be oriented towards a free flow of ideas, notions and impressions. The inspiring coastal landscape, old towns, salt pans, the port and the like, will supply plenty of motifs and cues for creative expression and learning about the local characteristics, traditions, customs and peculiarities.”

Iztok Geister, ornithologist, environmentalist, writer:

“How can art further elevate nature, which is, in our eyes, already a work of art? Be it rocks formed by sediments of dead mollusc shells or washed out soil deposits in sea shallows pushed up by the Earth’s tectonic force into limestone drops that stretch from Duino to Trieste (the Duino Cliffs) and flysch rock faces extending from Izola to Piran (the Strunjan Cliffs), which are admired today because of their scenic grandeur, be it the sea salt sucked by the wind from the motherly breasts of the seawater that are gently stroked by sunrays - and this formerly family task can today still be admired in the salt pans (Sečovlje Salt Pans)

as part of our ethnographic heritage - be it halophytic plants, water birds or dragonflies, which animate all these seashores in a cruel interdependence, be it plants or animals that inhabit the sea, paying no attention to the developments on the dry land, but rather living in good faith that they are safe from human vanity, be it a star studded sky pulsing and watching over the dreaming Earth – all this natural diversity of habitats and forms of living organisms people experience as something beautiful.

What is then the purpose of painting, versifying and setting music to nature if no one can paint a leaf more subtly than a tree or talk in more playful rhymes than a dragonfly with its flight or play a bird melody more movingly than a bird sings it on a dewy morning? But still, precisely this subtlety, playfulness and emotion inspire us to paint (or photograph), versify and set to music everything we experience in nature, realising that all this inexhaustible creative drive represents our divine heritage. Only by reproducing nature can we fill the emptiness of our consciousness. Without the ability to create we would lose the spiritual purpose of being.”

Many other experts from the fields of natural sciences and art will accompany you in your work. For more information check the following web sites:

<http://skocjanski-zatok.org/en/>

<http://www.kpss.si/en/the-park/naturehabitats>

<http://www.parkstrunjan.si/index.php?page=static&item=31>

<http://www.astro.hr/index.php>

If this invitation has succeeded in persuading you to join us at this year’s research camp, do let us know by e-mail at marija_ksenija@t-2.net. To the address provided by you (name and surname, e-mail address, age and data on any person accompanying you) you will be forwarded detailed information about the programmes, as the above mentioned contents will be expanded by sports (swimming, diving, archery, climbing, games ...) and entertainment (dancing, events ...). Your applications are expected by the end of the March 2013.

Kind regards,

For UMMI, Institute of Education Koper, Slovenia

Marija Mahne