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### Zagreb Art Donations On-line

#### Summary

Since 1946, 27 art collections have been donated to the City of Zagreb. This unique phenomena has to be stressed as an example of good cultural policy and creative attitude towards cultural heritage management. A brief overview of these donations and its present accessibility will be given.

The collections consist of almost 13,000 items - sculptures, drawings, paintings, objects of arts and crafts. The problem how to make them visible as part of Zagreb art heritage has to be solved by using common database for all range of objects that form donations and delivering information making on-line public access catalogue. The example of Dr Josip Kovačić bequest of paintings by Croatian women painters born in 19<sup>th</sup> century will be presented. At the web address <http://www.donacije.zg.mdc.hr> one can access to all of the artworks donated by Josip Kovačić and make search by the name of artist, techniques and themes. Short biographies of 33 lady painters and the profile of the collector are also available.

This site is a good model how to manage all other donations and accomplish the basic goal - reach wide audience.

Zagreb is not only considered the cultural centre of Croatia due to its status as the capital, but also because of the cultural climate created primarily by its citizens. Even if there have not been noticeably large or important steps in culture taken by the ruling structures of the city, we can see how contributions made by individuals have been leaving their mark on the city for years now. Examples of this kind of phenomenon are gifts of artistic, cultural-historical

and ethnographic collections, family archives and libraries to the city of Zagreb.\* There are few cities in the world to which so much has been given by its citizens with so much affection and love. Donations are to be found everywhere, entrusted to establishments which deal directly with heritage: libraries, museums, archives and institutions.

Apart from that, often the very spaces in which the donors lived are bequeathed, most often buildings with cultural and historical value. In this way, a fine network of small cultural oases is gradually being built, each of which emanates the spirit of the owner, his or her preferences and artistic tastes, passions and affinities.

In the last fifty years, ever since the practice of donations became commonplace, the City of Zagreb has been enriched by 27 collections, of which 6 are of an environmental-memorial nature. Together they comprise about 13,000 objects, or 39,000 including library volumes.\* The city has created a highly defined and established procedure for the receipt of donations, and we can expect that this number will only increase.

Specialists within the City have endeavoured to ensure that all information relating to the issue of donations can be found on the official web pages of the City of Zagreb at [www.zagreb.hr](http://www.zagreb.hr). In the section "Culture", under "The Museums and Galleries" there is detailed information on "The Donation of Art Collections to the City of Zagreb". Apart from a list of donors and a brief description of each donor, information on the cultural policy relating to donorship can be found, along with the procedures for receipt, and information concerning upkeep of donations.\*



## Accessibility of donations

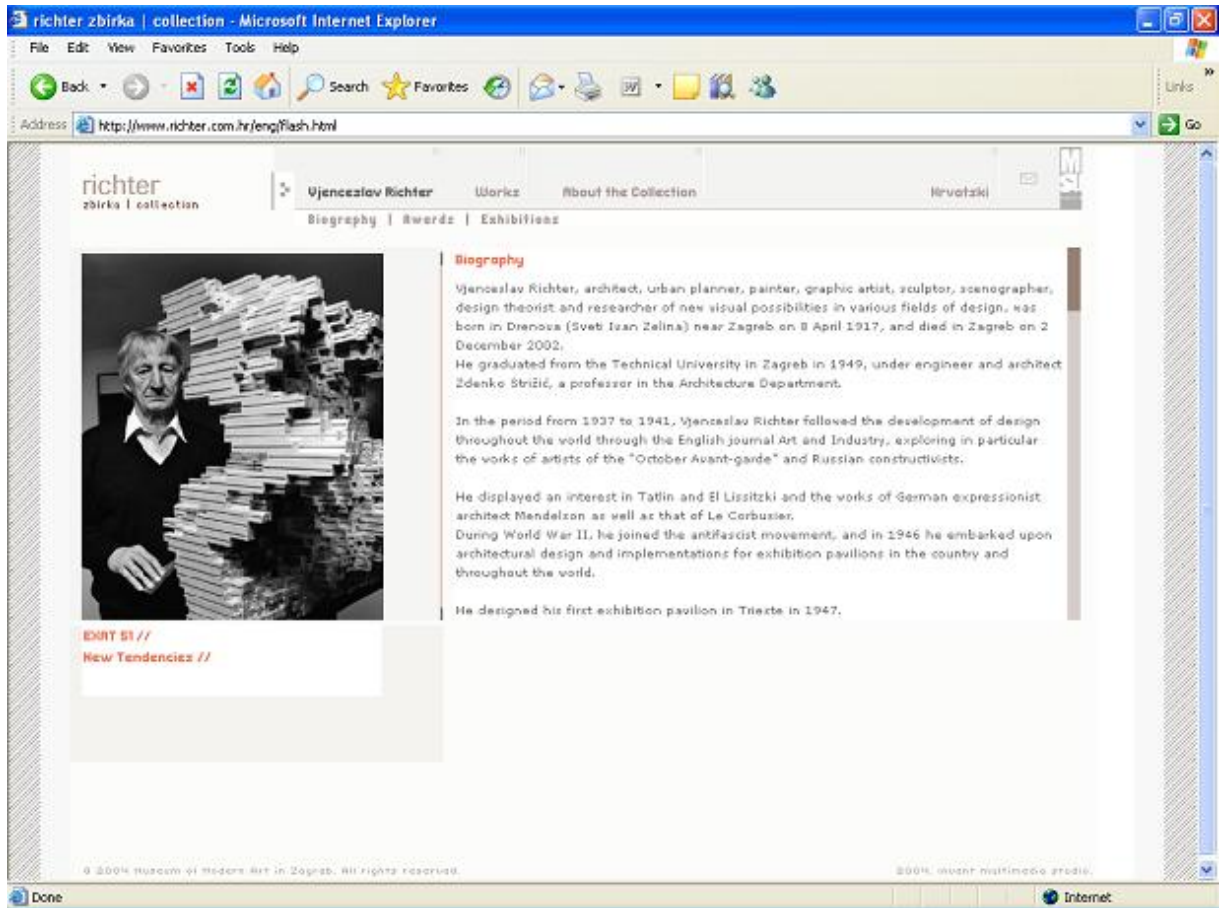
In order for donations to be adequately cared for and protected, and also to ensure that collections are expertly prepared and presented, we look to museums and other heritage institutions as the most competent authorities for collections management, and which are thematically related to hosting exhibitions. Thus, the Museum of the City of Zagreb has received the largest number of donations (7, with two under preparation); followed by the Museum of Arts and Crafts (3 + 1 under preparation); the Ethnographic Museum (1+1), and Klovičevi dvori (1). The Croatian Academy of Arts and Sciences, the School of Music and the Centre for Artistic Education also number as recipients.

The question arises as to how all these institutions carry out one of the functions for which they are responsible, and that is ensuring accessibility to the public.

There are several modes of presentation:

- In situ, i.e. in the original space portraying the story of the collection and the donor. Since most collections and the spaces in which they are to be found are usually in poor condition and are still awaiting cleaning and adaptation to the requirements of visitors, only 5 collections are

open to the public to date. (Richter, Krleža, V. Kovačić, Schneider, Kljaković). However, due to various objective and subjective problems within museums, these collections are only open one day a week for between two and six hours. Analysis has shown that the number of visitors is exceptionally low.



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## ZAGREB MUNICIPAL MUSEUM Zagreb Municipal Museum

General Information	Museum Staff	About the Zagreb City Museum	Library	Photograph Collection
Mind Preservation and Restoration Workshops	Educational Workshop and Platform	Media Room	Occasional Exhibitions	
Publications	Research Projects	The Collection and Flat of the Architect Viktor Križanić	The Miroslav and Rada Kraljica Memorial Collection	


who lived in it for three decades, so be it

- The Villa Rein
- Moving in
- History of conservation and the museological programme
- Entrance porch
- The entrance lobby
- Dining room
- The Loggia
- Bela's small salon
- Bela's bedroom
- Križanić's study
- Križanić's bedroom
- The Museum Administrative Area

(M. Križanić)



**The Villa Rein**



The building at Gvozđ 23 (formerly Tuškanac 6A, Baroness Sofia Jelačić Way 1) was constructed on commission from the banker Adolf Opat and his wife

Behind the double glazed door is Bela's little salon (the yellow salon as it was also called). It would seem that it was originally the "heart of the five-roomed flat", Bela's great "theatre" – a stage with many turns, corners for varied moods, for everyone's taste. We enter a room of mirrors and roses. The room was got up with a lot of love, with memories, linking it with loved people. It served as a general meeting place and as such it had the function of a real resource, backed up as it was by the special meeting place, which was Križanić's study.

Towards the window there is an inlaid Classicist table (about 1800) with views of Venice and on the drawer and the side panels there are drawings of architecture (on the rectangular top there is almost always a large

Internet

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**ZAGREB MUNICIPAL MUSEUM** Zagreb Municipal Museum

General Information	Museum Staff	About the Zagreb City Museum	Library	Photograph Collection
Wood Preservation and Restoration Workshop	Educational Workshop and Platform	Multi-media Room	Occasional Exhibitions	
Publications	Participant Display	The Collection and Flat of the Architect Viktor Kovačić	The Miroslav and Bala Kraljica Memorial Collection	


## The Collection and Flat of the Architect Viktor Kovačić

Masarykova 21, Zagreb, tel. 4855-911  
open Thursdays from 10 to 17

- Hall
- Dining Room
- Room for work and conversation
- Bedroom
- Kitchen
- Viktor Kovačić

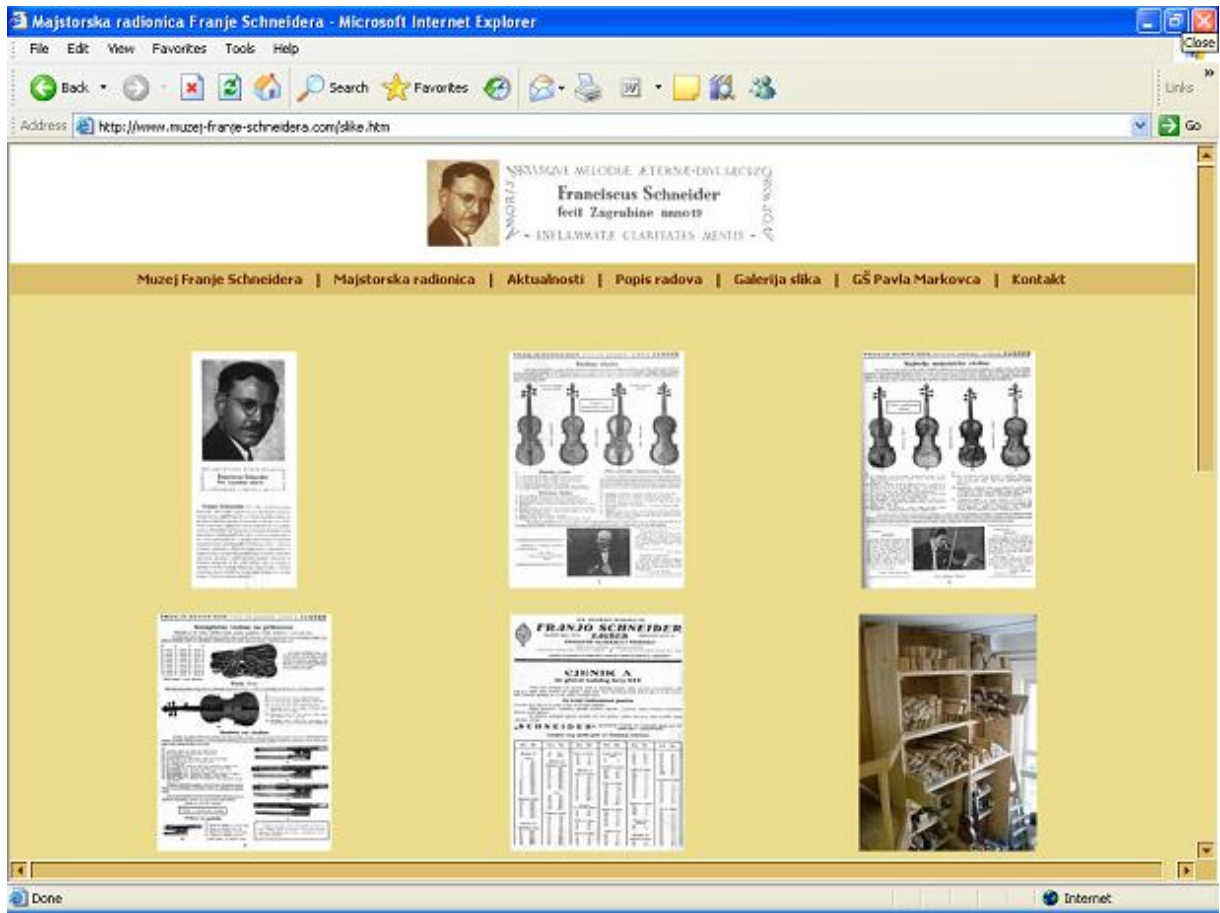
The Collection and Flat of the renowned Croatian architect Viktor Kovačić (1874 – 1924) constitutes a vivid yet easily comprehensible example of the life style of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and mirrors the spirit of the times. One of the very few preserved rarities of its kind, this is the attic flat that Kovačić actually designed for his own residence. Thanks to Mrs Terezija Kovačić (1891 – 1966), who, revering her husband's work and taking care of his memorial, kept the ambience intact after Viktor's death, the flat has been completely preserved in its original shape. Donating the flat and its inventory to the city of Zagreb in 1953, Mrs Kovačić wanted it to house a memorial collection to make the work of Viktor Kovačić and the atmosphere of his times more accessible to the coming generations.

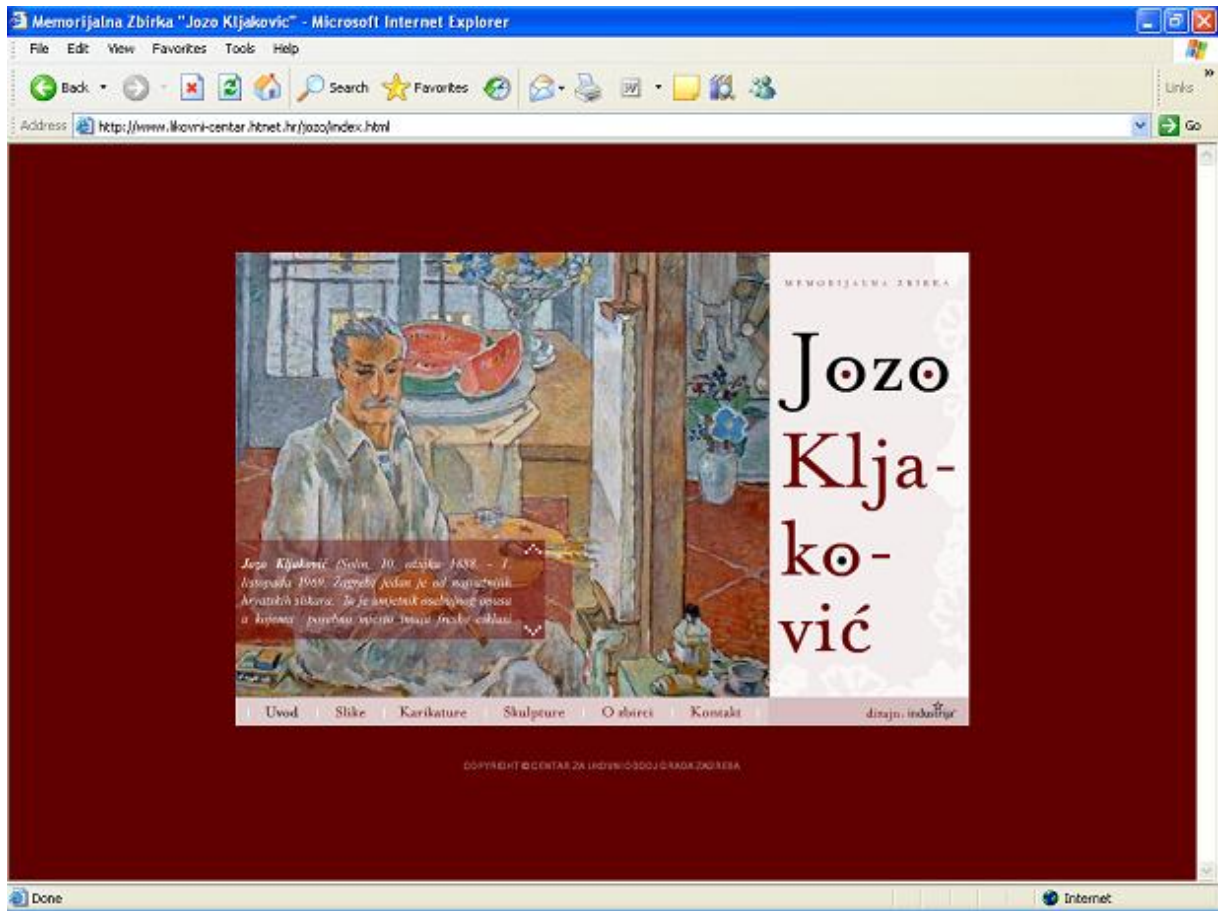
### Bedroom



This, the lightest room in the flat, faces south. It is furnished in the Biedermeier style. In the centre of the room is a large bed, and opposite it a wardrobe. By the bed is a small table on slender legs. Near the window is an oval dressing table with an oval mirror, and next to it an oval sewing table. There is also a Biedermeier four-drawer commode, the upper drawer, in which some smaller drawers decorated with drawings are fitted, can be turned into a writing top. On top of the

Internet





- As part of the permanent exhibition of a museum, where the collection is presented either as a unit (here, the donor can be fully acknowledged); or distributed within other collections, depending on the concept of the museum (in this case the name of the donor appears only on the object's description card).



Microsoft Internet Explorer window showing the website for the Zagreb Municipal Museum. The address bar displays <http://www.mdc.hr/mgz/eng/fs-olovr-eng.html>.

The website header includes the text "ZAGREB MUNICIPAL MUSEUM" and "Zagreb Municipal Museum".

The left sidebar contains a list of 26 numbered items:

24. Magnates at Gradec
25. Parks and Walks
26. Life in the Lower Town
27. The Time of the Croatian National Revival
28. Ban Josip Jelačić
29. From the Homes of Zagreb People during the Biedermeier Period
30. Civic Societies and Clubs
31. The Foundations of the Modern City
32. Ilica becomes the main commercial street
33. From the Photographic Studio
34. The Lower Town
35. Theatre life
36. Public Utilities
37. Life in Associations
38. Sensations: from the beginning of the 20th century
39. Echoes from the battlefield
40. House and life
41. The Second World War
42. In the socialist reality
43. The Zagreb's school of the animated film
44. Zagreb in Independent Croatia
45. Echoes of events in Zagreb
46. The Study of Ivan pl. Zalc
47. August Senec
48. Tilla Durioux
49. The Collection of Mechanical Musical Automata of Ivan Gerardorfer
50. Dr. Ante Rodin's Collection of Old Packaging

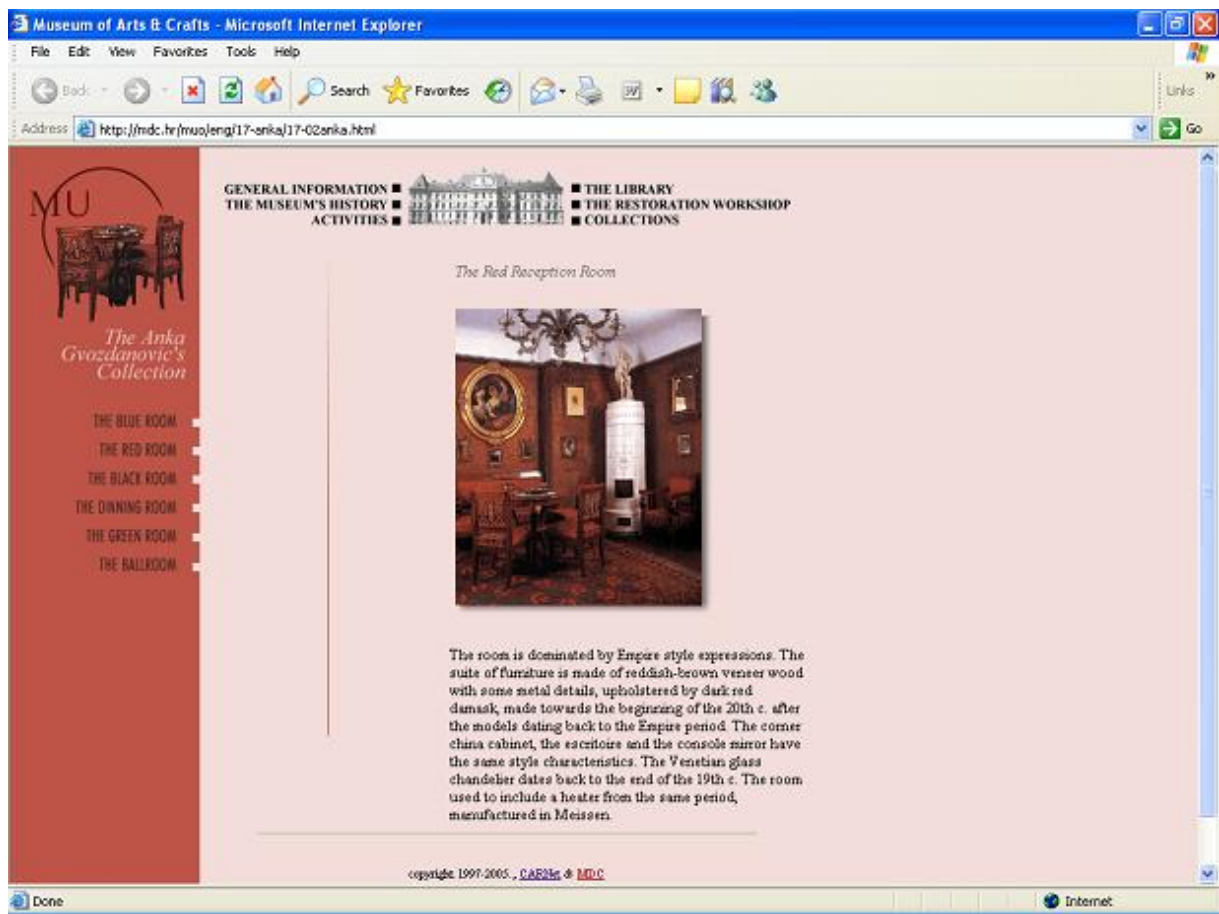
The main content area features a photograph of a museum gallery. To the right of the image is a red sidebar with the following text:

**48.**

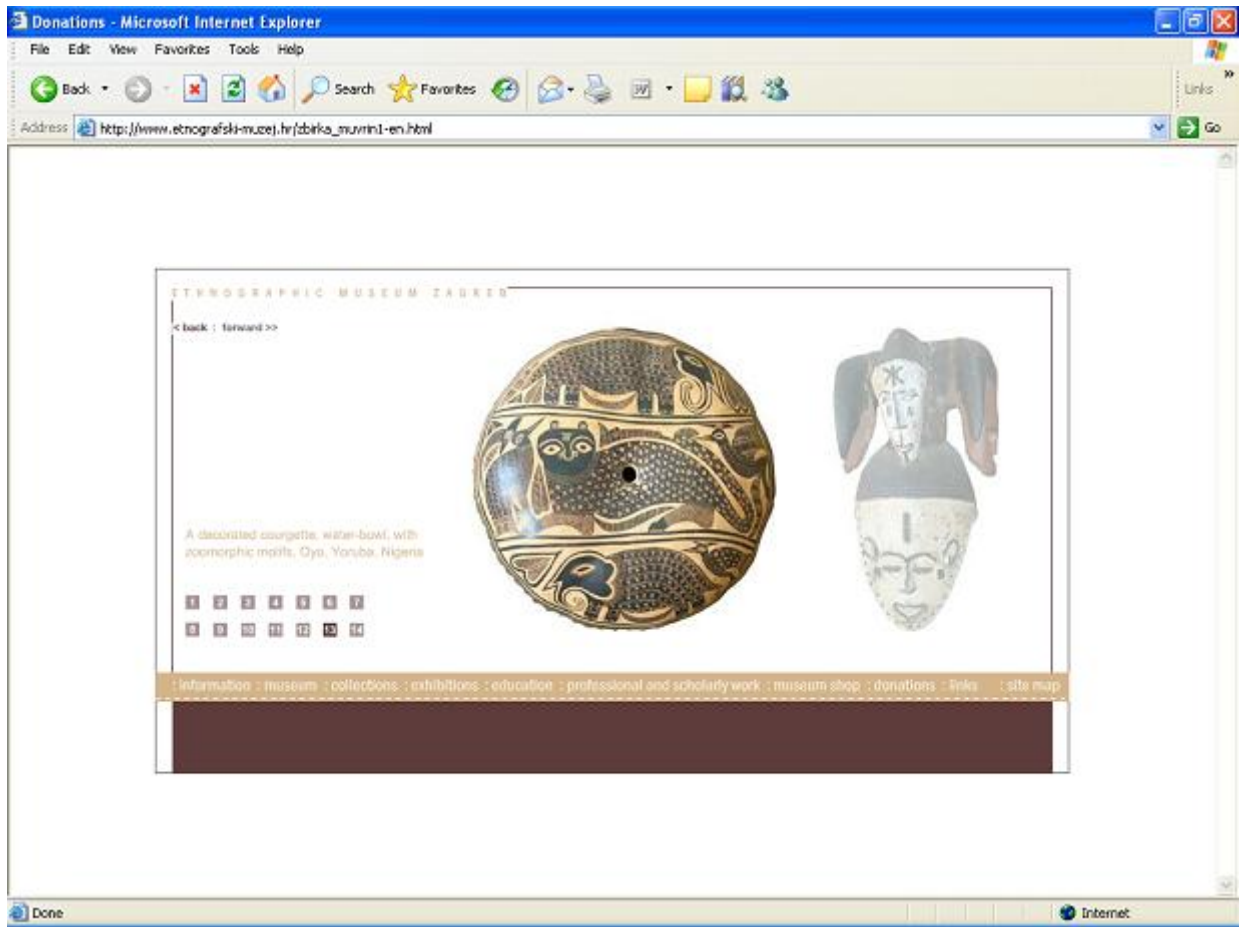
**Tilla Durioux**

Experience of a century:  
Tilla Durioux (born Ottilia Godetroy, 1880-1971) was one of the most important figures in the acting world of Germany. She was a great star of the Berlin theatre of the golden twenties. She belonged to the up-and-down period of the Weimar Republic. For her, the period between 1903 and 1918 was marked by two key figures, Max Reinhardt created her as an actress, and Paul Cassirer brought her into the centre of the most advanced goings-on from the fin de siècle. The second period ended with the Hitler persecutions of 1933. The Zagreb period of 1934 to 1952 brought her refuge, peace and repose before new efforts. In the foyer of the Croatian National Theatre, she met Zlata Lubianski, and from 1938 lived in 27 Jurjevska Street. She returned to Berlin in 1955, devoting herself to acting until the end of her life.

The Donation:  
In 1982, in the Parliament building, Ms. Enka Danhoff signed a deed giving part of the collection to the city of Zagreb. Her words went: My great friend, and artistic mother, T.O. (read your city). She lived



- Virtual presentation. Here it must be emphasised that in almost all cases the objects are presented on the web sites of museums where basic information about donations is also given.



## Initiatives

Considering that the problem of access to donations can at least partly be solved using new information technologies, the Museum Documentation Centre has, in conjunction with the City Office for Culture, begun an internet project entitled “Donations to the City of Zagreb”. The project consists of the creation of a pictorial and textual database of all donated items, the creation of a virtual panorama of the collection and/or space, and a portrait or biography of the author. Databases of museum objects will be searchable by several categories, depending on the specific importance of the object and the possibilities for its contextualisation.

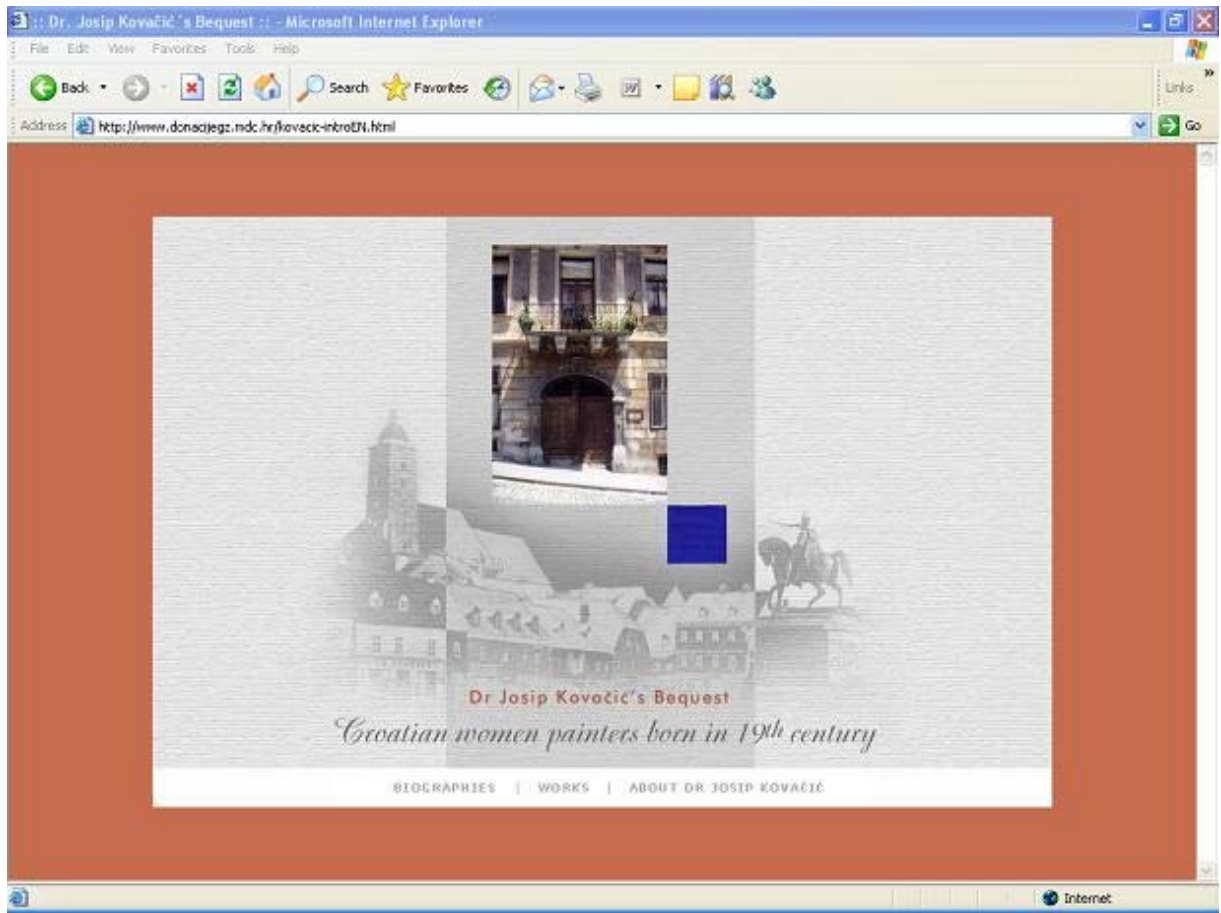
This approach has not only been taken in order to increase use and access, but also makes use of the capabilities of digital media to present even those aspects of items which cannot be allowed by actual museums, most often due to security issues, and sometimes is the only possible means of display.

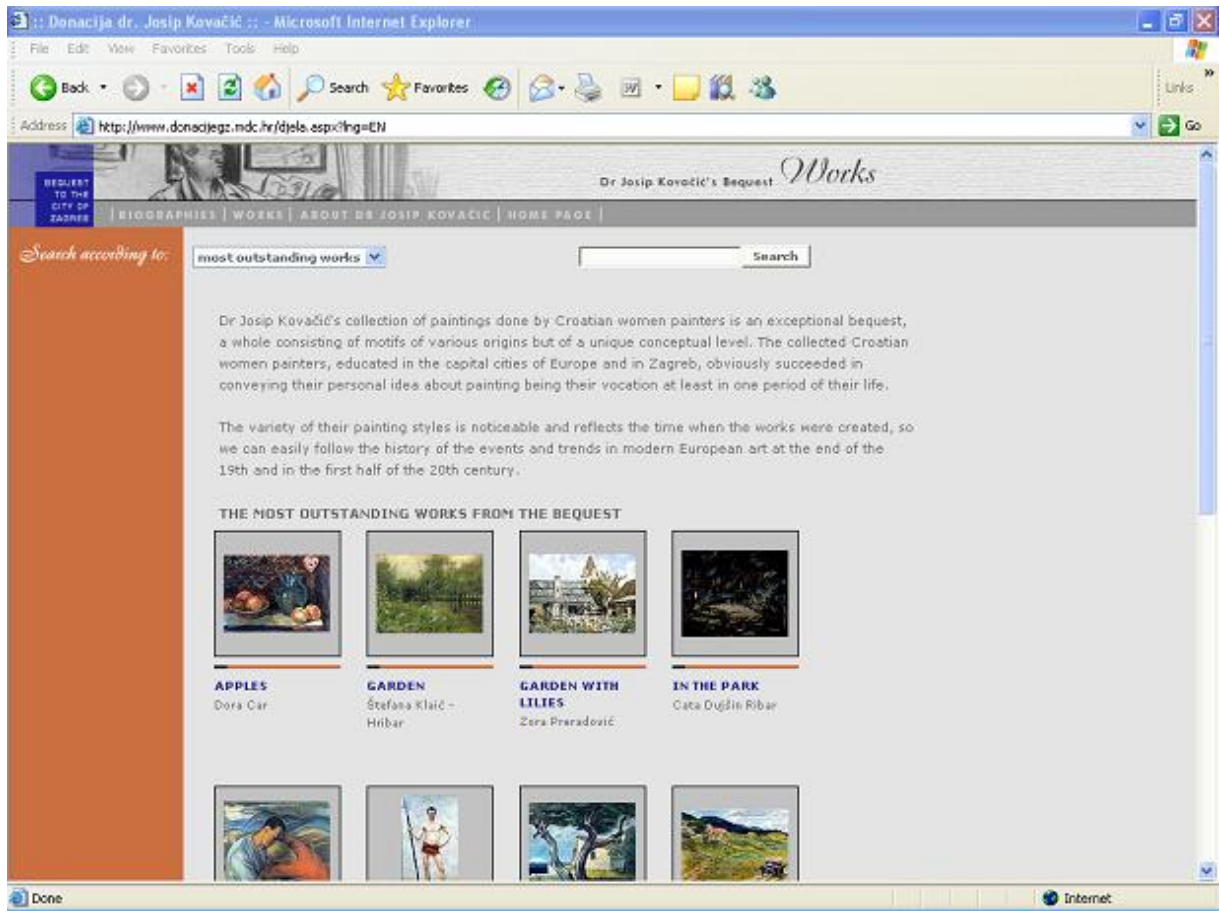
## Example

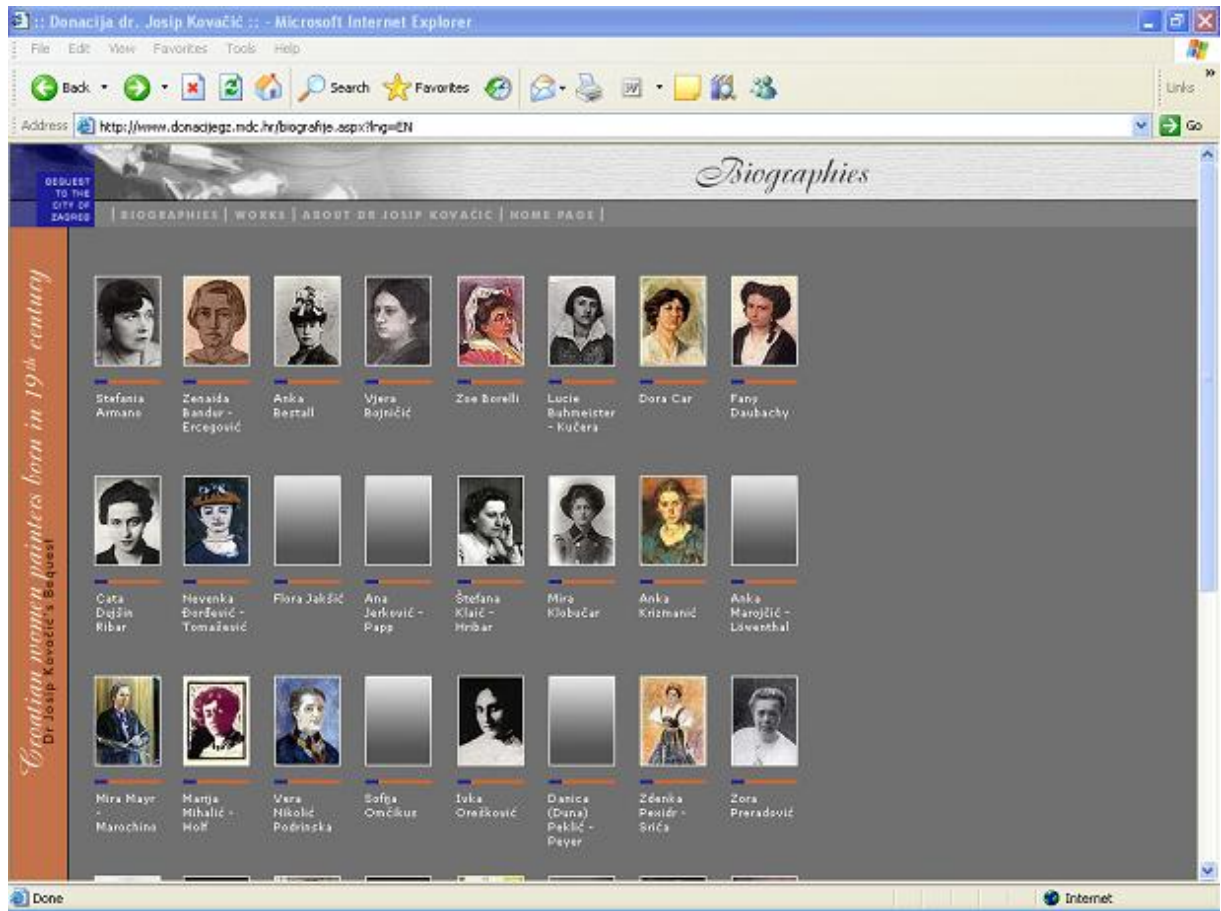
The donation by Dr Josip Kovačić of “Croatian Women Painters Born in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century” was the first donation to be prepared in this way.\* The classic computer application for museum collections, M++, was used. M++ is now used by 57 Croatian museums. For this development a special web application was used, which takes data from the program for the creation of museum collections and transforms it into data which can be viewed on web pages. The advantage of this concept is that it is possible to later increase the amount of content, and to manage the content in such a way as to select what will be shown on the pages at any given time.

Clearly, on public internet pages, not all data which is entered into the application for preparing collections is shown. The web application enables one to choose which information suits the concept of the web pages, and creates new sets of data which will only be shown only on the web pages.

On the web pages <http://www.donacijegz.mdc.hr/> almost all the functionality of the application has been used, including the search facility and various options for showing objects. In this way, it is possible to search for objects by name, description or biography of the artist. The object itself is displayed by name, basic description and a photograph which can be enlarged step by step. Subjects are also interconnectable so that when a picture is displayed, the biography of the artist can also be called up, and vice versa – when a biography is displayed, all of the artist’s pictures can be shown. A suitable place is also provided for the details of the donor. A selection of photographs, a short video and audio recording of his speech were used to create an exceptionally personal portrait of Mr Kovačić.







Donacija dr. Josip Kovačić - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://www.donacijegz.mdc.hr/isknica.aspx?lng=EN&id=27>

Biographies

BIographies | WORKS | ABOUT DR JOSIP KOVAČIĆ | HOME PAGE

*Croatian women painters  
born in 19<sup>th</sup> century*

- Stefania Armano
- Zenaida Bandur - Ercegović
- Anka Brestall
- Vjera Bojničić
- Zoe Borelli
- Lucie Buchmeister - Kučera
- Dora Car
- Fany Daubachy
- Cata Dujšin Ribar
- Nevenka Đorđević - Tomašević
- Flora Jakšić
- Ana Jerković - Papp
- Štefana Klaić - Hribar
- Mira Klobučar
- Anka Krizmanić
- Anka Marojčić - Löwenthal
- Mira Mayr - Marochino
- Marija Mihalić - Wolf
- Vera Nikolić Podravska
- Sofija Oščukus
- Ivka Drešković
- Danica (Dusa) Pešić - Payer
- Zdenka Pešić - Sviča
- Zora Preradović
- Slava Raškaj**
- Nasta Rojc
- Leopoldina Schmidt - Auer
- Mary Söborski
- Talka Štarni Wolkonskaya

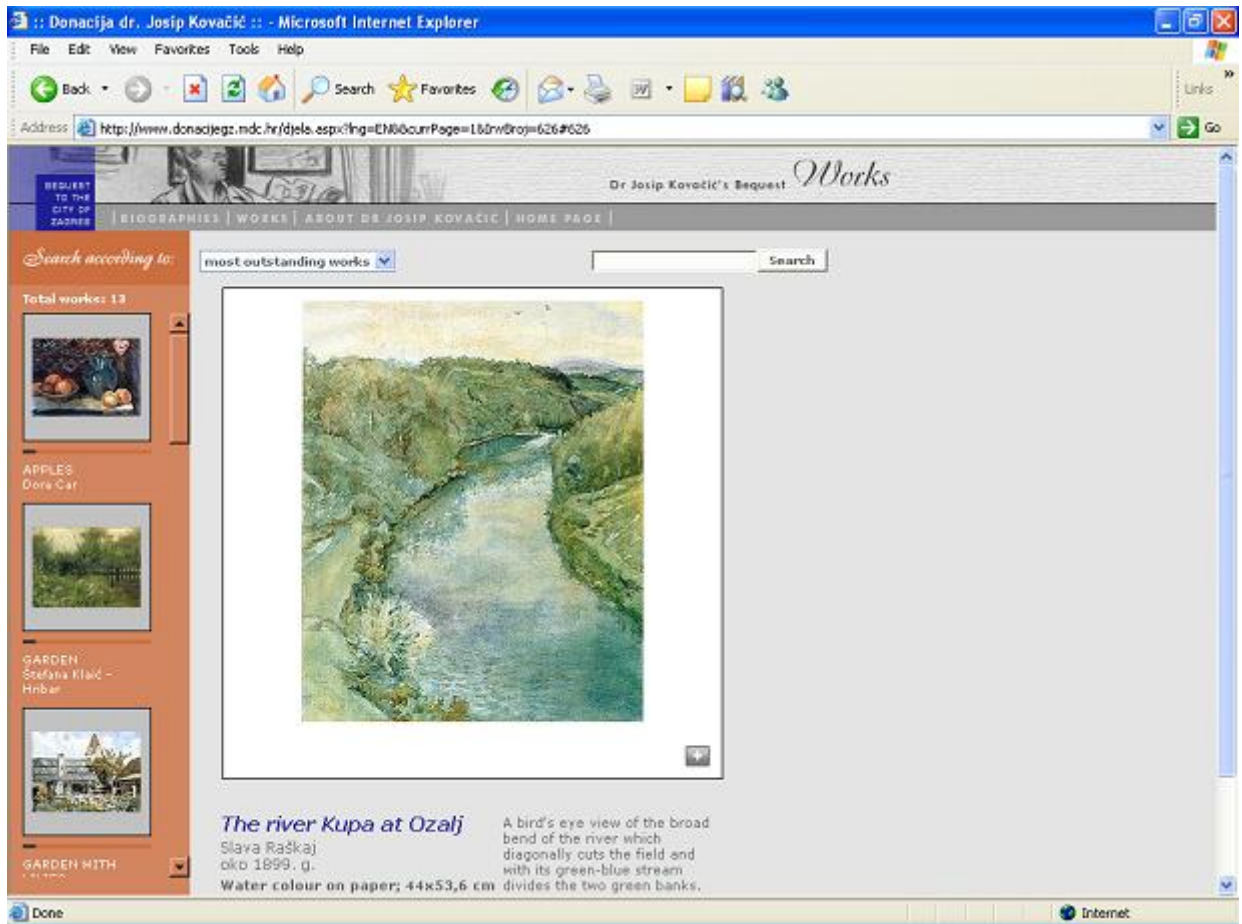
**Slava Raškaj**  
1877.  
1966.

Education:  
With Bela Csikos Sessia , (Zagreb, 1896.-1899.)

**Biography:** Deaf and mute from birth, she was educated in the Institute for the Deaf and Mute in Vienna (1885-1893), where she also received the first elements of painting. She soon became an expert in painting vignettes. She returned to Ozalj, where the local schoolmaster Ivan Muha Otočić helped to develop her artistic talent. He took her to Zagreb and managed to make her a private student of the renowned Croatian painter Bela Csikos Sessia in 1896, who introduced her into the Society of Croatian Artists. In 1899, Slava returned to Ozalj, and in the same year she stayed at Zlatar, where she visited the manor of the Car family, and met a young man, the future painter Bogumil Car. She stayed at Orahovica in 1900 with her sister Paula who was a teacher there. From 1901, the first signs of mental disease appeared. She painted scenery as from within her inner self, introducing into the paintings demonic motives from the deepest layers of the subconscious. No art historian has yet dared to interpret Slava Raškaj's late works from the esoteric point of view, i.e. by correlating the irrational and mysterious spheres with her genius. She died in the State Mental Institution, after spending there 3 years, 9 months and 11 days.

Done Internet





## Conclusion

The perspectives of this form of exhibiting donations and donors are great, especially if donations which have not so far been exhibited are prepared in this way. An internet exhibition is a space for acquainting the Croatian and international public with this type of content.

With this kind of project, the cultural and tourist potential of a given place can be increased, enabling the public to get better acquainted with this or similar kinds of content, as well as with cooperation on future projects.

## Notes:

1. Ida Slade Šilović "Private Art Collections in Zagreb". *Muzeologija* 32, 1995, pp. 73-81.
2. Veljko Mihalić "Art Collections Donated to the City of Zagreb". *Muzeologija* 32, 1995, pp. 82-108.

3. The author of the page is an expert advisor on donations and the conservation of cultural objects in the Veljko Mihalić City Office for Culture.
4. Višnja Zgaga “A New Museum of Paintings by Women”. *Informatica museologica* 32 1 / 2 (2001), pp. 53-57.
5. Višnja Zgaga, Goran Zlodi and Nikola Albaneže “The Creation by Computer of Dr Josip Kovačić’s Donation “Croatian Women Painters Born in the 19th Century”. A Code of Conduct for Archives, Libraries and Museums”. The Croatian Librarians’ Association, 2002.