

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. The foreground is a steep, forested slope. In the middle ground, a small town with red-roofed buildings is nestled in the valley. Below the town, a large industrial facility with several tall, grey silos and structures is visible. The background consists of rolling green hills and a range of high, rugged mountains with patches of snow under a cloudy sky.

THE VALLEY

multimedia exhibition
by MANCA JUVAN



The multimedia exhibition of Manca Juvan at the Match Gallery is clear in its intention: to raise intergenerational awareness of asbestos issues and invite us to reflect on a universal question alongside a local story. Put simply, it asks: until when will we put our material needs before our health? We need to reflect on the hierarchy of priorities. These priorities are divided between material existence, which can put us at risk, and health and a healthy living environment.



ABOUT THE ARTIST and EXHIBITION THEME

Manca Juvan (b. 1981) is an internationally acclaimed and awarded photographer, photojournalist and documentary video/film maker whose body of work focuses mainly on the socially engaged themes of identity, (non)freedom of life, migration, the situation of women and youth in the Middle East, the historical traumas of World War II and the pressing political and military conflicts in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. She always approaches complex issues with uncompromising dedication and personal commitment. At the Match Gallery, she presents her documentary art exhibition *The Valley*, which is the result of her in-depth research into the impact of industrialisation and environmental pollution in the middle Soča Valley. It focuses on the environmental issues of the longstanding production and use of asbestos in the former Anhovo cement factory and its impacts on the local community.

The artist uses the personal stories of valley residents, including former factory workers, activists, physicians and experts, to challenge simplistic statistical narratives that dehumanise. These individual experiences reveal social polarisation and underline the importance of building common ties, values and efforts to find sustainable solutions for the overall health and future of the valley's peoples.

According to the national Clinical Institute of Occupational, Traffic, and Sports Medicine by the end of 2024 at Slovenia level, 3,469 individuals contracted a disease linked to prolonged exposure to asbestos, 90 % of whom were from Anhovo and its surroundings. The installation, based on photographic and video material, powerfully highlights different perspectives of life in the middle Soča Valley, which has been shaped and marked by the coexistence of "the factory" throughout time. From 1921 to the present day, these have included Cementi Isonzo, then in the 1940s Kombinat 15. september Anhovo, later Salanit Anhovo, and today Alpacem Cement



The Valley Exhibition at the Match Gallery in Ljubljana, 2025, Photo by Blaž Gutman / Arhiv MGML 2025

The Valley Exhibition opening and related discussion event at in Ljubljana, 2025, Photo by Blaž Gutman / Arhiv MGML 2025



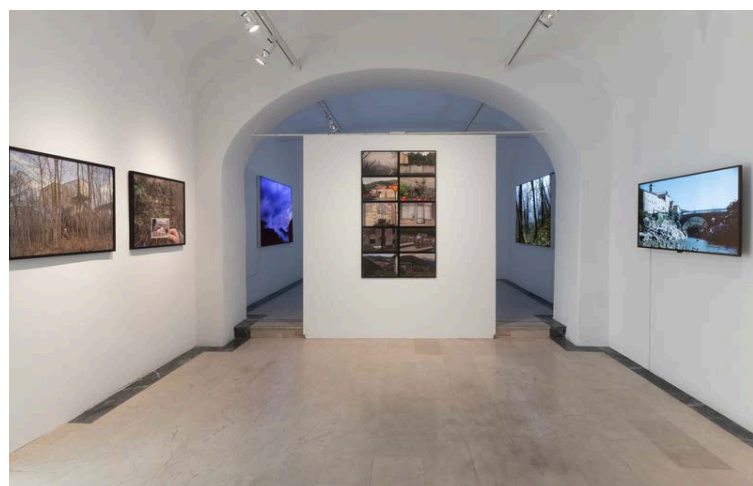


The exhibition consists of:

- 4 lightbox photographs with a 180x120 cm size frame
- 1 lightbox photograph with an 130x86 cm frame
- 1 photograph with a 100 x 66 cm frame
- 30 photographs with a 46.5 x 31.5cm frame
- 1 projection with sound (with English subtitles)
- 5 TV screens for AV work with sound (with English subtitles)

*Intro, 3 wallpapers need to be printed additionally, with dimensions depending on the space

*Look at more info and images of the project [HERE](#)



The Valley Exhibition at the Match Gallery in Ljubljana, 2025,

Photo by Blaž Gutman / Arhiv MGML 2025



*The Valley Exhibition at the Match Gallery in Ljubljana, 2025
Photo by Borut Krajnc*

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