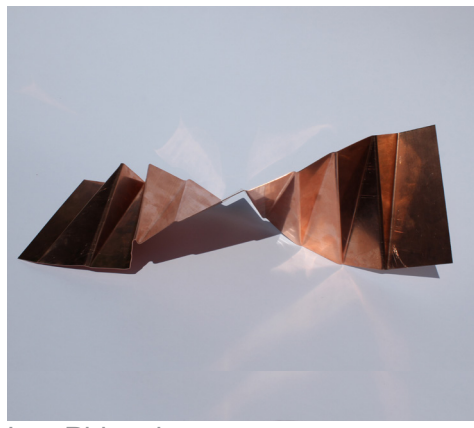




Zoja Leskovšek



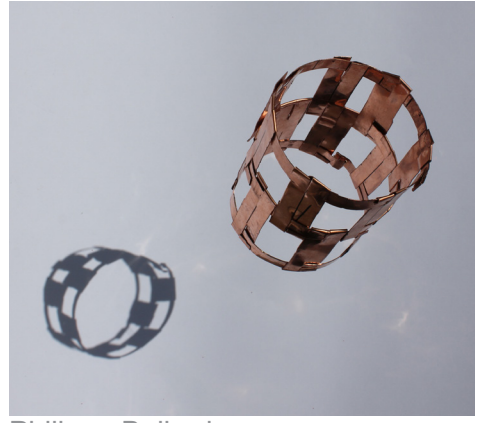
Lea Pirkmajer



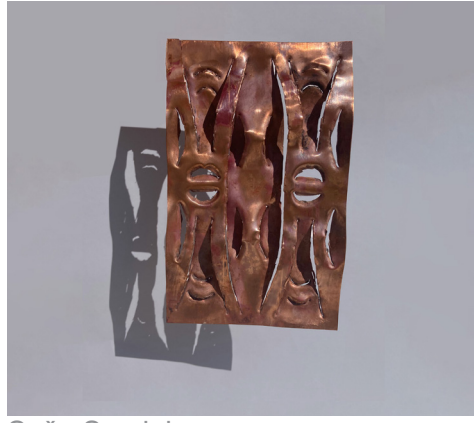
Luka Miklavčič



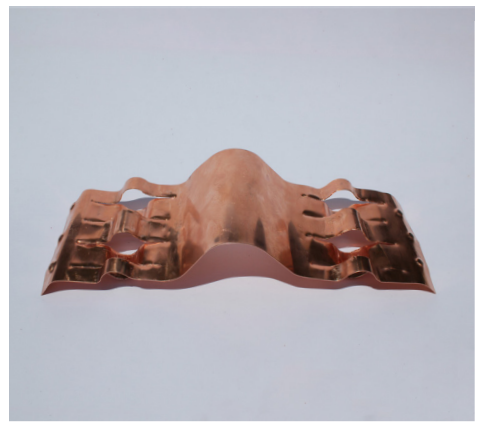
Klara Gorenak



Philippe Balhadere



Saša Smolej



Ema Pavešič



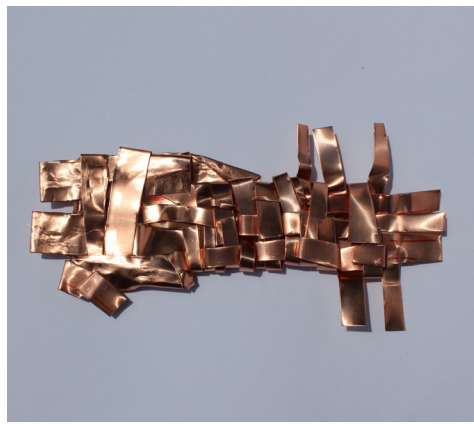
Filip Drobnič



Work in progress.



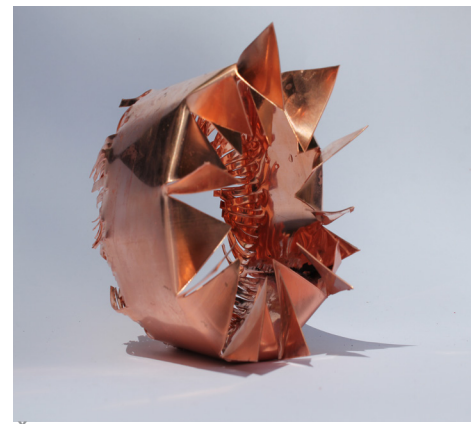
Marie Kinkela



Lea Pirkmajer



Luka Miklavčič



Živa Rac



Marie Kinkela



Kostja Birk



Kostja Birk



Špela Muhič



Zoja Leskovšek



Fedja Kovič



Polina Kurashova



Ema Pavešič

## UNDERSTANDING HERITAGE THROUGH CREATIVE PROCESS - The Use of Copper in the 20th Century Slovenian Art and Architecture with Experimental Student Workshop

### Case study buildings and artworks:

Zacherlhaus  
 Vienna, listed building  
 1903-1905  
 Architect: Jože Plečnik

Copper Structures  
 Ljubljana,  
 1962-1963  
 Architect and sculptor: Vladimira Bratuž - LAKA

Republic Square Towers  
 Ljubljana, listed building complex  
 1960-1976  
 Architect: Edvard Ravnikar

This is a presentation of a complex experimental pioneering research study and student workshop where the focus was the use of copper in the 20th century Slovenian art and architecture. Our goal was to register and to support conservation through a creative process. Slovenia has a strong tradition in the use of copper thanks to Jože Plečnik, Vladimira Bratuž – LAKA and Edvard Ravnikar. This tradition has not yet been studied, registered and presented until now, and we would like to raise the awareness of the importance of our copper tradition to promote cultural sustainability at the local and international level and to add interdisciplinarity and diversity to heritage conservation studies. The ability to reuse copper endless times and its disinfectant character, among many others, place this precious metal in the new constellation of the needs of our time. Jože Plečnik's use of copper is influenced by his Vienna and Prague periods. Edvard Ravnikar's use of copper on the top of the two towers of the Republic Square is a very strong postwar reference to Plečnik's Zacherlhaus and one of the most important examples of the Ljubljana School of Architecture. The appetite to build over the two towers has never been stronger than today. The two precisely shaped 'copper crowns' of the two towers have a deeper metaphorical reference to the local geography and also to the philosophical meaning of the non-symmetrical modernities, an imperfection by purpose, which gives, according to Ravnikar, more space for humanity in architecture. The importance of studying female artists and architects, the lack of contact with materials during architectural studies, and the extinction of the metalwork craft give other important layers to this experimental research and workshop. LAKA's collaboration with Plečnik and Ravnikar made her one of the most important link between art, craft and architecture in Slovenia, exactly the joint that Bauhaus was looking for. As the conclusion of our research, the workshop was taking place in May 2024 in Moravče with the master Janez Vidic. Students developed their own copper artworks as a reference to the work of Vladimira Bratuž – LAKA and Edvard Ravnikar according to the concepts of perforation, undulation and interlacing. By presenting the importance of our unique and sophisticated copper tradition, we initiate the debate about its preservation. We would like to share here the results of our joyful workshop, the newly formed experimental copper structures and creatures, with all of you.

Nataša Koselj



Jože Plečnik: Zacherlhaus, Vienna, 1905.



Vladimira Bratuž - LAKA: Copper Structure, 1963.



Edvard Ravnikar: Republic Square towers, 1976.