



*On Milk and People*, detail of the installation created in collaboration with the Ostojcic family, ICA-Dunaujvaros, Hungary, 2003.

## **ON MILK AND PEOPLE**

A Project by Kristina Leko

In Collaboration with Ten Farmer Families from Croatia and Hungary 2001/03

Ten Short Films /Exhibition /Travel to Hungary

Five Croatian and five Hungarian families involved in dairy production took part in the project. I filmed one entire day in each family. The exhibition in the Institute of Contemporary Art Dunaujvaros, Hungary (ICA-D) included ten short films (one on each family), an object-installation for each family and a one-hour video collage of interviews with members of farmer families. The exhibit gave an insight into the daily life and routine of small family farms. My intention was to actively involve farmer families in the creative process and to create a happening that they would have a benefit from. All the families received a small participation fee, as well as travel and per diems paid. Croatian families traveled to Hungary to set up the show together with Hungarian participants. For some of them, it was their first travel abroad. The farmer families selected the exhibits, their household objects and personal belongings, and did the set up of the show themselves. My ten short films were screened inside their object installations.

In the other room of the exhibition the interview-tape was projected. Here the focus was on social and political conditions of the farmers' life and work situation, as well as on social and political comparison of the two countries. The ICA-D staff, together with The Agricultural University of Gödölo prepared a collection of written advisory material addressed to Hungarian farmers. It dealt with organizing and running a farm; it listed available subsidies, gave financial tips...



*On Milk and People*, exhibition view, object and video installation created in collaboration with the Kolesaric family, Croatia, ICA-Dunaujvaros, Hungary, 2003. Two video stills from the video No. 1/10, featuring the Kolesaric family, Zoljani, Croatia.





*On Milk and People*, ten short video documentaries, 2002-2003. Stills from the video No. 10/10, with the Blazevec family.



*On Milk and People*, ten short video documentaries, 2002-2003. Stills from the video No. 8/10, with the Samardzija family.



On Milk and People Interviews, 56 minutes, 2002, stills from the video.



*On Milk and People*, exhibition room with the interviews. Video projection, wall text, printed material. ICA-Dunaujvaros, 2003.

The second exhibition room offered a focused analysis of the social position of the small family farms through video interviews and written material. The wall text consists of two quotations from the interviews. It is an example of several matching cases, where a Croatian and a Hungarian farmer complain about being blackmailed in the same way from their agricultural agencies. On the table there was reading and advisory material for farmers to take away, prepared by the ICA-D staff and students from the Agricultural Faculty of the University in Gödölo.



On Milk and People exhibition views, first exhibition room, ICA-Dunaujvaros, 2003.



*On Milk and People*, ICA-Dunaujvaros, January 2003. Project participants and gallery staff were eating in the gallery every day during the set up of the exhibit. Simple Hungarian dishes were delivered to us from the nearby factory restaurant.