

Foreword

Art and Nature is an edited collection of papers presented at the 6th *International Conference for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Students in Humanities and Social Sciences* held online on 8 October 2021. The conference was organized by University of Rijeka (Center for Iconographic Studies and Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) and University of Ljubljana (Department of Art History, Faculty of Arts) and co-organized by University of Split (Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) and University of Belgrade (Department of Art History, Faculty of Philosophy). The essays in this volume present various methodologies and ways that visual artists have used throughout centuries to represent, reflect and interact with the natural world. The papers discuss diverse topics such as the pragmatic view of the natural world in the interpretation of nature in various historical periods, artistic contexts and individual artistic opuses. Several texts examine the idea of natural phenomena as allegories and symbols used to illustrate morality tales or aesthetic principles, which were perceived with as much importance as scientific information. Specific focus is put on the modern technologies and media, as well as the artists' addressing social and political issues relating to the natural environment, climate changes and ecological problems through various artistic movements such as biotechnological arts (BioArt), EcoArt or Sustainable art. They tackle some problems related to art as an elusive discipline between fine art, architectural design, found art and landscaping that creates multimedia art-works using available elements such as mud, soil, water and processes like decomposition, oxidation, weather, growth patterns and fertility cycles. The papers also confronted two main discourses: the historical connection between art and landscape as mythic, irrational, with popular image of rural life and harmonious human settlements and therefore imbedded in national stories, with post-modern and post-industrial critical approach that made audience think actively of the landscape and many contemporary problems related to it.