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# **Modern Language and Its Multiple Dialects**

**ROMAN BEZJAK**

## **Biography**

Roman Bezjak, born 1962 in Ptuj, SR Slovenia, Yugoslavia, worked for many years as a freelance photographer for various German and international magazines and is since 2000 Professor of Photography at the University of Applied Sciences in Bielefeld, Germany. Since 2012 he is the Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design. He lives in Hamburg.

The programs and manifestos of architectural modernism are all of great reach. Similar to the Pope's apostolic blessing, they are valid "urbi et orbi", in the city and the world. The good news of modernism is part of the secular program of the enlightenment. It promises functionality, hygiene, order, and progress. The luminous conciseness gives the modern messages universal success, which cannot be stopped by ideological trenches or iron curtains. Only at the local level, where the universal is given a special significance, do interferences and refractions arise. The local milieu colors the universal messages. In the local color one recognizes conventions, customs, traditions, and habits.

On his travels around the globe, Roman Bezjak inspects the built and animated archives of modernity. His pictures tell of heroic endeavors and small coincidences; of cool rationality and playful ornamentation; of the promises of planning and the cunning of everyday life. Roman Bezjak's pictures are both familiar and strange to us. We believe to know our way around the pictures, discovering parking lots, front doors, and kitchen windows. But there is more to Bezjak's pictures. As snapshots of modern life, they move and touch us. Each picture succeeds in this in a special way, thanks to the local dialect in which the universal messages of modernity is spelled out.































Figs. 1 / 2

Tashkent, 2019, Large housing construction in the Beruni district.



Figs. 3 / 4

Skopje, 2018, Bridge of Civilizations in Macedonia / Art Bridge.



Figs. 5 / 6

Tashkent, Façade detail of residential block in Yunusabad district.



Fig. 7

Pyongyang, Large Monument Mansudae.



Fig. 8

Pyongyang, Monument to the Founding of the Party.



Fig. 9

Sarajevo, 2007, Publishing house Oslobođenje.



Fig. 10

Skopje, 2008, Former general post office.



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