Eva Petric: **Totem for Humanity**, 2023

Totem for Humanity is the site and time specific art installation created for ACF New York, from recycled handmade lace, collected from around the world. It is highlighting the holiday season which marks the end of the *old year* and beginning of the *new year*, with symbols accentuating values and traditions of celebrating our existence on planet Earth.

Tree of Life – **Totem for Humanity** (5,80 m x 1,30 m) and The Giver & the Keeper of Happiness diptych (each 2,40 m x 1,40 m) are composed of hand-made and recycled lace found and collected in an open call initiated through the ACF NY Newsletter and social media, combined with the laces which the artist compiled from the Nashmarkt in Vienna and brought together from different parts of the world into a collective story of recycled emotions.

The artist thanks all the anonymous donors who donated laces from their family heritage, especially to Maria Koenigin, Dr. med Peter and Sascha Kampfer, Gabriela and Richard Reidl - Pirolt, which are making up the **Totem for Humanity**.

I am fascinated by the systems and phenomena in nature that control and connect us. When we look up at the "starry sky", we realize that we are a part of a network of stars, but at the same time also a part of the constellation of cells caught in mesh, "lace" compositions – the delicate networks that connect us and create a greater whole. To illustrate this in my artistic practice, I create assemblages from hundreds of old laces, donated, discarded or bought at flea markets around the world, and combine them with sound and video projections. These net-like assemblages made from a multitude of recycled and handmade laces, binding desires, memories and connections with their many loops, remind me of the World Wide Web. They visualize and materialize the connections that make up both, individual cells and complex bodies - constellations of cells. Cell structures are similar to lace; they exist as individual laces, but at the same time they are also part of a larger network that expands further to make up even larger systems... us, individuals, society and even systems in the universe - this phenomenon of connectedness occurs at all levels and in all states and points to our interconnectedness and interdependence, whether we aware of this or not.

We are all part of the global web - dependent upon each other. When one thread breaks, all the threads resonate...

Eva Petric