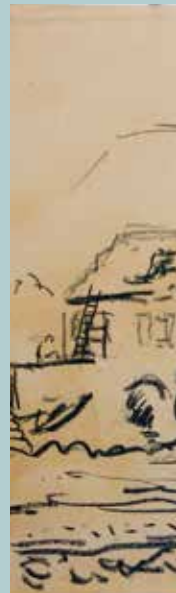
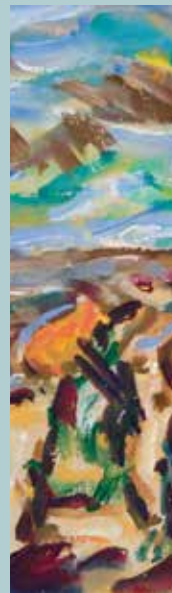


# EVERYDAY LIFE ACCORDING TO GOJAK

WORK AND LEISURE IN THE WORKS  
FROM GOJAK DONATION

15<sup>TH</sup> JULY – 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013



GRADSKA GALERIJA  
ANTUN GOJAK  
MAKARSKA

# EVERYDAY LIFE ACCORDING TO GOJAK

WORK AND LEISURE IN THE WORKS  
FROM GOJAK DONATION

15<sup>TH</sup> JULY – 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013

ANTUN GOJAK TOWN GALLERY  
MAKARSKA 2013

„ Over many years of working the central point of my works was and still is an elementary life of a small common man - producer who works and creates a market through his work. He does not just belong to one country or one nation, he is not just my foothold but also the foothold of the world. It is actually a healthy, reasonable, hardworking and morally raised man. It is impossible to live without work and education. That man is possible to find not just in one country or one nation but everywhere where he lives on this Earth. According to these even a small common man can be great. The greatness of a man is to be measured on the basis of his contribution for the welfare of society and history of mankind. It is impossible to live without any of them because they are together with those who lived and still live a constituent part of our society and world“.

*Antun Gojak in August 1986*

*/Taken from the interview with the artist prepared by the chronicler Prof. Petar Puharić and published under the title My companionship and conversation with Antun Gojak in the local paper Makarska Riviera on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1986, page 9/*

Market woman, s.a. (detail)  
(Cat. No. 24)



The appearance of Antun Gojak influenced the cultural life of Makarska. He is the central artistic personality in Makarska of the 20th century. He lived and created under the Biokovo mountain of the now worldwide known coastline of the native Littoral. During his lifetime he immersed into the life span of Makarska – we can only guess if the reason was a simple wish or just a necessity. Through his continuous artistic creation he left his mark in the memory of Makarska. His creative passion left a surprisingly fresh and eloquent artistic memento to the people of the Littoral. In his works Gojak placed men and women from the area of the Littoral into the world of art and in this way created a kind of painting counterpart to the epic writing of Fra Andrija Kačić Miošić. Gojak's expression was formed in accordance with stylistic motions of the Croatian painting between the two wars and is refined with the artist's sensitive approach but with some peculiar ideas.

The spiritual intensity of his works reflects a concentrated amalgam of his thoughts, emotions and worries.

Antun Gojak, a pillar of visual arts in Makarska and local cultural feature, was a professional painter and proved humanist who expectedly to that dealt with genre scenes. Humbly and without any sign of surrendering he was inspired with close and familiar, everyday situations. A chronological analysis of the exposed works from the foundation of Antun Gojak Town Gallery brings us to the conclusion that these topics were interesting to the artist all his life.

His drawing *Roofs - repair* (Cat. No. 1) the earliest dated exhibit determines that almost programmatically. A discreet drawing, measured and sufficiently effective to occupy our attention and introduce us into the atmosphere of action which seen from a given distance represents everyday life to the author and only an attractive vivid picture of the past to us. The atmosphere, this time of conflicts among basic elements emphasized by the painter, strains a miniature composition of *Women with burdens* (Cat. No. 17) at the breaking point. Immersed into a strongly restricted landscape the women carrying burdens might be a visual metaphor for a man's tendency to establish balance among elements.

The more open compositions, especially *Seeking a fortune* (Cat. No. 18) and *Harvest* (Cat. No. 16), more broadly contextualise a man and bring him into a clear relation with the landscape. *Harvest*, despite the fact that it was not finished, with its wide, bright and clear horizon draws our attention into serene heights of rigid optimism supported by earth hope of prosperous September. Contrary to this sincere optimism there is an existential anxiety of tempera presented in the work *Seeking a fortune*. Gojak's couple, a man and a woman – depressed by illustrious misfortune presented in the life of common people and it seems they are small under the stars – and walk the unreliable path placed in the sparkingly restless symbolically realised landscape. A life which was not always happy and careless left not many space for relaxation. Gojak's protagonists relaxed in closed and more intimate spaces. Those interiors actually presented a real challenge for the artist who was recognized by the critics even during his lifetime as a poet of interior atmospheres.

The masterful composition *Gossipers* (Cat. No. 20) is a homage to an unpretty Mediterranean custom of gossiping. The intriguing impressiveness of this almost sound recording of leisurely everyday life in Makarska represents an open structure which introduces us into a subdued, almost suppressed journey into somebody else's life, trouble or sinful pleasure. On the trail of *Gossipers* there are also two other works of art with the motive of card players, drawing *Card players at the table* (Cat. No. 28) and aquarelle *Card players* (Cat. No. 13). Less cheerful works with a dose of seriousness presented in the atmosphere of waiting a card which will bring winning points.

With the exhibition *Everyday life according to Gojak* the Antun Gojak Town Gallery actively fulfills its mission of a museum institution presenting the most valuable part of its foundation, the museum collection the Donation of Gojak. We hope we are on the right track!



Roofs – repair, 1962  
(Cat. No. 1)



Workers, s.a.  
(Cat. No. 12)



Grandfather, daughter and grandson, 1979  
(Cat. No. 29)



Women with burdens, s.a.  
(Cat. No. 17)





Gossipers, s.a.  
(Cat. No. 20)



Card players at the table, s.a.  
(Cat. No. 28)

# EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

1. Roofs - repair, 1962  
charcoal/paper, 50 x 70,5 cm  
sign.r. bottom corner: gojak 22  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 10
2. Lying nude, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 51 x 72 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 17
3. Field works, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 44,5 x 63 cm  
sign.bottom left: model checking  
bottom right: screening of land  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 25
4. Shepherdesses with a herd, s.a.  
charcoal/paper, 50 x 70 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 39
5. Pickers, 1973  
charcoal/paper, 50 x 70 cm  
sign.r. bottom corner: Gojak 73  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 40
6. Woman on the sofa, 1975  
Indian ink/paper, 50,5 cm x 72 cm  
sign.r. bottom corner: Gojak 75  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 42
7. Gusle player, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 25 x 35 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 68
8. Stoker, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 21 x 30 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 79
9. Women, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 22 x 35 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 82
10. Man with a burden, s.a.  
mixed media/paper, 22 x 35 cm  
sign. bottom right: carrying rods  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 99
11. Fisherman, s.a.  
Indian ink/pape, 30 x 23,5 cm  
sign.l.top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 137
12. Workers, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 24 x 34,5 cm  
sign.r.top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 139
13. Card players, s.a.  
charcoal/paper, 22,5 x 33 cm  
sign.r.top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 141
14. Rower, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 23 x 31,5 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 198
15. Wheel dance, s.a.  
Indian ink/paper, 23,5 x 32,5 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 199
16. Harvest, s.a.  
oil/canvas, 88 x 108 cm  
unsigned  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 203
17. Women with burdens, s.a.  
aquarelle/paper, 16 x 23 cm  
sign.r.bottom corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 235
18. Seeking a fortune, s.a.  
tempera/paper, 23 x 34,5 cm  
sign.r.bottom corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 237
19. Children's theatre performance  
pastel/paper, 35,5 x 52 cm  
sign.r.bottom corner: gojak 77  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 244
20. Gossipers, s.a.  
pastel/paper, 23,5 x 34 cm  
sign.l.top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 245
21. A toast, 1980  
pastel/paper 36,5 x 54 cm  
sign.r. top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 248
22. Masquerade, 1977  
pastel/paper, 37 x 53 cm  
sign.r.bottom corner: gojak 77  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 249
23. Water carrier, 1986  
oil/canvas, 24 x 14 cm  
sign.r.bottom corner: gojak  
/sign. on the back: Gojak 28.VIII 86/  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 270
24. Market woman, s.a.  
oil/canvas, 30 x 26 cm  
sign.r.topcorner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 271
25. Conference, 1976  
oil/cardboard, 25 x 35 cm  
sign.r.bottom corner: gojak 76  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 272
26. In bed, s.a.  
oil/cardboard, 24 x 34,5 cm  
sign.r.top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 277
27. Market, 1981  
oil/canvas, 48 x 65 cm  
sign.r.top corner: gojak 81  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 279
28. Card players at the table, s.a.  
oil/canvas, 35,5 x 53,5 cm  
sign.l.top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 282
29. Grandfather, daughter and  
grandson, 1979  
tempera/paper, 30 x 39 cm  
sign.r.bottom corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 283
30. By the fireplace, s.a.  
pastel/paper, 29,5 x 38,5 cm  
sign.r.top corner: gojak  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Inventory mark: 525:MKR 320



Antun Gojak, 1986  
(Photo by: A. Franić)

**Antun Gojak** was born in Makarska in 1907 where he also attended Civil School and gained the first experience within the visual arts. After finishing Civil School in 1922 he continued his education at the Teacher Training School in Šibenik. At the same time he was intensively engaged in painting. In 1927 he enrolled at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb and belonged to the class of artists who later became very popular and they are Bruno Bulić and Miron Makanec. After completion of military service he started working with professors Vladimir Becić, Ljubo Babić, Marin Tartaglia and Joze Kljaković and acquired specialized knowledge. He graduated in 1936. On the eve of World War II he worked as a professor at gymnasiums in Mostar and Slavonski Brod. In 1938 at the exhibition organized in Zagreb under the title Half a century of Croatian art Gojak was recognized as an exceptionally talented painter. The turbulent and uncertain years of World War II left permanent scars and influenced his work so that he withdrew back into himself.

Until the end of his life in 1986 he mostly lived in Makarska. He was a member of the Croatian Association of Visual Artists and displayed his works at their collective exhibitions. He dedicated his life to painting and mostly painted native themes. His other paintings were inspired by memories of his periodical journeys to the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Australia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The donation of Antun Gojak consists of 132 paintings and 201 drawings. The painter's brother Marin Rine Gojak donated his works to the Town of Makarska. The donation represents the base of the foundation of the Antun Gojak Town Gallery established in 1995.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1964 Split
- 1969 Sarajevo, Art Pavilion
- 1969 Makarska
- 1970 Slavonski Brod
- 1971 Srijemska Mitrovica
- 1975 Sydney, Town Hall
- 1986 Makarska, Museum of Revolution
- 1989 Makarska, Cultural centre of Makarska municipality, Paintings from Gojak donation
- 1992 Makarska, Heritage museum of Cultural centre of Makarska municipality, Drawings from Gojak donation
- 1995 Split, Croatian Army Centre, Antun Gojak 1907-1986
- 2008 Split, Emanuel Vidović Gallery, City museum of Split, election of works from legacy of Antun Gojak from Makarska

*Exhibition supported by  
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia  
Town of Makarska  
Hrvatska elektroprivreda d.d. (HEP group)  
Tourist board of Makarska*

*Organised by  
Antun Gojak Town Gallery*

*Makarska Cultural Summer 2013*

*Everyday life according to Gojak  
Work and leisure in the works from Gojak donation*

*/exhibition from the Antun Gojak Town Gallery foundation – museum collection „Gojak donation“/*

*Exhibition concept: Josip Karamatić  
Exhibition setup: Josip Karamatić  
Duration: 15th July – 26th August 2013  
Place: Antun Gojak Town Gallery*

*Publisher: Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Catalogue number: 78  
Preface: Josip Karamatić  
Translation: Sonja Raffanelli  
Prepress, design and print: Studio Quadart, Makarska  
Photo: Rikardo Škorlić  
Editing: Milan Pavlinović  
Edition: 1000 copies*

*Antun Gojak Town Gallery  
Don Mihovila Pavlinovića 1  
21 300 Makarska  
email: galerija.agojak@makarska.hr  
www.galerija-antun-gojak.hr*



# MAKARSKA CULTURAL SUMMER 2013



GRAD MAKARSKA

ISBN 978-953-7519-04-9