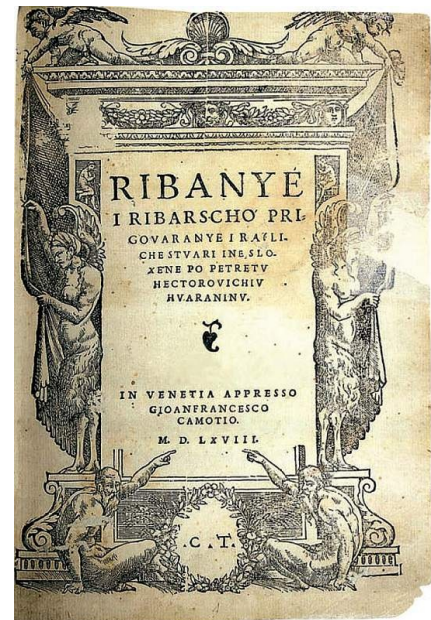


## Organisation Overview:

LAB852 is a creative agency from Zagreb, founded in 2011. From its establishment LAB852 implements projects in rural areas. Through the interpolation of local cultural heritage and contemporary art, as well as an interdisciplinary approach to research, they developed a successful methodology of cultural development which rests on the mutual respect between artist and the local community.

## Residency Theme:

In the 16th century, a Croatian poet Petar Hektorović famously wrote “Fishing and Fishermen’s Conversations” (Ribanje i ribarsko prigovaranje). Written as a poem about a simple life of worldly pleasures, the sea, wine, roughened hardworking hands and honest labor, it still stands as one of the finest representations of Croatian sea life and the culture of the Adriatic islands. Notably, all the protagonists are men, as the title itself suggests. The percentage of women in fishery remains extremely low (around 10% according to the WWF) while most of the women working in fishing and fishery industries remain unknown, hidden or plainly overlooked. We ourselves are fisherwomen of sorts, throwing our lines into the sea of ideas, concepts and inspirations and seeing what catches. Throughout history, especially in such rural areas as islands, women have taken to their roles as bystanders, supporters and secondary players, always just as hard working but never as appreciated. This age old tale of the men sailing the seas, venturing into the great unknowns and coming by abundance is growing a bit stale and needs a revamp. We should like to tell stories of such fortitude and grandeur from the other perspective, of the unknown heroines and the changers of many lives, whose contributions and efforts are yet to be uncovered.



## Location:

Hvar island - towns Jelsa, Hvar town, Stari Grad, Vrboska. The island of Hvar is colloquially known as the sunny island - one with the most sunny days in the

year. With its winding, narrow stone cobbled streets, charming white stone houses and sprawling beaches it is a popular tourist destination. In medieval times, the town of Hvar rose to importance within the Venetian empire as a major naval base. Prosperity brought culture and the arts, with one of the first public theatres in Europe, nobles' palaces and many fine communal buildings. Special points of interest are the surrounding seascapes, fishing boats, beaches, caves, as well as town squares and open spaces.

### **Involved Communities:**

Fishing communities / women in fishery, more availability to meet in off-season time, during residency some opportunity to meet with fishermen/women however slightly more challenging, spoken languages are Croatian and English.

### **Community Engagement:**

There are a multitude of possibilities to connect with the fishing communities - mainly through conversations, organizing interviews or bringing the artists along on fishing trips so they may witness every part of the process: preparations, catching fish, operating the boats, preparing the fish and ultimately bringing it to table. There are options of organizing talks, workshops, and different ways of knowledge exchange.

### **Continuity of Community Engagement:**

We have yet to connect and work with this specific community (fishermen and women in fishery) however due to the nature of the locale, all the communities are closely linked therefore there are internal connections and close friendships between differing communities that we have already established a connection with between different towns and islands.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

Establishing a connection to the local fishing communities, including the fishery museum and inter-town connections, creating an inspired piece of work honoring the traditions and culture of the locale while also boldly subverting the established norms and questioning the role of women in society and the industries of which they are integral parts, no matter how overlooked or overshadowed (fishing, food industry, sales, hospitality etc.), bringing awareness

about women's roles and importance within these industries, highlighting the impact of humans' on the sea and wildlife.

### **Expected Challenges:**

A challenge we may come across might be a language barrier - between community members and artists, which may be overcome by establishing a strong point of contact on-site who would be able to cross the language difficulties.

### **Timeline:**

**June** - residency period

**July - Sept (during JAB2025)** - residency outcome presentation

### **Artist Profiles:**

Theater - musician / sound artist, video artist, choreographer / dancer / actor, writer, contemporary dance, physical theater, contemporary theater

We would be glad to invite artists who are working in the fields of or adjacent to theater production; writers, world creators, playwrights, narrative artists, dancers, choreographers, actors, video artists, sound artists. As they would be spending time on the island and in close proximity to the sea, they would of course need to be adaptable to the island way of life, forgoing the luxuries of main cities for the slower, less action-packed and in many ways more self-sustaining and self-led attitudes. Cooperation, communication skills, willingness to learn and gather knowledge, an appreciation for the natural abundances of the islands are all much welcome characteristics.

### **Residency Conditions:**

The expenses covered:

- Travel - bus + ferry tickets
- Fee
- Accommodation - rented apartment
- Production fees

**Final Event:**

We are leaving the outcome of the final event intentionally open, as the possibilities are endless - the starting point being an already existing work meant to exist in many forms, we would like to honor the legacy and leave it open to become anything from live theater to film production, puppetry, spoken word, illustrated publication, soundscape, traveling play, audio-visual installation, performance, flash mob - the sky (and sea) is the limit.

**Project Team:**

Karmen Krasić Kožul: director

Gabrijela Mamić: curator

Marija Kamber: producer

Jelena Mičić: on-site point of contact / co-curator

**Contact Information:**

Website: [www.lab852.com/](http://www.lab852.com/)

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If interested please contact Gabrijela at [gabrijela@lab852.com](mailto:gabrijela@lab852.com) and send your Biography, portfolio and a motivation letter expressing interest in the residency and the topic.