



## Empty City Full of Potential

Empty spaces represent blind spots in the city panorama. But if we direct our imagination and our memory to it: what kind of content could inhabit them? What kind of identity do we want for our city and city centre? How far back can our collective memory reach and describe contents, owners or anecdotes about what used to invigorate these spaces?

The author of this documentary photo series, a young poet and photographer Nina Medved, captured the current state of the city centre of her hometown Maribor. Though it being the second largest city of Slovenia, Maribor has been combating the consequences of its city centre being emptied of live and actual contents and left to decay.

On her walks that took place at the end of June 2019, Nina visited key streets of the city centre and discovered 54 (!) currently unoccupied (empty) spaces. Some of them have been filled with new occupants by now such as stores, bars, social enterprises or non-profit organisations, some have been emptied for the second (third, fourth...) time and some are still waiting to be put to good use and made available to the present and future city inhabitants.

This series is only a glimpse of a chosen moment in time. Digital photographs have been captured in a very short period of time so that they could be later on compared or complemented with a new series of photographs. Thus they open our vision for the future: what kind of city do we want to discover in a year's time, in five or ten years?

