

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 514
Title: Sempas Family
Extent: 1 Folder(s)
Span Dates: 1977
Language: English
Geographic Location: Yugoslavia

Abstract: This collection consists of a photograph and a flyer.

Historical Notes: The OHO Group, a Slovene artistic collective formed in the late 1960's, consisted of Milenko Matanović, David Nez, Marko Pogačnik, and Andraž Šalamun as the permanent, core members. Other artists, for example, Tomaž Šalamun, who is well known as a poet today, often contributed or acted as part of the group. The OHO Group belonged to a wider Slovene intellectual and artistic circle called the OHO Movement and regularly collaborated with its members. The OHO Group achieved success in the late 1960's and early 1970's by participating in conceptual art exhibitions both at home and abroad. Their artistic practice was very versatile; in their early work we can see connections to Arte Povera, Land art, happenings, and different body art practices. While working together, the members of the collective increasingly realized that they were interested in exploring spirituality and in transferring spiritual issues into their art practice. They became interested in ritual as a medium; this made it possible to transcend the boundaries of the everyday world and to establish a deeper connection with nature. In their next phase, the members of the OHO group gave up working in the art system and founded a commune in the village of Šempas, in the Vipava Valley, Slovenia, because they wanted to establish a more intense closeness to nature and work as a group in harmony with the environment and the cosmos. Their art activity did not cease in this new setting, but rather became more directly connected to their day-to-day lives. Marko Pogačnik and his family were the only ones left in the commune. They were joined, however, by new members. Calling themselves "the Šempas Family," the members of this commune worked on developing a new form of total spirituality and an alternative relationship to the planet Earth and nature. From time to time, the Šempas Family would also show their work in the context of the institutional art world. **Sources:** [Sempas Family](#)

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Commune; Artist colonies; Skupina OHO

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location	
"Who is Sempas Family?" (Information about the Purpose of the Group)	n.d.	Filing Cabinet	Folder	1	Filing Cabinet 16-C
Photograph [] taken at the "Healing of the Earth Seminar", April 30-May 4, 1977	1977	Filing Cabinet	Folder	1	Filing Cabinet 16-C