**Even before the future happened, we stored it into the past**

The spatial setting of the *Archive of Self-Sufficiency* by Tery Žeželj and Ivana Vogrinc Vidali, its context of free accessibility over a period of several hours, and the autonomous decision of the viewers about their entry and exit, about the way of spending time in it, as well as the description in the accompanying leaflet of the evening, it all guides us towards defining it as an audio‑visual installation. In this respect, it is markedly different from the other two parts of the evening under the umbrella title of *Triptych:::*, where *For the Health of the Nation* and *TRANS‑Plant* are full‑length stage art pieces with a more stiff situational framework, and with the meta‑title inevitably evoking a comparison.

True to its title, *Archive of Self‑sufficiency* is self‑sufficient, since following the setting, it needs no one else to exist. After the creators leave it on display for physical existence, it no longer needs people, who are, on the other hand, the key initiators of the live acts in the stage works of the evening. Of course, it cannot be argued that *Archive* is not being transformed by the presence of us, members of audience, and that our presence doesn’t bring it an additional dimension. However, it will still be in the basement of the Old Power Station even when there are no visitors to see it. *Archive* is explicitly liberal in demanding our engagement: even though the instructions, the kinetic‑powered flashlight and the helmet guide us, the amount of effort and time investment is up to us. How many and which parts we want to see and incorporate in our experience, we dictate it all by (not) turning the lever on the flashlight. The unplastered walls immersed in darkness, to which black tiles are attached, are never fully visible. A small beam of the flashlight is barely enough to quickly scan the texts printed on them, which appear under the light directed at them, but only become readable after a few moments of illumination. Thus, we must either first produce energy by ourselves, or, if we have company, rely on co‑operation, overcome our own self‑sufficiency, and read the light echo of the person in front of us and generously shine the light for those right behind us.

Each of the cards summarizes very briefly one of the innovations that can help reduce the global environmental crisis of the connected problems, from recycling to reuse of waste, different, more economical and more environmentally friendly energy sources … The proposed solutions are solidary in offering a potential pathways to preserving the planet for future generations, and self‑sufficient because they are based on reuse, in restoration, on those resources that are not finite and will always be available, which could also make us self‑sufficient. More frightening, however, is the feeling of helplessness as we are getting lost in this pile of complicated summaries, as the gap open between everything available here and the awareness that everyone should be involved in implementing such solutions – not just those who are already convinced, but also actors in positions of power. *Archive* merely highlights the fact that the climate crisis is not a reflection of ignorance and incompetence, but above all a lack of a truly collective, universal will to tackle this crisis.

Indeed, feelings of helplessness are also a question of the power(lessness) of political art, but a partial answer to this dilemma may also lie in the title itself. It is something archived, halfway to oblivion, which is also supported by the location itself and the form of interaction, as we travel down the stairs to the basement to discover dusty corners where everything already “passé” is stored. As we are entering the underground corridors, we are discovering ideas for the future stored in the context of the past. *Archive* is a testament to the complexity of social change, behind which stand piles of forgotten and rejected solutions that didn’t catch the right moment, thereby perhaps acknowledging that it is difficult to exist anywhere else than in helplessness.