

January 3, 1979

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As Pop Art's leader in Yugoslavia in the 1960s, **Olja Ivanjicki** helped stage Belgrade's first "happenings" after six months in New York in 1962 on a Ford Fellowship. Now, as an artist in residence at the Rhode Island School of Design, she is in the United States for the first time since 1974. Blonde and smiling and wearing a black satin pantsuit, Miss Ivanjicki opened a show of 24 large ink-and-crayon fantasies — with such titles as "Camel With the Smile of Mona Lisa," "Salamander Darling" and "Metamorfoza Atomica" — at New York's Yugoslav cultural center. Noting that "maybe the '60s were the best time of invention for all artists," she said, "We expect in Europe always that something new is happening in the United States; this time I haven't found it." As for her celebration of the salamander, Miss Ivanjicki said she had read that it was "the one living being that survives atomic disaster" and that the late **Marcel Duchamp**, the surrealist artist, "wanted to be a salamander in his next life — so I think of it as the reincarnation of Duchamp."

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cc to Mr. Gadjanski