



Set against the backdrop of the Karavanke mountain range, which stretches for 120 kilometres along the Slovenian–Austrian border, this beautiful setting invites both locals and travellers to pause, absorb the spirit of the place, and see it with fresh eyes. This is a space for creative encounters and the discovery of new stories. Through Slavko Oblak's sculptures, visitors experience nature as a unique dialogue between the past and the present – and, ultimately, their own soul.

The gallery space offers a place to rest, explore, admire, and, when needed, spend a moment in quiet reflection. Rečica was once known for its many brooks and streams, and water remains a silent keeper of its memories. Though often hidden from view, it lingers in the murmur of distant streams, the moisture of the earth, the freshness of the air, and the calm that settles over the landscape. Gentle and almost therapeutic, it allows the mind to unwind, the breath to deepen, and the visitor to leave behind, if only for a moment, the rhythm of everyday life.

A warm welcome from the
Bled Culture Institute



LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery Slavko Oblak

is part of the Pr' Mrako homestead
and is located at:
Kolodvorska cesta 5, 4260 Bled,
Slovenia

The gallery is located in a peaceful
setting near Bled Castle, just a few
minutes' walk from the centre of Bled.

Parking

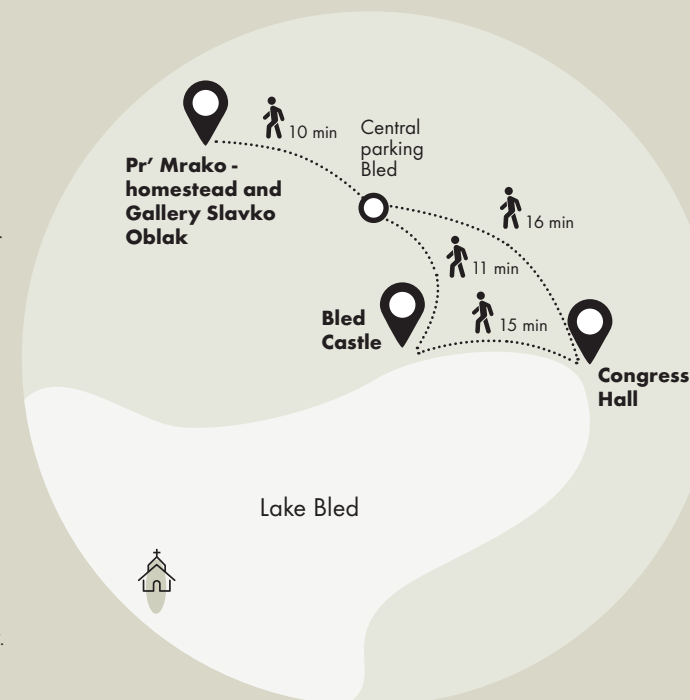
The gallery does not have visitor
parking. The nearest car park:
Central parking Bled
Rečiška cesta 2, 4260 Bled

The gallery is about 300 metres from
the car park and is easily accessible
via a pedestrian and cycle path.

One designated disabled parking
space is available next to the gallery.

Accessibility

The Gallery Slavko Oblak provides
step-free access for visitors with
reduced mobility. A platform lift
connects the gallery spaces.



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BLED

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Imago paradisi

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The Pr' Mrako homestead is the last surviving part
of a traditional farmstead in Rečica near Bled,
dating back to the 17th century. Its layout reflects
the characteristic composition of a traditional
Alpine homestead in the Gorenjska region,
where the residential and agricultural functions
were typically housed in separate buildings.
The farmhouse formed the centre of family life,
while the barn served the practical needs of the
farm, providing space for livestock, hay and crop
storage, and farm tools. Today, the former barn has
been repurposed as the gallery of sculptor Slavko
Oblak, creating a unique space which combines
rural architectural heritage and contemporary
cultural use.



WHERE HERITAGE, RURAL LANDSCAPE AND ART MEET

The concept is rooted in storytelling and multi-sensory interpretation, inviting visitors to become active participants in the unfolding story of the homestead. Rather than treating the homestead as a static historic monument, it showcases it as a living space shaped by family life, the work of human hands, a deep connection to the land, and the rhythm of the seasons.

Centuries ago, the people of Bled and its surrounding areas lived predominantly rural lives. Homesteads such as Pr' Mrako were characteristic of the Gorenjska countryside, where daily life and survival were based on nature, the cultivation of the land, livestock farming, and the local community. Only later did Bled begin to acquire a new identity. With the gradual development of tourism, the town, its customs, and the way people experienced and understood the landscape slowly began to change.

The homestead offers a valuable insight into a time before Bled became a tourist destination. It reconnects visitors with the area's rural origins and the countryside that was the source of its cultural and tourism identity. It is from this world that Slavko Oblak draws inspiration: from a deep respect for place, material, work, nature, and the enduring bond between people and the land.

The Pr' Mrako homestead is an important part of Slavko Oblak's family heritage as it was here that his grandfather was born. Oblak spent much of his childhood on a nearby farm, and was profoundly influenced by the memories of his home town, family ties, rural life, and work on the farm. These early experiences inspired many of his artistic ideas and left a lasting mark on his sculptures, which convey the artist's sensitive relationship to his fellow man, family, nature, the local environment, and material.



SLAVKO OBLAK, A SCULPTOR FROM REČICA – AN ARTIST OF NATURE AND TRADITION

The gallery housed in the former barn offers visitors an insight into the rich artistic legacy of sculptor Slavko Oblak. In Bled, he is best known for the Slavko Oblak Sculpture Walk, a group of sculptures installed at several of the town's most prominent locations. Slavko Oblak was born at the farm Pri Klemenovih in Rečica on 25 May 1934. A lively and inquisitive boy, he followed in his father's footsteps and trained as a carpenter. After completing his military service, he moved abroad to pursue further studies. Having successfully passed the entrance examinations, he studied sculpture under Prof. Heinrich Kirchner and graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. Bronze soon became his preferred artistic medium. After completing his studies, he became a master student of Prof. Kirchner and later worked as an assistant to Prof. Toni Stadler from 1963 to 1966.



GALLERY COLLECTION – ART WOVEN INTO THE RHYTHM OF THE SEASONS

At the heart of the gallery is the work of Slavko Oblak, which takes visitors into a world of material, process, and form. The sculptor's deep connection to nature, his home town, and life on the farm throughout the seasons is reflected in the works on display. The traditional gallery presentation is enriched by projections, interpretive displays, and a documentary, extending the interpretation through contemporary multimedia elements. Here, sculpture is not merely a static object but an experiential medium that can be perceived visually, spatially, and through touch.

Slavko Oblak's oeuvre is rich and enduring, a testament to the artist's lifelong search for what is essential – a balance between humanity, nature, and form.



ART IN NATURE'S EMBRACE

From the barn, visitors enter the garden, where the exhibition unfolds beyond the walls as an open-air gallery and outdoor learning space. Sculptures, carefully placed within the natural environment, engage in a dialogue with vegetation, light, wildlife, the changing seasons, and the spirit of the homestead. Subtle sounds, sound interventions, and atmospheric elements accompany the works, not merely as a backdrop but as active participants in shaping a living, breathing landscape.

The garden is a place where art, nature, and heritage come together like threads that weave the cultural legacy of the homestead and the surrounding landscape, inviting visitors to engage with the space in a slower, more sensory way. The artworks are not separate from nature; they coexist with it, changing with the wind, light, shadows, and sounds of their surroundings.

The visitor experiences the homestead, sculptures and nature as an interconnected whole – a place of memory, creativity, and quiet contemplation that lives and grows in harmony with its surroundings.

