

# THE MISSING “O”

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Novi Sad, Serbia

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1 photograph, fine art print

40 x 50 cm / 70 x 90 cm

[from the series Typosphere]

Even today, many households still have an old typewriter, whether it's in the basement, the attic, or as decoration in an office or living room. Although it is rarely used now and almost always needs a new ribbon to type, it is generally appreciated as a charming relic of an analogue era that many of us are still very familiar with.

In Anica's artist studio in Novi Sad, there is such a typewriter – a red Olivetti with a special story. It was an early gift from her father, who repaired and refurbished it himself. He earned his living by maintaining and repairing mechanical small machines in the former Yugoslavia.

This Italian Olivetti features a Serbian-Bosnian-Croatian keyboard with Latin special characters, such as the “Háček” on the “S”.

However, one of the black round keys among the other letters is missing a character. I kindly ask her to quickly insert a sheet of paper into the machine and press the key.

The signed sheet by Anica with the missing “O” now hangs on the wall in my office, while the red Olivetti remains in Anica's studio...