

Among this year's recipients of the **Medal of Merit of the Republic of Slovenia** is architect **Petja Grom**.

He was awarded the **Medal of Merit for his invaluable contribution to the preservation of Slovenian technical history, movable technical heritage, and Slovenian cultural identity both at home and abroad**.

The medal was presented to him by the **President of the Republic, Dr. Nataša Pirc Musar**, at a ceremonial event on December 17, 2024, at Brdo near Kranj.

In her speech, the President referred to the awardees as ambassadors of values and sources of inspiration for others, emphasizing that the recognition is for their work, knowledge, dedication, and courage

Regarding Petja Grom, she stated, *"He is much more than a typical enthusiast of motorcycles and technical heritage in the broadest sense. He is an expert and connoisseur in the field of preserving historic vehicles, where he is recognized for his fundamental contribution to shaping Slovenian legislation on the preservation of historic vehicles, as well as his invaluable work in establishing the first association for historic vehicles in the Republic of Slovenia, SVAMZ, and his priceless work within his museum in Vransko. Through his work, he builds bridges between generations, and his efforts have helped us realize the value of precious pieces of the past that might otherwise have faded into oblivion."*

In her ceremonial speech, the President also highlighted that the recipients recognized opportunities where others may have seen obstacles. They built bridges where cracks initially seemed insurmountable. With their perseverance, they inspire others to become the best version of themselves. Their actions are significantly changing the world – in areas such as strengthening humanitarianism, solidarity, volunteerism, helping those in need, fostering an inclusive society, promoting peace, protecting our health, strengthening friendships and cooperation with other nations, understanding minority issues, and preserving the Slovenian language both at home and abroad.

The President emphasized that the awards celebrate excellence, adding that excellence is a way of thinking and feeling, deeply personal yet universal. It is not a goal, but a journey that requires work, knowledge, effort, courage, and honesty.

In his acceptance speech, Petja Grom thanked everyone who has supported him, especially his family and members of the SVAMZ boards, as well as the president of SVAMZ, F. Škrjanec, who accompanied him at the ceremony.

For the first time in Slovenian history, someone working in such a specific field as historic vehicles has received this award. This recognition is not only for his long-standing work in this sector but also for his contribution to the cultural identity of the Republic of Slovenia, both at home and abroad, and for preserving Slovenian technical heritage. This is an invaluable tribute and confirmation of the work that gives new impetus to everyone at SVAMZ and at the Motorcycle Museum in Vransko.