



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

KUMA INTERNATIONAL

WHO WE ARE

Kuma International is a Bosnian non-profit organization that operates as a research center specializing in visual arts from post-conflict societies. Founded in Sarajevo in 2018 by Dr. Claudia Zini, a trained art historian and curator, Kuma International has a compelling and innovative mission for Bosnia and Herzegovina: to utilize art as a fundamental tool for pursuing reconciliation, addressing trauma, and preserving war memories. The organization believes that the arts, in conjunction with education, offer a significant opportunity to come to terms with the past, achieve closure, heal from collective and personal trauma, and foster a more inclusive and compassionate society.

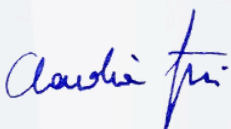
Thanks to its extensive network, both locally and internationally, and its wealth of experience, Kuma International has developed various programs and initiatives in several cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as through online platforms during the pandemic. These efforts have enabled the organization to connect with partners worldwide. Kuma's programs include summer schools, workshops, field trips, exhibitions, documentary films, publications, and other events that utilize the arts to explore and address issues related to human rights, justice, civil society engagement, and democratic participation.

From its establishment, Kuma International has worked with hundreds of young people from diverse cultures and backgrounds, representing more than twenty countries. The organization's aim is to promote understanding and mutual respect, dismantle stereotypes and prejudices, and contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and harmonious society.

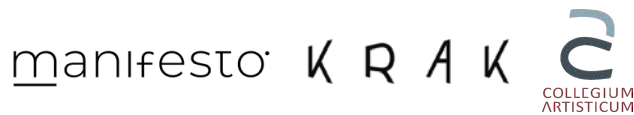
One of Kuma's most enduring and successful initiatives is its Summer School. Established in 2018, the Kuma International Summer School is the first program solely dedicated to contemporary art practices emerging from the context of conflict and trauma. The school focuses on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the work artists in the region and the diaspora have been making in response to the political turmoil of the 1990s, which began with the fall of Yugoslavia and ended with war and genocide.

Dr Claudia Zini

Founder & CEO



DONORS AND PARTNERS



Ministarstvo kulture i sporta
Kantona Sarajevo

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023



8

**PARTNERSHIPS
AND
COLLABORATIONS**



1000+

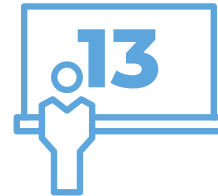
**PEOPLE
ENGAGED**



EXHIBITIONS



PUBLICATIONS



**WORKSHOPS &
LECTURES**



FILM



SUMMER SCHOOL



MUSIC ALBUM



CONCERT



RADIO PROGRAM

LABORS OF CARE

Nataša Mackuljak

Sanja Lasić

Smirna Kulenović

Otvorenje

08.03.2023. u 19:00 sati

Radionica sa Sanjom Lasić

10.03.2023. u 18:00 sati

LABORS OF CARE

08.03. - 22.03.2023.

@manifesto:

Despićeva 3, Sarajevo

austrijski kulturni forum^{sar}



The exhibition “Labors of Care” opened in Sarajevo on March 8 on International Women’s Day at the gallery Manifesto.

The exhibition showed the works of three women artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina currently residing in Vienna: Smirna Kulenović, Sanja Lasić and Nataša Mackuljak. Within a collaborative artistic research project, the artists jointly re-interpret historical and contemporary feminist discourses related to the ideas of resistance, labor and care.

It explored a common intersecting point in the artists’ work, that of the role of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, their contributions to society, and the challenges they have faced throughout history, by juxtaposing artistic positions from three generations of women artists who migrated to Austria during three different decades and socio-political circumstances: While the work of Sanja Lasić deals with traditional women’s labor and visual heritage, Nataša Mackuljak has a closer look at women’s antifascist resistance during World War II in Yugoslavia, while Smirna Kulenović focuses on collective action and care in the aftermath of the Bosnian war.





The exhibition was followed by the workshop “Redrawing the Bosnian ćilim” by Sanja Lasić. Together with local and international participants, the artist explored elements of women labour related to the production of visual cultural heritage, vowed into traditional Bosnian carpets.



parishan troop to pass
through the village so
that she could join them.



**WORKSHOP
WITH AIDA
ŠEHOVIĆ**



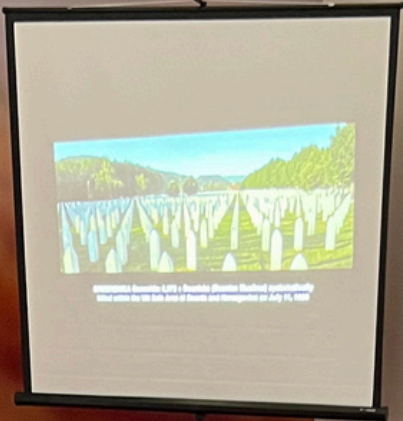
43 Italian art students from Milano gathered at the Manifesto contemporary art gallery in Sarajevo on April 3 for a workshop led by artist Aida Šehović. The focus of this immersive session was to delve into the complex and deeply significant topic of the Srebrenica genocide, utilizing Šehović's monumental project "ŠTO TE NEMA" as a lens for exploration.

During the workshop, participants engaged in a multifaceted journey through Šehović's artistic process and the powerful narratives embedded within her work. Through poignant discussions, interactive activities, and visual exploration, the students gained a deeper understanding of the historical and emotional context surrounding the Srebrenica genocide.

ŠTO TE NEMA, which translates to "Why Aren't You Here," serves as a poignant memorial to the thousands of lives lost during the Srebrenica massacre. Through a collection of symbolic empty chairs, each representing a missing individual, Šehović's installation evokes a profound sense of absence and remembrance, inviting viewers to reflect on the human toll of conflict and violence.

By participating in this workshop, the Italian art students had the opportunity to engage with the complexities of history and memory, fostering empathy, awareness, and a deeper connection to the events of the past. Through Šehović's guidance and the transformative power of art, they were able to confront difficult truths and explore the potential of artistic expression as a means of education, commemoration, and healing.





MEMORY FOR FORGETFULNESS





In October 2023, Uma International had the privilege of hosting a truly enriching and memorable workshop titled 'Memory for Forgetfulness.' Led by the renowned Lebanese author Yasmine Khayat and esteemed Bosnian artist Aida Šehović, this workshop provided a profound exploration of Bosnian and Lebanese wartime memories.

Gathering in our space were thirty remarkable participants from both local and international backgrounds, all eager to engage in the transformative experience offered by the workshop. Through the ritual of coffee, drawings, readings, and writings, attendees embarked on a deeply introspective journey, delving into the intricacies of memory, trauma, and resilience.

Following the workshop sessions, an illuminating conversation unfolded between Yasmine and Aida, facilitated by the insightful moderation of art critic Uros Cvorovic. This dialogue provided a platform for reflection, exchange, and deeper understanding, as participants grappled with the complexities of collective memory and its impact on personal and societal narratives.

This event held special significance as it was part of the Ellipsis Fold of Memory project, curated by our esteemed friends Rola Khayat and Kostana Banovic. This innovative project brought together thirteen multidisciplinary practitioners from the Balkans and the Middle East to Sarajevo for a dynamic four-day program of workshops, screenings, and conversations. Through collaborative engagement and creative exploration, the project sought to bridge cultural divides, foster dialogue, and cultivate new perspectives on the intersections of memory, identity, and history.





SARAJEVO
1992 - 1996

SARAJEVO

1992 - 1996



Enrico Dagnino

Enrico Dagnino

SARAJEVO

1992 - 1996

"Sarajevo 1992-1996" stands as a poignant testimony to the resilience and spirit of the city and its inhabitants during the harrowing siege. Through the lens of Italian photojournalist Enrico Dagnino, the book presents a compelling narrative through more than 100 captivating images, capturing the raw essence of daily life amidst the conflict.

What sets this book apart is its immersive approach, offering not only striking visuals but also personal insights from Dagnino himself. Accompanied by his notes and drawings from that tumultuous period, as well as insightful texts by Džemil Hodžić, Nihad Kreševljaković, and Enric Martí, the book provides a multi-dimensional exploration of Sarajevo's wartime experience.

The collaborative effort behind the book's creation is also noteworthy. Designed with precision by Ideologija and published by Kuma International in April 2023, it represents a convergence of artistic vision and dedication to preserving history. The book's launch during the Modul Memorise festival in Sarajevo added an extra layer of significance, offering a platform for reflection and commemoration within the community.

Since its release, "Sarajevo 1992-1996" has garnered widespread acclaim and recognition, with over 500 copies sold both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and internationally. Its reach extends far beyond geographical borders, resonating with audiences in Europe, the United States, and Australia, and serving as a testament to the enduring relevance of Sarajevo's story.

MODULMEMORIJE 6. april — 9. maj

11123

We are honoured to invite you to the launch of the photo monograph

"SARAJEVO 1992 - 1996" by author and photographer Enrico Dagnino

at the Memorial Fund - Kovači Multimedia Center,
on April 27 2023 at 6.00 p.m.





"With Enrico Dagnino's contribution, the photographic memory of the city is richer. His excellent book, preserving Sarajevo's complex history, includes some of the most significant moments from the siege period. Unlike domestic photographers, the foreign photojournalists had the opportunity to place themselves behind the enemy lines, close to those who kept the city under siege. The photos from the other side provide an important record because, for the inhabitants of Sarajevo, the outlines of the horizon and the mountains surrounding the city also represent the borders of the entire planet."

NIHAD KREŠEVLJAKOVIĆ

SUMMER SCHOOL



Established in 2018, the Kuma International Summer School stands as a pioneering initiative, marking the first program dedicated solely to contemporary art practices emerging from the crucible of conflict and trauma. With a steadfast focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the school serves as a platform for artists both within the region and across the diaspora to illuminate their responses to the profound political upheavals of the 1990s.

This year's iteration of the program offered participants a unique opportunity to intimately engage with artists from the region, providing a window into the creative processes and contextual influences shaping their work. Through workshops, discussions, and collaborative projects, attendees delved into the depths of artistic expression, exploring themes of resilience, memory, and identity in the aftermath of conflict.

However, the program extends far beyond the confines of artistic exploration. Participants were also invited to immerse themselves in the vibrant tapestry of Sarajevo's cultural landscape, embarking on guided tours of historic sites, museums, and galleries. These excursions offered invaluable insights into the city's rich history and diverse cultural heritage, enhancing the overall experience and fostering a deeper connection between art, place, and memory.

In essence, the Kuma International Summer School transcends traditional boundaries, offering a holistic and transformative journey that intertwines artistic discovery with cultural immersion. As participants navigate the intricate intersections of past and present, conflict and creativity, they emerge enriched and empowered, equipped with a renewed perspective and a deeper appreciation for the enduring power of art in shaping narratives of resilience and hope.



This year's summer school was an opportunity for artists and scholars to come together to reflect on the legacy of the war and its impact on Bosnia and Herzegovina's contemporary art scene.

Through a series of

- lectures
- presentations
- round tables
- workshops
- guided tours

19 participants from

- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Italy
- Turkey
- United States
- Germany
- UK
- Switzerland

engaged in critical discussions and creative workshops focused on the themes of memory, trauma, and identity. Through these discussions and workshops, attendees gained a deeper understanding of how the war has shaped Bosnia and Herzegovina's cultural landscape, and how artists are using their work to address the lasting effects of the conflict.



Kuma International Summer School is a unique educational program that focuses on contemporary art practices produced in conflict and trauma. It is the first program of its kind, dedicated solely to this topic, and aims to provide a platform for artists and scholars to explore and reflect on the role of art in times of crisis.

More than **115** students from **20** different countries have participated in the program over the past **6** editions (2018-2023).

The program is held annually in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sarajevo is a city that has experienced significant conflict and trauma in recent history, and has become a symbol of resilience and hope. The city provides a rich backdrop for the summer school, offering students the opportunity to engage with local artists and communities, and to learn about the complex cultural and political landscape of the region.

The summer school is open to students and professionals from a variety of disciplines, including art, history, sociology, and political science. The program is designed to be interdisciplinary, with a focus on collaborative and participatory approaches to learning. Participants engage in a variety of activities, including lectures, workshops, field trips, and studio visits, all aimed at exploring the intersection of art and conflict.

The curriculum is structured around a series of thematic modules, each of which explores a different aspect of contemporary art practices in conflict and trauma. Some of the topics covered include: the role of art in conflict resolution, the relationship between art and memory, the ethics of representation in times of crisis, and the potential for art to foster social change.



MUSIC IN MY SUITCASE

The foundation of the “Music in My Suitcase” initiative rests on a simple yet deeply emotional idea: music knows no boundaries; music speaks all languages. While headlines about the migrant crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina are decreasing in the media, the need for understanding and integrating people on the move remains.

The project’s core concept is to connect people on the move – who leave their homes and heritage behind while escaping conflicts and uncertainty – with the local community through a shared language: music.

Kuma International, with the local band BalkanEros and migrants from the Ušivak reception center and in cooperation with and financed by CRS, conducted ten music workshops where knowledge about the musical heritages of the migrants’ home countries was transmitted through songs and collaborative music-making. As the workshops’ output, an album of ten songs was recorded. The shared journey culminated in a public concert featuring the album’s presentation.





MUZIKA U MOM KOFERU

MUSIC IN MY SUITCASE

MUZIKA U MOM KOFERU

MUSIC IN MY SUITCASE

MUZIKA U MOM KOFERU

MUSIC IN MY SUITCASE







This extraordinary music album is a tapestry woven with ten spellbinding melodies, each meticulously handpicked to narrate the epic tale of our world through the lens of migration.

It embarks on a journey mirroring the routes that courageous migrants traverse, commencing in the far reaches of the East, venturing through India, embarking to Cuba, and finally circling back to the heart of Europe.

We've made this album and its accompanying songbook, with lyrics, available for free download. This gesture allows our gifted collaborators to revel in their creations from any corner of the globe, instilling them with well-deserved pride. Moreover, it serves as an open invitation to a global audience, inviting them to partake in our story and embrace our message through the power of world music.



It was an honor for Kuma International to meet some of the people temporarily hosted at the Usivak camp and to listen to the stories they generously shared with our team and the local musicians of the Balkaneros Banditos band. Thanks to the power of music, we were able to establish genuine and sincere connections, transcending the language barrier and creating a safe environment where we all felt at home for a brief moment.

“As the Director of Kuma International, I am extremely proud of my team and all the musicians. They have delivered an incredible project and a wonderful music album that we hope will reach as many people as possible beyond Bosnia. I would also like to express my gratitude to the CRS organization for the immense trust they have placed in our organization and for the unique opportunity they have given us to connect with people on the move. We are all one big family, with many things in common - hopes and wishes for a good and healthy life filled with joy for us and our loved ones . and we need to remind ourselves of this fact more often, creating more opportunities to bring people together to share and connect. We have been doing this through art since Kuma’s very beginning in 2018, and we will continue on this path in the future”

Claudia Zini

PUTNICI TRAVELERS

Short documentary
by Mirza Ajnadžić

Music by
Balkaneros & Travelers



During this creative process, we recognized the potential to weave our journey into a captivating visual narrative – a documentary that would serve as a powerful tool for advocacy, allowing us to champion and propagate the messages at the heart of “Music in My Suitcase.” Our aspiration is that this documentary, born from our passion and purpose, will traverse vast distances, share our example, and inspire others to take a look at the topic of migration from another perspective. We envision it as a mesmerizing ambassador, a storyteller, capable of reaching the farthest corners of the globe. As it embarks on its own voyage, we anticipate it will find a receptive audience in film festivals and other public spaces for dialogue, enabling our story to resonate with diverse cultures, forging connections, fostering understanding, and illustrating all of us as Travelers.

**UNFOLDING
ELSEWHERE**

Velibor Božović: *Unfolding Elsewheres*

Curator: Claudia Zini

An exhibition by Center for Contemporary Culture KRAK
in partnership with Kuma International

June 2nd – 25th 2023

The exhibition *Unfolding Elsewheres* displayed some of the most representative works by Bosnian artist Velibor Božović. It contained his earlier autobiographical video work *My Prisoner* (2016), a memory project titled *Unfolding Elsewheres* (2016–2023) and his latest sound work titled *Listening series* (2023). A new radio project *Radio Elsewheres*, produced by the artist in collaboration with writer Zeenat Nagree and artist and musician Steve Bates, was launch to operate from within the exhibition space. Displayed in the city of Bihać, a major transit point for migrants and asylum seekers, the exhibition explored the connection between Bosnian wartime displacement and the current refugee crisis on the Balkan route, highlighting the shared history between the two experiences.

The works on display shared the artist's interest in exploring non-linear narratives that bring into focus the complicated process of remembering, retelling and sharing personal stories. Combining elements of fiction and archival footage, *My Prisoner* addresses a particular event that happened when Božović was serving in the Bosnian army during the siege of Sarajevo – his only meeting with his father who was held as a prisoner of war by the same army.



Curator: Claudia Zini



Canada Council
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Conseil des arts
du Canada

The exhibition *Unfolding Elsewheres* was composed of a series of photographic prints of firsthand accounts of people's lives before, during and after the war in the 1990s, collected by Božović and writer Aleksandar Hemon while interviewing members of the Bosnian diaspora. The artist later transcribed and reassembled these conversations by purposely eliminating their syntactic elements, resulting in fragmented texts that open a space for a viewer to explore points of familiarity and strangeness.

The exhibition also featured the *Listening* series, a composition of various audio recordings that echo a fluid assembly of voices telling of lives in transition. The work was born in close correlation to the first edition of *Radio Elsewheres*, a radio program which was conceptualized specifically for the exhibition, a space for reflection and dialogue open to artists, musicians, journalists, writers, poets, storytellers and others interested in sharing their projects and experiences around conflict, movement, and migration. More than 200 contributors took part to Radio Elsewheres in the course of the three weeks of transmission.

Artist Velibor Božović grew up in Sarajevo. In 1999 he moved to Montréal, Canada. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Studio Arts at Concordia University, where he currently teaches. In 2015 he was awarded the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art. His work has been exhibited internationally.

This exhibition was supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. It was curated by Kuma International founder and director, curator Claudia Zini and hosted by KRAK center for contemporary culture in Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Radio Elsewheres

2. — 25.6. 2023.



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K R A K