

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

At Kuma International, we believe that art has the power not only to represent trauma, but to transform it into dialogue and memory into a shared future.

MESSAGE FROM DR CLAUDIA ZINI

Dear friends, colleagues, and supporters,

As I look back on 2024, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and pride. This has been a year of incredible growth, new opportunities, and important international recognition for the work we have been building with passion since 2018.

One of the biggest highlights this year was Kuma International being selected as one of the 50 organizations worldwide for the **Creativity Pioneers Fund**, organized by the **Moleskine Foundation**. Out of 2,100 applications from 136 countries, Kuma was recognized for its innovative approach to exploring art, memory, and reconciliation in post-conflict contexts. At a time when the world is seeing increasing militarization and ongoing wars, our work stands as a necessary counterpoint—using the stories and experiences of those who have lived through war to critically examine its consequences.

This year, we also strengthened our collaborations, building new partnerships with leading institutions and further establishing our presence in the international arts and cultural research community. Through projects focused on **transitional justice, memory, and reconciliation**, we continue to create opportunities for artists, scholars, and young people to engage with Bosnia's complex history in meaningful ways—while also expanding the conversation to other regions facing conflict. By drawing connections between different post-war contexts, we aim to deepen the understanding of the universal challenges of remembrance, justice, and healing.

Our **educational programs** have also seen incredible growth. The **Kuma International Summer School** received a record number of applications, reinforcing its role as a key platform for arts-based learning in post-conflict societies. At the same time, our **Italian High School Cultural Exchange** continues to flourish, bringing more young people to Sarajevo and deepening their understanding of Bosnia's history and artistic landscape.

On a personal level, **2024 was a milestone year for me**. I was incredibly honored to receive the **Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia**, a recognition of my commitment to cultural diplomacy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I was also awarded the **Revizor Fellowship 2025** for my work in post-conflict artistic research and documentation.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without **our incredible team, partners, and supporters**. Kuma is not just about projects—it is about people: artists, students, and communities coming together to create, reflect, and heal through the power of art.

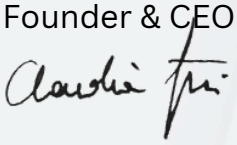
Looking ahead to 2025, we are preparing for another exciting year:

- Welcoming over 500 Italian students for immersive artistic and historical learning experiences in Sarajevo.
- Hosting the 8th edition of the Kuma International Summer School, marking the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide, creating a powerful space for reflection and dialogue.
- Expanding the Kuma Residency Program, bringing more international artists and scholars to Bosnia.
- **Strengthening our collaboration with RMIT University (Australia) on *The Art of Remembrance and Peace*, examining how the arts contribute to transitional justice and reconciliation.**
- Launching collaborations with international professionals in the fields of arts and memory, fostering cross-border knowledge exchange.
- Taking Kuma's mission to the global stage, with our participation in Radio Elsewheres [re.03] in Canada, October 2025, as we continue to expand our work in new international contexts.

With these goals ahead, we remain deeply committed to using **art as a tool for dialogue, education, and healing.** This recognition reaffirms our mission and strengthens our ability to **challenge narratives that normalize violence, while highlighting the urgent need for reflection, remembrance, and peace**.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

With gratitude,
Dr Claudia Zini
Founder & CEO



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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OPĆINA CENTAR SARAJEVO

manifesto

Syracuse University
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adopt Srebrenica

WAR CHILDHOOD MUSEUM



2024: A YEAR OF GROWTH, RECOGNITION & NEW COLLABORATIONS

Through innovative projects, strategic partnerships, and international recognition, 2024 has been a defining year for Kuma International, solidifying our position as a global platform for artistic research, cultural diplomacy, and post-conflict education.



Expanding Our International Collaborations

- **New partnerships** with **UNFPA (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Yale, and Syracuse University (United States)**, further strengthening our work in arts, reconciliation, and cultural diplomacy.
- **First-time collaboration** with **RMIT University (Australia)** on *The Art of Remembrance and Peace*, examining how the arts contribute to transitional justice and reconciliation.
- **Continued partnership** with **Forum ZFD (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** on *The Art of Archiving*, engaging youth in memory work and artistic storytelling in Srebrenica.



Record-Breaking Interest in the Kuma International Summer School

The **7th edition of our Summer School** welcomed **28 participants** from across Europe, Palestine, Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, reflecting the program's growing international reach.

- **Nearly 70 applications** were received, demonstrating the increasing demand for arts-based learning in post-war societies.
- Discussions centered on art, **memory, displacement and migration**, featuring leading scholars and artists.



Supporting the Bosnian Diaspora Through Art Residencies

- Kuma's **Residency Program** continued to provide a platform for **diaspora artists and researchers** to reconnect with Bosnia, explore their heritage, and contribute to impactful artistic initiatives.

- **Aida Šehović (USA/BiH) & Arna Mačkić (Netherlands/BiH)** – *Cups of Memory*, exploring how **Srebrenica is remembered in Dutch public spaces**.

- **Lora Adžić (Australia/BiH)** – Investigating **diaspora identity and experiences of return to Bosnia**.



Key Projects & Artistic Initiatives

- **Radio Elsewheres: Bridging Borders Through Sound** *(Sarajevo, June 2024)* – A 24/7 experimental radio project amplifying global voices on **migration, identity, and displacement**.
- **The Art of Archiving** *(Srebrenica, July–August 2024)* – A hands-on project engaging youth in **archival research and artistic storytelling**.
- **The Art of Remembrance and Peace** *(Bosnia & Kosovo, in partnership with RMIT, ongoing)* – Investigating the role of **arts in memory, identity, and transitional justice**.



Major Awards & Recognitions

Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia – A Recognition for Cultural Diplomacy

In 2024, Kuma International's Founder & Director, **Claudia Zini**, was awarded the prestigious **Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia**, an honor conferred by the **President of the Italian Republic** upon the proposal of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**.

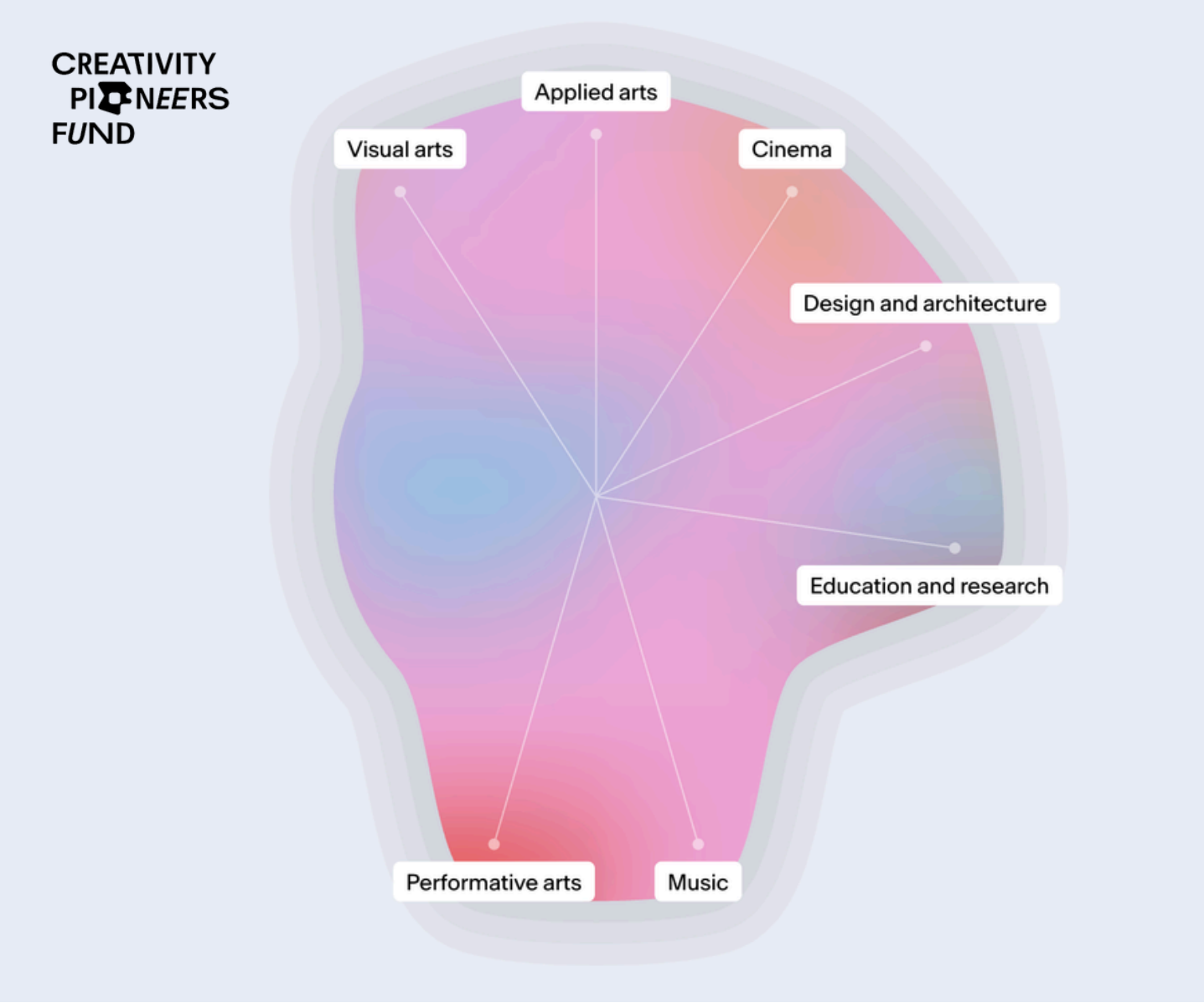
The **ceremony**, held at the **Residence of the Italian Ambassador in Sarajevo**, celebrated Claudia's exceptional contributions to **cultural diplomacy and reconciliation efforts** in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



In his address, **Ambassador Marco Di Ruzza** remarked:

"This important recognition certainly does not come by chance. Our cultural diplomacy can boast a remarkable 'unifying power' in a society such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, still divided by persistent ethnic-religious fault lines. Italian culture can therefore put itself at the service of reconciliation and social cohesion processes, looking especially at the youngest, who are essential to the country's European path. An inspiring criterion that is fully in line with Claudia's commitment—the commitment of a lifetime, we can certainly say."

This recognition highlights **the profound impact of Kuma International's mission** to use art and culture as **tools for healing, dialogue, and understanding in post-conflict societies**. It underscores **Claudia's unwavering dedication to fostering connections across divides** and inspiring **positive change through creativity and education.**



Major Awards & Recognitions

Creativity Pioneers Fund – A Testament to Kuma's Global Impact

In 2024, Kuma International was honored to be selected as **one of only 50 organizations** from **over 2,100 applications across 136 countries** to receive support from the **Creativity Pioneers Fund**, organized by the **Moleskine Foundation**.

The **Creativity Pioneers Fund**, launched in 2021, recognizes **cultural and creative organizations worldwide** that address pressing challenges through **innovative and unconventional solutions**.

This year's **cohort** includes remarkable organizations from **Rwanda to Norway, South Africa to Argentina**, each using creativity and culture to **make a lasting impact in their communities**.



As part of the **Creativity Pioneers Fund**, Kuma International **joins a global network of organizations** dedicated to **driving positive social change through creativity**. This recognition reaffirms our mission and provides **an incredible opportunity to further our impact**.

We are profoundly grateful to the **Moleskine Foundation** for this honor and excited to **embark on this transformative chapter.**



Major Awards & Recognitions

Sarajevo Film Festival – Showcasing Migration & Music Through Film

In **August 2024**, Kuma International proudly celebrated the debut of our documentary film **Travelers (Putnici)** in the **BH Film category** at the **30th Sarajevo Film Festival**.

The **screening, held on August 18th at Cineplexx 3**, marked a significant milestone in our mission to **bridge divides and foster understanding through art and storytelling**.

Directed by Mirza Ajnadžić, *Travelers* was created as part of **Music in My Suitcase—a project by Kuma International and CRS** that connects **people on the move** with the local community through music, showing its power as a **universal language of empathy and unity.**

PUTNICI
TRAVELERS

Short documentary by Mirza Ajnadžić

Music by Balkaneros & Travelers





Travelers captures the **personal stories** of individuals navigating **migration and displacement**, emphasizing **resilience** and the **shared humanity** of those often marginalized.

By spotlighting these experiences, the film underscores the **importance of fostering dialogue and understanding in an increasingly divided world.**



KUMA International predstavlja koncert i promociju albuma:

MUZIKA U MOM KOFERU

BalkanEros Band i Putnici
2. septembar 2023. u 20h, Atelje Figure



Muzička trupa: Haris Abdagić, Aldin Šehić, Almin Redžepović, Sead Solo, Semir Solo, Armen Škobalj, Edin Učanbarlić, Toni Pešikan, Ayoub, Nouriez Javed - Nur
Domaćini: Claudia Zini, Ferida Abdagić, Selver Učanbarlić, Ira Raković, Mira Mehmedagić, Slaviša Mašić



2 EDUCATION

Through immersive programs, cross-cultural exchanges, and creative workshops, Kuma International fosters critical thinking and dialogue on memory, identity, and reconciliation. Education remains at the heart of our mission.

Kuma International Summer School: 7th Edition



Dates: July 22–30, 2024
Locations: Sarajevo & Goražde
Participants: Nearly 70 applications from across Europe





The 7th edition of the Kuma International Summer School marked a significant milestone as we successfully hosted this program for the seventh consecutive year. Supported by **Erasmus Plus, Kreisau-Initiative, and Općina Centar Sarajevo**, the school explored themes of memory, identity, migration, and reconciliation, fostering meaningful cross-cultural discussions among students and experts.





Program Highlights:

- **Day 1:** A sound walk through Sarajevo and Trebević Mountain set the stage for discussions on identity, belonging, and Bosnia's layered history.
- **Day 2:** Conversations centered around home, migration, and the evolving sense of identity in post-conflict societies.
- **Day 3:** Participants engaged with Sarajevo's history through guided visits to monuments and museums.
- **Day 4:** Guest speakers examined how memory, cultural narratives, and artistic practices shape the understanding of Bosnia's past.
- **Day 5:** The final day in Sarajevo included discussions on genocide, literature, and visual arts, ending with a musical moment connecting Bosnian melodies to migration stories.

Guest lecturers and presenters included:
Velibor Božović, Irfan Hošić, Maja Zećo, Aida Šehović, Yulia Kopr, Ferida and Haris Abdagić, Mak Hubjer, Velma Babić, Selma Ćatović Hughes, Ana Čvorović, Ibro Hasanović, Enes Žuljević, Uroš Čvoro, Sanja Grozdanic, Hariz Halilovich, Enrico Dagnino, and Amel Beslagić.

Key Components:
- Sarajevo Lectures & Conversations: 15 lectures and discussions on art, migration, identity, war, and displacement.
- Field Trip to Goražde: A guided hike along wartime escape routes, followed by a roundtable discussion on war legacies and resilience in post-war communities.











Italian High School Student Visits



Dates: Throughout 2024
Location: Sarajevo
Participants: Over 150 high school students from Milan, Turin, Bologna, and Venice





Throughout 2024, Kuma International welcomed more than 150 Italian high school students to Sarajevo. These visits provided immersive educational experiences on **memory, genocide, migration, and music**, connecting students with artists, historians, and cultural experts. Through interactive workshops, historical site visits, and artistic reflections, students gained a deeper understanding of Bosnia's history and the role of memory in post conflict societies.



Syracuse and Yale University Student Program



Dates: February 2024
Location: Sarajevo
Participants: Eleven students from Syracuse School of Architecture and Yale University

In February 2024, Kuma International partnered with **Syracuse School of Architecture and Yale University** to host an **Educational Week in Sarajevo**, bringing eleven architecture students for a five-day immersive experience. The program, *"A Seed for a Song: Urban Seed Libraries as Memory Vessels*", was led by **Visiting Fellow Christina Zhang** in collaboration with **Smirna Kulenović and Kuma International**, exploring the intersection of **memory, urban landscapes, and ecological storytelling.**











The program invited students to reflect on architecture's role in shaping spaces of resilience and renewal in post-traumatic cities. Through workshops, site visits, and design exercises, participants critically examined how built environments can foster healing and community connection.



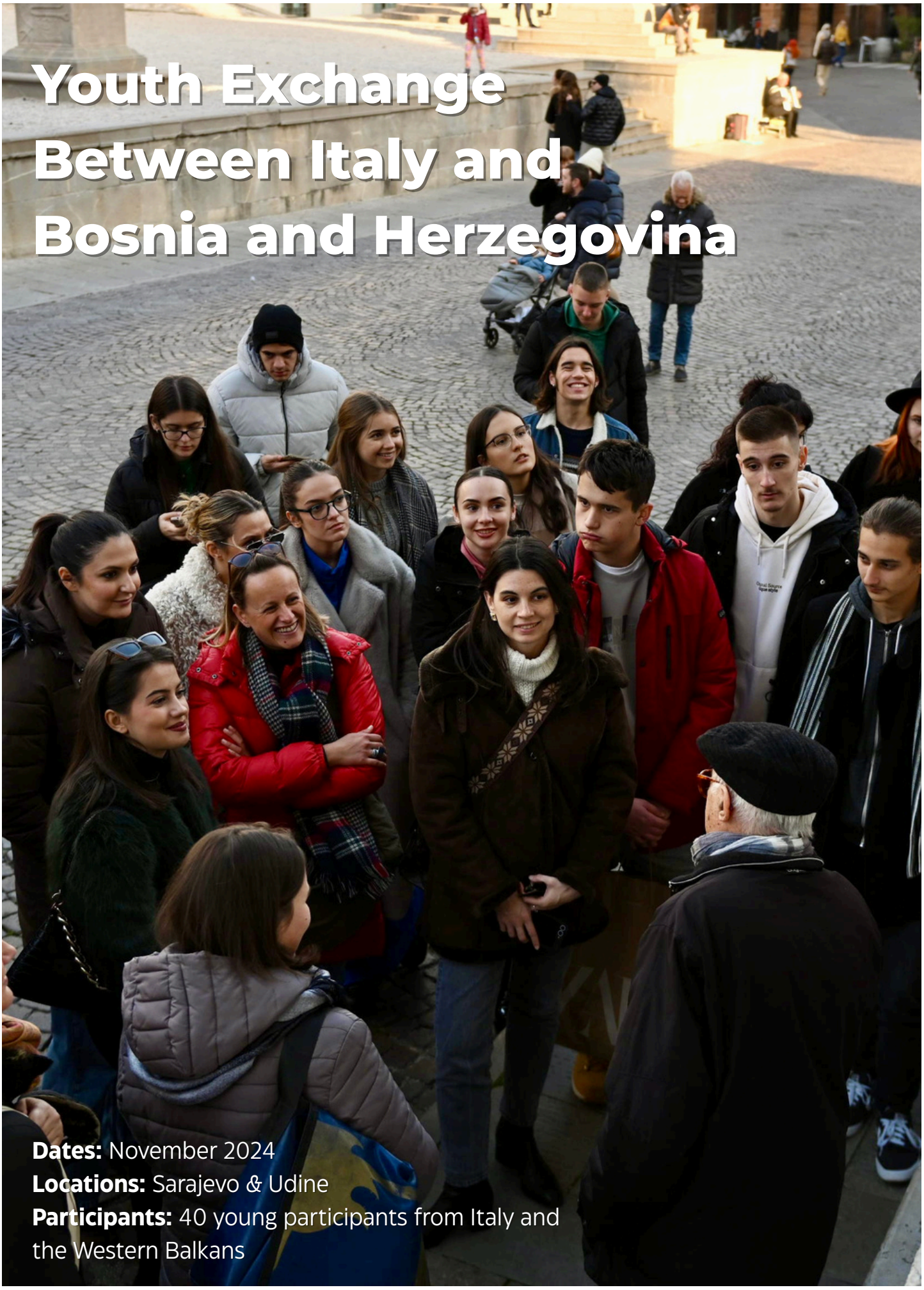
Workshops & Expert Contributors

Students participated in interdisciplinary workshops led by architects, artists, and academics, including:

- **Claudia Zini** (Kuma International)
- **Smirna Kulenović** (Berlin University of Arts)
- **Dunja Krvavac** (Dani Arhitekture)
- **Selma Ćatović Hughes** (American University of Sharjah)
- **Ismar Čirkinagić** (Independent Visual Artist)
- **Ena Kukić** (Graz University of Technology)
- **Lejla Odobašić** (International BURCH University)
- **Nasiha Pozder** (University of Sarajevo)

Kuma International played a key role in designing and coordinating the program, selecting guest speakers, managing logistics, and curating meaningful experiences for participants. This first-time collaboration reinforced Kuma's commitment to **education, dialogue, and healing through creative and interdisciplinary practices.**

Youth Exchange Between Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina



Dates: November 2024
Locations: Sarajevo & Udine
Participants: 40 young participants from Italy and the Western Balkans











Kuma International was honored to be an implementing partner in this **youth exchange project**, organized by **UNFPA with support from the Italian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. The initiative brought together 40 young participants to explore **art, history, identity, and reconciliation** through workshops, cultural visits, and creative collaborations. Kuma played a central role in **program design, coordination of guest speakers, and studio visits,** ensuring a rich and immersive experience.

Program Phases:

- **Sarajevo (November 17–23):** Participants engaged in **photography workshops, team-building activities, and visits to cultural landmarks** such as the War Childhood Museum

- **Udine (November 23–29):** In Italy, they explored **cultural heritage and sustainability through art exhibitions, historical tours, and creative discussions**, deepening their appreciation of shared histories and diverse perspectives.







Key Activities & Collaborations

- Photography Workshops: Participants developed skills in visual storytelling, capturing themes of social cohesion and identity.
- Art and Memory Sessions: Interactive discussions explored how art preserves memory, promotes healing, and engages with history.
- Cultural Visits: Participants visited significant sites such as the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo, the Ossuary Temple in Udine, and art exhibitions featuring Bosnian and Italian artists.



3 OTHER PROJECTS

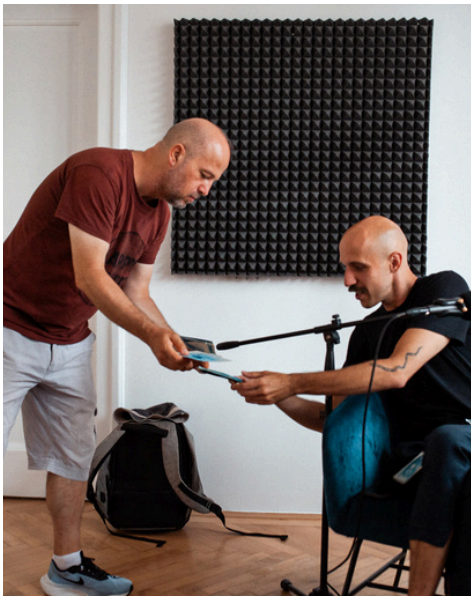
Our collaborative projects explore the intersections of art, memory, and social engagement. Through sound, archives, and academic exchange, we create platforms for reflection and community connection, amplifying voices, fostering understanding, and reimagining our relationship to the past and each other through creative practice.

Radio Elsewheres: A Sonic Exploration of Movement and Displacement



Dates: June 2024
Locations: Sarajevo





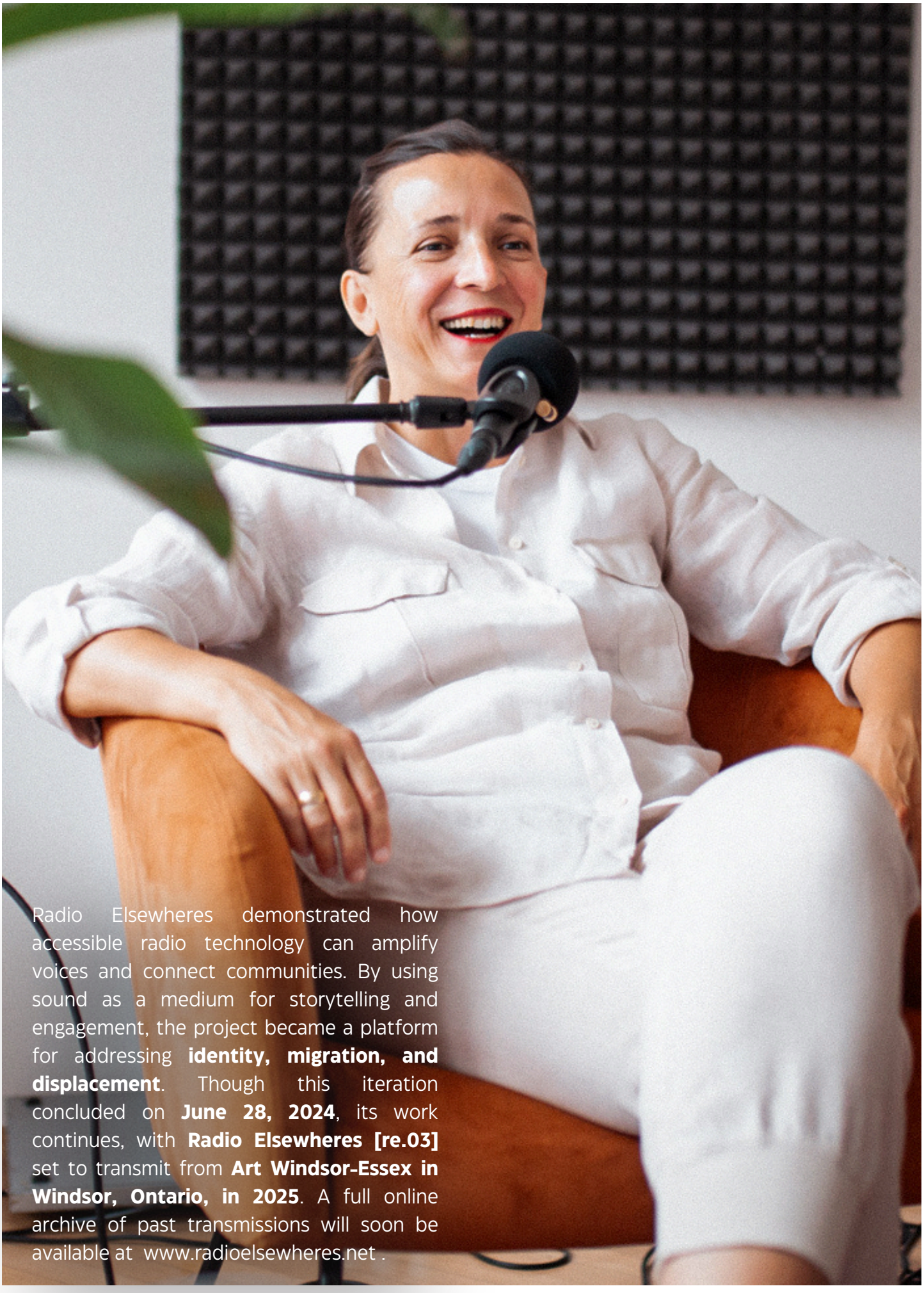


How can radio transcend borders and connect voices from around the world?
In June 2024, **Radio Elsewheres [re.02]** responded to this question through its second iteration, transmitting from Sarajevo alongside Velibor Božović's exhibition *Unfolding Elsewheres* at **Manifesto Gallery for Contemporary Arts.**

Conceived and curated by **Velibor Božović, Steve Bates, Claudia Zini, and Adna Muslija**, the radio station operated from Kuma International's studio while broadcasting online **24/7 from June 7 to June 28, 2024**. **Radio Elsewheres (RE)** is a hybrid online and terrestrial radio art project that explores **movement, displacement, and transformation** through sound-based research, storytelling, and artistic interventions. By creating a sonic space where sound art and social engagement converge, RE challenges notions of borders, migration, and belonging, while expanding the possibilities of listening to and from 'elsewheres.'

Key Highlights:

- **Broadcasting 24/7**: Featured live and pre-recorded contributions from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, and beyond. A major highlight was a **24-hour program dedicated to Palestine** and a **live recording from Sarajevo's 5th Pride March.**
- **Live Events**: Two events in collaboration with Manifesto Gallery engaged audiences in discussions about sound, identity, and displacement.



Radio Elsewheres demonstrated how accessible radio technology can amplify voices and connect communities. By using sound as a medium for storytelling and engagement, the project became a platform for addressing **identity, migration, and displacement**. Though this iteration concluded on **June 28, 2024**, its work continues, with **Radio Elsewheres [re.03]** set to transmit from **Art Windsor-Essex in Windsor, Ontario, in 2025**. A full online archive of past transmissions will soon be available at www.radioelsewheres.net .

The Art of Archiving



Dates: July - August 2024
Location: Srebrenica

How can historical archives become living tools for dialogue and reconciliation?
The Art of Archiving explored this question through a **multidisciplinary project** that highlighted the role of the **Documentation Center in Srebrenica** in preserving history and fostering conversations about the past.

- **Initial Visit to Srebrenica (July 30 – August 3, 2024):** The project team—**Ibro Hasanović, Vladimir Miladinović, and Claudia Zini**—visited the Documentation Center to explore its archives and connect with its team.

- **Workshop During the International Week of Srebrenica (August 2024):** A two-day workshop engaged **20 young participants** from Srebrenica and surrounding areas.

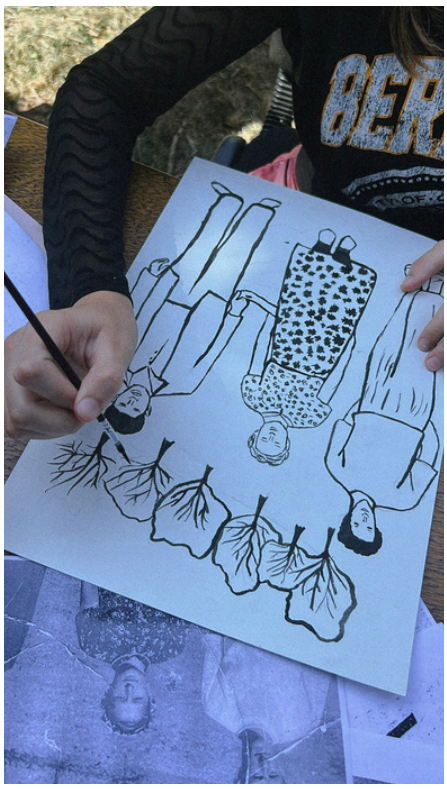
  - **Ibro Hasanović** guided participants in creating short films inspired by archival photographs, using their phones as creative tools.
  - **Vladimir Miladinović** introduced drawing techniques on archival images, encouraging personal and emotional engagement with history.
  - The workshop concluded with an **exhibition and discussion**, showcasing participants' artworks and films.

- **Development of an Educational Module:** Following the workshop, the team developed a **practical educational module** integrating **archival research, storytelling, and art**, designed to inspire future projects.



This project demonstrated how **collaboration between artists from different backgrounds,** like **Hasanović (from Srebrenica) and Miladinović (from Belgrade),** can foster **shared understanding of history.** The Documentation Center's **strong community ties** were crucial in creating an **engaging and trustful space** for young participants.









Supported by: Forum ZFD in collaboration with **Adopt Srebrenica**, *The Art of Archiving* successfully empowered youth, underscored the **value of archives**, and created lasting tools for future artistic and educational initiatives.

The Art of Remembrance and Peace (RMIT Collaboration)



Dates: Ongoing
Locations: Bosnia & Kosovo

In 2024, Kuma International established a groundbreaking collaboration with **RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia)**, laying the foundation for **The Art of Remembrance and Peace: Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Societies**, a project set for **implementation in 2025**.

This interdisciplinary initiative will explore how **arts and creative practices** contribute to **reconciliation, transitional justice, and healing** in post-conflict communities, with a focus on **Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo**. It will also address the ethical complexities of using art as a tool for **remembrance and peacebuilding** in contexts.

Project Leads:

- **Prof. Hariz Halilovich (RMIT)**
- **Dr. Claudia Zini (Kuma International)**
- **Dr. Elizabeth Kath (RMIT)**
- **Dr. Tuba Boz (RMIT)**
- **Ms. Adela Kusur (RMIT PhD Candidate)**

We are especially proud of **Adela Kusur's journey**, as she first joined Kuma International as a **resident in 2023**. Her continued research in this field exemplifies Kuma's **long-term impact** in fostering young scholars and artists. By integrating **fieldwork, ethnography, and creative practices**, this collaboration will offer new insights into **reconciliation, transitional justice, and artistic expression.**

This marks an important step forward for Kuma International, **further establishing its role** as a platform for dialogue and **pioneering research in post-conflict societies**.



KUMA RESIDENCY PROGRAM

In 2024, our Residency Program fostered a rich exchange of ideas, encouraging artists to explore themes of memory, migration, and reconciliation. By nurturing innovative projects, we continue to support the creation of work that engages with complex historical and cultural narratives.

Kuma International's **Residency Program** remains a **vital platform** for artists and scholars to **explore memory, migration, and reconciliation.** In 2024, we hosted three residencies that embodied our **mission to foster creativity, dialogue, and healing**. These residencies not only advanced the work of participating artists but also enriched Kuma's **growing network**, reinforcing our commitment to **supporting artistic practices that engage with complex histories.**

Camilla de Maffei & Christian Elia

Dates: February 2024
Location: Sarajevo

This residency focused on **memory, migration, and identity in Bosnia**, documenting **war-torn landscapes** and remnants of memory in **abandoned buildings**. Using **photography, oral history, and text,** the project explored themes of **rural depopulation** and the cultural heritage of displaced communities.



Aida Šehović & Arna Mačkić

Dates: October 2024
Location: Sarajevo

Artists **Aida Šehović and Arna Mačkić** collaborated on **Cups of Memory**, a research project aimed at **decolonizing the public memory of the Srebrenica Genocide** within Dutch history and public spaces. Their work critically examines **how collective remembrance is shaped**, highlighting the **absence of Srebrenica in mainstream European narratives**, and proposing **new ways to integrate this history into public consciousness.**



Lora Adžić

Dates: September – November 2024
Location: Sarajevo

From September to November 2024, **Lora Adžić**, an artist from **Melbourne with Bosnian roots**, joined Kuma International for a **two-month residency**. Her time at Kuma was dedicated to **exploring diaspora experiences** and **reconnecting with her heritage**, making this residency deeply personal and meaningful. Her work centered on **the former-Yugoslav diaspora experience**, combining **research, creative exploration, and study trips to Mostar and Banja Luka**. This residency highlighted the **importance of creating spaces** for diaspora artists to **reconnect with their cultural roots and family histories**.









TESTIMONIALS & REFLECTIONS

The true impact of Kuma International lies in the voices of our participants, whose experiences, friendships, and projects continue to shape our growing community.

Mia Selena Lerch, Summer School 2024 Participant
"I also wanted to take a moment to thank you for the incredible Kuma Summer School 2024. I have so many wonderful memories and made such beautiful friendships during that time. Just last month, I celebrated my 20th birthday in Berlin with Stela, Selma, Lara, and Anita—we even had a reunion for the Dino Merlin concert! It was such a special experience, and I truly owe it all to Kuma for bringing us together."

Selma Maglić, Anita Karabasić and Stela Knežević, Summer School 2024 Participants
"The Kuma Summer School was an incredibly important experience for us. Without it, we would never have met, nor would we have formed this wonderful group where we found like-minded people to talk about both the difficult and the funny sides of Bosnian and diasporic life. The school also gave us the motivation and courage we needed to pursue our projects."

Lora Adžić, Residency Program Participant
"I was very lucky to have a studio space at Kuma International through which I was able to meet an incredible array of creatives and academics, undertake research and focus on my practice."

Camilla de Maffei, Residency Program Participant
"Kuma is a welcoming, dynamic, and stimulating space that fosters meaningful exchanges and genuine collaboration. Thanks to the invaluable support of Claudia and her team, I was able to expand my research by connecting with local artists, scholars, and researchers, enriching my work with fresh perspectives and valuable insights. Beyond Sarajevo, Kuma's extensive network across Bosnia allowed me to work efficiently in other regions, offering crucial support that would have been otherwise challenging to find. Kuma has become a key reference point for my work in Bosnia—a place to return to and a vital hub for my ongoing research."