

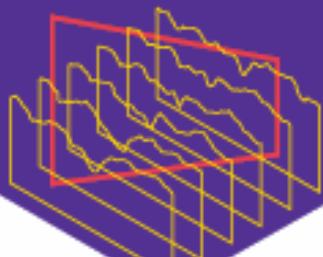
# EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ONSTAGE

Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union



2018   
EUROPEAN YEAR  
OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
#EuropeForCulture

 OPEN  
 SPACE  
 FOUNDATION



# ECHO

European Cultural Heritage Onstage



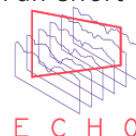
## THE ECHO EXHIBITION

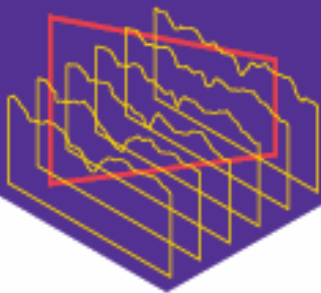
From the 4th to the 7th of April, the small Bulgarian town of Veliki Preslav suddenly became very lively. Exhibitions, installations and performances by artists from different countries engaged in topics about the wars, tragedies, mourning and traumatic events in the history of the region. A half-destroyed former socialist era hotel was chosen as a location for the events, enhancing the mark on the lives of local people

The hotel was built with the common efforts of local people, with their volunteer work during past times. Years later, the important events in locals lives were also held in the building: Graduation proms, weddings, anniversaries.

The events in Veliki Preslav are preceded by one-month residence in Macedonia and Serbia work with young people from several Bulgarian schools (we told you more about them in our previous reports), besides: filming and editing a documentary, and a special invitation to photographers from Bulgaria and selection of photos for the exhibition.

The goal of the team was to provoke people in a deliberate encounter with the past. To put the focus and the attention onto the ruin and sorrow that occurred after conflicts and devastating events. In an effort to overcome the grief, talk about these events, but also with the important appeal "TO NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN".

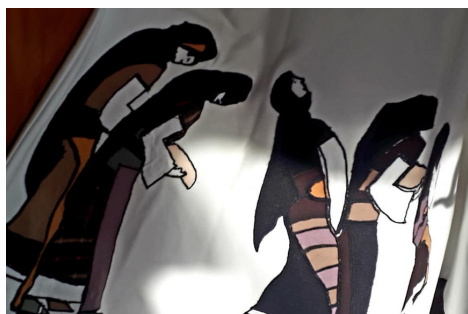




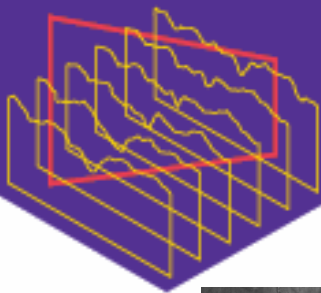
The meeting of the artists after their residences in Macedonia and Serbia once again opened wounds and dark memories. It was interesting to see the point of view of the team - Caravan project Greece, which filmed the documentary "Black Vein", in which the authors associate the Danube River with a vein bearing black memories of the past. Past, postwar years, and the devastation in the nature, health and livelihood of people from irresponsible chemical production in the not that distant years of the Soviet.



The project also included students from the Vocational High School of Textile and Fashion Design in Varna and the Vocational School of Applied Arts in Smolyan. The young designers tried to interpret the theme of mourning common to the whole project by developing models of mourning clothes. Their meetings with artists, talking with their peers from another school, is likely to serve new projects and collections.



On the 6th of April, a special event focused on their work was organized, and we will monitor their development over time as well as the artists: Martina Lapika and Ivanka Lyubomirova Stavreva from Bulgaria, Depy Antoniou and Aristaios Tsousis from Greece, Ljubica Meshkova-Solak and Kiril Konstantin from Macedonia, Snezana Petkovic and Bojan Josic from Serbia, Stratis Vogiatzis and Yorgos Samantas



# EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ONSTAGE

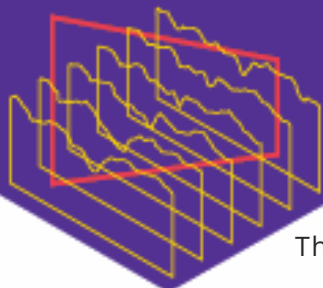


The local audience was surprised by the participation in the exhibition of the two photographers - Stoyan Nikolov from Shumen and Ivan Grigorov, and their footage from the so called "The Great Excursion" or the exodus of the Bulgarian Mohammedans to Turkey. This year marks the 30th anniversary of this dramatic for a lot of Bulgarians episode in history. Dustdried memories were recalled, and sadly with them the memory of the lost friendships were once again recovered. Stoyan Nikolov (a photographer who documented the events in the region) told how he needed to hide while he was shooting the panic and the departure of these people.



The interest of the local people was enormous. The nostalgia and the curiosity of the hotel's transformation took most of them out of their apathy and caused them to speak, to remember, to take out the forgotten sadness.

Visitors to the exhibition had the chance to engage with the art from 9 am to 8 am, coming to relax and to view the pictures and installations. As the mayor of the city - Mr. Alexander Gorchev noted at the opening: "People obviously need art, and they want it to be close to them, not to the glamorous and slightly pretentious galleries."



# EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ONSTAGE

The works of the authors can be seen on our web site: <https://www.openspacebg.com/>

A special gift for the visitors was prepared by the organizers - an original desktop calendar, which after its use can become a post-card. Intended so that the message of the exhibition could be sent to more people. If you are willing to include and distribute their message: "To never happen again" - you can order the calendar and share the cards with your friends..

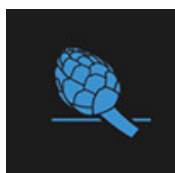


Discussing the dark past is not easy. Doing it with people who bear traces of the violence and incurable barbarism is even more difficult. And yet we managed to smile and start a new dialogue. We wish that it will be long and fruitful - Boyka Boneva shared - by a coordinating team from Greece.

**Photos:** Stoyan Nikolov and Hunt on Photos Studio Veliki Preslav



## WITH THE COLLABORATION OF



**Contact us:**  
[info@openspace.bg](mailto:info@openspace.bg)  
[www.openspacebg.com](http://www.openspacebg.com)

