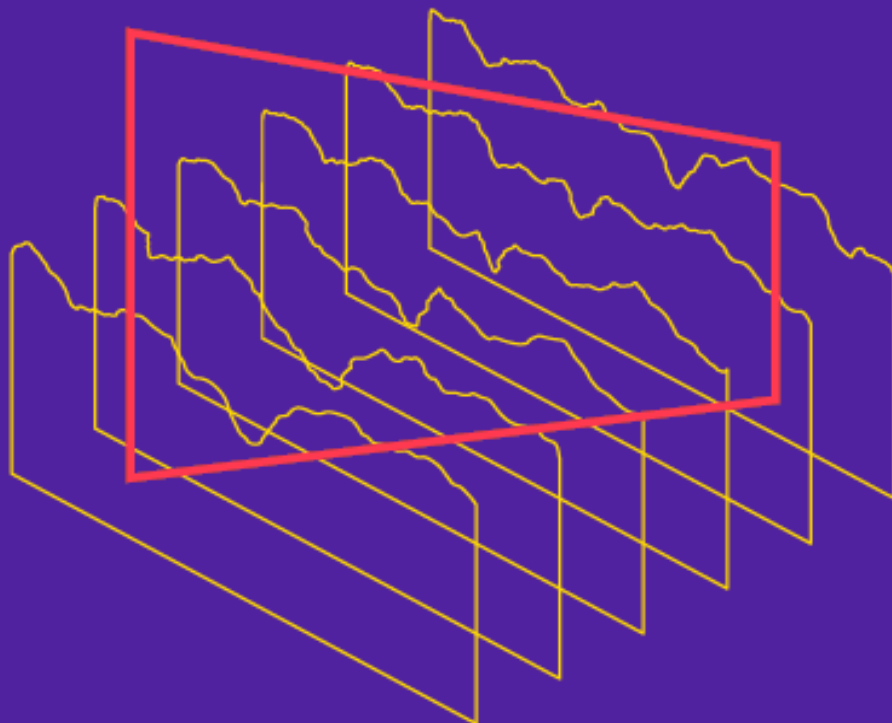


NEWSLETTER no.1



EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ONSTAGE

Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
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2018 
EUROPEAN YEAR
OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE
#EuropeForCulture

**#DarkHeritage #EYCH2018 #InterAlia #NoviSad #Bitola
#VelikiPrešlav**

AN INTERNATIONAL PILOT PROJECT

ECHO is already half way closer to its goal!

What is that goal?

- ◇ To enhance cultural production and
- ◇ reinforce the European sense of belonging

How?

- ◇ By connecting contemporary artistic creation with Dark Cultural Heritage of local communities in Europe.

Eight visual artists spent 1 month of creativity in Novi Sad and Bitola, mingling with the local population, dealing with traumatic heritage of the communities, observing and exploring war and conflict spaces of the past, understanding their position in the present and imagining their position in the future.



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ART RESIDENCY IN BITOLA

From 22 October 2018 until 22 November 2018, a motley group of artists explored aspects of the local dark heritage. They visited places of World War I, such as Pelister trail, Kajmakalan peak on Nidze Mountain, Mariovo region, French, Serbian, German cemeteries and city of Ohrid. Each of them has been the trigger point for the creations of the artists.

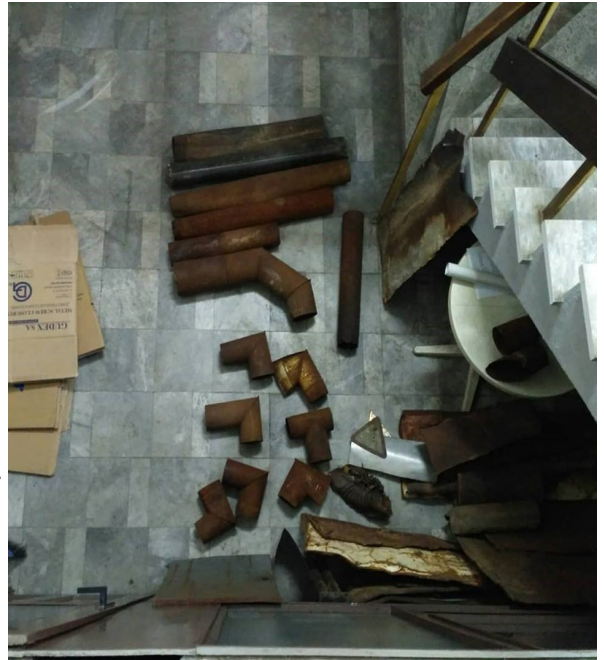


During the stay in Bitola, the ECHO artists had the opportunity to interact with the local population, to co-create part of their artistic pieces with locals, as well as to discuss with non-Balkan artists about other European Dark Heritage seen through a different perspective and artistic field. In specific North Macedonian partner “Sfera Macedonia” organised a poetry night with a Basque poet sharing her creations in her native language, insights on heritage, history and culture from the Basque country.

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WHAT WAS CREATED?

- A sculpture from rusty iron pipes, representing bomb cells expressed through a mixture of Cyrillic and Greek alphabet letters depicting the word "KSENOS" by Aristaios Tsousis
- An artistic installation inspired by Ohrid Lake aiming to depict death, loss and memory by Snezana Petkovic
- Two paintings aiming to re-conceptualise the fiercest battle on the peak of Kajmakchalan by Ivanka Stavreva
- Two computer graphics, monotypes combination, visualising the hope for a better future by Ljubica Meshkova-Solak.



Approximately 130 people from Bitola, Prilep and Florina attended the two Community Engagement Activities giving feedback to the artists' creative process. The results of the Art Residency have been presented in 20 attendees and the local TV Tera at the local exhibition on the 21st November.



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ART RESIDENCY IN NOVI SAD

The artists explored the traces of World War II through personal narratives, audiovisual archives, printed materials and letters as well as journals and testimonies from the period 1941-1945 in Vojvodina.

The different sources from the past were combined with examination of contemporary art practices and through establishing contacts with the contemporary cultural circuit of Novi Sad.

In addition, lectures and workshops focused on politically conscious art in different periods, the role and responsibility of the artist and the importance of artworks that question concrete historical events.



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ART RESIDENCY IN NOVI SAD

The artists themselves witnessed the signs of the past by visiting the most important memorials and monuments of the January Raid (21-23 January 1942) and the Partisans. The *Family*, by the sculptor Jovan Soldatoviæ, built in 1971 is classified as immovable cultural heritage spot of great significance. While the *Freedom*(Spomenik "Sloboda") by Sreten Stojanoviæ on Mount Fruška Gora, built in 1951 to honour the fallen World War II warriors, represents a symbol of the Yugoslav Partisans. The striking figure of a woman representing victory with her hands held high in a rallying gesture against fascism. The monument is often described as solemn and heroic.



During the art residency, artists opened their studio to the general audience, which numbered fifteen people. The visitors were able to chat with artists, inform about the program and learn more about their different stylistic approaches and processes. Their work has been largely disseminated by holding a media conference in the EU Info Point Novi Sad office, which gathered interested media outlets and art students, a total of ten people.

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WHAT WAS CREATED?

On the 15th of January, the multimedia exhibition EHO 77, result of the 1-month art residency opened its doors at the Svilara Cultural Centre in order to artistically discuss the local dark heritage of the Novi Sad Raid in 1942. The exhibition consisted of four conceptually different works that have been interrelated, complementing each other, thus creating a variety of perspectives of one of the most traumatic events in the history of Novi Sad.



Almost 20 different artistic works on canvases, sculptures, as well as an interactive installation and performance were presented by Bojan Josiæ from Serbia, Kiril T. Konstantin from North Macedonia, Martina Lapica from Bulgaria and Despina Antoniou from Greece



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THE CARAVAN PROJECT

Has been the 9th eye “grasping the fragrance of darkness, the temperature of mass murder” as they state themselves. The film crew continues; “we traced history carved on stone, and memory inscribed on soil, just to realise that humankind’s heritage is a dark one”.



What is to be created?

A short creative documentary is under production. It will be officially released at the ECHO international exhibition at Veliki Preslav in Bulgaria, 4- 8 April 2019.

[A small sneak peak](#)

The land as the receiver of all human endeavour, the primeval vessel where all the ingredients of history are meddled and interconnected, the eternal manuscript that everything is inscribed upon: relocations, catastrophes, transformations, life and death. The story of the Balkan land is a novel with a bloody cover, a constant narration in which the memories of the past haunts the people of today and contradict with the aspirations of the present, a crossroad where the dark heritage of the place coexist with the degradation of the land today.

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STAY TUNED!

4-8 April 2019 the artworks travel to Veliki Preslav, Bulgaria.

The International Arts Exhibition will bring together all the participating visual artists from the four Balkan countries (Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia) and will exhibit their artworks created in two different Balkan communities (Bitola, Novi Sad). Beyond the exhibits, artists and creators will be there to present, speak, exchange ideas, and initiate dialogue with the audience.

Updates will be uploaded on:



Or our partners' social media:

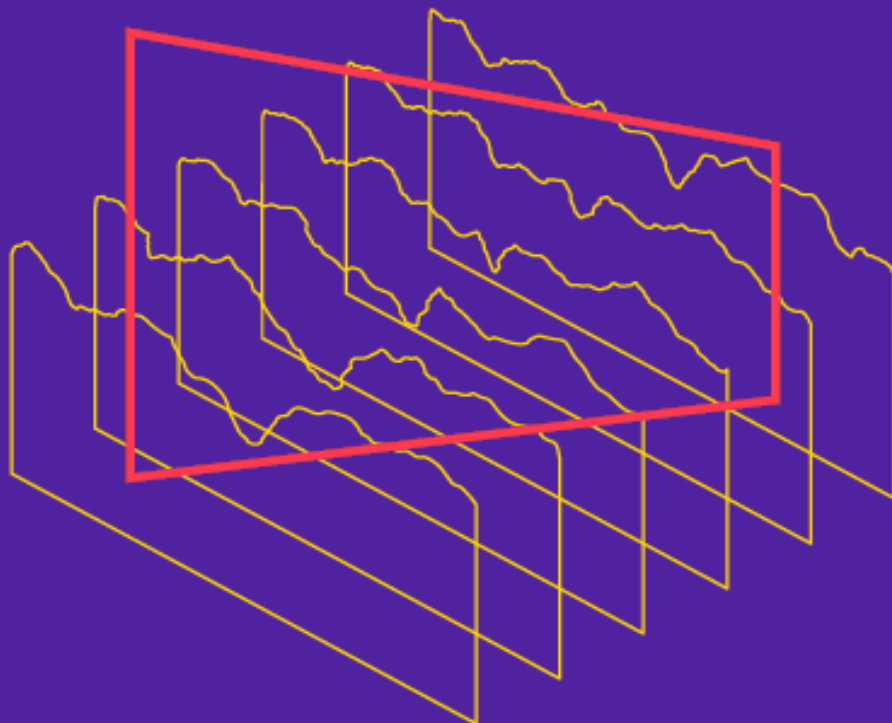


For more information, you can contact directly

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