

dark echoes
and present mournings

Inter Alia & Caravan Project

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The ECHO of our Dark Heritage

Cultural heritage is a legacy that comes from the past. We admire, manage and preserve what previous generations pass on to us. Preserved objects validate memories. But what happens when validated memories are consciously or unconsciously pushed aside? What happens when past trauma is ostracised because its burden is disturbing for the group, the community, the social fabric?

The term Dark Heritage describes sites associated with death and suffering and sites of death and suffering. Communities preserve with deference such sites and memories and at the same time, they choose to act as if they are not there, ignore them in everyday life, pass by them.

There is a distant echo of dark heritage, of dark memory, which haunts the people, encumbers daily routine, and overshadows the future. Like many aspects of in-group life, heritage is an everflowing, dynamic process of defining and redefining the self, inside the group, as well as the group itself. As for dark memories and Dark Heritage, they do not die along with their bearers and trauma turns from direct to transgenerational. There is an idiosyncratic rite of passage, a kind of a burial ceremony, which can relieve the group from the wounds of the dark past.

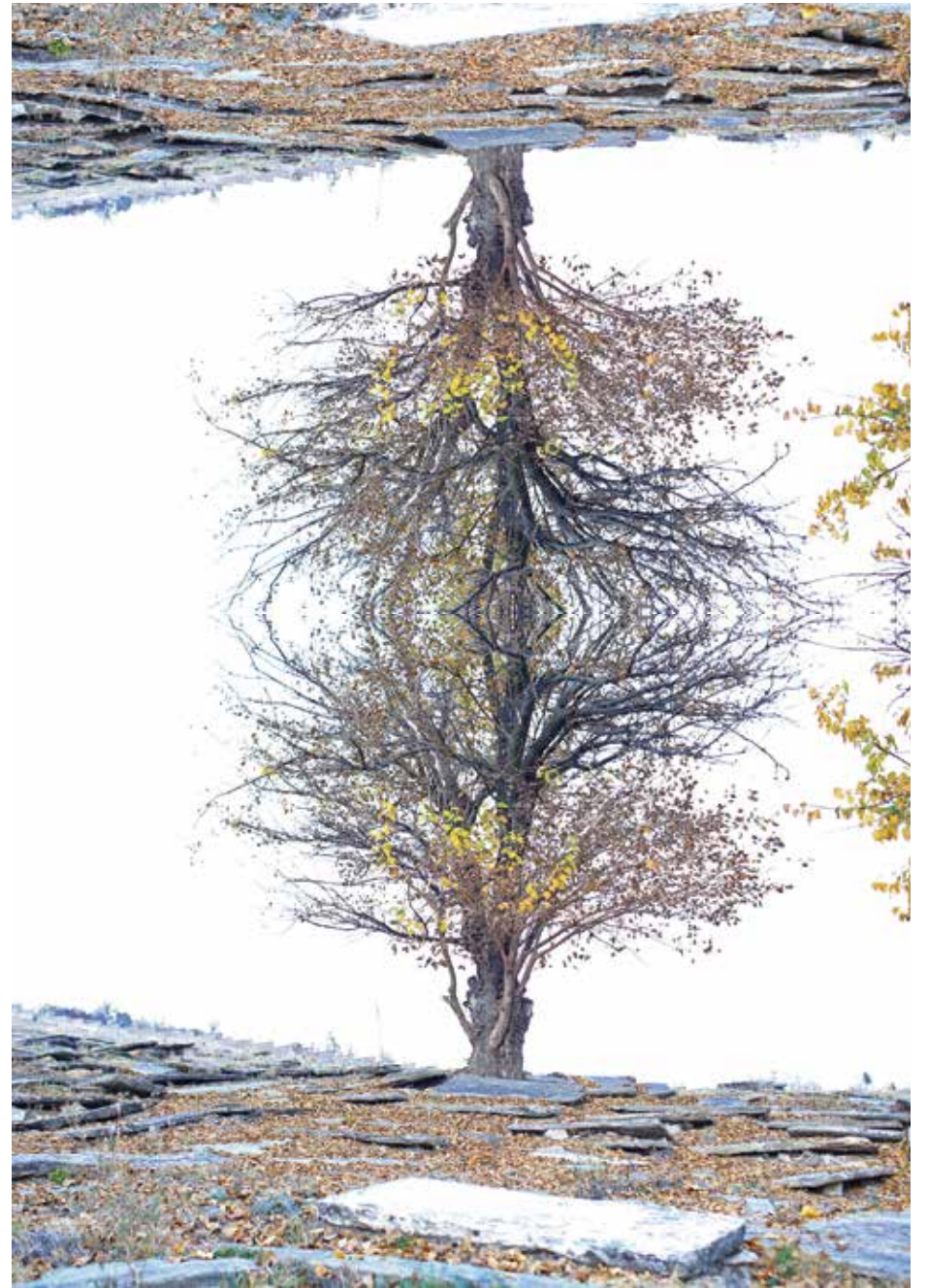
Some claim that arts bear an alleviating aspect when used as a means in dealing with traumatic heritage. Arts soothe the anxiety of direct confrontation with the facts, they narrate, they depict in ways never done before. Receivers and creators can immerse into the dark past, travel in the timeless, multidimensional, imagined realities, relive perceived events and face a part of their joint self in a safe environment. Abstract representations take them in an associational mental and sensory journey. Dark Heritage travellers fly back to conventional reality changed, a little readier to face the past, a little more willing to discuss it.

The book in your hands is a product of the “ECHO - European Cultural Heritage Onstage” project. It is a journey to the local dark realities of Bitola and Novi Sad. Caravan Project artists Stratis Vogiatzis and Yorgos Samantas explore war, death, loss and environmental degradation in the communities in a perpetual, non-linear trip in the spacetime. We invite you to travel with us, explore your Balkanness and Europeanness and take back home thoughts on the dark past of the “other” and the “self”.

Nikos Pasamitros,
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Muslim cemetery | Bitola



Jewish cemetery | Bitola



Zovik Village | Mariovo Bitola



Zovik Village | Mariovo Bitola



Rapesh Village | Mariovo Bitola



Cave carved in the stone | Rapesh Village | Mariovo Bitola



Barbwire leftover WWI | Rapesht Village | Mariovo Bitola



Shepherd dog close to Zovik Village | Mariovo Bitola



Paralovo Village | Mariovo Bitola



Beehives | Paralovo Village | Mariovo Bitola



Beehives | Rapesh Village | Mariovo Bitola



Rapesh Village | Mariovo Bitola



Haystack in Zovik Village | Mariovo Bitola



Catholic cemetery | Novi Sad



Old houses and ruins | Rapesh Village | Mariovo Bitola



Charavgi Village | Ptolemaida



Muslim cemetery | Bitola



Muslim cemetery | Bitola



Bitola



Thermoelectric plant REK BITOLA | Logovardi Village | Bitola



Thermoelectric plant REK BITOLA | Bitola



Deposits from the coal mine | REK Bitola (Thermoelectric plant)



Gneotino Village | Bitola



Meglenci Village | Bitola



Mavropigi Village | Kozani



Rapesh Village | Mariovo Bitola



Gardener, French cemetery | Bitola



Cemetery, St. Nicola church | Budimirci Village | Mariovo Bitola



Jewish cemetery | Bitola



Catholic cemetery | Novi Sad



Futoska Street | Novi Sad



Akrini Village | Kozani



Catholic cemetery | Novi Sad



Orthodox cemetery | Bitola



Catholic cemetery | Novi Sad



Orthodox cemetery | Bitola



South open pit mine | Kozani



The Danube River | Kamenjar Village | Novi Sad



The Danube River | Kamenjar Village | Novi Sad



The Danube River | Kamenjar Village | Novi Sad



South open pit mine | Kozani



Amideo open pit mine | Kozani



South open pit mine | Kozani



Kardias open pit mine | Kozani



South open pit mine | Kozani



Lakias open pit mine | Kozani



View towards the coal mine | Paralovo Village | Mariovo Bitola



Lakias open pit mine | Kozani



South open pit mine | Kozani



Amideo open pit mine | Kozani



Kardias open pit mine | Kozani



Worker, Open pit mine | Kozani



Amideo open pit mine | Kozani



South open pit mine | Kozani



Herd of sheep on the snow | Gneotino Village | Bitola



Zoo | Bitola



Dried sunflower | Mariovo Bitola



Tombstone, Serbian war cemetery | Bitola



Crna (Black) River | Brod Village

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