

THE BEGINNING OF NEW. NOW!

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freedom

# FUTURE OF EUROPE\_\_\_\_\_2

programme: 48–56

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# HEROINES\_\_\_\_\_58

programme: 108–113

THE FUTURE  
OF EUROPE

THE FUTURE  
OF EUROPE

# WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH. FROM CHILDREN AND YOUTH. FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH.



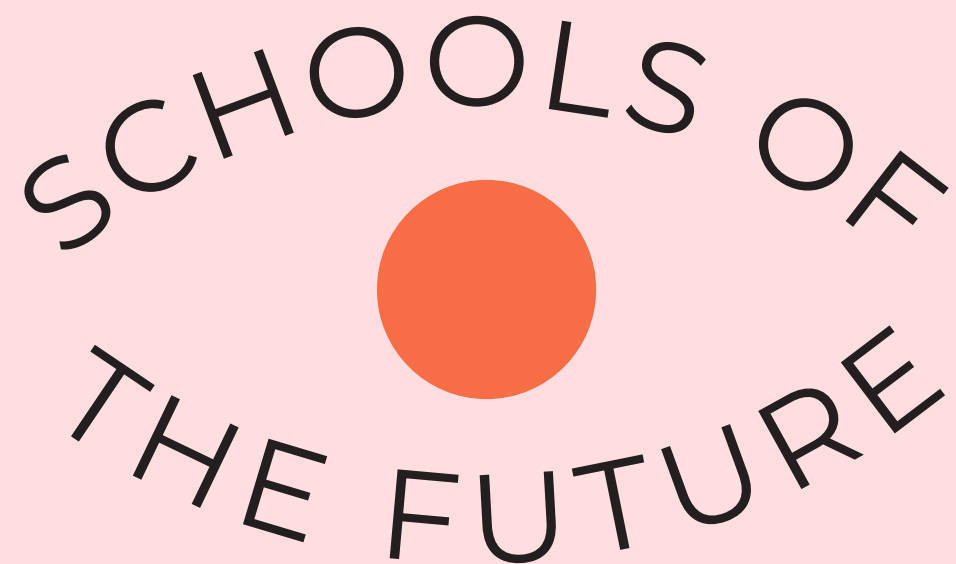
WHO COULD ENVISION THE FUTURE OF EUROPE BETTER THAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH, WHO COULD HAVE MORE MOTIVATION, DIVERSE VIEWS AND BELIEFS, WHO COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY, AND EVEN EUROPE AS A WHOLE, AND WHO COULD SERVE AS A BETTER FOUNDATION FOR LOCAL AND EUROPEAN SOCIETY – THAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH? IS THERE A BETTER WAY TO THINK ABOUT IMPORTANT SOCIAL ISSUES THAN NURTURING CRITICAL THINKING, ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ONE'S COMMUNITY? CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE OF EUROPE AND THUS NOVI SAD WILL, AS A EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, DEDICATE A TWO-MONTH PROGRAMME TO THEM, INCLUDING THEM IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL WAYS OF THEIR AND EUROPE'S WORK. THEY WILL, IN TURN, GRANT US NEW ANSWERS, VISIONS AND NEW (YOUNG) PEOPLE, PROUD FELLOW CITIZENS OF ONE OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE.

Children and youth participate in cultural life from a young age: parents take them to theatre plays, teachers to fine art colonies; they go to cinemas with their siblings for the first time, they write poems, read books, create DIY blogs or secretly go to concerts. A study\* on habits of young people in Serbia showed that 72% of youth attended cultural events in the city during the last year (visits to theatres and cinemas, concerts, literary nights, exhibitions). Similarly, more than four-fifths of all young people (aged 16 to 29) across the European Union participated in at least one out of three cultural activities analysed in the research (during the 12 months prior to the study). The 'Future of Europe' programme arch deals with the promotion and development of children's creativity and creativity of young artists, as well as forging connections between Novi Sad and Europe through cultural exchange of children and young people. Besides consuming cultural content, the goal is for children and youth to be actively involved in creating the cultural-artistic offer of the city.

The Republic of Serbia is a candidate for membership in the European Union, which today faces various culturological and political challenges, including the global Covid-19 pandemic, the refugee crisis, Euroscepticism and an increase in disintegrating tendencies. The strategy of the European Union for youth in the period from 2019-2027\*\* gives framework for the development of youth politics in the European Union, whose goal is to implement logical civic, economic, social, cultural and political involvement of young people. This framework is supposed to reflect aspirations, aims, talents, creativity and ideas of young people. The question regarding the future of Europe is particularly relevant in the context of Eurointegration of Serbia and the Western Balkans. Through applied theatre, street art, visual art, music, and other artistic and intellectual expressions, we hope to open more public spaces for children and youth, support engagement in youth art and culture, and present diverse visions of the future of Europe.

\*the Position and Needs of Youth in the Republic of Serbia, CeSID, Belgrade, 2019.

\*\*Culture statistics, European union, 2019.



20/3 – 17/4/2022

EUROPEAN VALUES AND PERSPECTIVES – THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AIMING AT IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE, BECAUSE THAT'S HOW WE ENVISION THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, WITH NEW PERSPECTIVES AND NEW STAKEHOLDERS, ALONG WITH DEVELOPED VALUES. THAT'S WHY WE'RE QUESTIONING FORMAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOL DORMITORIES AND THE UNIVERSITY BY OPENING THEIR DOORS TO EXPERIMENTS OF CURIOUS PUPILS AND STUDENTS. THIS WAY, WE TURN FORMALITIES INTO INFORMALITIES, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS INTO SPACES FOR FREE EXPRESSION, OBLIGATIONS INTO ACTIVITIES, AND PUPILS AND STUDENTS INTO ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION AND SOCIETY ON THE WHOLE.

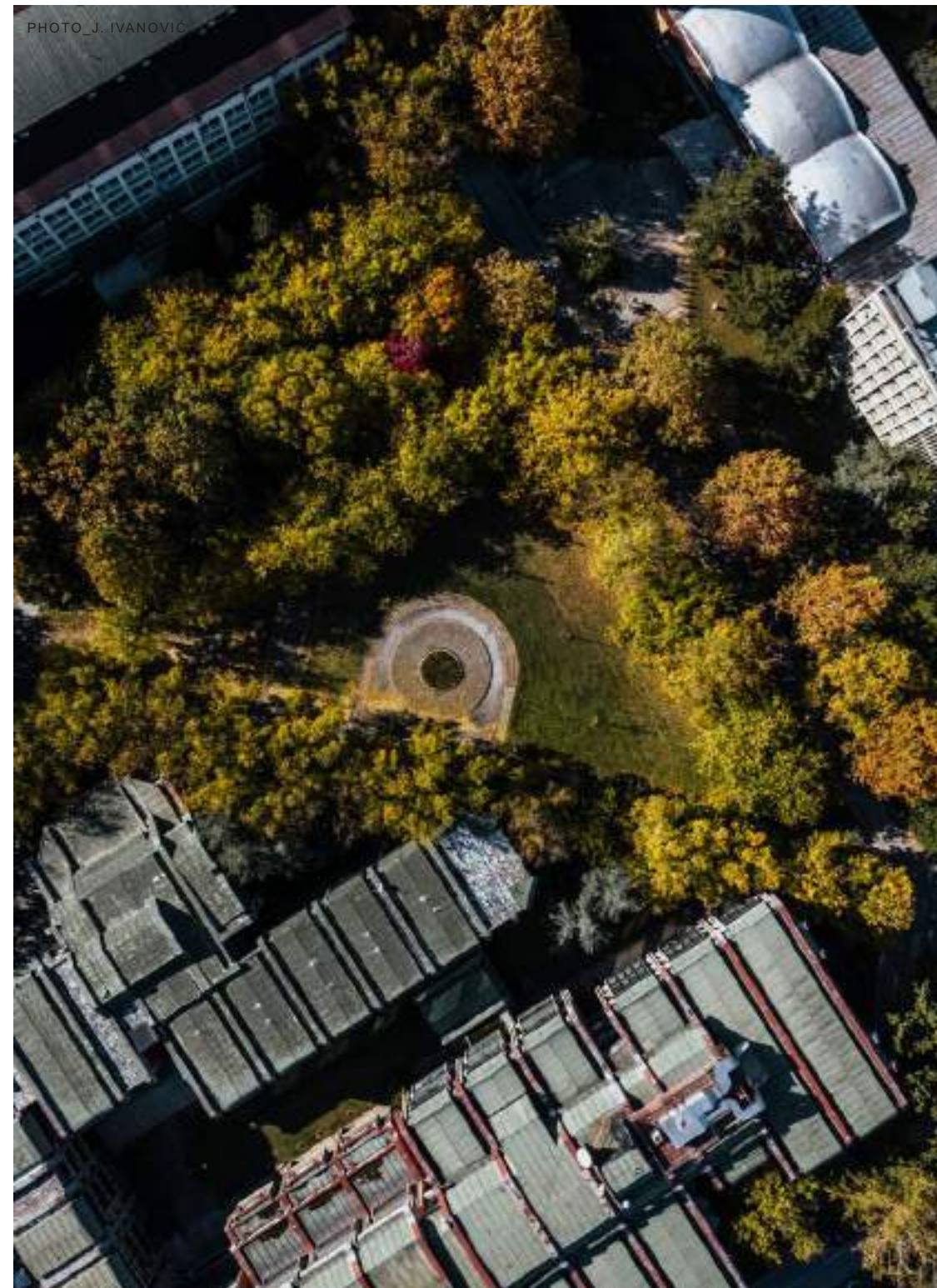


# IN NOVI SAD, THERE IS ANOTHER CITY...

A UNIVERSITY TOWN WITH OVER 50,000 STUDENTS, HAILING NOT ONLY FROM NOVI SAD AND VOJVODINA BUT FROM THE WHOLE OF SERBIA AND THE REGION, AS WELL AS FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES, MAKING NOVI SAD ONE OF THE BIGGEST SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL HUBS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND UNIVERSITY TOWN A 'CITY WITHIN A CITY'. STUDENT LIFE IN NOVI SAD DEVELOPED PARALLEL TO THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE FIRST BIG SEGMENT OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE PROGRAMME DEALS WITH STUDENT LIFE. THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE TITLE YEAR IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO PEAK INTO THE INSUFFICIENTLY ADDRESSED TOPIC OF EVERYDAY STUDENT LIFE ON CAMPUS, INSTEAD OF LOOKING ONLY AT NUMBERS AND GRADES.

Research and exhibition *They Live – Student Lives Revealed Through Context-Based Art Practices*<sup>1</sup>, will try to paint a picture of the daily lives of students in our city, from the establishment of the first student dormitory in 1954, to the present day. Cultural centre 'Studentski grad' from Belgrade, in partnership with the Student Association of the University of Novi Sad, manages the implementation of the two-and-a-half-year-project *They Live – Student Lives Revealed Through Context-Based Art Practices*, supported through the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission, in order to connect countries from Europe and the Western Balkans, thus reaching a more quality research of the history of student life. The exhibition is founded on the idea that students, through participatory activities, engage in the joint creation of contemporary art with the use of archival materials. A young artist without previous international experience will receive

a residency in Novi Sad. Together with a young curator, he or she will attend a summer school on participatory artistic practices at the Institute for Art in Context in Berlin. Afterwards, they will develop their projects in direct collaboration with students, as well as the collected photo and video material on their lives. The resulting exhibition of artwork from the residency will be held in the Hall of the Rectorate at the University of Novi Sad. Since the founding of the University of Novi Sad, students have been a key factor in the city development, which could not be imagined today without their presence.



PHOTO\_J. IVANOVIC



# STUDENTS ARE EUROPE'S INITIATORS...

...while the student figure is one of the great stories of European modernity, flexibility, knowledge, expanding horizons and development. As one of the modern university institutions in Novi Sad, which has always been characterized by a spirit of freedom and activism, the Academy of Arts started working in 1974 as an artistic, educational and scientific contemporary institution, based on the combination of the most recent artistic, scientific and pedagogical practices. The Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad is known to local and international public as an initiator and propagandist of numerous cultural and artistic events that have been enriching the cultural life of the city and region for decades now. *Art in the Palm of Your Hand*<sup>2</sup> encompasses cooperation with expert guests from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and represents a collage of different programmes and activities from various arts, presenting work by the students of the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad and students of academies in the region.

Next, we continue with programmes dedicated to youth, in the field regarding singer-songwriters, which Novi Sad is famous for, with prominent names of our singer-songwriter scene that will direct the youth. In order to introduce the palette of artistic expression of young people, a space for creating new cultural scene of Novi Sad was formed. Going beyond formal educational institutions, the European Capital of Culture promotes active participation of young people by empowering them, developing partnerships, organising creative exchanges and capacity building of young non-established artists and

those who are not part of the formal education system. Discovering and promoting young emerging artists will be implemented through projects *Youth Singer-Songwriter Festival 2022*<sup>3</sup> and *ChoreoChroma*<sup>4</sup>, expecting to strengthen the cultural scene and develop new talents. That's why the Guitarists Association of Vojvodina will launch a call for young singer-songwriters in 2022. At the end of the contest, an expert jury of figures experienced in this field of creation (a composer, a poet, a singer-songwriter, and one celebrity) will select the best songs; other authors of selected songs will be brought together to work on the music and text. At the heart of the project are workshops in preparation for the competition, with the assistance of coordinator-mentors who will help shape selected songs in collaboration with the author, as well as a professional band. Audiences, of course, will take the most interest in the actual competition, as well as performances by the finalists: in addition to the festival winner, there will be an audience prize – you can vote for your favourite and select the winner according to your taste! The final evening of the festival will be hosted by a celebrated musician and writer – Marko Šelić Marčelo. During the 'Future of Europe' programme arch, intensive workshops by four foreign artists with a group of young people are going to be implemented, with the goal of sparking an artistic dialogue, encouraging thinking and creativity, as well as finding common artistic thread. The *ChoreoChroma* programme encompasses a series of dynamic activities of an international group of artists specialized in different media



PHOTO\_G. BOSUA

(dance, painting, music, video, photography) and professionals in culture, as well as Novi Sad's dance school students. The workshops will culminate in a public presentation of their new skills, as well as the 'Beyond Expression' workshop, open to all, with young artists as mediators between the professionals and audiences. An international circle of artists in the *ChoreoChroma* international project adds to the promotion of cultural heritage as a starting point for contemporary artistic interpretation in the European cultural context. The artistic programme was developed through the *Tandem Capitals of Culture* and cooperation between Pavle Beljanski Memorial Collection and Association of Dance Artists *Lucoda* from Luxembourg, inspired by heritage: starting point of the project is a painting of one of the most important painters in Serbia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sava Šumanović and his 'Breakfast on the Grass', which is being developed and

promoted in the form of multimedia professional performance within the European Capital of Culture Esch 2022, as part of the *EuroMix/RemixEurope* programme, while the video of the performance will be screened in Novi Sad within 'Summer on the Gallery Square'. The final youth dance performance will take place during the 'Kaleidoscope of Culture' programme arch, at the opening of the exhibition 'Sava Šumanović and European Realism in the Interwar Period'. Documentary-art photography taken during the process will be displayed on Gallery Square (Trg galerija), while the entire European project will close with a roundtable discussion in Rotterdam, which will include the premiere of a short film about the project.

# MUSEUM IN CHILDREN'S SHOES

FOLLOWS EUROPEAN STEPS! MUSEUMS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ARE PLACES OF ENCOUNTERS OF THE MOST DIVERSE FORMS OF ART AND CULTURE, ATTRACTING AUDIENCES OF DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND AGES. THOSE ARE THE PLACES OF EDUCATION AND ENCOUNTERS, FORMAL GUIDANCES AND INFORMAL TALKS, GREAT WORKS OF ART AND QUIET STORIES, WHILE NOVI SAD, AS A CITY OF MUSEUMS, WILL ADAPT ITS MUSEUM PROGRAMME TO THE YOUNGEST ONES.

In the place that is perhaps the most deserving that Novi Sad took the epithet of Serbian Athens, in the gallery of the oldest cultural, literary and scientific institution in our area, Matica Srpska, we, as a European Capital of Culture, welcome our little fellow citizens who will make great first steps in culture. Today, we are welcoming the youngest citizens of Novi Sad in an institution that used to gather the most educated people from the 19th century, people who made Novi Sad a city of culture. Concerts of classical music for children will also be performed in the well-known gallery space, allowing them to experience something extraordinary.

The Gallery of Matica Srpska is implementing a complex project encompassing fine arts and music, dedicated to children up to 10 years of age. The main idea behind the project *Growing Up in the City of Culture*<sup>5</sup> is that inclusion in the city's cultural life should begin with its youngest population. From the earliest years, children develop, through personal experiences, a positive relationship with cultural institutions, as well as the habit of spending free time on constructive, cultural activities. By participating in project activities, the youngest fellow citizens learn about the city they live in – about its past and present, which adds to recognizing and understanding the value of diverse social and ethnic groups, strengthening the sense of solidarity, as well as respecting the right to diversity. The project will organize concerts for babies and children by the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Youth of Novi Sad; group visits to the Gallery for children from 'Happy Childhood' kindergarten and primary schools; creative children's workshops on Saturdays; as well as two publications for babies and children ('First Steps in the City of Culture' and 'My City: Stories of Art in Novi Sad'). After the concerts and group visits, children – together with parents, teachers and art instructors – will summarize their impressions and the things they learned, and then express them through visual arts. . All the works created by the babies and children during the project will be displayed in an exhibition entitled *Growing Up in the City of Culture*. And while we left it to the professionals



to guide the youngest ones in the Gallery of Matica Srpska, we continue with the programme the children created for children, children from different parts of the world, at a place of great historical importance for Novi Sad. In the Almaš neighbourhood, home to some of the greatest names of local and European literature, such as Laza Kostić, Jovan Jovanović Zmaj and others, now includes one of the main cultural hubs in the city – Svilara Cultural Station, former factory for silk dyeing and one of the favourite meeting spots for children. Here, through an unusual thinking weekend and educational musical for children, we will manage the development of cultural participation of the youngest citizens. A special goal is to increase the participation of children in all activities, which gives them the opportunity to think about their future in open dialogue and through various activities and see themselves as part of the future of Europe and the European space. *Citizens Thinking*<sup>6</sup>, produced by the 'Group Analytic Society Belgrade', will encompass thinking through drawing and painting, thinking about health, thinking through dance and thinking while walking the Almaš neighbourhood; the

walk will be led by the children. All are working together to build bridges between us, bridges between different generations and activities, while fostering cultural dialogue, European values and cultural content that contributes to community's quality of life. The 'Iskrice' Musical-Dance Theatre from Novi Sad has prepared an educational children's musical, *I Belong Here, I Accept You*<sup>7</sup>, to be performed by kids, for kids. The musical features original music, dance and sketches, performed by over 200 children aged 3 to 9 years. Through workshops, organized in cooperation with Junior Primary School, which draws an international group of children who live and learn in our city (from Russia, Ukraine, Qatar, India, Sri Lanka, Canada, Australia), as well as the preparation of the performance, the project emphasizes childhood learning and development through play and art, using various props that assist in developing flexibility and physical coordination.



# JOIN!

IN THE CONTEXT OF ART EDUCATION, A CHILD AND/OR YOUNG ADULT FAMILIARIZES WITH CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC CONTENT THROUGH RESEARCH AND LEARNING ABOUT HISTORICAL FACTS RELATED TO A WORK OF ART, THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT WITH A WORK OF ART (BOOKS, CONCERTS, EXHIBITIONS, FILM, ETC.), AND/OR THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CREATING CULTURAL/ARTISTIC OFFER. REGARDLESS OF THE CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND THE INFLUENCES OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE CULTURAL PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IS MOSTLY PLANNED IN ADVANCE BY ADULTS, AND LESS OFTEN IT IS DEVELOPED WITH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND SERIOUS RESPECT FOR THE OPINIONS AND NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THE MOBILIZATION AND SOCIO-CULTURAL INCLUSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH, IT IS NECESSARY TO CREATE SPACE FOR THEIR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS.



PHOTO\_J. SLIJTER

Interactive drama play *CulturEssence*<sup>8</sup>, performed by children and youth, addresses the issue of today's children through an interdisciplinary artistic approach: peer violence, disrespect for diversity, lack of understanding, irresponsibility... Through international cooperation and professional workshops, the project contributes to the exchange of experiences, advancement of pedagogical techniques and work with children and youth and encourages intercultural dialogue and the promotion of common European values. The main goal of the project is developing a critical approach that has to do with the very forms of artistic expression. The workshops will be organised by professional artists from the O&M Academy of Arts and Entertainment, experienced in working with children (choir singing with movement, acting as an educational means, creative dance and stage movement for children, as well as acting improvisation). There will also be a 360-degree video-site-specific workshop, led by partners from the European Union. One of the activities is a musical by the young members of O&M Academy, in the form of a flash mob in various locations throughout the city and Zone 021, featuring well-known children's songs in foreign languages. The programme will end in a debate. Through collaboration with partners from Slovenia, we will hear about their experience in bringing culture and art closer to youth, with education legislation that introduced film as an elective subject. Promoting civic activism and socio-cultural inclusion of children and youth with different psycho-physical abilities, with the help of new technologies, children and young people with disabilities are enabled to creatively engage in art, as well as their active participation in the cultural life of the wider community. *Yasserstain*, a group of young people headed by Milan Inić, have been filming sketches, writing songs and initiating conversations with quite a degree of success: you can see them (if you haven't already!) on their YouTube channel of the same name. For the *COOLIST* Foundation's project, *Be That 1<sup>o</sup>*, *Yasserstain* will use social media to invite children and youth (aged 7–15 years) to participate in creative educational workshops, after which they will present their skills to an audience in the form of six sketches.

The project's leitmotif is its contribution to informal education through empathy as a creative process, as well as the encouragement of diverging views among children and youth. Through conversation on this topic, we'll attempt to answer questions of what it means to be a friend, crush, schoolteacher, parent, student – supporting roles become the main characters, breaking down stereotypes of marginalized groups (Roma, the LGBT population, people with disabilities...). While in progress, the presentation will take place over internet platforms; after completion, it will be performed live in the form of flash mobs by talented groups in various locations in Novi Sad and Zone 021, leading up to the main event – the premiere. The first two sketches will have their opening performance in the City Concert Hall. Every activity will be accessible to the hard of hearing, with titles on video presentations and translation into sign language.

THE PERFORMANCE OF DOBRI LJUDI ORCHESTRA TOGETHER WITH THE YOUTH PHILHARMONIC IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE PROGRAMME ARCH, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF TAMARA PETIJEVIĆ, WHO IN 2017 RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR THE BEST SYMPHONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA IN EUROPE WITH THE STUDENTS OF THE ISIDOR BAJIĆ SCHOOL OF MUSIC. TAMARA IS ALSO A CONDUCTOR OF 'SVETI STEFAN DEČANSKI', ONE OF THE BEST SERBIAN CHOIRS OF ORTHODOX MUSIC. ORGANISED BY THE MILAN PETROVIĆ PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL, FOUR YOUNG COMPOSERS FROM NOVI SAD WILL WRITE PIECES OF MUSIC FOR THE EVENT TITLED *SOUNDBEAM*<sup>10</sup>, USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES THAT ENABLE PEOPLE WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS TO PLAY MUSIC. THE AIM OF THIS ACTIVITY IS TO INVOLVE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MUSICAL LIFE OF THE CITY AND GIVE CHANCE TO YOUNG MUSICIANS TO PRESENT THEIR PERFORMING SKILLS.



PHOTO\_V. VELIČKOVIĆ

Local activism has a long, storied tradition in Novi Sad, as does the volunteer spirit of its residents. By implementing the programme organized by the Youth Council Association 'Novi Sad European Youth Capital – OPENS', volunteer work and activism among residents will be further developed, establishing a systemic ordering of both spheres that may serve as a model for other cities and municipalities in Serbia. Likewise, it will create a motivational atmosphere for young people in Novi Sad, inspiring them to participate in the life of their community, and, through their activities, make their own contributions to the city that has held the titles of European Youth Capital 2019 and European Capital of Culture 2022. As a special benefit, the programme has the potential to develop a culture of community volunteering on par with other modern European cities. The *EDU NET*<sup>11</sup> programme comprises three separate projects: 'Join, Find a Solution', 'School Escape' and the 'Novi Sad Voluntary Service'. Encouraging youth to come up with creative solutions to challenges in their communities and schools, 'Join, Find a Solution' directly develops youth awareness of civic life and introduces innovation in the search for solutions to existing problems. Open to all public secondary schools in the territory of Novi Sad, the project allows students from Novi Sad to directly influence the advancement of their communities – in this case, the schools in which they spend much of their time. By fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, School Escape allows the formation of student teams with the goal of promoting secondary schools and the figures after whom they were named. The installation in trailers or shipping containers will make certain parts of Novi Sad more attractive to youth, the local community and tourists. Through its work, the Novi Sad Voluntary Service fosters volunteering as a regular part of a quality, cultured lifestyle, as well as connections with one's local community. By engaging volunteers to work at cultural institutions and noninstitutional cultural organizations, a participation space opens up for

the development not only of cultural programming but also of platforms for increasing the range of citizens. A great number of significant events in the city would be unthinkable without the invaluable contribution of volunteers. The main target group of the three programmes is the youth of Novi Sad, with a particular focus on young people who are in the formal school system and attend secondary school. In addition, the Novi Sad Voluntary Service aims to reach people of all demographics who wish to volunteer. Implementation of the programme will help advance a culture of volunteering, as well as active citizenship in Novi Sad.



Democracy depends on a public that is capable of making rational political decisions. In an era marked by political and social passivity among youth, we must do all we can to familiarize them, through art and culture as means of informal education, with the political history, values and real problems of the European Union. We firmly believe that the programme they create will contribute to the formation of the future image of our continent. The central European project of the Schools of the Future programme unit, aimed at creative work of youth from several countries, is the *European Youth Engagement Network 2.0 (EYE.net 2.0)*<sup>12</sup>, supported by the 'Europe for Citizens – Networks of Towns'. The project will be part of the programme of two European Capitals of Culture – Novi Sad 2022 and Kaunas 2022. *EYE.net 2.0* will last 16 months with 'Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture' as its leading partner. It will include a great number of organisations from several countries. The goal of this youth network is to inform youth about basic European values, as well as build their capacity to actively engage in creating and shaping the future image of Europe. The plan is to approach a discussion of the socio-political image of Europe's future through eight interactive youth theatre pieces performed by schoolchildren and university students, focused on eight themes (participants from each country choose one problem to tackle): the migrant crisis, women's rights, Euroscepticism, solidarity, fake news, ecology, antifascism and economy. The plays will take the form of a travelling festival in 2022, visiting each of the eight partner countries. Performances will be held in secondary schools, accompanied by an interactive debate with young audiences. In addition, there will be a documentary film about the project.



*Tavern Manual*<sup>13</sup>, a play produced by the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and in partnership with the 'Konrad Adenauer' Foundation, is going to be staged within the off programme of the *EYE.net 2.0* festival. The play thematizes nationalism through the participation of youth and audience and aims at bettering the youth culture through alternative education models and active engagement of youth. Debate on the socio-political future of Europe continues to be the topic of the European Youth Parliament of Serbia, named *European culture – Individual Impact*<sup>14</sup>. In partnership with the 'Konrad Adenauer' Foundation, young people will get the opportunity to learn about the most relevant topics and news from Europe and its surroundings, further developing through innovative methods of informal education. In addition, young people will get to learn how European institutions operate, they will have debates with their peers and experts from Europe. The conference will bring together high school students from Novi Sad and its surroundings, as well as thirty-five volunteers from Serbia and Europe, with the goal of exchanging views on some of the most important cultural issues facing Europe today. The participants will be divided into workgroups, each with one or two moderators. They will be divided within the European culture – Individual Impact theme, encompassing different subthemes (multilingualism, the protection of ethnic and linguistic minorities, media and religious pluralism, etc.). The results of work carried out in the international meetings are submitted to the European Parliament and other European institutions as a contribution of the youth to the international dialogue and politics.



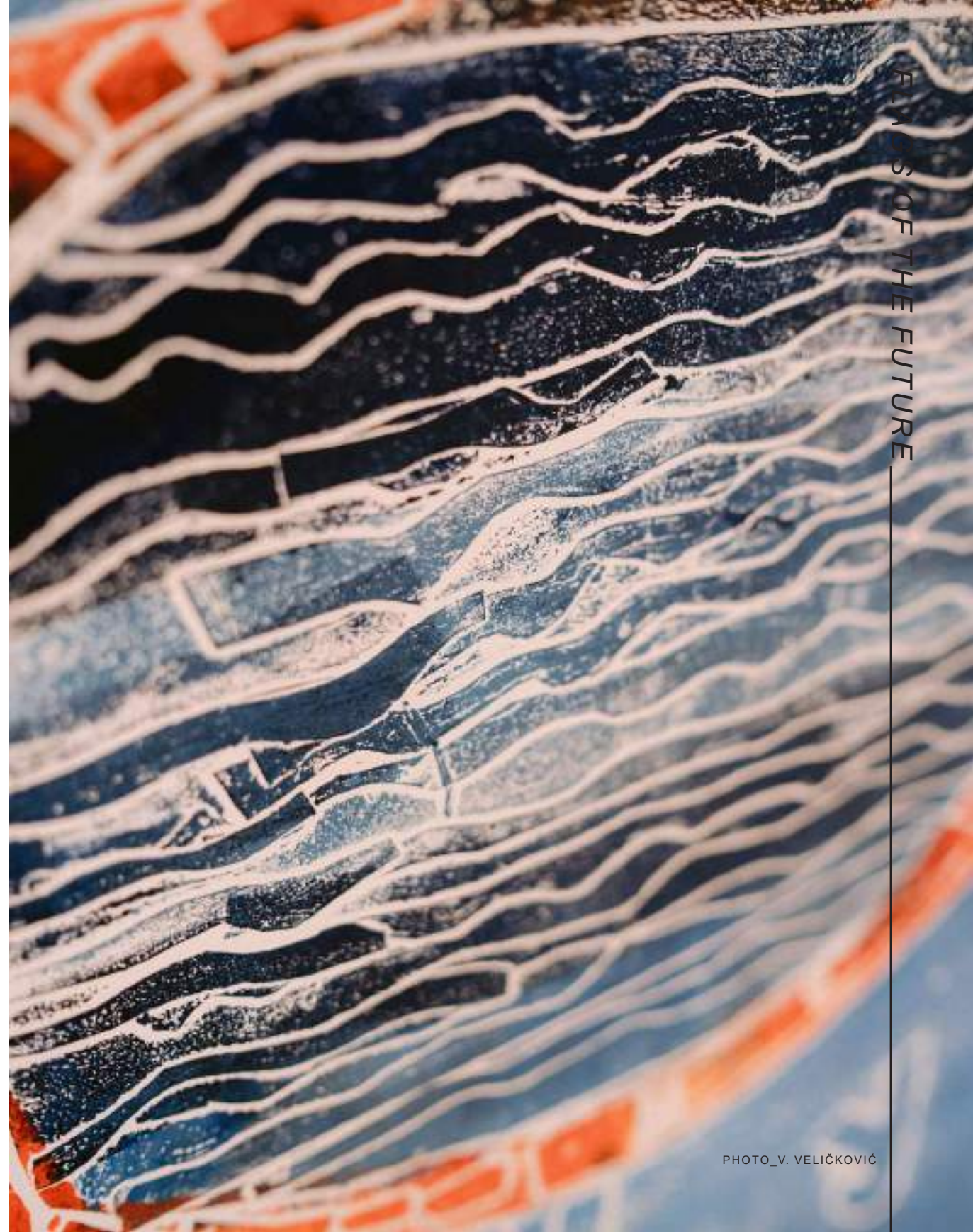


18/4 – 1/5/2022

CHILDREN AND YOUTH'S ARTISTIC REFLECTION ON CURRENT SOCIAL QUESTIONS IN SERBIA AND EUROPE AND THE STIMULATION OF THEIR CRITICAL EXPRESSION TAKE PLACE THROUGH PLAYFUL INTERACTION WITH ESTABLISHED ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS, THROUGH NEW FORMS AND GENRES, OR THE REWORKING OF CLASSICAL GENRES. THROUGH SELECT PROGRAMMING, NEW GENERATIONS ARE INVITED TO REVIVE GREAT LIMAN, AS A MEETING PLACE FOR THE CITY'S RICH INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND CREATIVITY, BECAUSE GREAT LIMAN ITSELF IS ONE OF THE SYMBOLS OF NOVI SAD'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CONFLUENCE OF YOUTHFUL REBELLIOUS SPIRIT, SPORTS LIFE AND ALTERNATIVE CULTURAL CONTENT. TODAY, WITHIN THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE, THE FORMER INDUSTRIAL ZONE OF THE CITY, WHICH IS A SYMBOL OF GREAT LIMAN, IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A UNIQUE CREATIVE DISTRICT WHICH ALONGSIDE REVITALIZED INDUSTRIAL SPACES IN SERVICE OF CULTURE, REPRESENTS A UNIQUE DISTRICT IN THIS PART OF EUROPE.

# THE RICHEST COLLECTION OF WORKS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN EUROPE

IS LOCATED IN NOVI SAD! THE 'CENTRE FOR ART EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH' IS ONE OF THE OLDEST ASSOCIATIONS FOR FINE ARTS CREATIVITY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FOUNDED ON 16 MAY 1954 IN NOVI SAD, SERBIA, FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, AND REPRESENTS THE ONLY NOVI SAD'S NATIVE CENTRE – AN ASSOCIATION THAT HAS BEEN OPERATING CONTINUOUSLY FOR SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS NOW. THE CENTRE HAS ACQUIRED A RICH COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH, CONSISTING OF AROUND 20,000 WORKS FROM 110 COUNTRIES, NAMELY INDIA, JAPAN, CHINA, EGYPT, ITALY, FRANCE, BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ROMANIA, HUNGARY, POLAND, THE SOVIET UNION, GREECE, LEBANON, SYRIA, TUNISIA, ROMANIA, CROATIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, ALBANIA, SLOVENIA, MACEDONIA, MEXICO AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. IT IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE RICHEST COLLECTIONS OF WORKS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN EUROPE.





The Centre is planning a multimedia interactive exhibition of works of art of children and youth entitled *Drawings Travel Through Time*<sup>15</sup>, based on archival material since 1952, a year when the forerunner of today's European Union, European Coal and Steel Community, was established. In order to enable cultural exchanges of children and youth and encourage conversation about the future of Europe, it is essential to reflect on the past and remind oneself of everything it entails. The exhibition shows a retrospective development of children and youth and their perspectives on various dominant social and cultural values and trends. A unique time machine will be presented, i.e., a chronological display of the development of children and youth drawings and the way they perceive the world, relying on the richest collection of works of children and youth in Europe. Within the exhibition, the 'Vojvodina' Association is planning a promotion of the Monograph on *Bogomil Karlavaris: Painter, Scientist, Pedagogue*<sup>16</sup>, founder of the Centre for Art Education of Children and Youth of Vojvodina. The book is intended for expert, scientific and wider public, encompassing a large number of reproduced paintings and twelve texts written by local and foreign experts and connoisseurs of his work. The first part of the book deals with Bogomil Karlavaris' painting, while the second part of the book includes his scientific and pedagogical work. Europe's dynamic past is permeated by constant challenges under which its society has changed, transformed, progressed, sometimes regressed and shaped values that have contributed to a better life – the establishment and respect of human rights, mutual tolerance, the necessity of intercultural dialogue, establishing and nurturing gender equality and paying special attention to the politics of peace. The United Nations Convention on the

Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, was the first international instrument of human rights that specifically addressed children. According to the latest global study by Small Voices Big Dreams\*, which included a survey of nearly 5,500 children from 15 different countries, 49.8% of them do not know about the Convention. The inadequate understanding of the concept of children's rights leads to the exclusion of children in decision-making; peer violence; intolerance toward differences; discrimination toward vulnerable groups, etc. In the title year, an international youth exchange will result in a joint video on the topic titled *Know Your Rights*<sup>17</sup>, which reflects children's perspective on the future of Europe and answers the most relevant contemporary social topics. Children aged 15 to 18 years will become familiar with each of the articles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The exchange programme includes six young people aged 15 to 18 years from four cities in Europe with international partners from Portugal and Slovenia. The 'Mafin Productions of Audio-Visual Media' Association will, through a process of informal learning and experimental video workshops, open up space for the youth to state their opinions on the topic of racism, gender equality, peer violence, child marriage, climate change, etc. The result of their collaborative work will be an experimental film made by the children with their phones. The video will familiarize audiences with all articles of the Convention, different examples of violations of children's rights, individual child's rights activists, and young people's suggestions for furthering application of the Convention.

\*Small Voices Big Dreams 2019. Violence against children as explained by children, Educo and Capitals Alliance, 2019.

# FIND BALANCE!

WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, MECHANISMS HAVE BEEN CREATED TO CONTROL AND MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN'S PSYCHOPHYSICAL WELL-BEING. HOWEVER, MODERN LIFESTYLE, WITH ITS OVERUSE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ALIENATION FROM NATURE, AS WELL AS CONDITIONS UNDER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, HAVE LED TO MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISBALANCE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT CIRCUS ARTS, BEYOND THE HARMONIZATION OF MIND-SOUL AND SKILLS-CREATIVITY, CAN BE USED AS A MEANS OF EDUCATION, PEDAGOGY AND INTEGRATION.



PHOTO\_V. VELIČKOVIĆ



Within this framework, circus classes are provided for children, adolescents and adults, regardless of psycho-physical readiness or socio-economic background. Tightrope walking is one of the oldest disciplines in circus art. It requires special caution and concentration. It's an activity where mind and body work at full capacity. This dedication allows for the feeling of peace and harmony. Walking on the wire strengthens self-esteem, helps control fears and improves balance. The *Find Your Balance! With the Circus?*<sup>18</sup> project by 'Kreativni pogon' Association, deals with the topic of psychological balance, with the goal of introducing the question of including circus arts in schools. The goal of this project is to offer children – as well as their teachers and parents – a new method of mental and physical recreation based on contemporary circus techniques and focused on balance, offering them the chance to attain, through exercise, both physical and mental harmony. The attraction of the circus will inspire a wide number of residents to join in the activities, while children will be active participants at the centre of the city's cultural events. The circus instructors from the Creative Factory, in partnership with circus artists from Novi Sad's Ludifico organization and the Society of Teachers from the Southern Banat Region, will include in the project ten schools from the city and Zone 021, as well as children with special needs from the Milan Petrović School. Circus arts workshops with children and their parents will be held in schools by mentors from

the Circus School in Timișoara who were trained in Brussels' school of circus, with the goal of selecting a group of children to perform in public spaces and cultural stations. Reaching and maintaining physical and mental balance is one of the goals of sustainable development. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda\*, with the 17 goals, includes three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. The goals of sustainable development define a joint plan and agenda for the impact on current social problems, with young people playing a key role in its implementation. Mobility and migration of young people is a challenge not only Serbia faces, but many other European countries too. That's why this existential question was introduced to young artists, who are being in the same dilemma themselves. *Leave or Stay?*<sup>19</sup>, a collection of 49 artistic flags on masts, addresses a theme that has been highly relevant for youth in the first two decades of the 21st century, as well as issues with a long history in the Balkan region. Produced by the 'Bel Art' Gallery, Academy of Arts in Novi Sad as a partner, and with great infrastructure support by the City Administration for Construction Land and Investments of the City of Novi Sad, the exhibition will include students of seven academies of art from the region – Novi Sad, Timișoara, Osijek, Pécs, Cetinje, Belgrade and Banja Luka, who will respond to a given topic under the mentorship of their professors.

\*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations, 2015.



The second important existential question refers to the future of Europe and the whole planet. The National Fashion Chamber of Serbia, through the *Fashion Connection*<sup>20</sup> project, promotes young designers from Novi Sad, Serbia and Europe with the goal of educating, bringing a change of behaviour and creating positive impact of fashion on today's society and the future of our planet. The project includes a National Call for Students and Young Designers, European Call for Student and Young Designers and a call for the best creations inspired by the positive influence of fashion on environmental protection. Winning solutions will

implement a two-day fashion show on the topic of social activism, sustainable design, recycling and circular economy. The educational part of the project offers young people new knowledge and skills that can contribute to the development of cultural and creative sector and encourage proactive approach of youth in dealing with social and ecological problems. A large number of volunteers will participate in the implementation of the project, who will gain knowledge on how to organize a big event and will improve their skills and competence for international cooperation with peers from Europe.

# BE OUTSIDE THE BOX

IN EUROPEAN CULTURE, NEW PRACTICES HAVE BEEN MORE AND MORE ORIENTED TOWARDS AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT, WHICH IS AT THE SAME TIME AN INTEGRAL AESTHETIC AND STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTIC OF PERFORMANCE, OFTEN MOTIVATED BY THE PERFORMER'S WISH TO REFORMULATE THE PERFORMER-VIEWER RELATIONSHIP AND TO CALL FOR A MORE EXPLICITLY ACTIVE TYPE OF ENGAGING THE AUDIENCE. THE 'ACTIVE VIEWER' CONCEPT IMPLIES THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PEOPLE WILL START TO EMERGE IN THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF A WORK OF ART, EXPRESSING OPINIONS AND SENSIBILITY TOWARDS A CERTAIN FORM OR GENRE. CONTRARY TO PASSIVE CONSUMPTION OF ANY TYPE OF CONTENT, ACTIVE AUDIENCES WILL CHOOSE ARTISTIC CONTENT FOR THEMSELVES.



In March 2022, an international conference *Cultural Participation of Youth: European Perspectives*<sup>21</sup>, within the 'BeSpectactive 2!' project by the Student Cultural Centre of Novi Sad, will host panellists (experts from the field of culture, public policies and youth, groups of active viewers from partner countries), who will address the question of cultural participation of young people in Europe. The conference will be accompanied by the book promotion of 'Cultural Policies in Europe: a Participatory Turn?', written within the project, whose one of the co-authors was professor Milena Dragičević Šešić, PhD. *The Invasion (UPAD)*<sup>22</sup> Festival affirms freedom of artistic expression, as well as the concept of freethinking, the so-called 'thinking outside the box'. The festival is part of the international project 'Be SpectActive 2', implemented within the 'Creative Europe' programme – Culture, with the goal of developing audiences and participation, as well as artists' international mobility. The project's main organizer is the Kilowatt Festival from Italy, with the participation of 18 partners from 15 countries, including theatre and dance festivals from Dublin, Gothenburg, Sibiu and

Prague, as well as universities in Barcelona and Montpellier. The Student Cultural Centre of Novi Sad is the only partner from Serbia. The project's strategic goal is to nurture theatre audiences through the 'active viewer' concept. The realization of this concept brought about the formation of a group of 20 active viewers within the framework of the Student Cultural Centre of Novi Sad, consisting of young people of diverse profiles: secondary school students, as well as university students of architecture, journalism, literature, information sciences, physics and psychology. The festival takes a unique approach, in that young active viewers are responsible for selecting the festival programme. In addition to deciding on the performances, they also came up with the festival name and have the role of moderator in post-performance discussions with the authors. The 2022 programme will include pieces from Serbia and abroad, as well as an international conference on youth theatre. Foreign productions will be selected from those produced with international partners in the project. The palette of different approaches and perspectives develop divergent thinking and creativity, as well



as social inclusion. The 'Differences' exhibition by the Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad resulted from cooperation between students and professors examining the field of social, economic, cultural and political values of the 'different'. This type of artistic movement is open to everyone interested, to a creative 'clash' of different cultures and peoples, as well as other artistic, social and political ways of researching, emerging as a reflection of international socio-political tensions. The exhibition will include works of all three departments (music, drama, fine arts). In addition to the exhibition, part of the *Art in the Palm of Your Hand*<sup>23</sup> programme will include the First Festival of Applied Theatre. The project's aim is to develop positive influences on school politics towards interactive learning through performance, which is already being implemented across countries of the European Union.

## VOICE IN MOVEMENT, MOVEMENT ON THE STREET

EXPERIMENTING WITH THE ESTABLISHED NOTION OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMS, IN THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL WE'LL HAVE AN EXPEDITION TO THE UNKNOWN AND UNEXPLORED: EXPLORING MUSIC FOR VOICES; PARALLEL DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSIC AND VARIOUS MUSIC ERAS; MERGING OLD AND CONTEMPORARY; CREATING NEW, EXCITING CONTEXT IN MUSIC.

PHOTO\_D. VUČKOVIĆ



Serbian choir association from Sombor joined Carmina Slovenica from Maribor, a choir famous across the globe for its unconventional, progressive and innovative artistic concept of brilliant singing, drama and movement. This unusual laboratory includes work with the National Youth Choir through theatricalization of choir concerts, under the mentorship of Karmina Šilec (Slovenia) and Panda Van Proosdij (the Netherlands). The project *From Choir in Movement to Choral Theatre*<sup>24</sup> is conceived as a movement choir laboratory that will present to young artists, professionals in the field, and the broader public various possibilities for the theatricalization and modernization of choral programmes. Workshops with the National Youth Choir will be led by a number of leading European experts in this multimedia art form – from experienced choral conductors to specialists in dance and stage movement, to dramatists and

theatre directors. National experts such as Miloje Nikolić will present the results of their work with various approaches to the theatricalization of choral concepts, i.e., choral theatre. Part of the laboratory will be held outdoors, as flash mob performances in public spaces of Novi Sad. The project will close with a multimedia event featuring a performance of the National Youth Choir.

A young person's aspiration for freedom of research and movement has encouraged the development of urban street dance that promotes experimental forms of movement, improvisation, urban subculture and encourages young people to express their originality and individuality. *Groovin' Street Dance Festival*<sup>25</sup>, performed by the Groove Dance Association, is comprised of educational as well as creative activities, where young people



learn in a fun way, implementing what they have learned in practice, while developing their creativity, boosting their self-confidence, meeting new young people and creating a support system for a secure environment without prejudices. Various activities include educational dance workshops and training for coaches, as well as the participation of marginalized groups, children and youth. All activities are entwined with the theme regarding the position of women in street dance, with the goal of empowering it, while the special attention is paid to Roma children and youth, people with disabilities, the LGBT community, and children from the Novi Sad Svrtište and SOS Children's Village. The 'Workshops' project will be led by national and international artists: Maja Veber (Slovenia), Jasmin Halper (Austria), Dániel Mórítz (Hungary), Anto Petričević (Croatia), Steve Kamseu (France), Mátyás Kántor (Hungary) and Henry Link (USA), while Hiroyuki Suzuki will visit with the support from the EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee. All events will be recorded, including interviews with national and international dance artists, in order to create a documentary film, the first of its kind not only in Novi Sad but in the Republic of Serbia. Non-standardization of movement, absence of rules and intuitive movements characterize one innovative

music genre – *nu-jazz*, which combines various music styles (*hip-hop, acid jazz, jazztronica, deep house and broken beat*). Nu jazz is a totally new genre that exploded in the United States of America and the United Kingdom, particularly among young people. *Nu – Jazz Fest*<sup>26</sup> will gather established musicians from across Europe: Hiske Oosterwijk, vocal (Netherlands); Albert Nagy-Örs, saxophone, MC (Romania); Domen Bohte, bass (Slovenia); Károly Enyed, keyboard (Romania-Netherlands); Frankie Ercsei, drums (Hungary-Netherlands); Zsolt Argyelán, trumpet, DJ (Serbia-Netherlands); Szabolcs Bognár, keyboard, DJ (Berlin, Germany); Fanni Zahár, flute (Netherlands-Hungary); Andras Koroknay, bass (Hungary); Afla Sackey, percussion (LondonGhana); and Tamas Czirjak drums (Hungary). The 'Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture' Foundation has prepared an excellent programme for lovers of contemporary music. Concept evenings will also include visual digital art in a synthesis of sound and image. Considering Novi Sad's jazz and electronica audiences, this fusion of artistic cultures and expressions is inevitable, while the result of the combination of those directions represents the birth of a new style on our scene, as well as the emergence of a new audience.



PHOTO\_R. MITTENDORFER



2/5 – 15/5/2022

FAIRY TALES ARE UNIVERSAL STORIES THAT CAN BE RECOGNIZED IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. INTENDED FOR CHILDREN, THEY HIDE MANY ARCHETYPICAL MESSAGES IMPORTANT FOR ADULTS TOO. THAT'S WHY WE'RE REFLECTING ON THEM WITHIN A BROADER CONTEXT – TRADITIONAL FAIRY TALES ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE WORLD, IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, WHERE GOOD ALWAYS WINS. WE ARE GIVING A BROADER FRAMEWORK TO TRADITIONAL FAIRY TALES, AND THE YOUNGEST CITIZENS A CHANCE TO CREATE THEIR OWN.



PHOTO\_F. CAT

# THE CITY OF PUPPET MAGIC

IN THE 'FAIRY TALES OF THE FUTURE' PROGRAMME ARCH, WE'LL MEET PROFESSIONAL PUPPET THEATRES FROM SERBIA AND EUROPE, SOME NEW READINGS OF FAIRY TALES AND EXPEDITIONS TO SOME FORTY MAGICAL TALES.

One of the classics of European satirical and children's literature, *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift will transport audiences to the unforgettable theatre magic. Although doing it indirectly, Swift harshly criticized society through a serious satire that is so graphic and vivid it ended up being one of the most popular children's stories. We based one of the main programmes of the 'Future of Europe' on a thin line between seriousness and fun, between the world of adults and the world of the youngest ones. Produced by the Youth Theatre, the play *Gulliver's Travels*<sup>27</sup> will direct Kokan Mladenović, one of the most famous Serbian theatre directors and recipient of numerous awards. The production will feature giant, extraordinarily striking puppets, while the entire actors' ensemble from the Youth Theatre will participate in the staging. Following the travelogue structure of the literary work, the play will be performed across six different points, and the path from point A to point B, for audience and participants alike, will be creatively conceived, with special effects, moving

scenery and live music. Each of the points will present one of the six most interesting events from *Gulliver's Travels*, while Gulliver himself will be represented by a five-metre puppet and a 30-centimetre puppet, as well as a live actor. For example, when, on his first travels, Gulliver encounters the Lilliputians, he'll be a grand guignol puppet operated by multiple actors, while the audience and other actors will play the role of the Lilliputians, some 12 times smaller. When, on his second travels, Gulliver arrives at Brobdingnag, populated by creatures 12 times larger than he, Gulliver will be a small marionette and the audience and actors will be the giants from Brobdingnag. When he arrives at Laputa, whose inhabitants fly, we'll witness special effects that allow the actors to 'hover' over the audience. In Balnibarbi we will, together with members of the Academy there, participate in various absurd experiments, while on the island of Glubbubdrib we'll meet magicians and sorcerers who communicate with the dead. At the last point, we'll be greeted by intelligent horses, the residents and rulers of the Land of Houyhnhnms. The actors will speak as the horses, while the audience will have to re-examine its position as the Yahoos, a degraded people who are diametrically opposed to the perfectly rational horses.

After the great puppet play '*Gulliver's Travels*' has charmed both small and large audiences on the city streets and transformed them into dwarfs, giants, mad scientists and rational horses, we come to an international theatre festival for children and



youth titled *Novi Sad Theatre Games*<sup>28</sup>, produced by the Youth Theatre, that will gather professional theatres and theatre troupes from around the world. The festival includes professional live and puppet theatres, professional theatre troupes and groups from across the globe. The festival is of competitive nature and aims to promote live and puppet theatre for children and youth, strengthen international cultural exchange, promote theatre art and creators, exchange ideas and theatre practices, and is dedicated to the development of modern puppet theatre for children and youth. The Youth Theatre actresses Živanka Majstorović and Neda Danilović, as well as the 'Pozorištanci' School of Acting, Singing and Dance, will participate in the production of the play *Duša ište pozorište*<sup>29</sup>, that promotes ecological values by creating theatre puppets from ecological materials and animating them (for children aged 5 to 10), with the aim of children themselves producing a puppet show. The project encompasses workshops on audio and video recording using mobile phones, workshops on creative writing, writing, directing and performing plays for adolescents, painting workshops and scenography workshops on singing and playing instruments, workshops in shadow theatre that end with staging a play in the shadows. Different aspects of presenting intangible cultural heritage and tradition through contemporary stage interpretation and artistic expression of puppetry, music, modern theatre and dance are all part of the puppet festival *Do You Believe in Fairy Tales?*<sup>30</sup>, with the deep human need to believe in fairy tales lying at the heart of the festival. The festival foregrounds the fairy tale as a traditional narrative form that transmits



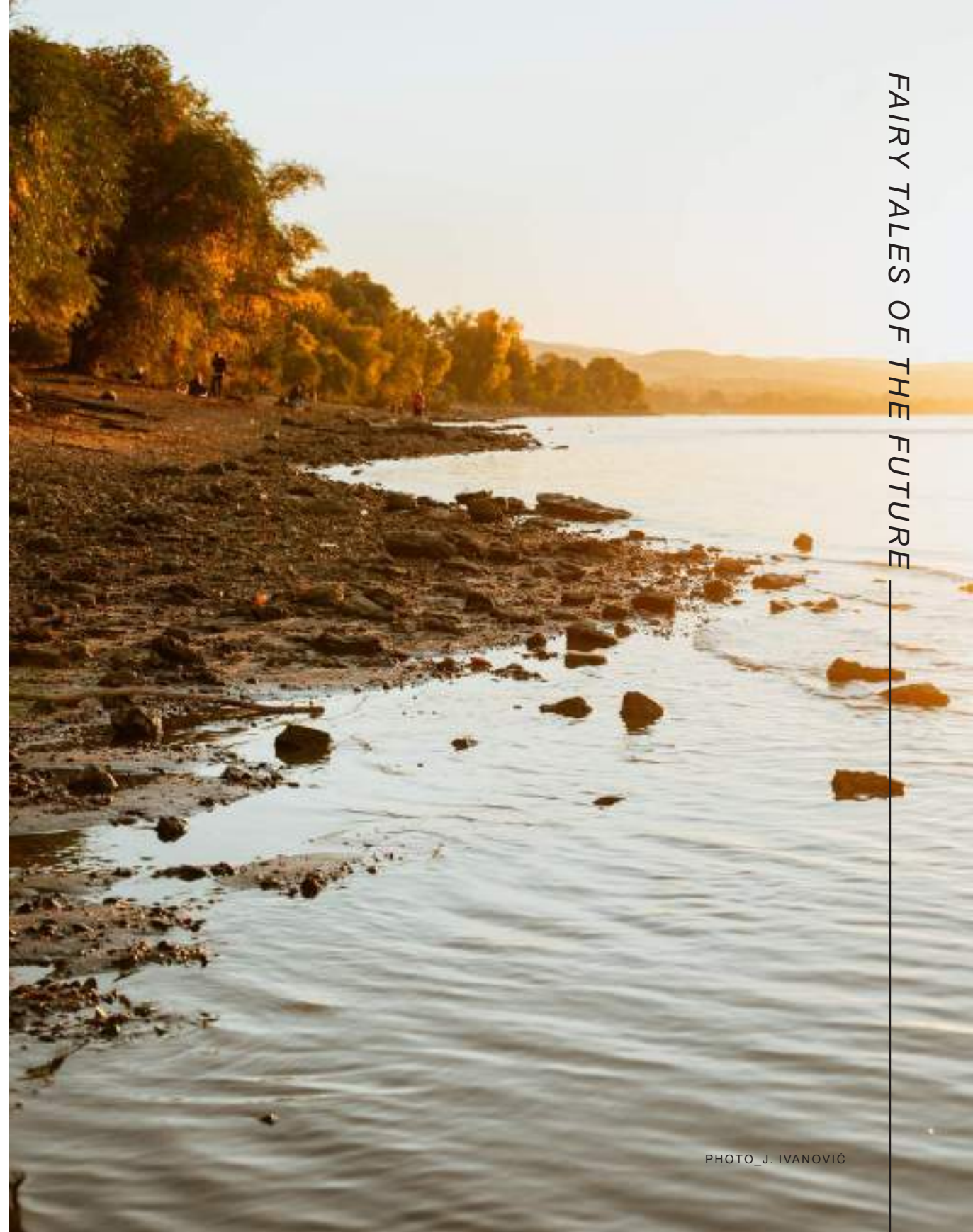
PHOTO\_J. IVANOVIĆ

an archetypal story of the struggle between good and evil, with an admixture of fantastical elements that the reader perceives as reality. In this way the collective unconscious is built, with its need to believe in miracles, and which subtly teaches us to distinguish imaginary and real content. A musical programme will present Tchaikovsky's compositions, which arose from the ballet 'Nutcracker Suite'. They will be performed by the Camerata Akademica under the direction of concertmaster Robert Lakatos. The festival will gather participants from Serbia and abroad, and will include the premiere of three plays developed through residency workshops with children on the theme, 'New Readings of Old Fairy Tales', with the goal of changing the traditional narratives to reflect contemporary values. Project organiser, the Rumenka Cultural Centre, in addition to the 'Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture' Foundation, represents Novi Sad as a partner in the international project, Culture Up!. The other partners in the project come from four countries: Denmark, Ireland, Finland and The Netherlands. The main idea of the 'Culture Up!' project is capacity building based on best practices and the exchange of experience, knowledge and *know-how* through networking at the European level between institutions of culture, civic society organizations and local government officials involved in the cultural sector in rural and peripheral municipalities.

# WHEN GULLIVER VISITS NOVI SAD

IN THE SUMMER OF 2016, EMMANUEL RUBEN SET OFF WITH A FRIEND ON A BICYCLE TRIP THROUGH EUROPE, A 48-DAY JOURNEY ALONG THE DANUBE, FROM THE COAST OF THE BLACK SEA TO THE RIVER'S SOURCE ON THE BLACK FOREST.

In his book, Ruben reveals a lesser-known mosaic of Southeastern Europe. In a bicycle odyssey, two friends go through dark swamps close to the Danube and Eurasian steppes in Romania, Bulgarian beaches, the Iron Gates, Hungarian border surrounded by barbed wire. The decision to follow the river in the direction of air currents is a complex story of closedness of European political borders. Thanks to the Academic Book and the French Institute in Serbia, we will have the pleasure of hosting a contemporary Gulliver, member of the younger generation of French writers, Emmanuel Ruben, whose novel 'Frost Line' (La Ligne des Glaces) was a finalist for the Prix Goncourt in 2014. His time in Novi Sad partly inspired his book of travel essays, 'Along the Danube', whose promotion is planned within a forum titled *Literary Sail Along the Danube*<sup>31</sup>.



PHOTO\_J. IVANOVIĆ



# TRAVELLING THE ROADS OF LITERATURE

FRUŠKA GORA IS A FAVOURITE DESTINATION FOR OUTINGS NEAR NOVI SAD, AND AS HOME TO THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK IN SERBIA, IT DRAWS VISITORS FROM ACROSS THE REGION. THEY COME IN HIGH NUMBERS YEAR-ROUND TO HIKE THE TRAILS OF THIS MAGICAL MOUNTAIN, WHICH HAS INSPIRED SCORES OF POETS AND PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE CULTURAL HISTORY.

So as to enhance the experience of numerous visitors, we're inviting Novi Sad's youngest residents to take part in the creation of a special *Literary Trail*<sup>32</sup>, along which their peers, and all visitors, can enjoy the beauty of nature and the meaning of beautiful words. Novi Sad Children's Cultural Centre in partnership with the 'Železničar' Mountaineering and Skiing Association, will prepare children from primary schools in Novi Sad and Vojvodina. Together with well-known children's authors, children will choose their favourite passages from literary works, which will then be arranged along the shortest trail during the opening of the Fruška Gora Marathon 2022. Fifteen fixed panels will feature interesting quotes from well-known works of literature, as well as QR codes with information on the writers and works from which the quotes come, or on the cultural institutions or cultural stations in Novi Sad and Zone 021. The year of the European Capital of Culture title will add elements of a happening to the natural setting: at the opening of the trail, children's writers (Jasminka Petrović, Dejan Aleksić, Miloš Petković, Tode Nikoletić and others) will create workshops for children in schools. Each author will be the host of a certain part of the trail, with the goal of an organized artistic programme for children that will include musicians, children's choirs, child singers, actors, programme hosts. There will be a children's theatre performance and an ecological-educational workshop, as well as a programme with entertainers for children. The trail will be closed by István Lakatos.



PHOTO\_J. IVANOVIC



# DO YOU LISTEN TO FAIRY TALES?

FAIRY TALES ARE USUALLY READ, BUT NOW WE HAVE A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THEM IN A NEW WAY, TO CONNECT FAIRY TALES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND CULTUROLOGICAL MILIEUS: 'VISOKO C' ASSOCIATION OF ARTISTS WILL TRY TO GATHER AS MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, WHOSE CREATIVITY WILL BE EXPRESSED BOTH ON THE STREETS AND ON STAGE. FROM THE BEGINNING OF APRIL TO THE MIDDLE OF MAY, AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THE CITY, A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG GENERATIONS WILL BE GATHERED BY THE CREATIVITY OF THE *EUROPE XXL*<sup>33</sup> PROJECT, WHICH PROMOTES THE ACT OF JOINING DIFFERENT CULTURES THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE OF FIVE CHILDREN'S OPERAS WRITTEN IN DIFFERENT PLACES AND UNDER DIFFERENT SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: 'BAŠ-ČELIK' ('REAL STEEL') BY ALEKSANDAR BAHUN; 'PUSS IN BOOTS' BY CÉSAR CUI; 'THE GOAT'S EARS OF EMPEROR TROJAN' BY PETAR JOVANOVIĆ; 'THE MAGIC FLUTE' BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART; 'BASTIEN AND BASTIENNE'.



Within the *'Fairy Tales of the Future', Children's Opera by Franjo Štefanović*<sup>34</sup> will be staged, performed by children from the very start. The 'Josip Jelačić Memorial House' Foundation, founded by the Croatian National Council in the Republic of Serbia, is a new institution in Petrovaradin that will work for the preservation and promotion of cultural and artistic creativity of the town's residents. Children will perform 'The Forest Queen', a fairy-tale opera by Petrovaradin composer Franjo Štefanović, in an outdoor setting, which, along with a high level of production quality and technical innovation, will appeal to a large number of viewers. Franjo Štefanović (1879–1924) is a Novi Sad artist, composer and music pedagogue who wrote four fairy tale-operas about a forest queen, children of highwaymen, and other popular themes. This programme will include a production of the opera 'The Forest Queen',

since 2022 marks the 100-year anniversary of its first publication. Novi Sad as a European Capital of Culture fosters opera, especially opera for children, thus, the 'Visoko C' Association from Novi Sad is one of the rare ones in this part of Europe to be working on the development of opera for the youngest audiences through a network of cultural stations located across the city and its surroundings. The opera is directed by Robert Raponja, a university professor, director and drama pedagogue from Osijek (Croatia). Two workshops on ecological sustainability and the preservation of the environment will precede the performance, while after the opera there will be a conversation with the performers so that viewers can share their impressions. This is the first time a work of Franjo Štefanović will be digitalized, and the piano score will be harmonized for a string quartet. *Pop-up* performances in the city centre are also planned as

a way of promoting the event. The publication of *The Phenomenon of Franjo Štefanović's Children's Operas*<sup>35</sup> will also be published. It deals with the authentic cultural phenomenon of opera for children in the history of Petrovaradin and Novi Sad. With the idea of making music programs accessible to children aged five to fourteen, a cycle of educational music concerts by the famous Novi Sad composer Aleksandra Vrebalov, who lives and works in the United States, is planned. *Ksenija and the Bishop*<sup>36</sup> concerts will be held in schools across Novi Sad and Zone 021. One of the main goals of the entire programme of the European Capital of Culture is audience development. By thinking about the future of Europe, Novi Sad Wind Quintet came up with an accessible and interesting music programme for children aged 5 to 14, whose goal is to educate them and make them eager to visit similar cultural content in the city. The quintet will perform short, educative concerts with the participation of Novi Sad actress Emina Elor. Throughout listening to fairy tales, we'll also bring (back) to life one old word, though many will be hearing it for the first time. The word is 'rogalj' (corner). Maybe we'll learn it again. Rogalj is a gathering place, a place

where village youth come together, mainly at intersections and prominent locations. The most common activity on the corner was social dance, meant for young people to socialize and find a sweetheart. Reviving the tradition of the corner in Dunavski Park, the central event will include a performance of tamburitza music in various forms (traditional vocal-instrumental pieces and modern compositions adapted for tamburitza instruments); traditional, forgotten children's dances; traditional folk dance (demonstrated in the contemporary form of a social dance); promotion of domestic products and handicrafts; and an exhibition of visual and literary works by schoolchildren on the theme of *Rogalj*<sup>37</sup>. Guests from the neighbouring countries will also perform – the tambura orchestra 'Deske' (Hungary) and Timișoara (Romania).

## NEW WAYS OF A MYTH

MYTHS ARE ONE OF THE MAIN NARRATIVES OF EVERY NATION, AND SIMILARLY TO FAIRY TALES, THERE ARE MANY SIMILARITIES ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. MOREOVER, MYTHS AND FAIRY TALES ARE ESSENTIALLY CONNECTED, PROVIDING US WITH MANY ANSWERS, THUS, THE 'FUTURE OF EUROPE' ENDS WITH A MYTHOLOGICAL ADVENTURE THAT WILL OFFER CHILDREN AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE, WITH THE EDUCATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE EVENT AND PERFORMANCES THAT DEAL WITH MOTIFS FROM OUR TRADITION, BUT ETERNALLY INSPIRING ANCIENT GREEK MYTHS AS WELL.

We bring the Future of Europe to an end with content interesting to both children and young adults, as well as their friends and parents in order to show that an old myth can open new ways of promoting cultural legacies, tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Through richness of a language, communication and national creativity, a mythological adventure in the Museum of Vojvodina should draw our attention to the diffusion of cultural elements that are unique in all of Europe. *Escape Museum: Mythological Adventure*<sup>38</sup> is an unusual logic game dedicated to children aged 9 to 15. The game is based on stories and artifacts from the past, displayed in the permanent collection, and created by experts from the fields of ethnology, pedagogy, preservation and information technologies. The myth, as a universal symbol from which the most beautiful fairy

tales of the world stemmed, is being emphasised. Escape from the Museum began with the idea of making the museum a place for play, through which one of its main functions will be fulfilled: education and the spread of knowledge. In this way the Museum of Vojvodina in Novi Sad is adapting to the needs of today's public, offering an engaging and unconventional experience. As they play, children will use different props, subtly placed throughout the museum, which are key to solving tasks, as well as a mobile app and touch screen (with video and audio recordings), specially programmed for use in the game. The game innovatively addresses questions of the value of preserving material and immaterial culture of all peoples who have left their trace on the territory of present-day Vojvodina and Novi Sad. In new readings of fairy tales and conflict between the past and the present, the *Falcon's Song*<sup>39</sup>, produced by the National Folk Dance and Song Ensemble 'Kolo', combines traditional motifs from the history of this region and confronts it with the modern world. In cooperation with the prominent director Gábor Mihályi, young people will have the chance to see a play that, in addition to historical, includes plenty of mythological and fairy tale motifs. The play will be staged in the Novi Sad Theatre – Újvidéki Színház. Fans of theatre will have the opportunity to enjoy an ancient tragedy by the Romanian producer Andrei Majeri. Performed by the Serbian National Theatre, *Singing About Thebes*<sup>40</sup> represents modern reading of a classic and a combination of three ancient tragedies – The Bacchae, Antigone and Oedipus Rex in one play. Andrei Majeri has received a couple of international awards. He was proclaimed one of the most relevant young directors in the region when his play 'Las Meninas' was performed at the National Theatre Festival in Bucharest.



PHOTO\_J. IVANOVIĆ



1

## THEY LIVE – STUDENT LIVES REVEALED THROUGH CONTEXT- BASED ART PRACTICES

4 – 30 APR 2022 / RECTORATE HALL OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF NOVI SAD

ORGANISER: Cultural Centre 'Studentski grad' (Belgrade)

PARTNERS: Student Association of the University of Novi Sad, Academy  
of Applied Arts (Rijeka, Croatia), Institute for Contemporary Art (Cetinje,  
Montenegro), Faculty for Audiovisual Communication, University of King  
Juan Carlos (Madrid, Spain), International Centre for Archival Research  
IKARUS (Zagreb, Croatia), Institute for Art in Context (Berlin, Germany)

2

## ART IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

4 – 14 APR 2022 / SVILARA CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: Academy of Arts of the University of Novi Sad

3

## YOUTH SINGER-SONGWRITER FESTIVAL 2022

7 – 8 APR 2022 / CITY CONCERT HALL

ORGANISER: Guitarists Association of Vojvodina

PARTNER: LAB Cultural Centre

4

## CHOREOCHROMA

9 APR 2022 / PAVLE BELJANSKI MEMORIAL COLLECTION

ORGANISER: Pavle Beljanski Memorial Collection

PARTNERS: LUCODA (Luxembourg) and Stichting Bewegend Beeld  
(The Netherlands)

5

## GROWING UP IN THE CITY OF CULTURE

9 – 30 APR 2022 / GALLERY OF MATICA SRPSKA

ORGANISER: Gallery of Matica Srpska

PARTNERS: 'Radosno detinjstvo' Preschool, Music Youth of Novi Sad,  
Belgrade Philharmonic

6

## CITIZENS THINKING

9 – 10 APR / SVILARA CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: Group Analytic Society (Belgrade)

PARTNERS: 'Almašani' Civic Society of Podbara (Novi Sad), Student  
Organization of the Faculty of Medicine in Novi Sad, 'Kultoks'  
Association of Novi Sad, 'Ivan Gundulić' Primary School

7

## I BELONG HERE, I ACCEPT YOU

9 – 10 APR 2022 / 'Laza Kostić' Grammar School

ORGANISER: 'Iskrice' Musical-Dance Theatre

PARTNERS: 'Junior' Primary School, 'Smart' Preschool

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## CULTURESENCE

10 APR 2022 / CITY CONCERT HALL

ORGANISER: 'O&M' Academy of Arts and Entertainment

Partners: Hardcut (the Netherlands), Društvo zaveznikov mehkega  
pristanaka, Krško, Slovenia, Groove Dance Association, 'Faktor' Center for  
Child and Adult Development

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## FIND YOUR BALANCE! WITH THE CIRCUS?

30 APR 2022 / LIMAN PARK AND CREATIVE DISTRICT

ORGANISER: Kreativni pogon

PARTNERS: Ludifico, Circus School (Timișoara, Romania), Association of Teachers of the South Bačka District, Novi Sad Children's Cultural Centre

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## LEAVE OR STAY?

28 APR – 18 JUNE 2022 / SUBA'S PLATEAU AND CREATIVE DISTRICT

ORGANISER: Bel Art Gallery

PARTNERS: City Administration for Construction Land and Investments of the City of Novi Sad and Academy of Arts in Novi Sad

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## FASHION CONNECTION

29 – 30 APR 2022 / CREATIVE DISTRICT

ORGANISER: National Fashion Chamber of Serbia

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## CULTURAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH: EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

ORGANISER: Student Cultural Centre of Novi Sad

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## UPAD (INVASION)

28 APR – 5 MAY 2022 / FABRIKA

ORGANISER: Student Cultural Centre of Novi Sad

PARTNERS: 'Mišolovka' Youth Theatre, Centre for Theatre Research, 'Hoću u pozorište', 'Per.Art' Association, Novi Sad Theatre – Újvidéki Színház, Ballet school in Novi Sad, Ballet school in Pančevo, 'Laza Kostić' Grammar School, AKUD 'Sonja Marinković', Aerowaves, BeSpectative 2!, Network: 44Kilowatt Festival (Italy), Artemrede (Portugal), Bakelit Multi Art Center (Hungary), brut (Austria), BUDA (Belgium), CdAT – Café de las Artes Teatro (Spain), Domino (Croatia), Dublin Theatre Festival (Ireland), Gothenburg Dance and Theatre Festival (Sweden), International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra (Slovakia), Plesni Teater (Slovenia), Réseau en scène Languedoc-Roussillon (France), Tanec Praha (Czech Republic), Teatrul National Radu Stanca Sibiu (Romania), Fondazione Fitzcarraldo (Italy), Le CNRS (France), Universitat de Barcelona (Spain), Université de Montpellier (Spain)

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## ART IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

28 – 30 APR 2022 / CREATIVE DISTRICT

ORGANISER: Groove Dance Association

PARTNER: Academy of Arts in Novi Sad

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## FROM CHOIR IN MOVEMENT TO CHORAL THEATRE

26 – 30 APR 2022 / CITY CONCERT HALL

ORGANISER: Serbian choir association

PARTNERS: Carmina Slovenica (Slovenia), 'COOLIST' Foundation for Culture and Creativity Development in Children and Youth

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## GROOVIN' STREET DANCE FESTIVAL

28 – 30 APR 2022 / Creative District

ORGANISER: Groove Dance Association

PARTNERS: Streetwise Association of Citizens

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## NU – JAZZ FEST

28 – 30 APR 2022 / CREATIVE DISTRICT

ORGANISER: 'Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture' Foundation

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## GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

6 – 15 MAY 2022 / LIBERTY SQUARE

ORGANISER: Youth Theatre

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## NOVI SAD THEATRE GAMES

6 – 15 MAY 2022 / Liberty Square and Youth Theatre

ORGANISER: Youth Theatre

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## DUŠA IŠTE POZORIŠTE

7 – 15 MAY 2022 / BARKA CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: 'Pozorištanci' Music School

PARTNER: 'Radost stvaranja' Association

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## DO YOU BELIEVE IN FAIRY TALES?

7 – 9 MAY / RUMENKA CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: Rumenka Cultural Centre

PARTNERS: 'Teatrilo' Association, 'KulturaNova' Association, 'Mišolovka' Youth Theatre

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## LITERARY SAIL ALONG THE DANUBE

6, 8 AND 10 MAY 2022 / CEPELIN CAFÉ-BOAT, FRENCH INSTITUTE IN SERBIA, SVILARA CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: Academic Book

PARTNER: French Institute in Serbia

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## LITERARY TRAIL

8 MAY 2022 / FRUŠKA GORA

ORGANISER: Novi Sad Children's Cultural Centre

PARTNER: 'Železničar' Mountaineering and Skiing Association

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## EUROPE XXL

7 – 15 MAY 2022 / CULTURAL STATIONS IN NOVI SAD AND ZONE 021

ORGANISER: 'Visoko C' Association

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CHILDREN'S OPERA  
BY FRANJO ŠTEFANOVIĆ

8 MAY 2022 / EGYSÉG CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: 'Josip Jelačić Memorial House' Foundation

PARTNERS: 'Isidor Bajić' School of Music, Lab Cultural Centre, 'Jovan Dučić' Primary School, 'Svetionik' Cultural-Educational Centre, Croatian Cultural and Educational Society 'Jelačić'

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THE PHENOMENON OF FRANJO  
ŠTEFANOVIĆ'S CHILDREN'S OPERAS

8 MAY 2022 / EGYSÉG CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: 'Josip Jelačić Memorial House' Foundation



## KSENIJA AND THE BISHOP

7, 9 AND 11 MAY 2022 / PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ZONE 021 AND  
EGYSÉG CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: Novi Sad Wind Quintet

PARTNERS: 'Isidor Bajić' School of Music, 'Josip Slavenski' Primary School  
of Music, 'Đura Jakšić' Primary School (Kać), 'Laza Kostić' Primary School  
(Kovilj), 'Marija Trandafil' Primary School (Veternik), Rumenka Cultural  
Station, 'Mladost' Cultural Centre (Futog), 'Petefi Šándor' Hungarian Cultural  
Centre (Telep), Novi Sad Children's Cultural Centre, 'Petefi Šándor' Cultural-  
Artistic Society (Budisava), Bukovac Cultural Station, Egység Cultural Station

## ROGALJ

7, 8 AND 15 MAY 2022 / DUNAVSKI PARK, KAĆ, KOVILJ

ORGANISER: Centre for Tamburitza Culture (Novi Sad)

PARTNERS: Primary school 'Đura Jakšić', Primary school 'Ivo Andrić',  
Primary school 'Laza Kostić'

ESCAPE MUSEUM:  
MYTHOLOGICAL ADVENTURE

Every Monday in the period 4 APR – 15 MAY 2022 / MUSEUM OF VOJVODINA

ORGANISER: Museum of Vojvodina

## FALCON'S SONG

13 – 15 MAY 2022 / Novi Sad Theatre – *Újvidéki Színház*

ORGANISER: 'Kolo' Folk Dance and Song Ensemble of Serbia

DRAMA BY THE SERBIAN NATIONAL  
THEATRE IN THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL  
OF CULTURE – NOVI SAD 2022:  
SINGING ABOUT THEBES

7 MAY 2022 / SERBIAN NATIONAL THEATRE

ORGANISER: Serbian National Theatre

# HEROINES



THE 'HEROINES' PROGRAMME  
ARCH EVOKES THE NAMES OF  
BRAVE WOMEN WHO ACCEPTED  
AND EXPENDED THE EUROPEAN  
IDEA OF ENLIGHTENMENT,  
EQUALITY, FEMINISM AND  
EMANCIPATION IN THE LOCAL  
CONTEXT. WE INVITE YOU TO  
JOIN US IN FOLLOWING THEIR  
EXAMPLE, ENCOURAGING AND  
PROMOTING FEMALE CULTURE,  
ART, CREATIVITAY AND HERITAGE  
FOR THE SAKE OF A MORE JUST  
AND GENDER-EQUAL SOCIETY.

Somewhere between the West and Eastern influences, and at the same time divided between North and South, the cultural history of Novi Sad is embodied by, if not the institutions that accompany the city's sociocultural discontinuity, then the people who comprise them. Among these individuals are the names of some brave women who, having adopted European trends, were the pioneers and representatives of the struggle for the emancipation of the entire female population, each in her domain. From strong impulses hemmed in by a rural environment, through periods when bourgeois society flourished, to connections with the European intellectual elite and women's movements, the women of Novi Sad were agents of broad social changes and culturological continuity. It should come as no surprise, then, that the Heroines programme arch connects precisely to them. Just as women's cultural history in Novi Sad developed on the heels of, and often in step with the most significant European activist, feminist and artistic movements, so Novi Sad's contemporary women artists continue to have a strong presence in the European cultural scene.

Guided by the global goals mapped out by the United Nations for the decade to come, which emphasize gender equality and a better position for women in society, with the Heroines programme arch we attempt to open a space for the presentation and appreciation of the Novi Sad women's scene, by all accounts one of the most significant in the Balkans.

Finally, it was a woman who initiated the European Capital of Culture in 1985: the Greek minister of culture and celebrated actress, singer and political activist Melina Mercouri. Bearing all this in mind, beginning with shining examples of tradition through to the strongest contemporary expressions, we wish to create a new space for different approaches to interpreting and affirming the Novi Sad women's culture, with the integration of women's cultural and activist creativity.



# MATICA





# 18/5 – 22/5/2022

A survey of art history's canon reveals that the image of a woman has been one of the most dominant themes in visual and literary art. Woman as an object of the work of art not only expressed but also shaped the social construct characteristic of the work's historical context. From ethereal Beatrice and Laura, to the threatening Salomé, all the way to Isabella Brant and Gala Dali, we can perceive an entire history of the male gaze, which, though masterful, gives but one perspective. Still, the gentle female hand would find its way, exploring the woman's side of history, initially by shaping social taste through patronage, and later by participating directly in the creative act itself. Influential women in European history, such as Catherine de'Medici, Queen Elizabeth and Maria Theresa were wellknown benefactors of the arts. In the 19th century, positive energy already generated in the past century's enlightenment absolutism was liberated, and women began to follow, and themselves spin the treads of emancipation, entering the stage of history as artists and benefactors. That spirit of enlightenment also descended to the spaces that separated enlightened and oriental Europe. During this wave, the work of one great patron left a major mark in Novi Sad: Marija Trandafil (1816–1883), whose endowment today houses the Matica Srpska, one of the oldest nongovernmental organizations in Europe. Inspired by these women-patrons, we'll examine women as both inspiration and movers of traditional and new art. What interests us here is how, from the European matica connected primarily with the affirmation of soft female powers, and later through the painful struggle for gender equality, new cultural practices and social values grew.



# MATICA OF CULTURE

AS WELL AS THE QUEEN BEE, ENSURES THE SURVIVAL AND PROGRESS OF SOCIETY. IT REPRESENTS THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE OF A COMMUNITY, PRODUCING A SOCIAL MATRIX THAT TRANSFORMS, EVOLVES AND TAKES ON NEW, MODERN FORMS THROUGH DIFFERENT HISTORICAL PERIODS. BOUNDING THREE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT HISTORICAL FIGURES, WHO MARKED THE PERIODS OF OUR CULTURE, MARIA TRANDAFIL, PAVLE BELJANSKI AND FINALLY JOVANKA BROZ, WE ASK THE QUESTION OF HOW THE ROLE OF PATRONS CHANGES WITH THE CHANGE OF SOCIO-POLITICAL REGIMES AND HOW THESE CHANGES RELATE TO FEMALE CREATIVITY.

The first of the 'matica' is Marija Trandafil, who left a deep mark on the cultural history of Novi Sad, when, as a rare Serbian woman in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, she started the tradition of charity, gathering gifted children and youth around her, but also setting an example for all later generations, to which she had passed the torch. Following the rich history of patronage, the 'Novi Sad –European Capital of Culture' Foundation continues this tradition by building new bridges, new places, connecting the past and present of this city through specific programmes that takes us back to the renovated

endowments of our patrons. In this manner, we will shed light on the role of another 'matica', an opera diva and benefactress, and the first Serbian woman to be employed full-time at the Vienna State Opera. Inspired by the works of Marija Trandafil, organised by the Melanija Bugarinović and Daughter Mirjana Kalinović-Kalin Fund for Improving Vocal Arts of Young People, *Under the Glow of Star<sup>1</sup>* raises awareness of women's cultural heritage and endowments, and promotes women's culture, art and creativity through an overview of the life and work of Melanija Bugarinović (1903–1986). While the multimedia performance *Sorceresses<sup>2</sup>*, by the MOTO Music-Opera-Theatre Organisation from Belgrade, created with the idea of presenting the most significant Serbian composers of the 20th and 21st century, who achieved a world career, will take us back to the building of the former castle, today the Egység Cultural Station, shedding new light on the work of three great artists: Ljubica Marić (1909–2003), Ludmila Freit (1919–1999) and Isidore Žabeljan (1967–2020). With this project of the Music-Opera-Theater Organization, we step out of the traditional concert performance and provide the audience with an extended experience in which the relationship with artists becomes personal and opens further research. Next, we'll open the doors to Novi Sad's endowments for a fresh look at their contents from a women's perspective. The programme's goal is to affirm, through evocation of the spirit of enlightened patronage, women's performance as a part of art trends in Europe and the world. Similarly, the *Voces untimae<sup>3</sup>* chamber music concert will take up the influence of female performance and the presentation of contemporary creativity in artistic music through a synergy of the Novi Sad artist Jelena Končar and members of the 'TAJJ' string



quartet. Artist Slobodnka Stević will, on behalf of her organisation BoInside, present the *Night of Heroines<sup>4</sup>* project, envisaged as the evening of classical chamber music in an unusual way.

The example of Maria Trandafil was followed by Pavle Beljanski (1892–1965), a successful diplomat of Kingdom of Yugoslavia, who, summarizing the experiences of European travels (Stockholm, Warsaw, Berlin, Vienna and Paris) and local cultural heritage, was a passionate collector of European art, but primarily patron of local art. As a collector, who helped the work of artists exclusively from his own resources, he showed an early interest in Serbian women painters and was one of the rare men who collected and fostered women's art. The Matica 2022 is the perfect time for the Pavle Beljanski Memorial Collection's gallery, a building he bequeathed to his people, to display, for the first time ever, the women artists from its collection, as well as an interpretation of their feminist aspects. The Pavle

Beljanski Memorial Collection has worked in partnership with the (Re) connection Alliance of Feminist Organizations (SFO) of Novi Sad and the Bulevar Books bookstore to create the *Heroines of the Pavle Beljanski Memorial Collection<sup>5</sup>* project, presenting a multimedia exhibition of seven women artists from the collection: Nadežda Petrović, Zora Petrović, Ljubica Sokić, Milica Zorić, Vidosava Kovačević, Liza Križanić and Leposava St. Pavlović. The narrative begins with the oeuvre of Nadežda Petrović – activist, photographer and one of the most significant women painters of the early 20th century, whose singular combination of European Symbolism, Impressionism and finally Fauvism was celebrated in Rome, Paris, Ljubljana and beyond, and who, like many European artists, actively participated in the First World War as a nurse.



To illustrate that Pavle Beljanski goes beyond the scope of his legacy and it transcends time, the 'Česká Beseda' Association implemented the exhibition *From a Woman's Perspective*<sup>6</sup>, which expands our view of the preoccupations, activities and achievements of this region's exceptional women in the period from 1850–1950, with the goal of demonstrating the scope and specificity of their transmission of European ideas and values into the culture of Novi Sad and Serbia, as well as the changes in perceptions of gender roles during a very sensitive and dynamic period in European history. The exhibition is set in Sremski Karlovci, another important toponym of predominantly male history, which represents crossroads of European and national culture and politics. The exhibition is also a counterpoint; it begins with a homage to the pioneering work of the first Serbian woman painter Katarina Ivanović, and includes the work of painters Nadežda Petrović, Danica Jovanović, Vidosava Kovačević, Ana Marinković, Natalija Cvetković and Zuzka Medved'ová, the theatre director and actress Sultana Cijuk, the

revolutionary sisters Milica and Anka Ninković (1855–1923), and the work of the first trained photographer Mara Bogdanović Rosandić (1883–1954).

Thus, our search for patrons takes us through different timelines and cultural trends that marked this area; from Maria Trandafil, Pavle Beljanski, to the second half of the 20th century and to the *Collection of Jovanka Broz*<sup>7</sup>, heroine of recent history and former first lady of Yugoslavia – a patron who may not have been one in fact – located between the West and the Iron Curtain. As opposed to other countries in the Eastern Bloc, Yugoslavia was something of an in-between space, and so it was with Jovanka Broz (1924–2013), spouse of the president of the Socialist Federation of the Republic of Yugoslavia: she was an anomaly whose storyline was almost film like – from the frontlines of the People's Liberation Army, to the glamorous world of high diplomacy and jet-setters, to old age in complete isolation. Aside from all the responsibilities of the presidential protocol,



the life of the Brozs exuded a certain flirtation with luxury, and Yugoslavia's 'first female comrade' (first lady) was a guest in Hollywood, spent summers on Brioni with Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, and other eminent names of the silver screen. Through the exhibition of valuable paintings and personal items from her legacy, we will try to discover a part of her interesting and enigmatic life, the intertwining of personal and social taste, reflections on the collective and private, our relationship to the legacy of socialism and its influence on popular culture, fashion trends and everyday life of women in the Yugoslav context – although she might not have been a pop icon during her life, Jovanka Broz has definitely become one. The meeting of these two completely different 'maticas' will be at the Gallery of Matica Srpska, which is implementing this project and which will be the place where the threads of soft female power intersect, i.e., the meeting of two opposing principles.

# PEACHES AND PEARLS?

OR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT? THE MATICA IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK: HOW DOES A TRADITIONAL BECOME CONTEMPORARY? HOW DOES PATRIARCHY TRANSFORM INTO GENDER EQUALITY? WHERE IN OUR PAST CAN WE LOCATE THE BEGINNINGS OF CHANGE, AND WHAT DOES THIS TELL US TODAY? IN THE STORY OF MATICA AS A SOURCE OF CREATIVITY, TOGETHER WITH OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS, WE FOLLOW THE THREADS OF FEMALE CREATIVITY AND EXCITING ARTISTIC INTERSECTIONS: BEGINNING WITH THE DENSELY WOVEN TAPESTRY, THROUGH THE SYMBOLIC TEXTURE OF SCARVES, WE ARRIVE AT THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF THE ACCORDION. BY RECONTEXTUALIZING TRADITIONAL ARTISITC EXPRESSION, WE RESHAPE STALE NARRATIVES AND OPEN SPACE FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN WOMEN'S PAST AND PRESENT.



PHOTO\_V. VELIČKOVIĆ

Responding to what 'women's tradition' are and how they are perceived today, the 'Atelje 61' Institute for Tapestry Weaving designed an international exhibition of tapestries for 'Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture', in order to popularize this art in an innovative way and re-examine its basics. *The Female Thread*<sup>8</sup> is an international exhibition that will present 'a tapestry of dreams woven by desire and distaff', foregrounding the problematics of female creativity and heritage in the field of tapestry weaving, which has always been considered handiwork, reserved exclusively for women. The exhibition will show how, thanks to different themes, its singular poetics, the use of new materials and weaving techniques, and the deconstruction of tapestries, visual experiences were developed. The experiences led to its gradually becoming an artistic discipline in its own right, rather than a branch of applied art.

Through conversation with ten artists of diverse sensibilities, age groups and geographic origins, the exhibition's curator will collect material for a short documentary film that will examine the relation between female creativity within the framework of textile traditions. At the final exhibition in the Creative District, the audience will have the opportunity to speak with artists and actively participate in the creation of a tapestry, from the sketch and cardboard to the final piece. Related events will attempt to answer an "uncomfortable" question: why the male population is not represented at the loom.

Speaking of tough questions, will we explore what the shawl represents to us today – a part of everyday women's culture, a part of work or formal attire, a subject of folk handicraft or a fashion accessory? Maybe an expression of patriarchal oppression or female resistance? The





answers can be found in the *Shawl as a Cultural Signifier*<sup>9</sup> exhibition, created by the Association of Feminist Organizations ' (Re) connection', with an international team of six curators. Through various aspects of shawl as a cultural code, the exhibition thematizes the culture of wearing shawl on three continents (Europe, Africa, Asia) with special emphasis on the current mixing of cultures caused by increasing migrations and population movements. Showing the everyday life of women through the symbolic texture of the shawl, the project pays special attention to different ethnic communities in Vojvodina through a historical vision that focuses on traditional communities through the still present practices of everyday shawls in modern life. It also reinterprets cultural heritage through an author's exhibition of artistic shawls, inspired by ideological, religious and traditional motives.

From peaches and pearls to threads and notes – continuing in the line of demystifying the traditional in a gender context, in May Novi Sad becomes the European capital of the accordion. The Eufonija civic organization will promote young, talented accordionists, while the 'Heroines' programme arch is the perfect opportunity for some of the world's best women accordionists to visit Serbia for the first time. In partnership with the Vojvodina Symphony Orchestra, we will host the internationally celebrated *Hanzhi Wang*<sup>10</sup>, with the idea of reinterpreting the accordion as a traditional and predominantly male instrument. Although young, this musician has garnered tremendous global recognition and awards, and teaches at the Royal Danish Academy of Music; she will perform a premiere of a composition by Arshia Samsaminia from Iran, dedicated to this programme arch – 'Heroines'.

Since our new endowments have an atmosphere of synergy of modernity and tradition, the *Ars e femina*<sup>11</sup> project by the DOF production company closes this cluster by strengthening women's artistic expression through three interesting programme segments related to the figures of women who changed the world around them. First of all, by breathing new life into women from Novi Sad and the surrounding area, who were the inspirations for the 'Heroines' programme arch (Mileva Marić Einstein, Milica Stojadinović Srpkinja, Marija Trandafil, Milica Tomić), who will be interpreted by famous Novi Sad actresses. Then there is the evoking of the European spirit that connects us with Europe culturally and historically, and which testifies to the unfulfilled love between the famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven and Jeannette d' Honrath – through letters and music. Finally, through the last segment called 'Nine Women from Vojvodina', it sublimates the diversity of our area, pointing out the virtues of harmony, tolerance, multiculturalism, multinationality, as well as mutual respect and esteem.



A vertical arrangement of four stylized, bold, geometric letters: 'A', 'E', 'L', and 'N'. The letters are rendered in a dark gray color against a light gray background. The 'A' is at the top, followed by 'E', 'L', and 'N' at the bottom. The letters are composed of thick, straight lines, giving them a modern, architectural feel.

26/5 – 29/5/2022

We will evoke a European life of a brave intellectual during the turn of the century through a conversation about an interesting book, an exciting interactive exhibition and a provocative theatre play. In a central neighbourhood of Novi Sad stands the recently renovated home of Mileva Marić and another physicist who would go on to become a world-famous Nobel laureate, Albert Einstein. Near their house is another building in which, as a commemorative plaque notes, the two played the piano together. Behind this bourgeois love story lies an intriguing drama that testifies to the place of women in Europe in the first decades of the 20th century. The drama proves Mileva is our contemporary.







PHOTO\_J. IVANOVIĆ

The course of Mileva Marić Einstein's life is in many ways typical of European women who set off along the uncertain path of science over a century ago, when they had only just gained the right to an education and scientific career. She was born in 1875 in the Austro-Hungarian town of Titel (in present-day Serbia), and died in 1948 in Zürich, Switzerland. She was the one woman who, together with a group of five men (including Albert Einstein), enrolled in 1896 to study physics and mathematics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich; she was only the fifth woman to have been admitted to the prestigious school. In spite of her initial promise, Mileva's academic success waned, which could be partly explained by the prejudices within the scientific community. Nevertheless, she was the second woman to complete the course of studies in the Department of Mathematics and Physics, and she made multiple attempts to pass her final examinations. Mileva Marić and Albert Einstein met during their studies and became collaborators and lovers. They had one daughter out of wedlock (whose fate remains unknown), while their short-lived marriage produced two sons. Caring for her children finally ended Mileva's career at the Polytechnic, and she never graduated; today, her contribution to Einstein's scientific success remains the subject of heated debate.



# LIFE AS A NOVEL

WE FELT THAT THE TITLE OF EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2022 WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECONSTRUCT THE POSSIBLE DESTINY OF THIS BRAVE WOMAN IN A PATRIARCHAL ENVIRONMENT. TO THAT END, WE'LL BE DISCUSSING AN EXCEPTIONAL NOVEL ABOUT MILEVA, WHICH PURPOSEFULLY SUBVERTS NUMEROUS STEREOTYPES. ONE OF OUR GUESTS DURING EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2022 WILL BE THE ITALIAN SCIENTIST AND WRITER GABRIELLA GREISON (OFTEN CALLED THE ROCK STAR OF PHYSICS), FOR WHOM MILEVA'S LIFE IS IMPORTANT IN THE DETERMINATION WITH WHICH SHE PURSUED HER DREAMS, PAVING THE WAY FOR THE MINDSETS OF YOUNG WOMEN TODAY.



PHOTO\_M.ALESSI

Italian author, scientist and actress Gabriella Greison was struck by Mileva's life, her determination and struggle to realize her dreams. Greison recognized in Mileva something very similar to the mentality of young women today. Still, she is angered by the fact that Mileva was unable to bring her dreams to fruition. That's why Greison is fighting for Mileva's unrealized goal: to be posthumously granted her diploma from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich. In the novel *Einstein i Io (Einstein and I)*<sup>12</sup>, a fictionalized biography, Mileva herself tells the story of her years in Zürich, through the voice of Mileva. This intriguing narrative has an extremely interesting structure: every chapter, in addition to its title, is assigned a formula or mathematical symbol ( $\pi$ ,  $h$ ,  $i$ ,  $c$ ,  $\Delta t$ ,  $2\pi r$ ,  $N$ ,  $G$ ,  $k$ , etc.), and the reader can also add a bottle of wine from Tuscany, Friuli or Burgundy, or follow the music selections of the author. The novel paints a convincing picture of the internal drama in the scientific and personal

life and habitus of this scientist, who, coming from a double margin (geographic and gender), attempts to achieve success in a major European centre. We will host Gabriella Greison and speak with her in Novi Sad, thanks to the Akademska knjiga publishing house, which published the Serbian translation of *Einstein i Io (Ajnštajn i ja)* in 2020.

But we'll go even further: thanks to the efforts of Gabriella Greison, the Italian writer, director and physicist, in collaboration with an eminent Serbian team, for the first time a major exhibition will present the life and significance of Mileva Marić Einstein. Contributors will participate in their own area of expertise, enhanced by Novi Sad's Case3D Studio, one of the world's most highly reputable architectonic studios for virtual reality, as well as Aleksandra Ninković, writer, and Dušan Jovović, PhD, painter, whose works have received various European awards, and who are known here for their thematization of the lives of Serbian giants (Pupin, Tesla, Milunka Savić, etc).

The exhibition consists of a very strong visual narrative that will approach the character and work of Mileva Marić Einstein in an impressive and different way. To that end, in cooperation with the Museum of the City of Novi Sad, a large infrastructure project of adaptation of that museum was launched, which is mostly implemented by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments from Novi Sad. The project is supported by the IPA Fund of the European Union.

The museum, which stands on the Petrovaradin rock overlooking Novi Sad, will reconsider the symbolism of the surname Einstein (one rock). Instead of considering Mileva through the simplified narratives of woman as victim and passive participant in the history of science and family life, this large exhibition will, in a brave, innovative and pluralist way, challenge ourselves to rise to the active and industrious principle of her instinctively creative life.

The illuminated figure of the Serbian scientist, will greet visitors immediately upon entering this major exhibition, *Mileva*<sup>13</sup>, the goal of which is to provoke us to imagine ourselves in her place, to understand her and to experience first-hand her boldness and creativity. Entering the space of her life and work will ask us to leave behind the traditional exhibition space, and to test our own capacity for understanding science and mathematics, as well as the reaches of our ability to empathize. Following the opening informational area, visitors will enter an interactive, extended reality space, through which they will learn about Mileva's background, childhood, education, scientific work and love. The fluidity and complexity of this European life will be represented through the interplay of external and internal perspectives. For example, scientific creativity will be evoked through a metaphoric entry into Mileva's mind, with the help of a light installation based on electrical impulses and LED bulbs that simulate the 'choreography' of fireflies. Visitors can sit and watch the aestheticized mental dance, and through it consider themselves and the pathways of their own wandering spirit.



# ADAPTION ONE LIFE FROM A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE

WHAT WAS THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN THE PAST, AND WHAT IS IT TODAY? WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HAS REALLY CHANGED? FOR US, MILEVA'S LIFE IS NOT JUST AN INDIVIDUAL CASE, BUT RATHER EMBLEMATIC OF THE ENTIRE SOCIAL MODEL IN EUROPE AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY. FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE 'REAL' MILEVA, WE TURN TO THE YOUNG WOMEN AUTHORS FROM THE REGION IN THE THEATRICAL PREMIERE *MILEVA MARIĆ EINSTEIN – A RAY OF LIGHT*<sup>14</sup>, WHICH WILL DEPICT HER LIFE FROM A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE.

The life of Mileva Einstein has been examined historically and artistically, but most often from what could be called a psychological, family and personal perspective. The Heroines programme arch is the right moment for the seasoned team from Sterijino Pozorje, in collaboration with the National Theatre of Sombor to tell the scientist's story from the so-called women's perspective. The production is conceived as a postdramatic, documentary, interdisciplinary theatrical expression, rather than a classical bourgeois

psychological drama. The main idea is to examine Mileva's life from a gender perspective, as an overarching tragedy of one exceptional woman intellectual in a patriarchal social system. As we know, Mileva Marić studied and lived most of her life in European cities; this production, therefore, presents and analyzes European society of a particular epoch, but also pertains to contemporary European society and current problems about which we rarely speak.

A very special aspect of this production is its interesting regional collaboration between notable and award-winning young women writers, who will work together to write an original theatrical text about the life, fate and scientific work of Mileva Marić Einstein. The authors are Minja Bogavac, Olga Dimitrijević and Tijana Grumić from Serbia; Vedrana Klepica from Zagreb, and Vedrana Božinović from Sarajevo. The production will be directed by Anica Tomić, in partnership with the dramatist Jelena Kovačić from Zagreb. The premiere is planned for the opening of the 2022 Sterijino Pozorje festival. During Sterijino Pozorje, and within the project *Free Voices – Katalin and Aleksija*<sup>15</sup>, the play of the National Theatre in Belgrade – 'Lullaby for Aleksija', which thematizes the position of women and her stereotyped representation in patriarchal society, will be shown.



PHOTO\_H.TABAK



# VILA





3/6 – 5/6/2022

Three municipalities of Fruška Gora (Sremski Karlovci, Irig and Beočin) are also included in the programmes of the European Capital of Culture 2022, with the goal of creating sustainable cultural platforms. The first platform occurs in honour of poetess Milica Stojadinović Srpkinja (1828-1878) who, from the town at the edge of Europe, dreamed big European and world dreams, corresponded with German and Serbian writers, translated, was one of the first female war correspondents, played the guitar and sang heroic songs, thus becoming the protagonist of an alternative romanticism, one that was not male-dominated. In celebration of this heroine, we'll gather in her hometown of Vrdnik, today part of the municipality of Irig, for an artistic fairy tale the whole family will enjoy 'The Fairy of Fruška Gora'.



# THE FRUŠKA GORA FAIRY

A FAMILY WEEKEND GATHERING 'VILA' IS AN HOMAGE TO MILICA STOJADINOVIĆ SRPKINJA, AND PROMOTION OF THE LOCAL COLOUR AND LIFE OF VRDNIK'S RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, BY ESTABLISHING NEW, SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL PLATFORMS THAT OFFER A BROAD SPECTRUM OF MUSICAL, THEATRICAL AND VISUAL PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS AND GASTRONOMIC PRESENTATIONS IN A NATURAL SETTING, MERGING LOCAL AND WORLD ARTISTS.

PHOTO J. IVANOVIĆ

The Serbian Mary Shelley, poetess Milica Stojadinović-Srpkinja (1828–1878) was the first modern woman writer in the Serbian language and one of the figures that changed the course of history. She began writing when she was a young girl and quickly earned the support of renowned writers of that time (P. P. Njegoš, Ljuba Nenadović), while Vuk Karadžić presented her work in literary circles in Vienna, Novi Sad and Budapest. She completed a few grades at a grammar school and had an excellent command of German, which led her to publish her translations from German works. During conflicts in Vojvodina in 1848, Milica wrote war reports and wanted to take her guitar and go sing heroic ballads to the fighters, just as Joan of Arc had done in France. Still, her development was not in proportion to her talents, which might be interpreted partly from the position of her gender, but also as a result of her distance from major cultural trends. Communication from such a small place was neither simple nor easy, and the culture at the time was still in its infancy, unprepared to shed its prejudices. This romantic heroine of pastoral landscapes was the occasion to celebrate different types of women's art and include the youngest in the process.

Vrdnik, where the poetess spent most of her life, lies on the southern slopes of Fruška Gora, some 20km from Novi sad. Once known for its mining industry, today the town draws a large number of visitors and tourists with its thermal baths. The idea of Vila is to strengthen the area's cultural and touristic attractions, given the increased attention Novi Sad will receive as the European Capital of Culture 2022. We wish to offer current and future visitors to Vrdnik the opportunity to get to know its cultural and spiritual heritage in a new way, but also to draw attention to its tourism and development capacities through diverse activities in which tourism, art, music and literature are interwoven with the marvellous landscape of Fruška Gora. The fairy-tale festival format has not yet been introduced in Serbia, but experience worldwide has proven it very popular and sustainable. As the central manifestation of the programme unit of the same name, Vila will

bring together renowned names from the region as well as the local community, so as to offer visitors activities in various locations that will appeal to a range of age groups. Since fairies are primarily children's imagination, part of the programme of this fairy tale for the whole family is dedicated to children's creativity. Thus, we will present the rich history of this place to the youngest audience through the educational illustrated *Fruška bajka*<sup>16</sup>, edition of the literary call, which is the result of cooperation between the City Library of Novi Sad, famous children's author Jovana Reba, PhD, and young and talented illustrator. It will present toponyms of Vrdnik in an innovative way. We will revive the fairy-tale characters of our past and imagination in a magical way through numerous contents intended for children. From light lanterns shaped like forest animals, through colorful balloons, wings, masks and *body paint*, we will provide children, the emerging audience, with a magical experience.

As Fruška Gora, and especially the region of Irig, is rich in wine cellars and wineries as well as gourmet specialties, those slightly older visitors will be able to enjoy local wines and food during all three days of the festival while attending a rich cultural programme inspired by the Fairy of Fruška Gora.

The fate of the poetess will be the particular theme of *The Poetess Milica Stojadinović Srpkinja*<sup>17</sup>, a drama presented by the 'New Fortress Theatre', under the direction of Vida Ognjenović. The play dramatizes the conflict between MSS and her milieu, especially her family, due to her untimely break from traditional paradigms, and later because of an insufficiently liberated society that could not forgive her boldness and ambition to enter the world of male affairs. Authentic biographical details will attest to the difficulties of breaking past prejudices in order to attain recognition and equality between men and women in the creative world. Meanwhile, the 'Miloš Crnjanski' Cultural Centre is implementing the 'Crusade for Milica', which will include an evening of poetry; meeting winners of the prize and award ceremony; a scholarly colloquium and public



discussion on 'Becoming a Woman Author', as well as an evening of MSS's favourite music for guitar. In the Vrdnička Kula Ethno Village, well-known actresses will *read the poetry of Milica Stojadinović Srpkinja*<sup>18</sup> to musical accompaniment, thus closing the literary programme within the festival.

During the three days of the festival, Vrdnik will resonate with a female sound – from classical, through havier riffs, to indie pop and back, we will present some of the best musicians in the world, celebrating the polyphony of expression. The first evening we will see the performance of Simone Lamsma, one of the leading violinists of her generation who performs with the world's most famous orchestras, accompanied by local support, the city orchestra Camerata Academica Novi Sad. On the second day we turn to the reinterpretation of classical sound with Tarja Turunen, an opera diva, who is known primarily as the founder and former singer of the Finnish symphonic metal band *Nightwish*, who by combining hard and fast guitar riffs with dramatic 'opera' vocals quickly gained popularity by establishing a new style – 'opera metal', thus inspiring many performers. The third and last night of the festival closes with two concerts. The performance of the American female indie pop band Warpaint is set in the open, tucked away in wooded landscapes, and a somewhat more intimate and ethereal atmosphere will be achieved with Tabea Zimmermann, viola soloist, who is considered one of the greatest musicians of today, which is confirmed by numerous collaborations and recognitions at the world level.

PHOTO\_O. VAN DER TOORN



Part of this spirit, we will transfer to Novi Sad, where the festival programme will be enriched by the exhibition of the Niš Cultural Centre - *As a Doe Searches for Streams*<sup>19</sup>, and an evening with an artist who skilfully combines a modernist expression with a longstanding Christian tradition, painter Abbess Efimija (Jasna) Topolski, a nun at the Orthodox Saint Luke Monastery in Uchon, France. Mother Efimija will present her visions of saints in both medium- and large-format, individually modified interpretations of typical monastic icon painting. The programme opening will also include a screening of Ivica Vidanović's film, 'Before the Face of the True God', for which Efimija herself wrote the script. The film has received awards at Belgrade festivals of short films and documentaries.



# COLLA



# MILICA

The threads connecting the past and present are at times spun in secret codes, where a name becomes a destiny. So it was with Novi Sad's Milica Tomić (1859–1944), named for Milica Stojadinović Srpkinja: she continued and intensified the line of struggle and boldness that her namesake had tried to draw before her. Caught up in the momentum of European movements for women's emancipation and suffrage, and having bravely stepped out of the shadow of her father – and husband – Milica Tomić was a rare phenomenon on the political scene at the time. Her whole life was dedicated to women's emancipation; she was familiar with European and global trends in feminism, as attested by her correspondence with Rosika Shwimmer, and she strove to improve the lives of women in her native land, in both the private and (especially) the public sphere. She edited the magazine 'Žena' (Woman) and opened the first women's reading library in Novi Sad, in an attempt to stimulate women's literacy and economic position. This pioneer, who brought a glimmer of feminism to this region, participating as one of seven women in the vote for the unification of then-Vojvodina with the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, was the inspiration for a multidisciplinary approach to women's activism and creativity.



# 'WE ARE THE GRANDDAUGHTERS OF THE WITCHES YOU COULDN'T BURN!'

SAYS ONE OF THE CENTRAL SLOGANS OF SECOND-WAVE FEMINISM. TODAY, ALTHOUGH WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY AS PART OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS ARE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES ON WHICH THE EUROPEAN UNION RESTS, WOMEN IN THE EU AND ABROAD, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG ONE, ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION DURING THE 20TH CENTURY. WOMEN'S HISTORY IS NEITHER PART OF OFFICIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL NARRATIVES, NOR PART OF IMPORTANT EUROPEAN HISTORICAL COMMEMORATIONS THAT ARE OFTEN DEDICATED TO MEN'S HISTORY, WHOSE DOMINANCE IS VISIBLE IN MUSEUMS, SCHOOLS, MEDIA, NAMES OF STREETS AND SQUARES, CITY MONUMENTS. IN ORDER TO CORRECT THIS HISTORICAL MISTAKE AND FINALLY POINT OUT THOSE FEMALE NAMES WHOSE STRUGGLE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE BETTER POSITION OF WOMEN, AS WELL AS THOSE WOMEN WHO ARE STILL WORKING ON THE ISSUE OF GENDER EQUALITY, WE CLOSE THIS PROGRAMME WITH AN ENGAGED NOTE. STARTING FROM BROADER, INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES THAT SHAPED WORLD EVENTS AND BROUGHT THE SPIRIT OF FEMINISM TO THIS AREA, THROUGH AVANT-GARDE ARTISTIC PRACTICES THAT QUESTION WOMEN'S PLACE WITHIN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY, ALL THE WAY TO ACTIVISM AND HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT, WE CELEBRATE – FEMALE SOLIDARITY.





PHOTO\_B. JÜRGENSSEN

By uniting the programmes with a unique location, in the very heart of the city, through three different aspects of women's struggle, we are telling all women that Novi Sad is a city of women! Between the Archive of Vojvodina and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, during the seven days of the last programme of the 'Heroine' programme arch, we thematize the connections of the feminist past and present, connecting women from all over the world through theory, art and activist practice. The *Rewomen - European Women's Memory*<sup>20</sup> project, which is part of the European Union's *Europe for Citizens – European Remembrance programme*, and whose organiser is the Archive of Vojvodina, marks the twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of the 'Charter of Fundamental Rights' by creating an international exhibition dedicated to history of the Women's Liberation Movement (WLM). In cooperation with a number of local and foreign partners, the implementation of four international workshops is planned, within which the final exhibition will be created. For the opening event, a two-day international conference on the topic 'The Heritage of Women's Emancipation Movements' will be implemented in Novi Sad, after which the exhibition will travel through partner cities. Around 100 women from ten partner countries will participate in the creation of the concept and material for the exhibition. The idea of the exhibition is to present some of the exceptional facts, events, women's organizations, social activists and changes, and biographies of well-known and utterly unknown, marginalized women.

In a same vein, recapitulating the bold strides of avant-garde art of the 1970s, which influenced radical changes in the way women are represented in art, the *Feminist Avant-Garde*<sup>21</sup> collaborative exhibition, the *SAMMLUNG VERBUND* international group exhibition from Vienna and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, with the help of the Austrian Cultural Forum, will present the works of seventy-eight artists from all over the world, with a special focus on the local female stakeholders, whose influence was far-reaching. The 1970s saw shifts in the way women were represented in art. For the first time, women

artists began to experiment with visual images of themselves, in order to create alternative views on female identity. This exhibition will, above all, address women's personal identity in contemporary artistic practice and society, explore processes of performativity, demateriality and transgression, as well as the idea of breaking through formal, medial and spatial frameworks. The results are, according to the director of the collection Gabriele Schor, radical, poetic, ironic, angry, cynical and heartfelt. Above all, though, they are sincere, sharing a collective consciousness that re-examined and discarded the past, having turned to new forms of research in the fields of photography, performance, film and video.



PHOTO\_OSZKÁR HERNÁD

This will also be a chance to present the 'To Live on Your Face?'<sup>22</sup> project, selected within our literary call. It is an autobiographical novel of the Novi Sad avant-garde artist Katalin Ladik, whose works are presented at the exhibition.



Guided by the experience of previous activists and feminists, and calling for women's cooperation and solidarity learned from earlier movements for gender equality and women's artistic practices, the *Autonomous Festival of Women*<sup>23</sup> (AFŽ) is a unique event promoting feminism, gender equality and non-violence culture. The festival format will present innovative methods for sparking discussion about the position of women in society through an interactive approach to a target group, in order to encourage activism for a real, and not just declarative improvement in the position of women in the local community. The work of partner organizations, led by the *OFF* association from Novi Sad, and individuals under the banner of AFŽ is based on strong collaboration at the local community level, a proactive approach, and the presentation of important topics connected with gender equality in the public sphere. All theoretical activities are conceived as interactive, based on the principles of panels or workshops, which ensures civic engagement, above all of women from different social groups. One key creative aspect of AFŽ is the media and psychological workshops, as a direct way to influence society members; raise awareness of oneself and others in the context of domestic violence through expert psychological guidance; and train future media professionals to conscientiously report on sensitive topics, which the festival will offer through a multimedia platform for the duration of the programme. Through various artistic forms, as well as an audio-visual approach that is modern, relatable and attractive to a wide audience, we'll open spaces for dialogue and questions that, while perhaps not very popular, are essential for the advancement of the position of women in Serbia. Special contributions to the festival include the cooperation with artists from Novi Sad and Serbia, as well as Austria, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary; women entrepreneurs; the Protest Chorus, which performs on the streets; and the formation of a festival media editing board, which will train and support young

media workers to foster a feminist approach to their topics, develop a sensitive style of reporting and to pay attention to issues that have long remained in the margins.

The new project of the Berlin label Monica Enterprise, led by Gudrun Gut, called *Monika Werkstatt*<sup>24</sup>, is based on experimental feminist collaboration and shows that women also know how to have fun fighting for their rights and to stand side by side with music stars of harder and progressive sound. The collective motto of the project, implemented in cooperation with '2K+' association, is *LIVE AND WORK/DREAM AND MAKE AN IMPACT* and it consists of producers and electronic artists of this label. Werkstatt means workshop, with the focus on the work of female artists and their interaction with the audience in which pop culture, through learning that takes place through entertainment, becomes an understandable experience – the audience becomes part of it, not just a product. The leader of this label, Gudrun Gut, occupies a high position in the history and present avant-garde sound in Berlin. She is the founder of the iconic band *Einstürzende Neubauten*, as well as Mania D and Malaria! In addition to audio engineering, programming, music production and publishing in *Moabit Musik* and *Monika Enterprise* labels, Gudrun eventually became recognized for her educational, feminist and activist work.



PHOTO\_GANSKÖRPERFUTTER

# MEETING DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS AND FEMINISTIC ISSUES

AT THE END OF THE 'HEROINES' PROGRAMME ARCH, WE'LL BE TREATED TO A RANGE OF QUALITY PROGRAMMES OF THE VISUAL ARTS, LITERATURE, ELECTRONIC MUSIC, CLASSICAL MUSIC, PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE, ALL FEATURNIG THE WORK OF YOUNG ARTISTS. THEY'LL BE RESPONDING TO CURRENT ISSUES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ALTERNATIVE POLITICAL MODELS, THE SOCIETY OF (MALE) SURVEILLANCE, FEMINIST ECOLOGY AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY ART.

Every year, more and more Serbian female authors find reception in the broader European, and even global, context, creating literature that questions dominant ideological matrices and offers scenarios for possible alternatives to systems dominated by exclusion and violence. The four-day *Heroines at the Zenith*<sup>25</sup> festival creates opportunities for us to meet, get to know, and converse with important writers, poets, literary critics, and editors of publishing houses with an explicitly feminist view of the world. The idea of this minifestival is not to submit to the official views of literature and the position of women in art, nor will it present what is 'other and different', thereby relegating literature by women as a category of a minority or endangered group. Heroines at the Zenith will attempt to demonstrate an alternative to official politics, which are, as a rule, patriarchal and male-centric. With that in mind, and with a firm belief that the exchange of experience is one of the characteristics of good, productive dialogue, *Zenit Books*, an alternative bookstore in the centre of Novi Sad, will present a range of authors from Novi Sad, Serbia and Europe, from those who are young and just starting out, to those who are already well established.



PHOTO\_J. IVANOVIĆ



On the other hand, when we talk about theatre and performing arts, during the last week of this programme arch, two seemingly completely different, yet so close performances await us, which address the position of women then and now through performance practices and *site specific* theatre. *The Palace*<sup>26</sup> performance, by the Belgrade 'Marksenik' Association, introduces the topic of the autonomy and economy of power through provocation of the established rules within the hierarchy of the court as ancient symbol of heteropatriarchal structure, here examined from a female perspective. *The Palace* is a site-specific project, featuring individual performances by three women artists who interact with each other. The traditional space of the palace represents a kind of microcosmos governed by clearly established rules, which the artists will address through the medium of performance. The hierarchy of women's positions in the palace is examined in three performative acts by artists from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Selma Selman channels voices of the oppressed, explores real possibilities of women's emancipation and the need for attaining knowledge, and uses books that represent a weight, or rather a burden on the heads of the performers. The *site specific* play *Drama About the End of the World*<sup>27</sup>, by the Gorgons civic organisation and Atelje 212, intended for all layers of the audience and designed for performance in city parks and green areas, will show us that the collective feeling of the end of the world is growing stronger especially now, while reading the catastrophic news in the midst of a pandemic and ecological crisis. The idea is to evoke the agora – a public space for discussions and reflections on our present, but also on the future, asking the question: is it still possible to outline the political-emotional horizon of our duration in which women and nature play a major role? Some of the most significant theatre artists will work on the play, with the cooperation of the members of the author's team who live and work outside the borders of Serbia.

This kind of cluster dedicated to contemporary expression within the performing arts also raises the question of contemporary classical music, which, on the one hand, as a form of female culture, is exposed to double marginalization – it is exposed to all strategies of 'less visibility' by which the dominant cultural model reacts to female creativity. On the other hand, contemporary art music belongs to the type of 'elitist' culture that is often characterized by Hermeticism and is therefore considered accessible to a small audience. New generations of composers and performers of this type of art are increasingly bringing a modern representational sensibility and are becoming very popular on the mainstream scene. In order to experience this trend, the (Re)connection Alliance of Feminist Organizations will present and affirm women through the project *Novi Sad: Several Sketches, a Few Pictures and One Interpretation*<sup>28</sup> through the engagement of artists who will compose six independent piano compositions connected to Novi Sad as a joint thematic framework. The compositions were especially written for pianists Branka Parlić and Nataša Penezić.



PHOTO\_J. DRAGOJEVIĆ

Finally, as a kind of legacy that will remain long after the 'Heroines' programme arch, but with the same goal of raising awareness of the position of women in society and work on equality, in cooperation with the Academy of Arts in Novi Sadu and LAB Cultural Centre within the programme of the World Biennial of Student Posters, a completely new thematic-educational content will be implemented – the exhibition *Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women*<sup>29</sup>. It will be the exhibition of an international character that, through an international call, wishes to present works from the artistic disciplines of posters that were created within the regular study curricula at higher education institutions. The result will be an exhibition of 200 of the highest quality works, which will be exhibited in different parts of the city, at bus stops and buses, on tarps, billboards and public institutions, so that they are visible and accessible to everyone. In this manner, on the one hand, the current work of young artists is affirmed, while, on the other hand, attention is drawn to the important social topic of gender equality and condemnation of violence against women.

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## UNDER THE GLOW OF STAR

ORGANISER: The 'Melanija Bugarinović and Daughter Mirjana Kalinović-Kalin Fund for Improving Vocal Arts of Young People'

PARTNER: Music Youth of Novi Sad

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## FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

21 MAY 2022 / KARLOVCI ART WORKSHOP

ORGANISER: The Czech Beseda Association

PARTNER: Karlovci Art Workshop

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## SORCERESSES

21 MAY 2022 / EGYSÉG CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: The Music-Opera-Theatre Organization (MOTO) from Belgrade

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## COLLECTION OF JOVANKA BROZ

18 MAY 2022 / THE GALLERY OF MATICA SRPSKA

ORGANISER: The Gallery of Matica Srpska

PARTNER: Museum of Yugoslavia

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## VOCES INTIMAE

21 MAY 2022 / SVILARA CULTURAL STATION

ORGANISER: TAJJ string quartet

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## THE FEMALE THREAD

18 MAY 2022 / CREATIVE DISTRICT

ORGANISER: Atelje 61 Institute for Tapestry Weaving

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## THE NIGHT OF HEROINES

20 AND 22 MAY 2022 / SVILARA AND EGYSÉG CULTURAL STATIONS

ORGANISER: *BolInside*

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## THE SHAWL AS A CULTURAL SIGNIFIER

19 MAY 2022 / MUSEUM OF VOJVODINA

ORGANISER: '(Re)connection' Alliance of Feminist Organizations

PARTNER: Museum of Vojvodina

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## HEROINES OF THE PAVLE BELJANSKI MEMORIAL COLLECTION

20 MAY 2022 / PAVLE BELJANSKI MEMORIAL COLLECTION

ORGANISER: Pavle Beljanski Memorial Collection

PARTNERS: Bulevar Books, '(Re)connection' Alliance of Feminist Organizations

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## 7. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ACCORDION AND CHAMBER MUSIC – EUFONIJA

18 MAY 2022 / THE SERBIAN NATIONAL THEATRE

ORGANISER: Eufonija

PARTNER: Vojvodina Symphony Orchestra



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## ARS E FEMMINA

19, 20 AND 22 MAY AND 7 JUNE 2022 / EGYSÉG CULTURAL STATION, THE PAVLE BELJANSKI MEMORIAL COLLECTION, THE SERBIAN NATIONAL THEATRE

ORGANISER: DOF production

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## THE FAIRY OF FRUŠKA GORA

04 JUNE 2022 / VRDNIK, FRUŠKE TERME

ORGANISER: City Library in Novi Sad

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## THE FIRST HERONE IN SERBIAN SCIENCE- MILEVA MARIĆ EINSTEIN

26, 27 AND 28 MAY 2022 / NOVI SAD AND SURROUNDINGS

ORGANISER: Academic Book

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## THE POETESS MILICA STOJADINOVIĆ SRPKINJA

03 JUNE 2022 / VRDNIK, FRUŠKE TERME

ORGANISER: New Fortress Theatre

PARTNER: The Novi Sad Theatre

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## MILEVA

29 MAY 2022 / MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NOVI SAD

ORGANISER: 'Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture' Foundation

PARTNERS: Museum of the City of Novi Sad and Provincial Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Novi Sad

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PARTNER: National theatre of Sombor

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ORGANISER: Niš Cultural Centre

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PARTNER: LAB Cultural Centre



IMPRESSUM

Publisher: ‘Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture’ Foundation  
CEO: Nemanja Milenković  
Head of Programme: Sara Vuletić  
Editors: Nemanja Milenković, Vladimir Gvozden  
Assistant editors: Leona Pap, Aleksa Nikolić  
Coordinators of the programme arches: Aleksandra Manojlović, Marina Savić  
Design: Mina Aleksić, Ljiljana Kuzmanović  
Proofreader: Mina Mihailović  
Translation: Nicole Burgund, Marija Protić, Ivana Milenković  
Print: ‘Sajnos’ DOO Novi Sad  
Circulation: 1000  
Novi Sad, December 2021

CIP – Cataloging in Publication by the Gallery of Matica Srpska, Novi Sad

061.22:008(497.113 Novi Sad)"2022"(083.97)

‘Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture’ FOUNDATION  
Freedom: The Beginning of New. Now! / [editors Nemanja Milenković, Vladimir Gvozden; translation  
Nicole Burgund, Marija Protić, Ivana Milenković]. – Novi Sad: ‘Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture’  
Foundation, 2021 (Novi Sad: Sajnos). – pp. 107, ill. 23 cm. – (Programme book For New Bridges! The  
Future of Europe and Heroines; Book 3)

Cover page of printed translation: Freedom. – Source text and translation printed in mutually opposite  
directions. – Circulation 1,000.

ISBN 978-86-80970-03-5

a) ‘Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture’ Foundation (2022) – Programmes b) Cultural events – Novi  
Sad – 2022 – Programmes

COBISS.SR-ID 51451657