



FEMART FESTIVAL 11

15-21 MAY 2023

PRISHTINA & MITROVICA
KOSOVA

NARRATIVE REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Art and activism was our space of freedom! The 11th edition of FemArt Festival, held on 15-21 May, 2023, once again was a space of our life narrative, of our endless curiosity and enchantment.

304 artists, activists and technical staff from 16 different states, for seven days “Burned the Fear Away” by presenting **28 activities** in front of more than **2000 people** in the audience during this edition of **FemArt Festival in Prishtina and Mitrovica**.

Through our art we spoke out our thoughts and beliefs, and through diversity we showed who we are. Our ethnic, religious, racial and gender differences, united us around our feminism, and activism. We reclaimed what is rightfully ours – a fulfilled life.

We burned the fear of patriarchy!
Burned the fear of prejudice!
Burned the fear of failure!
Burned the fear of everything that stopped us from moving.
We said enough for us being a step behind! We burned our fear

together! And together we moved one step forward! Together we lit up the city!

Women artists opened the FemArt Festival through the theater performance “Fefu and Her Friends”, a special production by Artpolis and premiere for the 11th edition of the Festival. The entire team in the creation of this performance consisted of proven artists of the Kosovar theater scene, including the Resident Artistic Troupe of Artpolis directed by Arlinda Morina.

Further, the audience in Kosova had the opportunity to watch the performances presented at the prestigious Avignon Festival; “Jogging” from Lebanon, and “Olympe Et Moi” from France, with the world-class artists Hanane Hajj Ali, Patrick Mons and Veronique Ataly.

Besides them, part of this edition of FemArt Festival was the Artistic Troupe from Israel led by one of the most popular producers in the world, Yu Jingyi, and actor and multidisciplinary artist Yehezkel Lazarov.

In this edition we brought the Latin sounds through the concert of La Chica, with the temperament and spiritual enthusiasm of Venezuela, mixed with the multicultural, urban and modern Parisian influence. La Chica was pure joy and fondness. Wild and free just like the sea. Her music and performance is an oasis for this world.

They were joined by artists and activists from Slovenia through theater performance “Five Types of Silence”, directed by Maša Pelko; “Woman and Life” directed by Piotr Łukaszczyk (Poland); “Girls” directed by Milena Bogavac (Serbia), DJ Marina Mimoza (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The local artistic scene played an important role in this edition too, something that FemArt Festival aimed to empower since its foundation. FemArt, created by women for women, gave a special space this year to local artists and activists, to present and promote their work.

Part of the Festival were also the films “Ka me Kalu” by Flonja Kodheli, and “Vera Dreams of the Sea” by Kaltrina Krasniqi. In cooperation with the National Theatre we presented the performances “Women” directed by Nastazja Domaradzka, as well as “Molly” directed by Sibel Abdiu. In cooperation with the City Theater of Prizren “Bekim Fehmiu” we presented the performance “Danny and the Deep Blue Sea” directed by Ana Bateva.

Meanwhile, the theater performance “Sober”, directed by Butrint Pasha, was presented at the Dispensary near the KKMf in Prishtina, in which the actors of the Resident Artistic Troupe of Artpolis played.

FemArt brought to the National Library “Burn your fear: A Conference for Courageous Living”, gathering artists, activists and prominent personalities in three panel discussions: “Beyond prejudice: Empowering women to overcome stereotypes in decision-making in arts and culture”, “Peace and security:

Overcoming fear and building sustainable communities”, “Breaking the stigma: Mental health and well-being in challenging times”.

In Mitrovica, the FemArt program was realized in cooperation with 7 Arte, as well as the Museum of Mitrovica. We presented the documentary and discussion panel “Biba May - No More”, a production by Artpolis, together with the music performance of Indian singer Soli Kapadia, theater performance and the discussion “Olympe et Moi”, and the concert by rock band Ataraxia and two well-known artists Erhan Mujka and Anisa Suhodolli-Mujka.

The FemArt staff demonstrated their commitment to inclusivity by ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities at the 7 Arte venue, which spanned six floors. FemArt staff constructed a wheelchair ramp at the entrance, allowing individuals with disabilities to easily navigate the venue. This act of inclusiveness inspired the audience of 40 people who came to watch “Biba May – No More.”

As part of our commitment to inclusivity, we took a significant step during this edition of the FemArt Festival by providing a printed program in the Braille alphabet, specifically designed for blind individuals in Kosovo. This accomplishment was made possible through the initiative of Mimoze Musliu, the project assistant at Artpolis. Additionally, FemArt created a Guidebook that focuses on ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities in cultural institutions.

The 11th edition was concluded with the concert of three well-known names on the Viennese music scene, the Rina Kaçinari Trio, including Rina Kaçinari, Carles Muñoz Camarero and Jörg Mikula, with a special guest, the “Ocarina” Women’s Choir.

DAY 1 / MAY 15, 2023

FESTIVAL OPENING
CEREMONY

PREMIERE OF THEATER
PERFORMANCE

FEFU AND HER FRIENDS

KOSOVA

Theater performance “Fefu and Her Friends”, directed by Arlinda Morina - Liki, opened the 11th edition of the FemArt Festival in Menza Ramiz Sadiku, in front of more than **200 people in the audience.**

The night began with a mesmerizing performance by the talented Zana Berisha, who delivered a magical rendition of the song "Burn Your Fear," dedicated to the FemArt Festival. Accompanied on guitar was Urim Maliqi, adding an extra layer of brilliance to the performance.

Fefu, a middle-aged woman, invited her friends for dinner. They came joyfully, happy and full of ambition for life. The party took a dramatic turn when they ended up sharing their uncomfortable confessions that the hermetic, toxic patriarchal system has provided them with throughout their lives. Revolt showed the violence, abuse, and consequences on their broken lives.

We are still a society with unhealed trauma from war, with a still-present domination of violence. The victims are not freed from violence, it's as if they are doing the same thing as what has been done to them, using guns and aggression. Aggression is stored inside. Nevertheless, love is the only way to heal. At the end of the play, the directorial approach changed the drama – to kill the system by joining forces and protecting each other. May the love and light within them strengthen them, and the pain be resistance and strength to continue life. Love and support are needed to heal and to build trust. As the director herself said: “Love is love” and love is necessary for fighting our everyday battles.







DAY 1 / MAY 15, 2023

COCKTAIL
AND AFTER PARTY

DJ MARINA MIMOZA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

After the premiere of the performance “Fefu and her Friends” Dj Marina Mimoza created a partying atmosphere with electronic music.

The artist from Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, brought in front of more than **150 people in the audience** a collage of house music, but also experimental sounds of a wide range of electronic music.



DAY 2 / MAY 16, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

JOGGING

LEBANON

“Jogging” was presented in front of over **70 people at the Oda Theater.**

When the audience arrived, Hanane Hajj Ali was in place. Dressed in black, she stretched, warmed up, prepared her voice for a “single on stage” and ran. A humorous performance that can be very dark, this iconoclastic “Jogging” made the audience follow the stories of four women: Hanane herself, but also Medea, the ancient and contemporary who either kills her children or sacrifices them on the altar of the wars that undermine the Middle East. It was all about points of view.

An opus inspired by the life of the director “woman, mother, actress, citizen” who runs every day in the alleys of Beirut to prevent stress, depression and osteoporosis... A health journey that she transforms into a dive into the meanders of her dreams and her most intimate

fears. A radical challenge to the stereotypes and prejudices that plague women in the Arab world. The play mainly spoke about defying the censorship in Lebanon and for women all around the world, falling rights, the jeopardizing of women’s freedoms, hidden stories, and silenced voices. Moreover the play corresponded perfectly to this year’s motto “Burn Your Fear Away”.

About this performance activist from Bosnie and Herzegovina, Ivana Bilić wrote in her blog that: “Hanane left a strong impact on her Kosovar audience. People were amazed by her physical presence, strength, movement, and agility, as if she was flying through space unveiling more with each step she took and every sentence she uttered”.







DAY 2 / MAY 16, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

FIVE KINDS OF SILENCE

SLOVENIA

“Five Kinds of Silence” was presented in front of **60 people** at the National Theater of Kosova.

The murder of a father triggered a police investigation, a psychiatric evaluation, and preparation for defense in a court trial. From the crime to the verdict, through fragments, a shattering history of a family, and, at the same time, the ruthlessness of the social and legal system that makes violence possible, opens. Through memories and descriptions of situations a story emerged – one of horrifying physical, psychological, and sexual abuse that for years took place in silence: the silence of four family members and the silence of the world outside them.

The story corresponded perfectly with what is going on in the region. Domestic violence during the pandemic rose from four femicides per year, to eight per year in Slovenia alone. The situation is no better in Kosova, Montenegro, Serbia, or Bosnia and Herzegovina, where women are killed and no one does anything to protect them. England, Nova Gorica, Prishtina. Is there any difference?!







DAY 2 / MAY 16, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

SOBER

KOSOVA

35 people in the audience at the Dispensary near QKMF became part of this intimate journey and felt the pain of rehabilitation.

“Sober”, is based on Duncan MacMillan’s “People, Places and Things,” and it is a success story of a woman overcoming drug addiction, a worldwide phenomenon that continues to kill people and destroy families.

Based on a sentimental story of a girl suffering from alcoholism and drug addiction who is being rehabilitated in a center, Emma comes as the personification of many people stigmatized by society due to the insecurity created by addiction, which has also affected her character. This theater

play came from the urge to tell a story about addiction, talk about humanity and taking care of each other and doing something about this pressing issue. Butrint Pasha created this performance for his friends, the majority of whom are drug abusers and one of whom he lost a couple years ago. The director emphasized that theater saved his life. The rhythm that Pasha so ingeniously created was euphoric and yet so smooth, so that the audience was smoothly led from one place to the next.







DAY 3 / MAY 17, 2023

DOCUMENTARY AND
PANEL DISCUSSION

BIBA MAY – NO MORE

KOSOVA

This act truly inspired the audience of **40 people** that came to watch “Biba May – No More”.

The documentary “Biba May – No More” and the panel discussion opened the FemArt Festival in Mitrovica. This day was all for what FemArt Festival stands for – empowering those who struggle, through love, art and togetherness. “Biba May – No More” conveyed a powerful message - support for people with disabilities, and love for all.

FemArt staff also made access to six floors of 7 Arte for people with disabilities, by building a wheelchair ramp in the entrance of the object.

Twenty-two years after the war in Kosovo, a single woman who resides in the city of Prizren watches the world go by from her wheelchair. Her name is Resmie Rahmani, but most call her Biba May. Born of Bosnian origin in the early 1980s, Biba May suffers from a progressive muscular dystrophy,

a disease that has taken hold of her entire lower & middle body. Though she is confined to her wheelchair, Biba has not allowed her physical condition to deter her from making a difference; an advocate for women’s equality and justice, Biba May has spent her life working in the city of Prizren, to unite women and youth with disabilities and special needs of different cultural backgrounds, religions, beliefs, traditions, gender, and age.

After the movie a discussion panel followed with the protagonist Resmije Rahmani - Biba, the writer Shqipe Malushi, and a local activist with disabilities Merita Voca. This all happened in a small and warm place which brought strong emotions, it was more natural and profound and moreover, it had a significant impact on her.





FEMART FESTIVAL 11

15-21 MAY 2023
PROSTOR ZA MISLJENJE I KREĆIVOST

FEMART 11



DAY 3 / MAY 17, 2023

CONCERT BY

SOLI KAPADIA

INDIA

Indian singer Soli Kapadia, with his silk voice transformed the space in 7 Arte, in Mitrovica into a magic place. Around **50 people** in the audience, with their eyes closed, experienced the transcendental power of Indian music, the special voice of Kapadia, accompanied by Erhan Mujka on guitar.

Soli Kapadia, a musician who has done more than 4000 concerts

throughout the world, dedicated some of the songs to all of those who were in pain – whether physical, psychological, mental, or any form of pain. Everybody meditated with music, and the audience healed.

This night was about truth, beauty, and love.





DAY 3 / MAY 17, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE AND
PANEL DISCUSSION

OLYMPE ET MOI

FRANCE

“Olympe et Moi”, which was attended by more than **60 people** in the Dodona Theater, is an original idea of Veronique Ataly, written and directed by Patrick Mons.

Theater performance “Olympe et Moi” was an extraordinary exploration of the enduring relevance and significance of Olympe de Gouges’ story. Directed by Patrick Mons, the production delved deep into the complexities of gender inequality, social justice, and the power of activism. Veronique Ataly’s portrayal of Olympe was nothing short of exceptional, capturing the character’s strength, resilience, and unwavering determination. Ataly’s nuanced performance brought forth the struggles faced by women in the past and shed light on the continued fight for equality today. This performance beautifully balanced the

historical context with contemporary relevance, provoking introspection and conversation among the audience.

“Olympe et Moi” served as a powerful reminder of the importance of fighting for equality, amplifying marginalized voices, and challenging societal norms. This theater performance was an enlightening and impactful experience that left the audience inspired and ready to continue the pursuit of justice and equality.

And if you miss the discovery of the decade, of the
authoress that I am, of the flaming dawn of a new
genius !



We can take you
But why do you
That everyone defec



our grudge
you care
nds everyone?



DAY 3 / MAY 17, 2023

CONCERT BY

LA CHICA

FRANCE, VENEZUELA

More than **200 people** at The National Theater of Kosova felt her energy, and were moved by her enchanting melodies and singing along with her in Spanish.

On one side of the ocean is Latin America, an intense and mystical land. On the other side is Paris, Belleville, multicultural, urban and modern land. Through her music, Sophie Fustec known as La Chica reunited these two worlds by bringing a collage of sounds, borrowed from her cultural heritage and various modern influences, breaking the already established codes.

Her universe was built around the piano and keyboard, as she masterfully blended her classical inspirations (such as her love of Debussy) with the depth of the airy layers of analog synthesis. Undisguised, the French-Venezuelan conveyed raw emotions, between abstract thoughts and poetic introspection.

The new album from La Chica, “La Loba” is dedicated to her late

brother. It is an intimate, honest opus, filled with magic and ritual. Through these songs, she expressed the first phase of the new life lesson, in the absence of a loved one. She went through different emotional stages such as anger, endless grief, extreme love, and enlightenment.

La Chica started every song with a short introduction, by sharing her personal stories, stories of suffering, stories of washing up, stories of being free, stories of healing. She wrote many songs while bleeding deeply inside due to different losses. She made the entire concert so personal, so intimate.







DAY 4 / MAY 18, 2023

CONFERENCE

BURN YOUR FEAR

A CONFERENCE ON COURAGEOUS LIVING / KOSOVA

More than **50 artists** and activists from Kosovo and the region attended the conference “Burn Your Fear

A conference on courageous living”, that took place at the National Library of Kosovo. It served as a platform to discuss the following topics in three separate discussion panels:

- “Beyond prejudice: Empowering Women to Overcome Stereotypes in Art and Cultural Decision-Making”
- “Peace and Security: Overcoming Fear and Building Resilient Communities”
- “Breaking Stigma: Mental Health and Wellbeing in Challenging Times”

Through these discussions, actionable recommendations needed to drive positive change were generated, leading to a more equitable and inclusive environment for women in art and cultural decision-making roles, and peace building in the region. Through the exchange of knowledge, perspectives, and best practices, the discussion also contributed to promoting mental health literacy, destigmatizing mental health, and fostering a supportive environment for individuals facing mental health challenges in difficult times.





DAY 4 / MAY 18, 2023

WORKSHOP WITH

PATRICK MONS

FRANCE

14 artists participated in the workshop led by Patrick Mons.

The French theater director played around the fatality of having a day on stage, a hole, a loss of memory, an oblivion that makes you “fall” in the middle of the stage. What it’s like to get your feet stuck in the word, in your memory, and discover the No man’s land of a border stretched between two places: real and imaginary, an unused space between self and others, and between self and self.

From the texts and choreography learned or acquired, participants worked on disconnection, release, that moment when with a signal given by the director, the organs no longer receive instructions from the head and the head no longer has... the words in mind.





DAY 4 / MAY 18, 2023

EXHIBITION

STATUS

KOSOVA

The opening of the exhibition at the Box Club was attended by **80 people**, while the exhibition continued to be open for the audience till 16th of June.

“Status” offered a glimpse into the powerful and developing artistic practice of the promising Kosovar painter, Mimoza Sahiti, born and raised in Offenbach, Germany and a finalist of the “Artists of Tomorrow” Young Kosovar Artist Award, and was organized by Station - Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina.

According to the prize’s international jury, chaired by Anne Barlow, director of TATE St Ives, United Kingdom, Mimoza Sahiti’s raw and vibrant works challenge traditional conventions in painting. Transmitting a certain passion through the very surface of color, her work reflects a powerful feminism that underpins her approach to capitalism, identity, personal and collective trauma. In her portrayals of the human figure, a sense of fear and vulnerability reflects her concerns about the status of women in society and the precarious nature of human existence in general.





DAY 4 / MAY 18, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

WOMEN

KOSOVA

50 people attended this theater performance at the National Theater of Kosova.

The theater performance “Women”, a production of the National Theater of Kosova, was a chaotic theatrical journey, a provocation for the society that refuses to accept its problems. A society which forces women to be silent! Created by a team of women, extraordinary theater artists, “Women” was a union of bitterness, tenderness and pain. It came as a call, a theatrical protest, a question...!

Directed by Nastazja Domaradzka, a feminist theater producer and director, “Women” portrayed a feminist piece of protest theater, an award nominated CACER-OLEO at Vault 2023 and highly acclaimed production of Tennessee Williams’ Orpheus Descending for the National Theater of Albania.



No

They, now good is



FEMART 11



t te. Iling him this

your daughter, a great stres-



DAY 4 / MAY 18, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

GIRLS

SERBIA

In Dodona Theater more than
100 people attended this event.

“Girls” is an intimate, personal and feminine play, which brought authentic stories under the spotlight, but at the same time talked about the prejudices and stereotypes that young women encounter while growing up. The idea of the play was to empower girls and young women to be allies and to support each other, but also to send them the message that **GIRLS CAN DO ANYTHING**. That all girls in the world are brave, smart and that all deserve to grow up in a safe and secure environment.

Ten girls in this play examined the border between the personal and the political. All the stories they told were true and special, but at the same time they were chosen as characteristic of a large number of girls in our society. This performance was both: art and activism, because “personal is political”. We talked about ourselves in order to understand the world.







DAY 5 / MAY 19, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA

KOSOVA

In Dodona Theater more than **90 people** attended this event.

Around 90 people were in the audience at the Dodona Theater to see a compelling and intimate drama that told the story of two broken souls with a dark past: Roberta and Danny. They met by chance in a gloomy, empty bar, each looking for peace and quiet. Their attempts to talk were derailed early on by verbal sparring and threats, but something ignited a spark in their relationship.

Danny, a day laborer who lives with his mother, having a problem with his violent rages, seething with need and pain after a street brawl in which he feared he killed someone.

Roberta, a single mother who lives with her foster parents and spends her nights out partying late, was looking for reasons to prove her worthlessness to herself. What started as a bitter argument in a bar turned into an inexplicable understanding between them. Their natures are compatible enough to challenge and question each other's self-destructive tendencies without losing trust.







DAY 5 / MAY 19, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE AND
PANEL DISCUSSION

OLYMPE ET MOI

FRANCE

“Olympe et Moi”, which was attended by more than **75 people** in the City Museum of Mitrovica, is an original idea of Veronique Ataly, written and directed by Patrick Mons.

Theater performance “Olympe et Moi” was an extraordinary exploration of the enduring relevance and significance of Olympe de Gouges’ story. Directed by Patrick Mons, the production delved deep into the complexities of gender inequality, social justice, and the power of activism. Veronique Ataly’s portrayal of Olympe was nothing short of exceptional, capturing the character’s strength, resilience, and unwavering determination. Ataly’s nuanced performance brought forth the struggles faced by women in the past and shed light on the continued fight for equality today. This performance beautifully balanced the

historical context with contemporary relevance, provoking introspection and conversation among the audience.

“Olympe et Moi” served as a powerful reminder of the importance of fighting for equality, amplifying marginalized voices, and challenging societal norms. This theater performance was an enlightening and impactful experience that left the audience inspired and ready to continue the pursuit of justice and equality.

I LOVE YOU

That was a hard love
Underneath the exterior of a braver
I love nothing more than to forget
My anger under your kisses
Kisses from you, kisses from me
If I love you excuse me



DAY 5 / MAY 19, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

WOMAN AND LIFE

POLAND

In Oda Theater more than **80 people** attended this feminist theater performance.

Malina Prześluga's play Woman and Life is a story inspired by the women's protests which took place on the streets of Poland in the autumn of 2020.

Directed by Piotr Łukaszczyk, the performance portrayed the desire for freedom. Freedom from expectations and obligations. Free-

dom from social and cultural roles - conditioned by gender, imposed by the family, work, relationships or the media. It was also a performance about solidarity and the growing sense of strength from a common rebellion.





DAY 5 / MAY 19, 2023

FEMART MITROVICA

CLOSING CONCERT

KOSOVA

This concert, which took place in the City Museum of Mitrovica, was attended by more than **110 people** in the audience.

The closing concert of FemArt in Mitrovica was started by the music band ÁTARAXIA, made up mostly of young women artists and collaborators of the Mitrovica Rock School. Their performance electrified the audience with hits of pop rock songs known to everyone.

The duo ANISA & ERHANI presented a lively and soulful performance of traditional and international songs played on the guitar and voice. This fusion of different cultures and musical

genres created a rich tapestry of sounds and emotions that celebrated the diversity of music. The audience was invited to sing along and joined the celebration of the beauty and power of music to bring people together. This performance was an unforgettable and exciting experience that left more than a 100 people from the audience feeling energized and inspired.



DAY 6 / MAY 20, 2023

FILM AND PANEL
DISCUSSION

KA ME KALU

BELGIUM

Around **40 people** attended this event at the Kino Armata.

The film “Ka me Kalu”, directed by Flonja Kodheli, portrayed a dramatic narrative about family trauma.

Stela, from Albania, returned to her mother’s home in Brussels to attend her grandmother’s funeral. She noticed suddenly that her mother is possessed by fear rather than by grief. Her behavior seems confused, absurd and even, sometimes, paranoid. The

trauma resurging from the past invaded their lives.

This movie was followed by a panel discussion with the director of FemArt Festival, Zana Hoxha, and the director of the film, Flonja Kodheli, who shared with the audience interesting narratives about the movie.





DAY 6 / MAY 20, 2023

FILM AND PANEL
DISCUSSION

VERA DREAMS OF THE SEA

KOSOVA

30 people attended this event at the Kino Armata.

“Vera Dreams of the Sea” was a thought-provoking film that delved into the complexities of gender issues and personal struggles. The director, Kaltrina Krasniqi, skillfully captured the emotional journey of Vera, a middle-aged sign language interpreter, as she coped with the tragic loss of her husband to suicide, followed by an unwelcome, menacing parade of relatives who claim to have ownership over their village family house.

The script, written by Doruntina Basha, provided a nuanced exploration of the deep-seated gender issues prevalent in society. The movie tackled important themes with sensitivity and authenticity, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

Steeped into an ominous atmosphere, Vera Dreams of the Sea is an intimate yet universal portrait of a woman who must face the raw reality of going against the deeply seated gender issues that prevail in our times.

This movie was followed by a panel discussion moderated by director of the FemArt Festival, Zana Hoxha. The panelists were well known artists Kaltrina Krasniqi, Doruntina Basha, Teuta Ajdini, Aurita Agushi, and Alketa Sylaj,



DAY 6 / MAY 20, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

MOLLY

KOSOVA

More than **70 people** attended
this activity.

The theater performance “Molly”, written by the Irish playwright Brian Friel and directed by Sibel Abdiu, brought at the National Theater of Kosova the story of the married couple Molly and Frank, who live in a remote Irish village.

Molly has been blind since birth, but now a surgeon Mr. Rice

believes that he may be able to restore her sight. In a series of interwoven monologues, “Molly” took us inside the minds of three people with very different expectations of what will happen when Molly regains her sight.





PRIMAVERA





DAY 6 / MAY 20, 2023

DRAG SHOW VAV

VIBRATE AUTHENTIC VICTORY

KOSOVA

50 people attended this drag performance.

Drag show “VAV - Vibrate Authentic Victory” was a performance fully based on our drag queen’s passion for pop culture, choreography and the art form of drag.

Drag queens Vanessa Sins, Agatha Bones and Victoria Owns gave the audience nothing but the chills, thrills and all the dance move kills, during their performance at the Service Fantazia.

Drag culture thrives on the notions that femininity is a strength

rather than weakness and drag queens embody the message of nonconformity in every performance. That is exactly what VAV did.

Drag queens Vanessa Sins, Agatha Bones and Victoria Owns vibrated the energy of authenticity, to be one and to stand out, because the real victory is when you set yourself completely free.







DAY 7 / MAY 21, 2023

THEATER
PERFORMANCE

THE SUPERFLUOUS MAN

ISRAEL

The performance was followed by a full house audience of **130 people**, who gave a standing ovation that lasted several minutes to the cast of the performance.

Theater performance “The Superfluous Man”, a Mitcha Figa Production was adapted and directed by the multidisciplinary artist, Yehezkel Lazarov, and produced by the well-known producers Yu Jingyi and David Galil.

Introduced by the Artistic Resident Troupe of Artpolis, the “Superfluous Man” cast made a spectacular entrance and led us to the Oda Theater. We entered to the sounds of a lullaby sung by the Artpolis Troupe, only to find a woman asleep in the lobby of the Oda Theater and a “Ghost” video installation by Ran Slavin.

This majestic entrance was just a glimpse of the philosophical performance that was waiting for us.

“Superfluous Man” directed by Yehezkel Lazarov, brought the

lightness of simply being, nothingness, idleness, and dreaminess.

Oblomov’s character in the play “The superfluous Man” represented the phenomenon of indifference in social and private life. Laziness, inaction, idleness and dreaminess, were part of the hero’s belief system. In this adaptation Lazarov asked whether a person has the right to live his life without leaving a mark. Is the departure from life’s ongoing sequence, from the workforce, and from social life - legitimate in a world that is entirely centered on aspirations, goals and achievements? “I never earned life so I had nothing to lose. I wanted not to run anywhere, but just to be and then not to be...”







DAY 7 / MAY 21, 2023

CLOSING CONCERT

RINA KAÇINARI TRIO

AUSTRIA, KOSOVA, SPAIN

The closing concert of FemArt Festival 11 had an audience of around **230 people**, concluding with a several minutes standing ovation.

Rina Kaçinari, Jörg Mikula and Carles Muñoz Camarero intertwined sadness, love and the happiest moments with a great performance at the National Theater of Kosova. Rina Kaçinari Trio in a mind blowing energy and mixture of different musical genres incorporated traditional melodies with the special guest of the musical night Women's Choir "Okarina" from Prishtina chanting with passion "Kalle Tutën (Burn Your Fear)", a surprise and a special moment for FemArt 11th edition.

Rina Kaçinari Trio presented the program with original pieces/compositions by the three artists which described the different moments of life; sadness, love

and the happiest moments. With a broad musical spectrum from jazz to the Balkans, from tango to avant-garde, the musicians have made an international career, both solo and in projects with various musicians. Rina and Carles have long followed each other's musical journeys. This year, the long-cherished wish to make music together came true. Two cellos and voices harmonized in a wondrous way. Jörg Mikula on the drums conjured up the rhythmic and melodic counterpoint.

The Priminister of the Republic of Kosova, Albin Kurti and the Mayor of Prishtina, Përparim Rama were among the special guests that followed the event.







ARTISTIC RESIDENT TROUPE

OF ARTPOLIS IN FEMART 11

The Artistic Resident Troupe of Artpolis, played an important role during this edition of FemArt Festival. They were part of three theater performances during this edition of the festival; the opening night “Fefu and Her Friends” directed by Arlinda Morina-Liki, “Sober” directed by Butrint Pasha,

and “The Superfluous Man”, directed by Yehezkel Lazarov.

Also, Artpolis Troupe was part of the workshops led by multidisciplinary artist Yehezkel Lazarov from Israel; and French theater director Patrick Mons.



ARTISTS IMPRESSIONS

“We felt very touched to be here. We noticed that here is a lot of fighting. Fighting in the sense of what you stand for and you take nothing for granted. We saw that with the Festival, with people we met here, and I think that was kind of the base for our project. But as I said, the energy you have in you, the fight you have, the urgency to do it, you rarely meet that in our country, I think. The urgency to do something and why you are doing it... It is very inspirational for us, I think”,

Masa Pelko, director of theater performance “Five Kinds of Silence”, Slovenia.



“I envy you that you have such a huge festival with so many countries and so many performances”,

Piotr Łukaszczyk, director of theater performance “Woman and Life”, Poland.



“People are really nice but also very professional, it’s a real a real joy to be here. It’s very well organized, everything works but also at the same time we got the chance to see a lot of different performances. I find it amazing”,

Véronique Attaly, actress of theater performance “Olympe et Moi”, France.



ARTISTS IMPRESSIONS

“The quality of the people you meet, not as spectators, because I love every kind of spectator, but there are people I’m meeting now, in this Festival, that are extraordinary. (Yesterday) I saw the quality, the variety (of the performances)”

Hanane Hajj Ali, actress of theater performance “Jogging”, Lebanon.



“It fits in so many levels (theme of FemArt Festival “Burn Your Fear”). In the whole project I created everything is about breaking free from fear, going beyond the limits, the limits you gave to yourself, beyond your fear and the thing that keeps you from going further. So that is why I put myself on stage. I’m a very shy person, and I would have never done it if I wasn’t pushed by something stronger, which is the need to express myself through sound and this instrument that speaks for me. So, it is a theme that really resonates with me. And I went through different life trauma that also gave me no choice but to confront my fear and go beyond that”

La Chica, singer from France/ Venezuela.



“It’s my second time at FemArt and I’m very happy. I was here about seven years ago. This is the second time, and I am very, very happy, because it is always a special feeling when you participate as a woman in this Festival, but this year I came with two colleagues. And as a woman this is a very big achievement that I lead my colleagues and go on stage with them”,
said Rina Kaçinari, cellist and singer, in an interview with Vjollca Duraku / KultPlus.





“FemArt closed its 11th edition with a call for solidarity, justice and equality. At a time when we need courage, love and support for each other more than ever before, towards human liberation, social emancipation, personal and collective fulfillment”,

Albin Kurti, Kosova Prime minister.



“An exciting art week, with panel discussions and workshops in venues across the #capital, closed on Monday night with a wonderful musical performance by Rina Kaçinari, Carles Munoz Camarero and Jorg Mikula (Rina Kaçinari trio), as well as the Okarina choir, thus concluding the 11th edition of FemArt Festival, under the motto “Burn Your Fear” at the National Theatre of Kosova.

Prishtina is home to a diverse and vibrant feminist scene, with creative people who encourage us to constantly strive for more authentic relationships throughout society and push us to work towards justice, equality and public safety; advocating for inclusive, supportive and courageous spaces that enable individuals to be seen, affirmed and valued. More than ever, we affirm our support for the presence of these creators, who, with love and dedication, inspire the courage and power of the voices that tremble to speak.

For 11 years now, organizer Zana Hoxha has been bringing international and local talent to Kosova, combining a well-thought-out program on the experiences of women and girls from all over the world. Congratulations to Zana and Artpolis for this impressive week full of events. We wish you success and gratitude, which you deserve for the great work you are doing in Prishtina and beyond”,

Përparim Rama, Prishtina Mayor.

MEDIA COVERAGE

“FemArt” in overcoming fear gives voice to courage. “Burn Your Fear”, as this year’s motto of “FemArt”, comes “translated” not only into action and appeal, simple for action. It speaks clearly even with the voice of those who are silent, but in essence it promotes courage, as a precondition for overcoming fear. It gives “the opportunity for newness, courage and love to be born”, Gonxhe Konnjufca, KOHA.

“Serbian Play in Kosovo Unites Countries in their Fight Against Patriarchy. Serbian theatrical performance at ‘FemArt’ festival in Prishtina, showcases women’s challenges and demands equality”, Bubulina Peni, BIRN/PRISHTINA INSIGHT.

“Status” in revolt for the position of women in society. Her revolt expressed with rough and fast movements is

quite distinct. Nevertheless, there are colors and they are the channel of reaction of the artist Mimoza Sahiti. With the “Status” exhibition that comes within the 11th edition of “FemArt”, she reacts to the position of women, breaks down the approach to identity and to capitalism”, Besartë Elshani, KOHA.

“Rina Kaçinari Trio and Women’s Choir “Okarina” concluded the “FemArt” festival with a fantastic concert”, Vjollca Duraku / KultPlus.

BLOGS

To give an insight of the 11th edition of FemArt Festival activities has taken care Ivana Bilic, Romain Taunais, Mimoza Musliu and Shqipe Malushi with their blogs:

By Ivana Bilić

BURN YOUR FEAR AWAY / OPENING OF THE 11TH EDITION OF FEMART FESTIVAL

<https://femart-ks.com/burn-your-fear-away-opening-of-the-11th-edition-of-femart-festival/>

STORIES ABOUT CENSORSHIP, FEMICIDE AND FIGHTING THE DEMONS

<https://femart-ks.com/day-2/>

FEMART FESTIVAL IN MITROVICA

<https://femart-ks.com/femart-festival-in-mitrovica/>

GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS

<https://femart-ks.com/girls-will-be-girls/>

HAVE WE BURNT OUR FEARS AWAY?

<https://femart-ks.com/have-we-burnt-our-fears-away/>

By Ivana Bilić and Romain Taunais

“TODAY’S WOMEN, YESTER- DAY’S WOMEN, THE COMBAT STILL GOES ON!”

<https://femart-ks.com/todays-women-yesterdays-women-the-combat-still-goes-on/>

A DAY FULL OF STORIES

<https://femart-ks.com/a-day-full-of-stories/>

A WOMAN, ALL WOMEN, THE WHOLE SOCIETY

<https://femart-ks.com/a-woman-all-women-the-whole-society/>

By Mimoza Musliu

AWARENESS AND MOTIVA- TION FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN THROUGH “BURN YOUR FEAR”, TO BE FEARLESS, AND LIVE THE FREEDOM

<https://femart-ks.com/awareness-and-motivation-for-girls-and-women-through-burn-your-fear-to-be-fearless-and-live-the-freedom/>

WOMAN SUPPORTS AND BE- LIEVES IN WOMEN

<https://femart-ks.com/woman-supports-and-believes-in-women/>

WHEELS OF THE STEERING WHEELCHAIR OF LIFE

<https://femart-ks.com/wheels-of-the-steering-wheelchair-of-life/>

By Shqipe Malushi

REFLECTIONS

<https://femart-ks.com/reflections/>

KEY HIGHLIGHT RESULTS

Twenty-eight (28) activities were organized	304 artists/activists/technical staff participated (162 Women; 139 Men; 3 LGBTQIA+)	Artists and Activists from 16 states (Kosova, Lebanon, Slovenia, North Macedonia, India, France, Venezuela, Germany, Serbia, Poland, Belgium, Israel, Austria, Spain, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Eighteen (18) Volunteers in Prishtina and Mitrovica (12 Girls, 6 Boys)
2064 people attended the activities	332,763 people reach in all FemArt social media	More than 50 media articles published	12 blogs published

f FemArt: 1 Apr – 30 May, 2023
249,932 **9,545** **680,089**
 facebook page reach Facebook Page visits impression

IG: FemArtKosovo Account:
1 Apr – 30 May, 2023
75.618 **7,054**
 instagram reach Instagram profile visits

TWW: FemArtKosovo
1 Apr – 30 May, 2023
4.3K
 impressions

WEB: www.femart-ks.com
2,913
 pageviews

f Audience // Facebook Page Likes 10.410
 Facebook page // Gender
 Women **75.5%** // Men **24.5%**

IG Audience // Instagram Followers 3022
 Instagram page // Gender
 Women **73.2%** // Men **26.8%**

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

All activities conducted during this period were published on our social media networks. FemArt Festival social media include the following:



Website:

www.femart-ks.com



Facebook: Femart

<https://www.facebook.com/FemartKosova>



Instagram: femartkosovo

<https://www.instagram.com/femartkosovo/>



Twitter: FemArtKosovo

<https://twitter.com/femartkosovo/>



YouTube: FemArt Festival

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtUEiVHQgMuQ3i_TaQ-oAfA

**Please find attached as Annex 2: Media coverage links.*

ENCOUNTERED CHALLENGES

AND LESSONS LEARNED

Organizing the FemArt Festival in Prishtina and Mitrovica has brought forth a range of challenges and valuable lessons. Here is a summary of the main challenges faced and the lessons learned:

Lack of Suitable Venues and Limited Cultural Infrastructure: A significant challenge encountered was the scarcity of suitable venues and limited cultural infrastructure in Prishtina. This posed difficulties in finding appropriate spaces equipped with necessary facilities for performances, exhibitions, and workshops. The lesson learned is the urgent need for Artpolis to advocate more strongly to the Municipality of Prishtina. The organization should request a public space that they can invest in and renovate, transforming it into an art and community center. Such a center would not only benefit the festival but also serve the community as a venue for various activities throughout the year. By engaging with the municipality and securing a dedicated space, Artpolis can create a lasting cultural hub that supports the organization, the festival, and the local community. Until Artpolis accomplishes this, Artpolis will have in mind the importance of proactive planning and exploring alternative venues or collaborating with existing cultural institutions to overcome these limitations.

Delays in Funding Responses and Transfers: Another challenge was the delays experienced in receiving responses to funding applications and in fund transfers from donors. These delays disrupted the festival's budgeting and financial management. The lesson learned is to anticipate potential delays and allocate sufficient time for fundraising efforts, maintain transparent communication with donors, and establish robust financial processes to streamline fund transfers.

Economic Crisis and Increasing Prices: The festival coincided with an economic crisis, resulting in an increase in prices due to global-scale inflation. This posed challenges in managing expenses, attracting sponsors, and maintaining affordability for attendees. The lesson learned is to adapt to economic fluctuations by exploring cost-saving measures, seeking partnerships with local businesses, and implementing flexible pricing options to ensure accessibility while maintaining financial sustainability.

Clashes in Timeframes with Other Events: Scheduling conflicts with other events occurring in Prishtina created challenges, dividing the audience and potentially impacting attendance at the FemArt Festival. The lesson learned is

the significance of conducting thorough research on the local cultural calendar, coordinating with event organizers, and fostering collaboration to avoid overlapping dates and maximize participation.

Resistance to Ticket Payments: Encountering resistance from individuals unwilling to pay for festival tickets and expecting free access posed financial challenges and threatened the festival's sustainability. The lesson learned is to effectively communicate the value of supporting the arts, foster community engagement, and explore alternative funding models such as sponsorships or grants to mitigate the reliance on ticket sales.

Organizing the FemArt Festival in Prishtina requires addressing challenges related to venue availability, cultural infrastructure, funding delays, economic crises, scheduling conflicts, and resistance to ticket payments. The lessons learned emphasize the importance of proactive planning, efficient communication, adaptability, collaboration, and diversified funding strategies. These lessons will guide future iterations of the festival, ensuring its successful organization and long-term growth.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

RESULTS

Artpolis/FemArt Weekly and Daily Meetings during the organizing period of FemArt Festival served to discuss the progress and completion of activities, challenges encountered, lessons learned, and checking the necessary steps to be taken for the successful completion of the remaining future activities.

After each activity organized within FemArt Festival, the Monitoring and Assessment of the situation was performed by FemArt Staff on regular meetings, reflecting on FemArt Festival, writing reports with pros and cons of the activities progress, which will serve as a reference point for the successful realization of the next editions of the FemArt Festival, but also the other activities of Artpolis.

Documents produced to monitor activities:

- Sign-up sheets for participants in workshops during FemArt Festival 11
- Photo, audio, and video documentation during FemArt Festival 11
- Social Media Monitoring – Each activity organized by Artpolis is published on our social networks/pages
- Media coverage (*find attached as an annex*)
- *Catalog of FemArt Festival 11*
- *FemArt Festival 11 Program*

ARTPOLIS AND FEMART FESTIVAL

STAFF



Zana Hoxha, Founder and
Executive Director

Donarta Limanaj, Finance and
Administration Manager

Nertila Qarri-Gërguri, Project
Manager

Venera Ismaili, Project Manager

Mërgim Memoviq, Project
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Elira Lluka, PR Officer

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Butrint Pasha, Production
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Mimozë Musliu, Project Assistant

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Manon Pilia, Intern

ARTISTIC RESIDENT TROUPE

OF ARTPOLIS



Director: Zana Hoxha

Choreographer: Robert Nuha

Playwright/actor: Shpëtim Selmani

Actors: Blerta Gubetini,
Donikë Ahmeti, Edlir Gashi,
Kaltrinë Zeneli, Labinot Rraci,
Mikel Markaj, Qëndresa Kajtazi,
Zhaneta Xhemajli

Director and production assistant:
Butrint Pasha

Production assistant: Elira Lluka

VOLUNTEERS OF FEMART 11



In Prishtina: Blerza Krasniqi, Lorea Dauti, Laurant Gashi, Art Bucaj, Leart Ademi, Zana Malaj, Alkete Rrahmani, Olt Rama, Medina Rudari, Anda Rugova, Besart Krasniqi, Bekir Lahi, Amela Sogojeva.

In Mitrovica: Erza Haxhimehmeti, Anesa Lahi, Elmira Beqiri, Eliza Osmani, Agnesa Veseli.

FEMART 11

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FEMART FESTIVAL 11

15-21 MAY 2023
PRISHTINA & MITROVICA
KOSOVA

