

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARTPOLIS - ART AND COMMUNITY CENTER



Photo: Esad Duraki

## Zana Hoxha

As we reflect on the challenges and collective sustainability in 2023, it is with great gratitude and pride that we present the Artpolis Annual Report.

In the midst of many uncertainties, struggles, and difficulties, our community stood united and determined, once again demonstrating unwavering support for art and our shared feminist activism for a better tomorrow. We are grateful to each of you who have been part of this journey in 2023.

Thanks to the unwavering collective effort, we have succeeded in creating, inspiring, and empowering women, young men and women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. Thanks to our dedication and unity, we have managed to implement 136 activities, 6 new professional shows, as well as the 11th edition of the FemArt Festival, which brought over 300 artists and activists from 16 coun-

tries around the world. This participation has not only enriched our programs but has been a catalyst for positive social change.

As we flip through the pages of this report, let's celebrate the beautiful moments we've experienced together and recognize the profound impact of this collective effort. Let this document serve as a testament to the power of community and the transformative potential of feminist art and activism.

Thank you for your dedication and unwavering faith in our mission. Together, let's continue to **RESIST!** **INSPIRE!** and **CREATE!** to make positive changes in the world.



# ABOUT ARTPOLIS - ART AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Artpolis is a non-governmental organization that, through culture, art, education, and social dialogue, impacts communication and positive transformation of coexistence within the community.

Founded in 2004, Artpolis' vision is to create a society based on feminist values in the Western Balkans region. The mission of Artpolis is to build the cultural power of women and youth to become the inspiration and influence for societal change. The values of Artpolis are feminism, gender equality, justice, peace, education, empowerment, emancipation, humanism, and loyalty.

Artpolis is easily identified as one of the unique organizations that uses theater and other artistic forms to affirm, advocate, educate, and promote women's rights, human rights, the rights of marginalized groups, gender equality, communication with multiethnic communities, peacebuilding, and the empowerment of women and youth. This artistic activism makes Artpolis special, bringing it closer to citizens and building sincere and stronger relationships in mutual communication with the community, thus gaining their support. What distinguishes Artpolis from other non-governmental organizations is the creative and educational collaboration with youth at a high level, the support of minority communities, inclusiveness, diversity of women in power, raising voices against violence, active and massive community-supported participation.

Some of the main activities of Artpolis are professional theater performances, staged readings, trainings, workshops, conferences, publications, discussion panels, lectures and public discussions, film screenings, concerts, contemporary dance, protests, marches, campaigns, performances, participation in international theater festivals, street activities with youth, exhibitions, murals and installations, poetry evenings, literary evenings and book promotions, forum theater shows, memorial evenings for artists, yoga and meditation sessions, podcasts, media interviews, collaboration with international me-

dia and artistic groups, relationship building with international activists, feminist education, theater education, capacity building, bi-weekly bulletins, social networks, volunteering, and meetings with artists.

Aplikimi i punës së Artpolis shtrihet në pesë shtylla:

**Pillar I** – co-build the feminist movement by challenging the patriarchal mentality in society through art and culture;

**Pillar II** – advocate and mobilize collective actions in support for women, minorities, LGBTQI community, survivors of violence and women human right defenders;

**Pillar III** – empower youth through creative and alternative education to voice their needs and shape their future for a society based on diversity, equality and justice;

**Pillar IV** – Creating a safe place for women and girls to express themselves through art and culture;

**Pillar V** - Invest in the financial and institutional sustainability of Artpolis.

Artpolis' activities extend to almost all municipalities in Kosovo and the region, addressing, tackling, influencing, and changing the limitations of the patriarchal mindset by offering artistic and theatrical works with prominent artists from Kosovo and the region, for the citizens and especially for the youth of Kosovo; to raise their awareness and engagement.

Artpolis - Center for Art and Community has a close relationship with official media in Kosovo, theater and film artists; it is a member of ISPA (International Performing Arts Association; [www.ispa.org](http://www.ispa.org)), the IETM Network, the Kosovo Women's Network, the Cultural Forum, CIVIKOS, the Coalition for Reproductive Health, the Kosovo Coalition for Reconciliation, and works with artists and activists from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

# ABOUT THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF ARTPOLIS

The year 2023 was a challenging one for Artpolis, yet this did not stop any of us from fully committing to positive changes in our society.

The commitment to empowering women, girls, and marginalized groups continued this year through professional performances, the FemArt Festival, trainings, workshops, protests, marches, conferences, discussions, and other forms of art and feminist activism.

This report is based on the organization's five main pillars, through which the vision, mission, and long-term values of the organization have been realized. This report presents the progress of our work, achievements, and program results for the year 2023. Below, you will find details of the activities we have carried out.

# 11TH EDITION OF THE FEMART FESTIVAL



Photo: Esad Duraki

Art and activism were our spaces of freedom! The 11th edition of the FemArt Festival was once again a space for our life stories, curiosity, and endless fascination. 304 artists, activists, and technical staff from 16 different countries “burned away fear” over seven days, presenting 28 activities to more than 2,000 people during this edition of the FemArt Festival in Pristina and Mitrovica. Through art, we expressed 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 away the fear of patriarchy! We burned away the fear of prejudice! We burned away the fear of failure! We burned away the fear of everything that stopped us from moving forward. We ended the practice of taking a step back! Together, we burned away the fear! Together, we took a step forward! Together, we illuminated the city!

In this edition of FemArt, women artists opened the FemArt Festival with the performance “Fefu and Her Friends,” a special production by Artpolis and premiered in the 11th edition of the Festival. The entire team involved in creating this performance consisted of proven artists from the Kosovar theater scene, including the Artpolis Resident Artistic Troupe, directed by Arlinda Morina.



Photo: Esad Duraki



Among other things, the audience in Kosovo had the chance to watch performances presented at the prestigious Avignon Festival: “Jogging” from Lebanon and “Olympe and I” from France, featuring world-class artists Hanane Hajj Ali, Patrick Mons, and Veronique Ataly. Additionally, FemArt featured the Artistic Troupe from Israel, led by one of the world’s most renowned producers, Yu Jingyi, along with actor and multidisciplinary artist Yehezkel Lazarov. In this edition, we brought Latin sounds through a concert by La Chica, who brought the temperament and spiritual enthusiasm of Venezuela, mixed with the multicultural, urban, and modern influence of Paris. La Chica was pure joy and love. Wild and free like the sea. Her music and performance are an oasis in the world.

Furthermore, at FemArt 11, artists and activists from Slovenia participated with the play “Five Kinds of Silence,” directed by Maša Pelko, the theatrical performance “Woman and Life” directed by Piotr Łukaszczyk (Poland), “Girls” directed by Milena Bogavac (Serbia), and DJ Marina Mimoza (Bosnia and Herzegovina). This year, the local artistic scene also played an important role, as empowering it has been one of the main goals of the FemArt Festival since its inception. FemArt, created by women for women, also gave special space this year to local artists and activists for the presentation and promotion of their works. Part of the FemArt Festival were the films “It Will Pass,” directed by Flonja Kodheli, and “Vera Dreams of the Sea” by Kaltrina Krasniqi. In collaboration with the National Theater, the plays “Women” directed by Nastazja Domaradzka, and “Molly” directed by Sibel Abdiu were presented. Additionally, in collaboration with the Prizren City Theater “Bekim Fehmiu,” the play “Deni and the Deep Blue Sea” directed by Ana Bateva was presented. At the clinic near the National Theatre in Pristina, the play “Sober,” directed by Butrint Pasha, was presented, featuring actors from the Resident Artistic Troupe of Artpolis.

At the National Library of Kosovo, FemArt held “Burn the Fear: A Conference on Living Boldly,” which brought together artists, activists, and distinguished personalities in three discussion panels: “Beyond Prejudices: Empowering Women to Overcome Stereotypes in Decision-Making in Art and Culture,” “Peace and Security: Overcoming Fear and Building Sustainable Communities,” and “Breaking the Stigma: Mental Health and Well-being in Challenging Times.” In Mitrovica, the FemArt program was carried out in collaboration with 7 Arte and the Mitrovica Museum. There, the documentary and

discussion panel “Biba May - No More,” produced by Artpolis, were presented, along with a musical performance by Indian singer Soli Kapadia, the theatrical performance and discussion “Olympe and I,” and the closing FemArt concert in Mitrovica by the rock group Ataraxia and the well-known artists Erhan Mujka and Anisa Suhodolli-Mujka.

Inclusivity is one of the most important values of the FemArt Festival, and each step towards empowering marginalized groups brings us one step closer to equality. Therefore, in this edition, the FemArt program was also printed in Braille, dedicated to the blind individuals in Kosovo. This was achieved thanks to the initiative of the project assistant at Artpolis, Mimozë Musliu, who also created a Guidebook for the access of people with disabilities to cultural institutions. The 11th edition concluded with a concert by three well-known names in the Viennese music scene, the Rina Kaçinari Trio, consisting of Rina Kaçinari, Carles Muñoz Camarero, and Jörg Mikula, with special guest Okarina Women’s Choir.

## MAIN RESULTS OF FEMART 11:

- **Twenty-eight (28)** organized activities
- **304 artists/activists/technical staff** engaged in FemArt 11 (162 Women; 139 Men; 3 LGBTQIA+)
- **Artists/activists from 16 countries** (Kosovo, Lebanon, Slovenia, North Macedonia, India, France, Venezuela, Germany, Serbia, Poland, Belgium, Israel, Austria, Spain, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Eighteen (18) volunteers** in Pristina and Mitrovica (12 females, 6 males)
- **2064** attended FemArt activities physically
- **332,763** reached individuals across all FemArt social media platforms
- More than **50** articles published in media
- **2** blogs published

# ARTISTS' IMPRESSIONS OF FEMART 11

“ We felt very touched. We understood that there has been a struggle here for a long time. Struggle in the sense of what you resist and nothing is certain. We saw this at the Festival, with the people we met, and I think this was a kind of foundation for our project. But as I said, the energy you have within yourself, the inner struggle, the urgency to do something, you rarely find this in our country, I think. The urgency to do something and why you are doing it... It's very inspiring for us, I think,” **Maša Pelko, director of the play “Five Kinds of Silence,” Slovenia.**

“ I envy you for having such a big festival, with so many participating countries and so many shows,” **Piotr Łukaszczyk, director of the play “Woman and Life,” Poland.**

“ These people are very kind, and professional, it is a pleasure to be here. The organization is very good, as well as everything is working, where however at the same time we have had the opportunity to see different shows. It seems amazing to me,” **Véronique Attaly, actress of the theatrical play “Olympe et Moi,” France.**

“ Here you can meet qualitative people, not only as spectators, because I love every spectator, but these people I am meeting now, at this Festival, are extraordinary. (Yesterday) I saw the quality, and the variety (of the shows),” **Hanane Hajj Ali, actress of the theatrical play “Jogging,” Lebanon.**

“ It fits perfect the theme of the FemArt Festival ‘Burn the Fear.’ The entire project I have written is about liberating oneself from fear, going beyond the borders, the borders you have set for yourself, beyond fear and what stops you from going further. That's why I'm on stage. I am very shy and I would never have sung if I weren't driven by something very strong, the need to express myself through sounds and this instrument that speaks for me. So, it's the theme that resonates with me. And after going through various traumas in life, I had no other solution but to face my fear and overcome it,” **La Chica, singer from France/Venezuela.**

“ I’m coming to FemArt for the second time and I’m very happy. I was here about seven years ago. This is the second time and I’m very, very happy because it’s always a special feeling when you participate as a woman in this Festival, but this year I came with my two colleagues. For me as a woman, this is a great achievement, that I am leading my colleagues and we are together on stage,” **Rina Kaçinari, cellist and singer, in an interview with Vjollca Duraku for KultPlus.**

“ FemArt concluded its 11th edition with a resounding call for solidarity, justice, and equality. In a time where courage, love, and mutual support are indispensable for human liberation, social empowerment, and personal and collective fulfillment. At the Festival’s finale, the trio comprised of Rina Kaçinari on cello and vocals, Carles Muñoz Camarero on cello, nickelharpa, and vocals, and Jörg Mikula on drums and percussion, alongside special guest female choir “OKARINA,” delivered an electrifying program infused with a blend of Balkan-Latin energy. With a repertoire primarily composed by Rina Kaçinari, their performance offered a vibrant culmination to the 7-day journey and 28 cultural events presented by FemArt this year,” **Albin Kurti, Prime Minister of Kosovo**

“ A lively week of art, with panel discussions and seminars held in various venues across #thecapital, concluded Monday evening with a magnificent musical performance by Rina Kaçinari, Carles Munoz Camarero, and Jorg Mikula (Rina Kaçinari trio), as well as the Okarina choir, thus closing the 11th edition of the FemArt Festival, ‘Burn the Fear,’ at the National Theater. Prishtina is the home of a diverse and vibrant feminist scene, with creative individuals who encourage us to continuously 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, instill courage and strength in voices trembling to burn the fear. Now, for 11 years, organizer Zana Hoxha brings international and local talents to Kosovo, intertwining a well-thought-out program about the experiences of women and girls from around 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, Mayor of Prishtina.**

# MEDIA COVERAGE ON FEMART 11

“FemArt” in overcoming fear gives voice to courage. “Burn the Fear,” this year’s motto of “FemArt,” comes “translated” not only into action and calls, simply for action. It speaks clearly even with the voices of those who remain silent, but essentially promotes courage as a prerequisite for overcoming fear. It gives “opportunities for hope, courage, and love to emerge,” **Gonxhe Konjufca, KOHA.**

“The Serbian performance in Kosovo unites the countries in their fight against patriarchy. The Serbian theatrical performance at the ‘FemArt’ festival in Prishtina shows the challenges faced by women and calls for equality,” **Bubulina Peni, BIRN/PRISHTINA INSIGHT**

“Status” in revolt for the position of women in society. Her revolt is quite distinguishable expressed through swift and striking movements. However, there are colors, and they are the means of the artist Mimoza Sahiti’s reaction. With the exhibition “Status” which comes within the framework of the 11th edition of “FemArt,” she reacts to the position of women, dissecting the approach towards identity and capitalism,” **Besartë Elshani, KOHA.**

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

# PROFESSIONAL THEATRE PERFORMANCES

The Artpolis ensemble has continued with numerous artistic engagements even in its third year of existence, presenting six theater performances, two premieres; “Fefu and Her Friends,” and “Trinity,” as well as a presentation in co-production with Dah Theater from Belgrade; “Trojan Women - Replica”

For these **6 performances** presented, **17 premieres**/reprises in front of **1467 audience members** in Kosovo, Turkey, and Serbia, **75 artists**, actors, and technical staff were engaged.



# TOP GIRLS



“Top Girls,” directed by Shkurtë Aliu, continued its artistic journey in 2023 with three presentations in Prishtina, Mitrovica, and Podujeva. “Top Girls” is a 1982 play by British playwright Caryl Churchill. The numerous stories presented by Churchill in the play show the pressure and how disruptive life can be lived under patriarchy. The play depicts the roles of women in modern society and the struggles they face to achieve success in their professional lives, and what it means to be a successful woman in society. Women will never truly be liberated until they are freed from the confines of patriarchal society.

In three presentations, “Top Girls” was followed by 105 people in the audience.



# HAUNTED LAND



Drenched in a riveting blend of dramatic scenes, soul-stirring music, captivating singing, mesmerizing video projections, and contemporary choreography, the spectacle “Haunted Land” took center stage at two prestigious festivals in 2023. On January 25th, its brilliance illuminated Gjilan as part of the “Flaka e Janarit” Festival, while on March 12th, it enraptured audiences in the vibrant city of Bursa, Turkey.

Directed by Zana Hoxha, the poetry of Shqipe Malushi came to life in a breathtaking display of moving imagery. This performance wasn’t just a show; it was a profound journey through memories that shook the core and held audiences spellbound for over an hour.

“ This is the third night I’m following Drama Week at the National Theater of Gjilan. It was a performance by ZANA HOXHA that moved me deeply. Among many others, the show depicted a raped woman, who was narrating her suffering, but a group of men were pulling her back, telling her: “this is not true.” This, at one point, is Serbia, which has committed crimes and war crimes against humanity (including the rape of over 20,000 women) and has consistently refused to acknowledge their crimes for 24 years now. Unfortunately, this scene reflects the situation of patriarchal and sexist society (of many men in Kosovo), which violates women, mistreats them, sees them as sex objects, and

*refuses to admit that they are wrong and that their way of thinking and acting is a crime. Even worse, before I saw this contemporary art performance, I read that a court in Kosovo acquitted five men accused of raping an 11-year-old child. I am concerned. And I am grateful to Zana HOXHA and her team for courageously bringing this show to ensure that our society confronts the consequences of its inaction and actions through art.”*  
- **Vudi Xhymshiti, photojournalist / 25.01.2023 / Facebook.**

“ *The directional work really stood out in this show. It impressed me a lot. I saw a type of poetic theater at its best. There was a nice mix of poetic words, music, and dance. The love story portrayed was like a powerful wave, accompanied by drums, chants, and myths reminding us of our identity. It’s like a beautiful blend of choreography, music, imagery, and poetry. It’s almost magical. This isn’t just about words on stage. We understand a lot through movement, imagery, and dance. This feels like home to me. It’s all about art here, not news or history. The words are poetic, expressing love for home, country, and childhood...”* - **Josif Papagjoni, author of many theater and drama books.**

More than 640 people have attended the performances of “Haunted Land” during these two presentations.

# SOBER



Photo: Esad Duraki

The theater performance “Sober,” directed by Butrint Pasha, a production of Artpolis, has **won two prestigious awards at the 53rd edition of the Theater Festival in Ferizaj. Director Butrint Pasha was awarded the Special Prize, while Zhaneta Xhemajli received the “Rising Star” Award.**

On August 29, 2023, the space of the City Cinema was transformed into a “rehabilitation center for addicts.” The audience had the opportunity to experience sad and touching events, moments of laughter, and inspiring stories of triumph over addiction, which claims lives every day. The performance by the Artpolis Ensemble, with its touching messages, deeply penetrated the minds of the attendees, and the show ended with applause and emotions from the audience in Ferizaj.

“Sober,” based on Duncan MacMillan’s work “People, Places, and Things,” is a success story where a person overcomes drug addiction, a global phenomenon that continuously kills people and

destroys families. Based on a sentimental event of a girl suffering from alcoholism and drug addiction undergoing rehabilitation, Ema comes as a personification of many people stigmatized by society due to the insecurity created by addiction, which has also influenced her character.

In addition to the presentation in Ferizaj, “Sober” has been performed five times at the Dispensary near the Palace of Youth and Sports in Prishtina.

The performance was attended by **162** audience members during its six presentations.



# FEFU AND HER FRIENDS



“Fefu and Her Friends,” directed by Arlinda Morina, was a new play by Artpolis in 2023. It brought together female artists to explore women’s world, gender equality, and the struggles women face within the patriarchal system, emphasizing their need for freedom.

The play also sheds light on societal expectations of women, power imbalances, and the challenges women encounter in a society marked by inequality. Written by Julie Aaron and Maria Irene Fornes, “Fefu and Her Friends” offers an important perspective on patriarchy’s oppression and liberation through feminism, making us think about the social norms and structures that obstruct gender equality.

“Fefu and Her Friends,” a production by Artpolis, reached its peak when the women joined forces and protested against oppression, patriarchy, and var-

ious forms of violence. Fefu (Aurita Agushi), Cindy (Zhaneta Xhemajli), Christina (Qendresa Kajtazi), Juli (Donikë Ahmeti), Ema (Vlora Dervishi), Cecilia (Blerta Gubetini), Paula (Dora Xhemajli) stood in solidarity with all women, singing “‘The Spring is coming’ – patriarchy is drowning, freedom is coming, no power can turn us back, the end of your oppression is near!”

As they sang, they waved the flags of LGBTQI+ communities. Such a theatrical experience encourages us to reflect on diversity and differences within society, urging us to commit daily to a more open and just society.

This performance also marked the opening of the 11th edition of the FemArt Festival, with over 400 people attending in three presentations.



# TROJAN WOMEN– REPLICA



On November 23, 2023, Dodona Theater became a space for the timeless narrative of human suffering as “Trojan Women – Replica” unfolded the saga of tragedies from Troy to the modern world. Euripides’ despair echoed throughout the performance, reminding us that the essence of Troy, with its pain and violence, still permeates our global reality. “Troy is still everywhere,” cries Euripides, drawing striking parallels, “the whole world is our ancient Troy and your modern Troy. Thousands of horses, not made of wood, but of steel... flying. Iron Pegasus dropping bombs everywhere.”

Directed by feminist directors Zana Hoxha and Dijana Milosheviq, and portrayed by the talented ensembles of Artpolis and Dah Theatre, this bilingual production, in Albanian and Serbian, portrays women’s suffering as a consequence of war. The presentation was an enduring reminder to prioritize peace and break the cycle of conflicts in advocating for women’s voices. Through this collaboration, Artpolis

and Dah Theatre transcended national and linguistic barriers, creating a safe space to demonstrate the power of art, as expressed by Hoxha: “The synergy created among us as artists and feminist collectives crossed national and linguistic barriers, creating a space for the power of theater to impact our minds and hearts, creating a safe zone for a shared experience.”

Having two languages didn’t stop people from understanding; it actually connected them, showing the universal message of the performance. As one audience member put it: “I don’t speak Serbian, but I got the whole thing because war is bad everywhere; pain doesn’t need translation; and art speaks to everyone.”

“Trojan Women – Replica,” still in the creative process, was also presented in Belgrade on September 8, with an audience of 110 people attending these two showings.



# TRINITY



Photo: Esad Duraki

With the premiere of the dance theater show “Trinity” Artpolis raised the theater curtains on December 27, 2023, at Dodona Theater. “Trinity” is the latest conceptual, choreographic, and theatrical exploration by choreographer Robert Nuha with the artistic ensemble of Artpolis. Combining satire, contemporary dance, and drama, “Trinity” highlighted the toxic masculinity ingrained in men over centuries by the patriarchal system, as well as the systematic oppression of women.

“Trinity” poses questions without attempting to provide answers, leaving it to the audience to reflect. In a complex theatrical game, characters transform, journey through time, and delve into personal exploration in search of answers. Patriarchy and feminism clash throughout. Nuha masterfully embodies the two main characters, the father and the daughter, who are not physically portrayed but are the essence of the show. They are brought to life through the narratives of the three brothers played by Artpolis actors Edlir Gashi, Labinot Raci, and Mikel Markaj.

Toxic masculinity takes center stage in every scene of the show. It manifests itself right from the first scene. Three brothers console each other for their father’s death, encouraging each other, “don’t cry, be a man,” “be a man, don’t cry like a child,” “stand up straight, don’t walk like a child,” “a man is a man!” This is followed by the clash of the twins, one slightly older than the other, as an element of hierarchy and toxic masculinity planted by patriarchy.

The brothers clash over their father’s property and inheritance. They refuse to make equal divisions, let alone for their sister. This clash leads them to their father’s grave, where they take his ring. Through the ring, the characters transform and journey through time, tracing the origins of this patriarchal issue.

Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon also appear on stage, ironically facing the same problems as the three brothers on earth - dividing inheritance and greed for power.

Due to limited space, only 50 people attended the premiere of this show in the audience.

# FEMINIST ART FUND



This year, 10 artistic works with a feminist approach were presented as part of the Feminist Art Fund of the Art and Community Center - Artpolis, supporting 29 artists. Performances, theater shows, poetry nights, book publications, concerts, and other artistic forms were presented by artists and artistic groups throughout 2023. In 13 presentations, these works were attended by 620 people in the audience.



# SOLO CONCERT BY SOPRANO URTA HAZIRAJ



Photo: Enes Sahiti

Soprano Urta Haziraj, on February 23rd, presented classical music from various periods to the audience, ranging from classicism, romanticism, to contemporary compositions. Her Solo Concert took place at St. Ndou Church in Pristina and was attended by more than 150 people in the audience. Through this concert, Urta encouraged a greater following of classical music in Kosovo and advocated for its wider reach.

Alongside Urta, musicians and performers Visar Kuçi, Milot Mehmeti, and Lirika Pula Kasapolli were also on stage, showcasing various pieces of classical music, including Engelbert Humperdinck's "Der-

kleine Sandmann bin ich," Mozart's "L'amerò, sarò costante," and Leonard Bernstein's "I Feel Pretty."



Photo: Enes Sahiti

# THE BOOK “KATËRDHETË E PAK” BY VLORA ADEMI



Photo: Ferdi Limani

On the evening of March 24th, at Kino Armata, author Vlora Ademi’s book “Katërdhetë e pak” was launched. The book was accompanied by a panel discussion, poetry recitations, and music.

The panel consisted of Primo Shllaku, Agim Baçi, and Gazmend Bërlajolli, moderated by director Zana Hoxha. Actress Meli Qena performed some of Vlora Ademi’s poems, while Elikona Hysaj Shala and Astrit Stafai took care of the music. “A Bit Over Forty” comes as a personal narrative from author Vlora Ademi, crafted with love over a long period.

“I can’t pinpoint exactly when I started writing poetry, but I can say that, unconsciously, I came to a time when I had enough material to draw from. Enough

when I realized that, by expressing emotion and sensitivity, poetry sings of human acquaintance and values,” Vlora wrote on her social media platforms to promote the book. Photo: Ferdi Limani.





# “ME AND ME” BY FLAKA LATIFI, A STORY ABOUT HUMAN ENDURANCE



The stage of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Prishtina was “taken over” on the evening of March 25, 2023, by actress Flaka Latifi, who brought the performance “Me and Me”.

“Me and Me” was a journey of love, an emotional blend that primarily showcased the human condition through laughter, joy, suffering, and anger. Flaka’s stage presence dominates in this performance inspired by Anton Chekhov’s “The Seagull”. She single-handedly portrays the monologues and “dialogues” on stage, and through body movement, Flaka brings forth various characters who engage with the audience.

“Me and Me” was a human narrative about resilience in the face of challenges that strike us throughout life.





# “IN BETWEEN” PERFORMANCE BY AGNES NOKSHIQI



Speaking truth loudly paves the way for humanism and understanding! This was the message conveyed by the renowned artist Agnes Nokshiqi through her latest performance “In Between”. On Tuesday evening, June 13, 2023, the audience gathered at the ground floor of Bubble Pub to witness this intimate show, which spoke about the past of a woman tested by life. Positioned within the stage space, the audience became active participants in the event.

Agnes’s spiritual performance, with minimal movement, resembled the grand impulses of the original emotion that this performance aimed to create. Mostly stretched and exhausted, for fifty minutes Agnes managed to present metaphors of pain, a display of human suffering, challenges, and significant questions towards self-awareness.

In the second half of the performance, she started posing personal questions to the audience, like: “What do you regret?”, “Which moment in your life

defines you?”, “Are you willing to express with your body what words can’t convey?”. Enveloped in their own introspection, the audience responded with utmost sincerity, resulting in prolonged embraces with the actress on stage, leaving behind the sensation and the message that speaking truth aloud fosters humanism and understanding!



# STAGE READING “REDLIGHT ON SUNDAY”



On June 27, 2023, at Dodona Theater, Artpolis brought to life another project under the Feminist Art Fund - the staged reading “Redlight on Sunday” by author Butrint Pasha.

This drama was interpreted by actors Adrian Morina and Zana Berisha, portraying the characters of Professor Mudi and Lina, a student in the final stage of her diploma. The story unfolds at the University, presenting sexual harassment as a growing negative phenomenon.

A one-act drama containing sensitive dialogue where the characters are striving to achieve their goals, one path leading to assault as a result, while the other confronts another harasser with justice. Filled with intense, cynical, and harassing dialogue

from the circumstances created by Professor Mudit, it kept us on edge, contemplating the worst for the fate of this twenty-two-year-old student.



# “BREAK/ING”, AN ACT OF SELF LOVE



On October 14th, artist Uresa Ahmeti premiered her performance “Break/ing” at City Park in Pristina. It was nothing short of a captivating journey through the depths of the human soul, an act of breaking the silence, and a touching testament to the power of art. Through poetry, dance, and music, she guided the audience from experiencing pain to self-realization, sensitivity, and radical love.

She began by creating an atmosphere of isolation and feeling bound by chains, and throughout her performance, with her words and movements, slowly broke away from her cocoon - a symbol of society’s constraints on marginalized groups. Her movements

became faster and freer. Her rhythm reminded everyone of our bodies’ ability for joy and resistance.





# “GIVE COLOR TO LIFE”, WITH PERSONAL STORIES FOR WOMEN’S EMPOWEREMENT



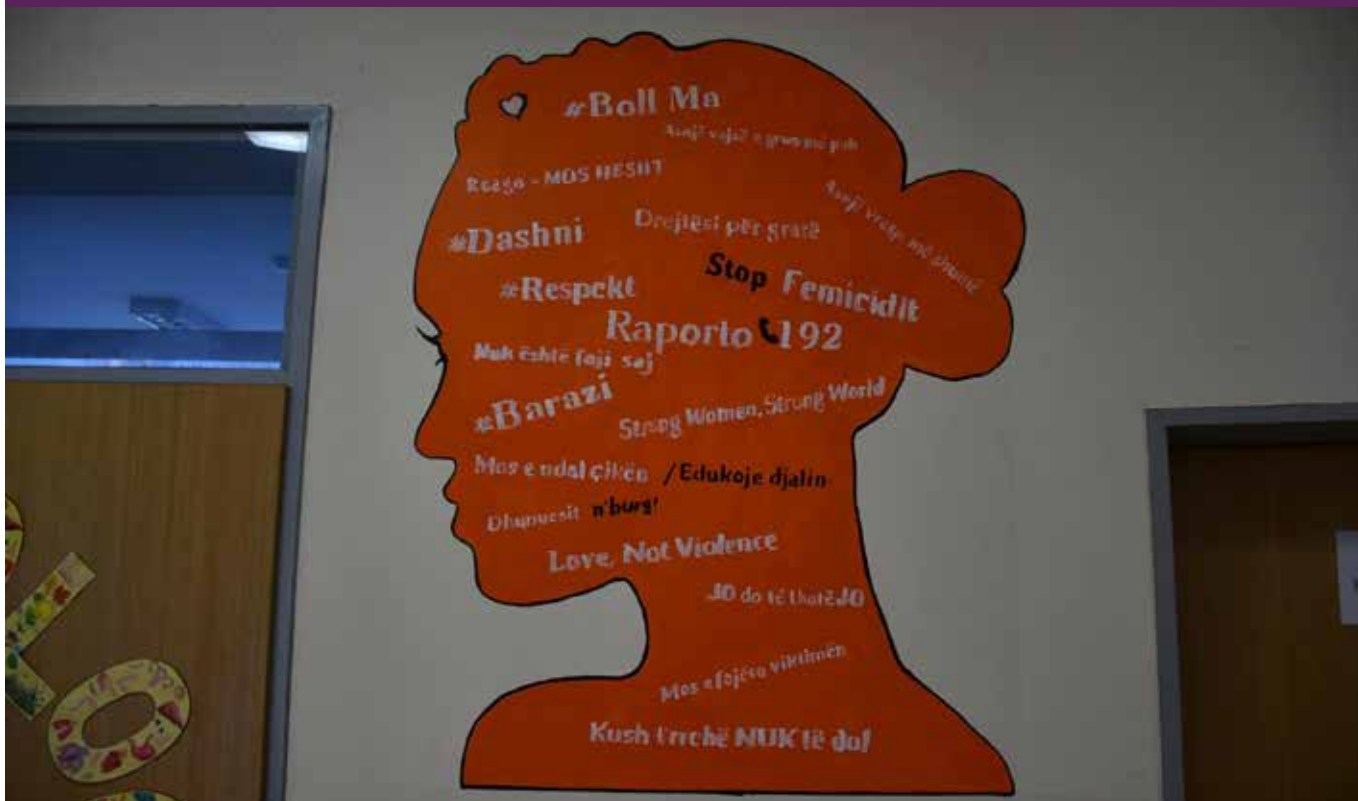
Through personal and fictional narratives, actors Anisa Ismaili and Fitore Broqi, on September 28, 2023, presented the performance “Give Color to Life” as a call for social emancipation and empowerment of women.

Presented at the Oda Theater, “Give Color to Life” placed women, their challenges, and their confrontation with the prejudices and norms of the patriarchal system at the center of attention. Dreams, desires, and the courage of women were creatively showcased in this performance with minimalist traditional elements. The different narratives of Anisa and Fitore were enriched with video projections created by Mersime Ademi, serving as a narration of the traumas and wounds caused by patriarchy.

“Give Color to Life” was also presented in Podujeva, Peja, and Fushe Kosova, in the presence of 230 people.



# THE MURAL AGAINST VIOLENCE AND MURDER OF WOMEN



The primary school “Idriz Barani” in Klinë e Epërme-Skënderaj has transformed into a space for advocacy and social awareness-raising against the murder and violence against women.

Students at “Idriz Barani” school have read some of the main calls conveyed by this mural: Stop Femicide, Report 192, Don’t stop the girl/educate the boy, #EnoughNow, etc.

“I am nobody’s property. Just one slap is violence” is the title of the mural presented at this school on November 29, 2023. Realized by the NGO Humanus Vita and the artist Nazmi Kyqyku, this mural was presented as part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence”, with the support of the Feminist Art Fund of Artpolis.

Doruntina Gashi, the director of Humanus Vita, stated that educating young people and raising awareness among them about the phenomena of violence in our society is of particular importance. For her, violence and the murder of women are still concerning.





# “EDI: THE DARDANIAN LABYRINTH AND THE GATE OF TUKANA”, IN HONOR OF EDI SHUKRIU



On December 5th, in the space of “Dit’ e Nat”, Kaltrina Igrishta and Eliza Shala presented their unique book with illustrations “Edi: The Dardanian Labyrinth and the Gate of Tukana”, a tribute to the life and work of the distinguished archaeologist Edi Shkuriu.

Interweaving stories written by Igrishta, and illustrations by Shala, the comic book “Edi: The Dardanian Labyrinth and the Gate of Tukana” is a journey through time of Edi Shkuriu, as dramatic as it is inspiring for her work and dedication over the years.

Igrishta and Shala deliberately chose to launch this book precisely during the “16 Days of Activism”, celebrating the power of women and their efforts for social emancipation. This fantastical scientific tale in the book “Edi: The Dardanian Labyrinth and the

Gate of Tukana” not only showcases the wonders of archaeological exploration but also weaves a story of strength and resilience of women, beyond the challenges within the patriarchal system.



# “BE AWARE: PATRIARCHY DESTROY ZONE”, ATTACKS FEMICIDE AND INVITES WOMEN IN SOLIDARITY



On December 9th, Blerta Gubetini and Dora Xhemajli brought their performance “Be Aware: Patriarchy Destroy Zone” to the stage of the Faculty of Arts in Prishtina.

Presented as part of the “16 Days of Activism” campaign, this performance was a call against the systematic oppression of women by patriarchy, a call to stop the killing of women. Interweaving some of the most significant feminist events, “Be Aware: Patriarchy Destroy Zone” is a feminist performance that tackles sexism, misogyny, femicide, and invites women into solidarity.

The performance began with scenes of women’s protests in the streets from Chile to Washington,

from Paris to Prishtina, all united to say stop to the killing and violence against women through the performance “Un Violador en Tu Camino” created by Las Tesis. Then, Dora Xhemajli appears on stage, delivering a monologue by the first feminist writer Christine de Pizan as a call for women’s education, a right denied for centuries. The performance also included Beyoncé’s song “Flawless” and the “BollMa” march by Artpolis.

Inspired by Carolee Schneemann’s “Interior Scroll” performance, Blerta Gubetini challenged social norms by exploring themes of femininity, sexuality, and art. The bold and provocative act of pulling out a letter from her vagina while reading it aloud challenges traditional notions about women’s bodies.

# FEMINIST ARTIVISM

In 2023, Artpolis continued its art and activism work against patriarchy and femicide. Through protests, marches, conferences, performances, and publications, Artpolis spoke out against misogyny and the murder of women.

# POETRY FOR POWER – EVERY DAY IS MARCH 8



Photo: Esad Duraki

Solidarity unites women. Together, they inspire, educate, and empower. The poetic evening “Poetry for Power - Every Day is March 8” brought together 31 established artists and activists of various genres, genders, and ethnicities.

With a diverse group of artists including Albanian, Roma, Serbian, and French, under the leadership of the Artpolis Ensemble, International Women’s Day was celebrated at the Ramiz Sadiku Cafeteria on March 2, 2023, in Pristina. This evening was a solidarity event with three families headed by women from Klina, Skenderaj, and Mitrovica, cities affected by floods.

The evening began with poets Sibel Halimi, Arbër Selmani, Gili Hoxhaj, and Shpëtim Selmani presenting their beautiful poetry to the audience, which in-

cluded distinguished figures from the arts, activism, and politics in Kosovo.

120 people had the opportunity to attend this unique artistic evening of poetry.



Photo: Esad Duraki



# WE MARCH, DON'T CELEBRATE



This year, we marked March 8th with a protest during the traditional march, traversing the streets of Prishtina, from the Palace of Justice to reach “Zahir Pajaziti” square, where activists, under cheers, songs, noise, and chants, joined together to continue the journey to the Government building.

With slogans like “Down with the patriarchal government,” “Who protects us from the police,” “So many calls ignored,” “So many women murdered,” “Down with the patriarchal prosecution,” “Down with the patriarchal police,” “The murders of women are forewarned,” “The court has hands stained with women’s blood,” etc., we marched through Prishtina’s streets to protest against the oppressive patriarchal system, which continually fails to safeguard girls and women from violence and murder.

Together, we marched to voice our rebellion against

gender-based violence. From gender-based work organization and the feminization of poverty to sexual, psychological, and physical violence, and even institutionalized violence, which persists in oppressing women disproportionately, rendering them more vulnerable and impoverished.





# PROTEST “THE STATE IS GUILTY FOR THE MURDER OF SEBAHATE MORINA”



On April 4th and 5th, 2023, a group of 65 activists organized a protest action with the slogan “The State is accountable for the murder of Sebahate Morina.”

This protest was a response to institutional negligence in the dismissal and punishment of the Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Prosecution Office in Prishtina, Kujtim Munishi, for the violations in the Sebahate Morina case, and the Prosecutor responsible for mishandling her right to life.

This protest came two weeks after the Constitutional Court’s decision found the Prosecutor’s Office and the Police responsible for violating Sebahate Morina’s right to life.

Thanks to the strong protests of civil society, the State Prosecutor’s Office was compelled to take ac-

tion and initiate disciplinary proceedings against the prosecutor involved in Sebahate Morina’s case. The collective efforts of these activists played a crucial role in seeking justice and holding those responsible for her murder accountable.



# #ENOUGH! STOP FEMICIDE & HOPE BUBBLE



On 07.12.2023, we said “Stop Femicide” through the “#Enough” march and the artistic performance “Hope Bubble,” while seeking justice for Liridona Ademaj and all women murdered so far.

“Today we are gathered here to say stop to femicide, to say stop to the killing of women and their oppression. Today we demand justice for Liridona and for all murdered women. We demand maximum punishment for the criminals, in line with the law,” said Nertila Qarri-Gërguri, project manager at Artpolis, in a media statement.

She added that femicide is a national emergency. Therefore, it is high time to end femicide, “it is high time to bring justice and gender equality. It is high time to end patriarchy, and along with it, oppression.”

Femicide, misogyny, and toxic masculinity continue to terrorize us daily. Women’s lives are endangered

every day, at home, on the streets, at work, in public and private spaces.

Through her performance “Hope Bubble,” Donika Ahmeti brought the daily life of women, the multiple and systematic oppression of patriarchy that kills women every day. Altina Binaku, Lavdije Idrizi, Meri Gojani, and Albionë Sahiti brought this performance to life, supported by 30 young men and women who were part of this performance.





## V, A VOICE OF CHANGE THAT INSPIRES FEMINISTS



The artistic evening with V (former Eve Ensler), held on November 21, 2023, unfolded like a delicate bloom, its petals of empowerment unfurling one by one—a fusion of resilience, art, advocacy, and activism. The event was organized by the Kosovo Women’s Network (KWN) and Artpolis - Center for Art and Community. As the audience entered the amphitheater of the National Library of Kosovo “Pjetër Bogdani,” the air buzzed with anticipation, a current of shared emotions coursing through the room.

As the lights dimmed in the auditorium, actress Zhaneta Xhemajli from the Artpolis Ensemble stood at the center of the stage, illuminated by a soft light. With a voice weaving word into an emotional tapestry, she began reciting V’s poem “A Manifesto for Women and Girls” from the work “I Am an Emotional Creature”—a lyrical dance exploring the complexities of womanhood. The audience, captivated by the rhythm of the verses, felt that the power of language transcended the boundaries of mere words. The poem, like a resounding call, set the tone for the evening.

Following the poetic performance, V immersed herself in a moderated discussion led by Zana Hoxha, the Founder and Executive Director of Artpolis - Center for Art and Community, delving into the intricacies of art and feminist activism. Their dialogue resembled a graceful dance of ideas, a choreography of thoughts and passion, creating a profound exchange among feminist advocates. V's perspective, shaped by a lifetime of advocacy, vividly depicted the ongoing struggle for gender equality. The audience listened intently; each of her words resonated through the space like a stroke of empowerment on the canvas of understanding.

As the discussion unfolded, the audience actively engaged in the evening's proceedings. Questions sparkled like stars, illuminating the depth of curiosity and hunger for change. V responded with eloquence and poise, her words echoing like a powerful mantra throughout the room.

*"Dream is alive... We have the power to reshape the world. We will continue until we put an end to violence." – V*

At the end of the evening, the second poetic performance was presented, this time by Donika Ahmeti from the Artpolis Ensemble, interpreting "I call You Body" by V, a poem that celebrates the beauty and vulnerability of the human form, recognizing the body not just as a physical entity, but as a vessel carrying stories, resilience, and the essence of being.



# PUBLICATION OF THE RESEARCH REPORT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA



On November 20, 2023, Artpolis published the investigative report “Analysis of students’ knowledge about the existence and implementation of the Regulation against sexual harassment and harassment at the University of Prishtina,” authored by Ariana Qosaj-Mustafa.

The report focuses on analyzing the University of Prishtina and the existing levels of response in implementing the Regulation against sexual harassment, being the largest university in Kosovo and the first university to have adopted a specific regulation for addressing cases of reporting sexual harassment and harassment within public universities.

Since the Regulation was approved in May 2021, the Office for Prevention and Protection against Sexual Harassment and Harassment has received a total of five (5) reports of sexual harassment allegations,

three (3) submitted physically and two (2) electronically. These cases have been processed according to the procedure outlined by the Ethics Committee’s regulations for case handling. In May 2023, the Ethics Committee found two of these cases to be unsubstantiated, as they were reported anonymously through electronic means. As per the case examination procedure, the Committee invites parties to a hearing session to present all facts. However, in this instance, it wasn’t feasible due to the anonymous nature of the electronic reports, preventing the issuance of an invitation to the complainant for a hearing session. During the presentation of the report’s methodology, findings, and main recommendations, Ariana Qosaj-Mustafa highlighted the significant underreporting of cases, attributed to students’ lack of trust in institutions’ ability to take appropriate punitive measures against offenders.



# INFORMATION SESSIONS ON REGULATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA



The University of Prishtina, in collaboration with Artpolis - Center for Art and Community, along with the official for prevention and protection against sexual harassment and harassment, Drita Hyseni, held 10 informative sessions on addressing sexual harassment and harassment during the period of October-November 2023.

Ms. Hyseni and Artpolis representative, Mërgim Memović, project manager, informed students about the “Regulation against Sexual Harassment within the University of Prishtina,” the reporting procedures, and confidentiality after reporting. They also discussed what constitutes sexual harassment, the forms of sexual harassment, and behaviors considered as sexual harassment.

# MOVIE NIGHT AT ARTPOLIS SPARKS DISCUSSION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT



On the evening of March 15, the Artpolis office transformed into a small cinema. Young men and women gathered to watch and discuss the film “She Said,” directed by Maria Schrader and written by Rebecca Lenkiewicz. “She Said” tells the true story of two New York Times journalists, Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor, who exposed allegations of sexual abuse against the famous Hollywood producer, Harvey Weinstein. This shocking story served as a catalyst for the #Me-Too movement, breaking decades of silence around the issue of assaults and sexual harassment by authority figures. The young people who attended the film night discussed the movie and expressed their

concerns about sexual harassment at the University of Prishtina, as well as in our society at large.



# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE



Throughout this year's campaign of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Artpolis organized a total of nine activities: The "Boll Ma: Stop Femicide" March, the "Hope Bubble" performance, the comic book "Edi, the Dardan Labyrinth, and the Gate of the Tukana", the mural "I am Nobody's Property. Even a slap is violence", the theatrical performance "Unlimited", the forum theatre show "Tech-No", the performance "Be Aware: Patriarchy Destroy Zone", the protest "No Peace without Women's Safety", and the public reaction "Femicide is a national emergency".

174 artists and activists, along with 630 audience members, participated in these activities organized by Artpolis. Of particular importance was the demand for justice for Liridona Ademaj-Murseli, the 30-year-old woman tragically killed by her husband on November 29, 2023. This tragic event has sparked numerous reactions, leading Artpolis to strongly condemn this act of femicide along with other civil society organizations.



# FEMINIST ACTIVISM IN PEACE BUILDING



Building peace and supporting it is an ongoing commitment of Artpolis. The ongoing tensions testify to the fragile peace in the Balkans, so each of our actions is crucial in maintaining peace and improving

inter-ethnic relations. In 2023, Artpolis and partner organizations from the region have made significant contributions through theatrical performances, workshops, lectures, trainings, exhibitions, and festivals.

# FEMINIST SPRING SCHOOL



The Feminist Spring School (FSS) was successfully realized in Kosovo and Serbia by Artpolis - Center for Art and Community and the Alternative Center for Girls/Krushevc, bringing together 34 participants from both countries, who had the opportunity to learn about feminist peacebuilding from 13 lecturers.

The first part of the FSS, which brought together 18 girls, was held in Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia, on April 6-9, 2023. Participants had the chance to learn from activists and feminists from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina: Andrijana Kocić, Selena Simić, Jelena Višnjić, Jelisaveta Blagojević, Ajna Jusić, Jadranka Milićević.

The experiences of activism with their stories managed to resonate with the participants, capture their attention, and involve them in discussions.

The second part of the FSS took place on November 4-7, 2023. This time, the beautiful city of Prizren, with its cultural diversity, warmly welcomed 16 activists from Kosovo and Serbia on a joint cultural and feminist journey.

The topics lectured on and discussed in groups were “Collaboration and Women’s Movement since the 1990s”, “Recovery of Dignity: Recognizing the Status of Survivors of Sexual Violence in the recent war in Kosovo”, “Breaking Stereotypes: Empowering Women in Media and Uncovering Fake News”, the documentary “Biba May - Not Me - an inspiring story of empowering girls with disabilities”, “Integrated Security: Empowering Women for Self-care, Activism, and Reflection in Action”, and “Breaking Barriers: Challenging Gender Roles in Film”.

The activists and lecturers, with their years of experience in various fields, inspired and motivated the participants in this edition. Among them were Igo Rogova, Lepa Mladenović, Feride Rushiti, Jeta Xharra, Resmije Rahmani, Yllka Soba, and Elena Avdija. Motivational speeches were also addressed to the participants by Visare Mujko Nimani from UNFPA and Tamara Smidling from the KtK Foundation.



# “TROJAN WOMEN – REPLICA”, ON THE JOURNEY OF HUMAN TRAGEDY WITH A PLEA FOR PEACE



Photo: Esad Duraki

“Trojan Women - Replica,” on November 23, 2023, took the audience on a journey of human tragedy, from Troy to the present day, and the fate of women through a call for peace.

Directed by feminist directors Zana Hoxha and Dijana Milošević, and performed by the Ensembles of Artpolis and Dah Theater, the presentation of “The Trojan Women - Replica” in a bilingual adaptation, Albanian and Serbian, portrayed the silent suffering of women after the war, emphasizing their vulnerability and resilience in the face of systematic oppression.

This presentation, which serves as a final stage in the creation of the show, also serves as a critique of the current “gods” - the politicians. It criticizes the ease with which they decide the fate of peoples, the wars they cause, and the destructive consequences of their actions. After the presentation, the audience raised many questions and had comments about the artists and the performance.

“The execution of the performance pleased me greatly, it stirred emotions, and I appreciated the collabo-

ration between the two languages; diversity showed that we can foster respect and cooperation between two nations,” expressed a young woman in the audience.

“This presentation and collaboration come at the right time considering the current tensions between Kosovo and Serbia, perhaps as an example that if politics creates tensions, it is the use of art that soothes tensions and contributes to communication, collaboration, and peace,” said another.



## WORKSHOP “THEATER PLAY AS A METHOD TO ANALYZE SOCIETY”



The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, in collaboration with the organization Artpolis, organized the workshop “Theater play as a method to analyze society” from 13th to 23rd November, 2023, led by the renowned director and playwright, Zlatko Paković. Two young people from Kosovo and four from Serbia had the opportunity to discuss and learn during the first phase about universal human rights, feminism, and patriarchy in the Southwestern Balkans for

ten days. The second part was devoted to dramaturgical work, during which the participants created dramatic scenes based on examples from everyday life. Meanwhile, in the third phase, there was a critical analysis of the presented dramatic material and a discussion, while the final phase involved shooting a documentary film, with the participants in the workshop participating.



# BREAKING INTERCULTURAL BARRIERS



14 young artists from Kosovo and Serbia joined in a common journey to exchange experiences and cultures of the two countries and to learn more about creating artistic works with the aim of peacebuilding.

The first 5 (five) days of the 10-day adventure, May 27-31, 2023, were filled with workshops, lectures, and visits to cultural institutions in Pristina and Prizren, while the other five days, June 1-5, 2023, took place in Belgrade and Novi Sad.

The initiator and mentor of the program, Tamara Tomasheviq, worked closely with the participants of the program, practicing various artistic and cultural techniques, with psychological support to create a safe space for everyone. In addition to her, during these ten days, lectures were enriched by sharing experiences and knowledge from Zana Hoxha, More Raça, Bashkim Fazilu, Adea Kondirolli, Shkelzen Gashi, Blerta Hoçia, Veton Nurkollari, Aleksandra Djuric Bosnić, Jelena Bozić, Branislav Dimitrijević, Stevan Filipović, Dijana Milosević, Jadranka Angelić, Sonja Biserko, and Lola Joksimović.

# ARTISTIC COLONY IN BELGRADE



From 11th to 15th of September, 2023, the artist colony of the “Icebreakers” program was held, organized by the Helsinki Committee in Serbia, and Artpolis - Center for Art and Community (Kosovo).

Young artists from various fields of art participated with their projects such as: exhibitions, clothing creations, stories, audio-books, photography and video, sculpture, and conceptual art. In general, the artistic

creations include details of the respective cultures and unique perspectives on issues according to ethnic affiliation, which, according to the program format, aims to foster mutual recognition and collaboration among these artists.

This artistic colony was followed by a joint exhibition in Pristina, Belgrade, and Novi Sad.



# “KALEIDOSCOPE” CONNECTS NARRATIVES ACROSS BORDERS



Photo: Esad Duraki

Art and human rights converged in a harmonized presentation when Artpolis - Art and Community Center, and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia unveiled the exhibition “KALEIDOSCOPE”. Starting in Pristina on December 8, 2023, the exhibition continued its journey to Belgrade on December 10 and Novi Sad on December 11. The exhibited works of nine young artists are the result of intertwined and sometimes conflicting personal narratives of individuals living in two distinct yet interconnected contexts. This is a collaboration not only at the institutional level but, more importantly, among people who, by transcending limitations, fear, and possible prejudices, engaged in a dialogue. Yllka Haxhiu, Nevena Deliq, Arilda Bajrami Sadriu, Emnesa Rrukiqi, Marija Mladenović, Butrint Pasha, Leara Ibraj, Ana Novaković, and Zana Berisha collaborated with each other, bringing to life their personal narratives where the past and future intersect. Through “Kaleidoscope,” they offered an alternative perspective for society in the Balkans.

*“Being part of this project, I realized that the greatest achievement among us, the participants, would be (although it’s a cliché) understanding and celebrating our differences. But, as we got to know each other better and grew together in a way, I learned that not all differences are there to be celebrated. For example, there was a significant difference in our life experiences between my friend Arilda and me that I simply couldn’t accept. I have never in my life had an experience of having a gun pointed at my head, and she, my dear friend, has gone through this as a child,” **Marija Mladenović** from Vranja/Serbia, participant.*

*“I am an artist from Drenas, and I want to say that this whole experience has changed my life; it has made me reflect on the past and believe in the healing power of art. I am very proud to have participated in this program because I have met some wonderful people that I will never forget. I want to add that sometimes you have to go exactly where everyone says not to go. I am very proud of all my colleagues and all the organizers. Thank you,” **Emnesa Rrukiqi**, participant..*

# FEMART FOR PEACE



Since its foundation, the FemArt Festival has served as a platform for peace and building bridges of cooperation. Concepts like “us and them” dissolve, and the life of the other is as valuable as yours, dif-

ferences are wealth, and challenges are shared. Artists and activists from 16 different countries enriched the program of the 11th edition of FemArt.

# BURN YOUR FEAR: A CONFERENCE FOR COURAGEOUS LIVING



More than 50 artists and activists from Kosovo and the region participated in the conference “Burn Your Fear: A Conference for Courageous Living” held at the National Library of Kosovo. This event served as a discussion platform for the following themes, divided into three discussion panels:

Through these discussions, actionable recommendations were generated to encourage positive changes, creating a more equal and inclusive environment for women in decision-making positions in art and culture, and fostering peacebuilding in the region.

- “Beyond Prejudices: Empowering Women to Overcome Stereotypes in Decision-Making in Art and Culture”
- “Peace and Security: Overcoming Fear and Building Sustainable Communities”
- “Breaking the Stigma: Mental Health and Well-Being in Challenging Times”

# THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE “GIRLS”



Photo: Esad Duraki

The play “Girls” from Serbia was an intimate and personal narrative that shed light on the prejudices and stereotypes encountered by young girls during their upbringing. The main idea of the performance was to empower women and girls to be allies and support each other, but also to send them the message that **GIRLS CAN DO ANYTHING**. That all girls in the world are courageous, intelligent, and deserve to grow up in a healthy and safe environment.

Ten girls in this performance examined the boundary between the personal and the political. All the events they recounted were true and unique, but at the same time they were selected as characteristic of a large number of girls in our society. This performance was both art and activism because “the personal is political.” We spoke for ourselves in order to understand the world.

Over 100 people watched this performance at the Dodona Theater.

*“I strongly believe that when people truly know each other, they cannot hate each other. We are all victims of manipulation. Every time we claim that Kosovo is a fearful place, it becomes frightening because when you obstruct people from communicating, they naturally fear each other.” **Milena Minja Bogavac, director and playwright of the play “Vajzat,” in an interview for Prishtina Insight.***

*“People tend to judge less when they understand each other better. Therefore, we strive to bring people together by informing and exposing them to art, especially feminist art that addresses human rights issues. Then it’s their choice whether they want to change their mindset.” **Zana Hoxha, executive director of Artpolis, in an interview for Prishtina Insight.***



# ALUMNI NETWORK



Artpolis - Art and Community Center, in collaboration with the Alternative Girls Center from Serbia, has established an Alumni Network within the framework of the Feminist Spring School.

The first meeting of the Alumni Board was held in December 2023, which will serve to further empower the girls who have participated over the years in the Feminist Spring School, building bridges of peace between Kosovo and Serbia.

# UNMASC! - TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT



Artpolis has embarked on a new and significant partnership in breaking transnational barriers, in collaboration with Kulturanova from Novi Sad, Serbia, and Kulturhaus Broatfabrik from Vienna, Austria.

This collaboration commenced in December 2023 as part of the new Creative Europe project “UN-MASC! Promoting Gender Justice through Theatre.”

UNMASC! is a two-year project of research and transnational artistic theatre in Kosovo, Serbia, and Austria aimed at promoting gender justice by highlighting structural violence and creating counter-narratives against the values, norms, and expectations of misogynistic and patriarchal roles.

# EMPOWERMENT OF THE YOUNGSTERS



Central to Artpolis's mission, beyond artistic activism, is the dedication to the empowerment of young individuals. Transmitting knowledge to them and providing a secure space for their expression, creation, and empowerment are fundamental to instigating

positive societal changes. Through Artpolis's organized trainings, workshops, and artistic activities, we aim to cultivate enthusiasm, enhance commitment, and instill discipline, thereby inspiring young people in their life journeys.



# ÇIKAT E SJELLSHME



During the year 2023, the Center for Art and Community - Artpolis has empowered, inspired, and motivated 75 young women through the self-defense course “Çikat e Sjellshme”.

Under the mentorship of Taekwondo master Nuhi Gashi, at the Martial Arts Academy Prishtina, these girls have learned a wide range of self-defense techniques. This has helped boost their confidence, security, and knowledge about actions to take in the face of physical attacks.

Ten of them have continued to the Trainer Training level, further strengthening their skills. All have been certified for completing the self-defense course.





# EDUCATION OF YOUNG WOMEN ON FEMINISM



The earlier we understand our rights, the sooner we put an end to oppression and inequalities - the closer we are to freedom and achieving our dreams. Therefore, in 2023, Artpolis conducted 10 feminism trainings in eight cities across Kosovo, with 164 participating girls and women from different ethnicities and age groups, including 35 with disabilities.

These trainings were held in Prishtina, Obiliq, Malisheva, Klina, Kamenicë, Prizren, Suhareka, Mitrovica, under the lectures of activist and feminist Liridona Osmanaj. She inspired the participants by lecturing on the definitions of feminism, the history of feminist movements worldwide, as well as the development

of feminism in Kosovo and the opportunity to contribute to various activities.



# THEATER CLUBS AND TRAINING “THEATER BASED EDUCATION”



Theater is one of Artpolis’s most important tools in promoting artistic creativity, feminist activism, and empowering youth.

In 2023, Artpolis established 5 Theater Clubs (two of them with participants with disabilities), involving 92 young individuals. Under the mentorship of the Artpolis Ensemble, these young people presented five premiere shows, totaling eight including reruns, attended by a total audience of 770 people.

The Artpolis Ensemble also conducted two “Theatre-Based Education” trainings, mentoring 36 young participants from various communities.

The clubs were established in:

- Theater Club in Prishtina (Handikos) / February 21 - July 4, 2023 / Participants: 27
- Theater Club in Obiliq / February 23 - June 14, 2023 / Participants: 27
- Theater Club in Drenas / April 4 - June 13, 2023 / Participants: 15
- Theater Club in Klinë / October 6 - December 8, 2023 / Participants: 8
- Theater Club in Prizren (Me Down Syndrome Kosovo) / October 26 - December 15, 2023 / Participants: 15

# FORUM THEATER PLAYS AND PERFORMANCES

With six premieres and 11 reprises, this year witnessed an exceptional dedication from the staff and Ensemble of Artpolis in empowering and uplifting the capacities of young people through theater.

The young participants in the Theater Clubs were able to select and tackle various social issues, ranging from cyberbullying to domestic and school violence, as well as the care of individuals with disabilities.



# “UNLIMITED”, ON THE CREATIVITY OF THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



On July 4th, 2023, the premiere of the play **“Unlimited”** was held, featuring actors/actresses who belong to the group of people with special needs. With simplicity and courage, they brought events from their lives, evoking various emotions in the audience with their creatively organized presentation in close collaboration between Artpolis and Handikos.

“Pa Limit” presented a shared day off at the beach, where everyone helps each other and creates unforgettable memories. With the message that individuals with special needs can work, create artistic works, and live independently, this performance was well-received with two presentations in Mitrovica (September 28, 2023) and one presentation in Vushtrri (December 4, 2023). After the shows, in front of **420** people in the audience, the actors didn’t hesitate to further showcase their talents in poetry, song, painting, as well as clay and woodwork.

Part of the performance and exhibition were: Fahri Krasniqi, Afërdita Haxholli, Albin Salihi, Festina Ibi-shi, Trimor Idrizi, Fortesë Vishesella, and Blerina Krasniqi, mentored by the Artpolis Ensemble: Edlir Gashi, Kaltrinë Zeneli, and Robert Nuha.

*“I’ve never had the opportunity to rap in public because I am a verz shz person. This project has fulfilled my dream of making music. Reality has been tough, but someone understood me, and for that, I’m grateful,” said **Albin Salihi, participant in the Theater Club of Prishtina.***

*“These people we can call love; they are life itself, inspiration for me and for society as a whole. I’ve had many shows with non-professional actors; this might be the 13th or 14th, but this has been the most special experience in my life because they’ve made me understand that life isn’t simple,” mentioned **Edlir Gashi, mentor of the Theater Club of Prishtina.***

*“This performance is a collaboration, where the main role is played by members of Handikos with disabilities, in cooperation and with the support of the Artpolis organization. During rehearsals, they developed their communication skills further, also improved their body language, how to use movements, as well as other talents that we, who have worked directly with them, didn’t know they had, such as creating poems, voice intonation, and other communication skills,” added **Arta Sejdiu from Handikos.***



# YOUNGSTERS OF OBILIQ WITH A SHOW AGAINST VIOLENCE



The Theater Club in Obiliq presented **the forum theater performance “The Call Against Violence”** on June 14th at the “Xhavit Haziri” Cultural House in front of an audience of around **400 people**.

The performance “The Call Against Violence” addressed a highly sensitive and concerning topic, that of violence in schools among students. The show shed light on an analytical reflection of the current situation in our schools, which unfortunately is highly problematic. After the performance, the audience had the opportunity to discuss with the characters about the theme addressed in the show.

This performance was presented by the youngsters from Obiliq: Almira Mehana, Ari Saraqi, Elvira Gra-

jçevci, Elma Preniqi, Endrit Prokshi, Rea Xhakalija, Zyla Maloku, Ajana Kicaj, and Sara Krasniqi, who were mentored by the Artpolis Ensemble: Shpëtim Selmani, Mikel Markaj, and Robert Nuha.



# THEATER PERFORMANCE “HAMLET / HIGH – M’LE T / HI! – M’LE TË...” CALL AGAINST THE VIOLENCE



On June 13th, at the Cultural House in Drenas, the **forum theater performance “Hamlet / High – M’le t / Hi! - M’let të...”** was presented. The young people from Drenas, through this performance, called for an end to physical and psychological violence against children, and expressed support for children who may be victims of violence. After the performance, around **100 people** in the audience had the opportunity to discuss with the characters about the topic addressed, emphasizing the importance of violence-free education and love for children.

This performance was presented by: Getuar Krasniqi, Amrush Istogu, Eduarta Kukaj, Aurela Hajdari, Gerti Karaqica, Edonis Fana, Vesa Buzaku, Andi Derishi, Verora Gashi, Argjend Karaqica, and Enes De-

sku, who were mentored by the Artpolis Ensemble: Donikë Ahmeti, Zhaneta Xhemajli, and Robert Nuha.



# “EVERYTHING”, ABOUT THE SUPERIMPOSED NORMS FOR SELF-SUPPORTING MOTHERS



On June 26th, 2023, at the “Xhevdet Doda” High School, the **forum theater performance “Everything”** was presented. “Everything” came as a scenic narrative that showcases the experiences of women, especially self-supporting women in our society, and the expectations imposed on them to fulfill multiple roles simultaneously. The performance explores social pressures and the challenges children face as a result of this reality.

Through the show, the youth inspired the audience to recognize and address these issues, to challenge social norms, and to promote a more inclusive and just society for everyone.

A broad, active, and deep debate took place between the audience and the characters, conveying the message that violence should not be tolerated, and oppression against women must come to an end.

This performance also had two other presentations in Prishtina and Gjilan, being presented for **143 people** in the audience in three presentations. “Everything” was created under the mentorship of actress and actor from the Artpolis Ensemble, Qëndresa Kajtazi, and Edlir Gashi.



# “TECH-NO” CONVEYING MESSAGES ON THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGY



On December 8th, 2023, the Theater Club in Klina presented **the forum theater performance “Tech-no”** at the “Jehona e Dukagjinit” Cultural House. Through this performance, the young participants of this theater club showcased the dependence of young people on technology, the negative impact of excessive phone use, which often leads to privacy breaches. “Tech-no” was a call from these young people to stop cyberbullying and the misuse of phones by students in schools. Presented for an audience of over **200 people**, this performance sparked a debate with the audience, who asked numerous questions to the characters, highlighting the many problems that arise from technology.

The creative process in the theater club for these young people, besides learning about theater, has also served as a confidence boost and overcoming the fear of facing the public. This play was performed by: Aurela Gashi, Aulona Smajli, Alena Gashi,

Blediona Manaj, Brenda Gojani, Ergi Limanaj, Eronita Gashi, and Farie Gashi. These young men and women were mentored by the Artpolis Ensemble: Shpëtim Selmani, Qendresa Kajtazi, and Labinot Raci.

*“Collaborating with Artpolis has been an extraordinary experience and has helped us greatly in boosting our confidence, and has taught us a lot about the world of theater and the process of putting on stage a performance,” said Ergi Limanaj, a participant in the Theater Club in Klinë.*

*“Today we successfully concluded the performance ‘Tech-no.’ It truly is beautiful when you engage in activities, especially acting. The Artpolis organization has helped us to have more confidence, to be more open to the public. I thank them very much for enabling us to realize to be part of this performance,” said Aulona Smajli, a participant in the Theater Club in Klinë.*



# “TRISOMY LOVE”, ON THE CELEBRATION OF LOVE AND EMPOWERMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SINDROME



On December 15, 2023, individuals with Down Syndrome performed in the show “Trisomy Love” at the Youth Cultural Center in Ortakoll, Prizren.

Organized by Artpolis - Art and Community Center, in collaboration with Down Syndrome Kosova - Prizren the performance “Trisomy Love” was a manifestation of the love of individuals with Down Syndrome and their daily lives.

Through various dances and recitations, Ada Gorda, Arlind Rizanaj, Alber Bytyqi, Aela Qafleshi, Behije Arapi, Diana Gashi, Flamur Bytyqi, Fatmir Sallah, Liridona Xhemaj, Merlinda Sope, Ndalore Likaj, Selim

Maloku, and Smajl Hoti delivered a highly emotional performance for all attendees in the hall. They were mentored by actors from the Artpolis Ensemble: Donikë Ahmeti and Blerta Gubetini.

Beyond the surface, beyond what we see, layers of emotions and reactions of individuals with Down Syndrome are revealed. We come closer to the true understanding of the love these individuals have to offer every day despite their doubled life difficulties. Their greatest strength is the one we cannot see. It lies within them, and they manifest it to us as feelings.



“Our association members, who have been the artists of this show, have greatly enjoyed these intensive rehearsals where they had the opportunity to express their emotions and talents without any barriers or limitations. This has been a great opportunity for each of our members to showcase themselves in front of a wide audience. In this process, our members have come with great joy and positive energy, which, besides us as staff noticing, have also been the reactions of the parents who have given us feedback. They have said that the freedom of expression has increased, the freedom for them to do whatever they have wanted, to dance together, and to express their feelings in theatrical pieces,” **said Grenita Grazhda, a social worker at Down Syndrome Kosovo – Prizren.**

“The show was very good, it was fun. We had a great time with all our colleagues. Donika and Blerta were very good, I have them here in my heart, I have them all in my heart,” **said Selim Maloku, a participant in the Theater Club in Prizren.**

“Working with people with Down Syndrome during this period has been a ‘sweet’ challenge for me. Seeing their difficulties, the specifics of their lifestyle,

and the effort to understand them and then transform them into theater through art was a lesson for me that I didn’t know I needed to experience. These individuals, with the love they have within them, deserve a call for more spaces and people with enough will to highlight this love, for which I feel fortunate and proud that together with Donika and Artpolis we have done this. I also want to thank Down Syndrome Kosovo here in Prizren for a very correct and tireless collaboration. Their commitment to the creative process has eased our work and helped us better understand all the participants. Without this close collaboration, this performance we saw today would hardly have had this result,” **said Blerta Gubetini, actress of the Artpolis Ensemble and mentor at the Theater Club in Prizren.**

“The performance was very good, and the process was also very good. I want to thank everyone who has been involved in making this performance possible. Ada has had a great time and has been very happy throughout this process. People with Down syndrome should be engaged as much as possible in artistic activities,” **said Nurten Gorda, Ada Gorda’s mother, who played in the performance “Trisomy Love.”**

# EMPOWERMENT OF THE PERSONS WITH DISSABILITIES



Inclusivity and diversity are two of the characteristics that make Artpolis' work unique, so this commitment has expanded in 2023 in support of people with disabilities. Through performances, documenta-

ries, theater clubs, and other forms, Artpolis is committed to giving voice to the needs of people with disabilities.

# EMOTIONS RUN HIGH “BIBA MAY – NO MORE” AN INSPIRATION FOR LIFE



The screening of the documentary “Biba May – No More” at Cinema Lumbardhi in Prizren on October 15, 2023, brought forth many emotions, tears, and laughter, but above all, it inspired those present to never give up in the face of challenges. This presentation was special and very emotional for Biba herself, who lives and works in this city. This documentary film told the extraordinary story of Resmije Rahmani, known as Biba, a woman who defies the limitations imposed by muscular dystrophy and emerges as a beacon of hope and inspiration. With a blend of storytelling and raw emotions, the film portrayed Biba’s unwavering resilience, not only to survive but also to confront challenges head-on.

Through intimate interviews, stunning cinematography, and emotional portrayal, we delve deep into her world, witnessing the daily struggles she faces with

unwavering determination. Her radiant joy, moments of vulnerability, and boundless optimism touched the hearts of those present at Cinema Lumbardhi, leaving an unforgettable mark on their spirits.

The documentary was followed by a discussion and the sharing of inspirational experiences between the audience and the panelists composed of Biba May, Shqipe Malushi, Pranvera Musaj, and Zana Hoxha.

This documentary had four screenings in total, with **171 people** in attendance, including those in Mitrovica as part of the FemArt Festival, in Gjakova, as well as in Prizren as part of the Feminist Spring School.

Other panelists in the discussion panels included: Arlinda Morina, Butrint Pasha, Islam Kasumi, and Merita Voca.



# ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Inclusivity is one of the most important values of the FemArt Festival, and every step towards empowering marginalized groups brings us one step closer to equality. Therefore, in the 11th edition, the FemArt program was also printed in Braille alphabet, dedicated to the blind people in Kosovo. This was achieved thanks to the initiative of the project assistant at Artpolis, Mimosë Musliu, who also created a Guidebook for the access of people with disabilities to cultural institutions.

Additionally, on the 3rd day of the festival, the FemArt staff built a ramp for wheelchairs at the entrance of the 7 Arte organization building in Mitrovica, providing access to all wheelchair users to watch the documentary “Biba May - No More” and to enjoy Soli Kapadia’s concert.

# THEATER AS A TOOL FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



During 2023, Artpolis established two Theater Clubs of the persons with disabilities; with the Handikos Association in Prishtina and with the Down Syndrome Kosovo in Prizren. The Handikos Theater Club successfully created and presented the show 'Pa Limit', while the Theater Club in Prizren created and presented the show "Trisomy Love"



# **GROWTH AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF ARTPOLIS**

In addition to carrying out activities and empowering marginalized groups, Artpolis continuously works on enhancing its own capacities through organizing workshops and training sessions, both individual and group-oriented, for the staff and Ensemble engaged in the organization.

# WORKSHOP “RAISING OF CAPACITIES OF THE STAFF AND ARTISTIC TROUPE OF ARTPOLIS”



On February 1-3, 2023, a workshop was held in Durrës aimed at capacity building for the Artpolis staff and ensemble.

The workshop commenced with the development of the Work Plan for the year 2023, outlining specific activities. On the second day, discussions revolved around the new Artpolis Strategy for 2023-2027, accompanied by the presentation of the new Artpolis website. Reflecting on the past strategy, the staff and ensemble of Artpolis finalized changes for the new five-year Strategy, while also providing ideas for improving the Artpolis website.

Following the presentation of the Strategy, discussions continued regarding the organization of the 11th edition of the FemArt Festival. The workshop “Capacity Building for Artpolis Staff and Artistic Ensemble” concluded with a discussion on the FemArt Festival Monograph. Led by Ivana Bilic, work was done on drafting a concrete plan for the preparation of the Monograph covering 10 editions of the FemArt Festival.



# FEMART 11 EVALUATED BY STAFF AND ARTPOLIS ENSEMBLE



A month after the conclusion of the 11th edition of the FemArt Festival, the Artpolis staff and ensemble gathered to evaluate and reflect on this edition.

On June 15, 2023, in Gërmi, in addition to assessing the previous edition, there was extensive discussion about the upcoming edition. Areas for improvement, aspects to be preserved, and strategies to further enhance the quality of activities were discussed, as well as the impact of the FemArt Festival on the community in 2024.

# WORKSHOP “EMPOWERING THE ORGANIZATION: NAVIGATING WORK OVERLOAD AND PROMOTING WELL-BEING”



On August 26-28, 2023, in Bogë, Peja, the staff and Ensemble of Artpolis successfully held the workshop “Empowering the Organization: Managing Workload and Promoting Staff Well-being, Change Theory, and Effective Reporting.”

This workshop was led by trainer Yilka Soba, who, together with the staff and Ensemble of Artpolis, discussed workload management and the approaches needed to enhance the well-being of the staff and

Ensemble. In addition to various physical exercises and meditations, the Artpolis team had the opportunity to share with each other different breathing techniques and the approaches they each follow in caring for their well-being.

Furthermore, during this three-day workshop, discussions were held on Theory of Change and the steps to be taken to achieve the organization’s strategy implementation.

# STAFF EMPOWERMENT



In addition to joint training and workshops, the Artpolis staff throughout 2023 has participated in various capacity-building training, workshops, conferences, and lectures.

Among them, worth mentioning are: "IETM Green School," "Team Building with Granit Tërnavë," "Conference on Feminist Peace," "Training for Fundraising by KCSF," "Cyber Security Training," "Power to HR," "Digital Accounting Conference," etc.



# ARTPOLIS 1ST MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY



On October 7, 2023, Artpolis held its Membership Assembly in Pristina.

The Assembly was an exceptional opportunity to connect with other members of the community, artists, and activists, and to learn about Artpolis' commitment to artistic activism. Additionally, this membership meeting served to exchange experiences and ideas on how to move forward and increase feminist activism through art.

Artpolis' Founder and Executive Director, Zana Hoxha, who was not physically present at the event, addressed the participants with a letter of gratitude, emphasizing the importance of collective engagement towards social equality.

"Feminism is the guiding principle of Artpolis' work; belief in gender equality drives our mission. Art is

our instrument for change, challenging norms and advocating for a world where every individual, regardless of gender, is equal and has equal opportunities. As we gather here, let us reflect on the journey that has brought us together. Over the years, Artpolis has grown into a dynamic force, thanks to the collective efforts of our members. Your unwavering enthusiasm, creativity, and support have been the driving force behind our successes. Today, we celebrate Artpolis' achievements and are aware that there are challenges ahead, but we also know that our collective strength and determination can overcome any obstacle," said Hoxha.

During the year 2023, Artpolis' membership experienced growth, reaching a total of **90 members(60 women and 30 men).**



# VISITS AND COLLABORATIONS

Throughout 2023, Artpolis continued its practice of exchanging experiences with external individuals, artistic organizations, local and international students, partners, and donors, extending a warm welcome to them at its offices or other venues.

Below are some of the visits Artpolis hosted during the year:

# STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VENICE VISITED ARTPOLIS



Students from Venice visited the Artpolis office on Saturday, January 21, 2023. The Executive Director and founder of Artpolis and the FemArt Festival,

Zana Hoxha, welcomed the students and briefed them on the artistic activism of the Art and Community Center - Artpolis and the FemArt Festival.

# STUDENTS FROM MITROVICA AND NORTH MITROVICA VISITED ARTPOLIS



Students from Mitrovica and North Mitrovica visited Artpolis on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Representatives of Artpolis, Venera Ismaili and Valëza Sijarina, engaged with the students and provided them with

more information about Artpolis' activities and their opportunities for participation. The main focus of the meeting was Artpolis' commitment to peace, as well as feminist activism and professional performances.

# ITALIAN KFOR VISITS ARTPOLIS



Members of the Unit for Monitoring and Observation - K8 of the Italian KFOR (KFOR LMT - K8) visited the Center for Art and Community - Artpolis on March 2, 2023. In this informative meeting about Artpolis' activities, they were welcomed by project managers at Artpolis, Venera Ismaili and Nertila Qarri-Gërguri. The Italian KFOR expressed interest in the activities,

working methods, and themes addressed by Artpolis, such as women's empowerment, peacebuilding, addressing sexual harassment, youth training, theater performances, supporting artists and activists, as well as the use of art and culture as tools for social change.



# DELEGATION FROM ONDA THEATER VISITS ARTPOLIS



On April 18, 2023, a delegation of artists, distributors, and promoters of contemporary stage art from the ONDA Theater in France visited Artpolis. The French artistic delegation was warmly welcomed

by the Executive Director of Artpolis, Zana Hoxha, and the Artpolis Ensemble, who provided detailed information about the organization's artistic activism, with a particular emphasis on theater productions.

# REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PEACEBUILDING FUND VISIT ARTPOLIS



On April 25, 2023, Artpolis hosted a team from the regional office of the PeaceBuilding Fund project. Executive Director Zana Hoxha, along with her staff and the Artpolis Ensemble, presented the organization's work, achievements, challenges, and successes. Art, culture, and especially theater were topics

that were followed with great interest by the visitors, and were passionately discussed by the staff and artists, who explained their work in the field with young people, empowering and raising awareness through Theater-Based Education on human rights, gender equality, peacebuilding, etc.

## STUDENTS FROM AMSTERDAM VISIT ARTPOLIS

On June 15, around 25 students from the Amsterdam University College (AUC), led by Professor Anne de Graaf, visited the offices of Artpolis, where they were

welcomed by the executive director and founder of Artpolis and the FemArt Festival, Zana Hoxha.

## REPRESENTATIVES FROM CFD VISIT ARTPOLIS

On October 20, 2023, the staff of Artpolis, led by Executive Director Zana Hoxha, welcomed representatives from the partner organization cfd, Lea Breitner and Antigona Dajakaj. In addition to discussions about Artpolis' work and the evaluation of the

2021-2023 project, this meeting also addressed future steps for collaboration and capacity-building at Artpolis, as well as increased engagement for gender and social equality.

# “THEATER AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE” CONFERENCE - PRIZREN FEST



Photo: Esad Duraki

Artpolis continued its collaboration with the “Prizren-Fest” Festival by organizing the conference “Theater as a Tool for Social Change.”

This conference took place on July 26, 2023, at the Shani Efendi House, as part of the Open-Air Theater

Festival “PrizrenFest,” and was attended by popular artists from various fields and age groups. They shared their experiences closely with the attendees, linking their past experiences to the conference’s thematic focus.



# BLOGS

The presentation of the activities of the 11th edition of the FemArt Festival was done through publication on various blogs by: Ivana Bili Bilić, Romain Taunais, Mimoza Musliu, Johanna Mertinz, and Shqipe Malushi.

## By Ivana Bilić

**BURN THE 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, YESTERDAY’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 Mimozë Musliu

**AWARENESS AND MOTIVATION 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 BELIEVES IN WOMAN”** <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/>

## Bya Shqipe Malushi

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

## By Johanna Mertinz

**A STORY OF KOSOVA, FEMART FESTIVAL AND FEMINISM TO “BURN THE FEAR AWAY”**  
<https://femart-ks.com/a-story-of-kosova-femart-festival-and-feminism-to-burn-the-fear-away/>

# EVALUATION AND MONITORING

The evaluation and monitoring of activities have been carried out through media presence, questionnaires, participant and follower numbers, evaluation forms, and interviews.

# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The organization of activities of Artpolis and the FemArt Festival has brought a series of challenges and valuable lessons. Below is a summary of the main challenges faced and the lessons learned:

**Lack of suitable spaces and limited cultural infrastructure:** An important challenge was the lack of suitable facilities and limited cultural infrastructure in Pristina. This created difficulties in finding appropriate spaces, as there was a lack of equipment needed for performances, exhibitions, or workshops. The lesson learned is the urgent need for Artpolis to strongly advocate with the Municipality of Pristina. The organization should seek a public space in which it can invest in renovation, transforming it into a center for art and community. This center would not only benefit from the festival but also serve the community as a venue for various activities throughout the year. By collaborating with the municipality and securing this dedicated space, Artpolis can create a sustainable cultural center that supports the organization, the festival, and the community. Until this is achieved, Artpolis will consider the importance of proactive planning and exploring alternative venues or collaborating with existing cultural institutions to overcome these limitations.

**Delays in responses and fund transfers:** Another challenge was delays in receiving responses to funding applications and in fund transfers from donors. These delays affected the festival's budget and financial management. The lesson learned is anticipating possible delays and allowing sufficient time in fundraising efforts, maintaining transparent communication with donors, and working diligently to simplify fund transfer procedures.

**Economic crisis and rising costs:** The festival faced an economic crisis, with prices for services increasing due to global inflation. This added challenges in expense management, attracting sponsors, and providing affordability for participants. The lesson learned is adapting to possible economic fluctuations, researching cost reduction measures, seeking partnerships with local businesses, and implementing flexible pricing options to ensure financial sustainability.

**Clashes in timing with other events:** Another challenge was the conflict of timing with the organization of other events happening in Pristina, which led to audience division and potentially impacted public participation in the FemArt Festival. The lesson learned is the importance of conducting thorough research on the local cultural calendar, coordinating with event organizers, and encouraging collaboration to avoid date overlaps, thereby increasing audience participation.

**Patriarchal Mentality:** The staff of Artpolis often encounters patriarchal mentality during fieldwork, particularly problematic when this mindset extends to institutional representatives. Two cases worth highlighting occurred during work with Theater Clubs in Drenas and Klinë. In Drenas, the high school director had prohibited students from attending the performance of Drenas youth, resolved only through direct intervention from the City Culture Directorate. Meanwhile, in Klinë, the high school director had not allowed Artpolis staff to directly inform students about the Theater Club in Klinë, even calling it "a waste of time." However, the engagement of the Culture Directorate led to the successful establishment of the club.

# STATISTICS FOR 2023

## PROFESSIONAL THEATRE PERFORMANCES

Activities:  
**136**

Artists and Activists:  
**473**

Participants:  
**662**

Persons attended the events:  
**6512**

THEATRE PLAYS:  
**6**

PREMIERES:  
**3**

PRESENTATIONS IN TOTAL:  
**17**

THEATER ARTISTS AND  
TECHNICAL STAFF :  
**75**

PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE:  
**1467**

## FEMART FESTIVAL 11TH EDITION

ORGANISED ACTIVITIES:  
**28**

ARTISTS/ ACTIVISTS AND  
TECHNICAL STAFF:  
**304**

PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES:  
**16**

VOLUNTEERS IN PRISHTINA  
AND MITROVICA:  
**18**

PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE:  
**2064**

PERSONS REACHED ONLINE:  
**332,763**

50 ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE MEDIA:  
**50+**

PUBLISHED BLOGS:  
**12**

## FEMINIST ACTIVISM ON PEACE BUILDING

Activities:  
**15**

Artists and Activists:  
**34**

**110** Albanians, **82** Serbs

Persons in the audience :  
**420**

## THEATER CLUBS AND FORUM THEATER PLAYS

THEATER CLUBS:

**5**

**2** CLUBS OF THE PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITIES

PREMIERES OF FORUM THEATER PLAYS :

**6**

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES:

**11**

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CLUBS AND  
PERFORMANCES :

**98**

PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE:

**1333**

## FEMINIST ART FUND

SUPPORTED ARTISTIC WORKS:

**10**

ARTISTS AS FUND BENEFICIARIES:

**29**

PRESENTATIONS OF ARTWORKS:

**13**

PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE:

**620**

## TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

TRAINING

“EDUCATION OF YOUNG WOMEN  
ON FEMINISM”

**10**

TRAINING ON “EDUCATION BASED  
ON THEATER”:

**2**

SELF DEFENSE COURSE SESSIONS  
“ÇIKAT E SJELSHME”:

**4**

TRAINING PARTICIPANTS:

**275**

TRAINERS :

**7**

WORKSHOPS:

**10**

WORKSHOPS’ PARTICIPANTS:

**152**

WORKSHOP TRAINERS:

**37**

INFORMATION SESSION AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA ON THE  
“ REGULATION AGAINST SEXUAL HARASEMENT”:

**10**

PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
INFORMATION SESSIONS:

**311**



# SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

ARTPOLIS // 1 Janar – 31 Dhjetor, 2023

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 **732.6000** **1.513.025**  
persona të arritur reagime

 **96.600** **14.885**  
persona të arritur vizita

 **2.333** **5.236**  
reagime vizita në profil

 Audiencia: **11.915** pëlqime // Gra **68.1%** // Burra **31.9%**

 Audiencia: **+538** ndjekës // Gra **70.7%** // Burra **29.3%**

FESTIVALI FEMART // 1 Prill – 31 Maj, 2023

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 **249.932** **680,089**  
persona të arritur reagime

 **75.618** **7.054**  
persona të arritur vizita

 **4.300**  
reagime

 **2.913**  
shikime

 Audiencia: **680.089** vizita // Gra **75.5%** // Burra **24.5%**

 Audiencia: **7.054** ndjekës // Gra **73.2%** // Burra **26.8%**

# MEDIA COVERAGE

During 2023, Artpolis activities garnered broad coverage from local and national media. Around 250 articles were featured across different platforms. Below, you can find some of them:

## KOHA

“Tre 1 t’eti” In search of equality confronting Albanian traditions

<https://www.koha.net/kulture/404098/tre-1-te-ti-ne-kerkim-te-barazise-perballe-zakoneve-shqip-tare/>

“Pa limit” highlights the talent and the everyday life of persons with disabilities

<https://www.koha.net/kulture/384072/pa-limit-nxjerr-ne-pah-talentin-e-perditshmerine-e-personave-me-aftesi-te-kufizuara/>

“FemArt” on overcoming the fear and giving voice to courage

<https://www.koha.net/kulture/377895/femart-ne-te-jkalim-te-frikes-i-jep-ze-guximit/>

“Fefu and her friends” In search for equality, confronting reality

<https://www.koha.net/shtojca-kulture/396401/fefu-dhe-shoqet-e-saj-perballe-realitetit-ne-kerkim-te-barazise/>

## KultPlus

“Trojan Women- Replica”, temporal exploration of pain with a call for peace

<https://www.kultplus.com/lajme/grate-trojane-replika-eksplorimi-kohor-i-dhimbjes-me-thirrjen-per-paqe/>

Fire of the theatre, philosophy and music closes “Burn away the fear” through FemArt

<https://www.kultplus.com/lajme/zjarri-i-teatrit-filozofise-dhe-muzikes-mbyll-kalle-tuten-permes-femart/>

## Kallxo

‘Feminist Spring School’ brings together women and girls from Kosova and Serbia in Prizren

<https://kallxo.com/lajm/shkolla-pranverore-feministe-ben-bashke-ne-prizren-gra-e-vajza-nga-kosova-e-serbia/>

Theatrical Play from Serbia unites two countries on their war against patriarchy

<https://kallxo.com/lajm/shfaqja-serbe-ne-kosove-i-bashkon-dy-vendet-ne-luften-e-tyre-kunder-patriar-katit/>

“Poetry and Power”, artistic initiative that raised funds for three women affected by floods

<https://kallxo.com/lajm/poezi-dhe-fuqi-iniciativa-artistike-qe-mblodhi-fonde-per-tre-gra-te-prekura-nga-vershimet/>

## Telegrafi

Artpolis organizes march and artistic performance in Prishtina against femicide: Maximum punishment for the criminals

<https://telegrafi.com/artpolis-marsh-dhe-performance-artistike-ne-prishtina-kunder-femicidit-kriminelet-te-denohen-maksimalisht/>

## Klan Kosova

Rama: Prishtina is the home of a diverse and vivid feminist scene

<https://klankosova.tv/rama-prishtina-eshte-shtepia-e-nje-skene-te-larmishme-dhe-te-gjalle-feministe/>

The march against the murder of women with the moto “Stop Femicide” is held

<https://klankosova.tv/mbahet-marshi-kunder-vrasjes-se-grave-me-moton-stop-femicidit/>

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES



## INCOMES

INCOMES	€ 591,610
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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>€ 591,610</b>
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## EXPENSES

PAYROLL EXPENSES (STAFF AND SERVICE CONTRACTS)	€ 297,467
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OPERATIONS EXPENSES	€ 289,377
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DEPRECIATION EXPENSES	€ 4,766
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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 591,610</b>
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# INCOMES AND EXPENSES FROM DONORS

	INCOMES	EXPENSES
KTK	€ 40,433	€ 40,433
UNFPA	€ 29,214	€ 29,214
UNFPA 2	€ 39,765	€ 39,765
CDF	€ 53,530	€ 53,530
CFD	€ 80,627	€ 80,627
KCSF	€ 43,894	€ 43,894
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS	€ 80,000	€ 80,000
MULTICIPALITY OF PRISHTINA	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
EU	€ 60,146	€ 60,146
US EMBASSY	€ 11,673	€ 11,673
KBFUS	€ 34,366	€ 34,366
EMBASSY OF FRANCE	€ 7,057	€ 7,057
BUÇAJ	€ 4,479	€ 4,479
MEMBERSHIP INCOM	€ 126	€ -
INCOME FROM SPONSORSHIP	€ 89,825	€ 89,825
INCOME FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	€ 107,812	€ 6,601
DEFERRED REVENUE	€ (101,337)	
<b>TOTAL INCOMES AND EXPENSES FROM DONORS</b>	<b>€ 560,510</b>	<b>€ 560,510</b>

Financial statements have been prepared for reporting purposes in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards in force, representing the overall financial picture of Artpolis during the year 2023. The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis, whereby revenues and expenses are recognized at the time they are received or paid. The organization uses QuickBooks to prepare the financial statements.

Below, you can find the link to Artpolis' Audit Report for the year 2023:  
<https://artpolis-ks.com/raporti-i-auditit-2022/>



# ARTPOLIS- ART AND COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF, 2023



**Zana Hoxha** - Founder and Executive Director

**Donarta Limanaj** - Finance and Administration Manager

**Nertila Qarri-Gërguri** - Project Manager

**Venera Ismaili** - Project Manager

**Mërgim Memoviq** - Project Manager

**Berat Bajrami** - Project Coordinator and PR Officer

**Elira Lluka** - PR Officer

**Valëza Sijarina** - Project Coordinator

**Arbnora Kajtazi** - Finance Assistant

**Mimozë Musliu** - Project Assistant

**Rukije Gashi** - Office Maintenance

**Manon Pilia** - Intern

# ARTPOLIS ENSEMBLE 2023



Photo: Rilind Beqa

**Director:** Zana Hoxha

**Choreographer:** Robert Nuha

**Playwright/Actor:** Shpëtim Selmani

**Actors:** Blerta Gubetini, Donikë Ahmeti, Edlir Gashi, Kaltrinë Zeneli, Mikel Markaj, Labinot Raci, Qendresa Kajtazi, Zhaneta Xhemajli

**Organizer:** Elira Lluka

# ARTPOLIS BOARD MEMBERS 2023



Aurita Agushi

Jelena Memet

Kushtrim Qerimi

Dardan Kryeziu

# ARTPOLIS DONORS





# SOCIAL NETWORKS OF ARTPOLIS AND THE FEMART FESTIVAL

## ARTPOLIS



Artpolis - Art and Community / <https://www.facebook.com/artpolisKosovo>



ArtpolisCenter / <https://www.instagram.com/artpoliscenter/>



QendraArtpolis / <https://twitter.com/qendraartpolis?lang=en>



Artpolis - Art and Community / <https://vimeo.com/artpoliscenter>



<https://artpolis-ks.com/>

## FEMART



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



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



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



FemArt Festival / <https://femart-ks.com/>



FemArt Festival / <https://bit.ly/3KoTtck>



