



Call for applications

Deadline : until January 31st, 2021

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Object

The exhibition project *Les Balkannes* in Paris aims to promote artistic expressions on women portrayals and representations in the Balkans through photography. Carried out by a team of students from La Sorbonne University in Paris, *Les Balkannes* can be seen as a true springboard for contemporary creation in the Balkanic peninsula. The main purpose of *Les Balkannes* is to offer fresh perspectives on women as seen by local residents. The exhibition will take place in a Parisian's gallery and in the Malesherbes center of the University Paris-Sorbonne, an international space of knowledge and sharing, from April 1st to April 14th 2021.

Selection

The selection will be carried out in the form of a contest among all residents of the Balkans. Participants can apply until January 31st, 2021. One photographer per country will be selected by the Association's Artistic Committee, made up of La Sorbonne University's academics, art specialists and artists, among which none is related to any Balkanic country. The selected photographers will have their work shown during the exhibition. After the first selection, a second round jury, different from the first one, will select 3 winners from the 11 photographers already chosen for the exhibition.

Requirements

The call for application is open to any resident born and living in the following countries: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. There is no age limit and the participation is free of charge. The project is open to non-professional photographers. No previous or significant photographic experience is required in order to apply.

How to apply

- One **personal photograph** picturing the way the artist sees women, their portrayals and representations, in their country must be sent in **digital format** to the following email adress assoexpo@hotmail.fr. The photograph needs to be sent in **high resolution** and the document **(.JPG)** should be named as follow: **« Country_Name_Surname_Title ».**
- A short **explanatory text** (around 300-600 words) of the artistic project in your native language, and in English if possible, is expected as well.
- Applicants needs to return this document (*Terms and conditions*) **signed and dated.**
- If participants are willing to appear on our social media, they are welcome to submit a detailed resume and more pictures of their art works.

Contempl'Art covers the costs of printing and lamination of the photographs. The printed work then belongs to the artist.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The latest wave of feminism conveyed by the international MeToo movement has gained an extraordinarily important place in the contemporary world, in the public debate as well as it greatly influenced artistic circles. This is particularly the case in countries where these environments are interconnected with the dynamics of society as a whole. But what about peripheral spaces, countries which only receive an echo of the pioneering events in the Western world? In Eastern Europe, the young generations living at the borders of the European Union are facing current challenges that bring them closer to the rest of the continent. Does the feminist question manage to find a favorable echo among these populations? What can arts dealing with women in this region look like, especially in its most multi-ethnic part, the Balkans?

In the academic education received by French pupils and students, a tremendous lack of information on the countries of Eastern Europe, and in particular the Balkan region, is to be deplored. While these territories are the proponents of a rich multicultural history, it is clear that they remain the forgotten ones in the European collective imagination. The name "Balkans" which literally means "wooded mountain" derives from Turkish, at a time when several countries of the present-day Balkans were then under the Ottoman or Habsburg Empire. In this region, feminist movements have appeared relatively recently in a society which remains traditionalist. This project thus aims to question, through the photographic media, the representations of women as they are suggested by artists from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. Showing the French and Western public these representations of women in the countries of the Balkan space therefore sets different goals: empowering young creation and women as well as introducing the Balkans through an artistic approach. The targeted audience is students, photographic art enthusiasts and any person sympathetic to our project of diversification and decentralization of the European art.

A collaboration with a group of Sciences Po students majoring in Dijon called « Bourgogne Balkans Express », majoring in Eastern Europe studies, is already undergoing. A first seminar already took place on Zoom on November 8, 2020 thanks to our BBE interlocutor Sofija Bozic. A working group was formed just for the occasion in order to introduce the history of women in the Balkans, from the Ottoman Empire to the appearance of feminist art and movements in the Balkans. Ultimately, this collaboration will lead to the organization of conferences or seminars focusing on these thematics. They will be presented by Political Science students, as part of the exhibition in Paris. Other researchers are invited to share their knowledge on these questions to the public through conferences. Our mission is to define a pedagogical and didactic framework for cultural exchanges between the West and the East as well as to offer visibility to contemporary Balkan artists in Paris.

The members of the organization are part of the "Contempl'Art" association, created in September 2020. It is an initiative of the Slavic Studies' students at Paris-Sorbonne University. The team is made up of Isidora Lazic (President of the association) Emilia Trifunovic (Project manager and Secretary of the association), Robert Peyrouy (Treasurer of the association), Anastasia Grigorieva (Referent in Art), Axelle Jean (Community Manager), Katia Mesbah (Referent on gender studies) as well as Alissa Uzbekova and Pauline Rambert, both project managers. The students are in charge of the entire organization of the exhibition. They are advised by professor Marketa Theinhardt (director of a master's degree at Paris-Sorbonne University) and supported by the administrator of Sorbonne Malesherbes center Eugène Campal and his assistant Ève Gourvat.

PRIZES

Description	General	Prize
PRIZE 1	Exhibited	Round-trip plane tickets to Paris and an accommodation for the duration of the exhibition
PRIZE 2	Exhibited	Round-trip plane tickets to Paris
PRIZE 3	Exhibited	A 50 € reward
WINNERS	Exhibited	-

I (name and surname)..... (country).....
hereby agree to the terms and conditions of *Les Balkannes Contempl'Art's* exhibition.

Date and place:

Signature:



https://www.instagram.com/contempl_art/



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