

University for Business and Technology in Kosovo

UBT Knowledge Center

UBT International Conference

2021 UBT International Conference

Oct 30th, 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM

The Alternative exhibition spaces: How self-organizing mindset constantly shapes Cultural history of Prishtina, Kosovo

Fitore Isufi

University for Business and Technology - UBT, fitore.isufi@ubt-uni.net

Follow this and additional works at: <https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference>



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Isufi, Fitore, "The Alternative exhibition spaces: How self-organizing mindset constantly shapes Cultural history of Prishtina, Kosovo" (2021). *UBT International Conference*. 125.

<https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference/2021UBTIC/all-events/125>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Publication and Journals at UBT Knowledge Center. It has been accepted for inclusion in UBT International Conference by an authorized administrator of UBT Knowledge Center. For more information, please contact knowledge.center@ubt-uni.net.

Abstract by Fitore Isufi Shukriu

The Alternative exhibition spaces: How self-organizing mindset constantly shapes Cultural history of Prishtina, Kosovo

Abstract. The trajectory of cultural developments in Kosovo is built under the constructions of historical, political and social transitions, at least for more than 100 years. After some time of relative peace, about 4 decades during the Yugoslavia existence, Serbians oppression driven by expansionist nationalistic-fascistic ideas against Albanians started in the end of 80's and culminated in 1999 with a war in Kosovo. In these transition processes the need arises to identify and shape one's own artistic and cultural scene. Therefore, the foundation of educational and cultural institutions, the 90s and the post-war period, are important periods that need to be considered and reviewed. In particular the paper will focus in the collective civil resistance movement, which occurred in Kosovo from 1989 through 1997. This was the period of self-organizing in uncertain time of being and acting that unavoidably produced interruptions, consequently gaps in the cultural flows of Kosovar society - the period of resistance that reflects today's cultural developments. Today, two decades after the end of the war in Kosovo, the mindset of self-initiative and self-organizing remains the safest practice to follow - as the only guide in coordinating missing chapters of the country's cultural history and the cultural history stories to be made. How did the need for alternative exhibition spaces arise? What was their role and impact? If once alternative exhibition spaces had to do with resistance, what is their role today? This paper seeks to present a civic activism, in an attempt to mark this period of time from artists' perspective, which inevitably leaves room for discourse at several professional levels.

Keywords: Alternative, exhibition space, transitions, 90', self-organizing, mindset, cultural institutions.

Fitore Isufi Shukriu | KOJA (1982)

Koja's work is conceptually based and it includes painting, drawing, video, installation, text installation and public interventions. The issues that stimulate her creation - as a reflection of the social, historical, cultural and political climate where she works - are inspirational stories and various interpretations, political maneuvers and cultural speculation, patriarchal mentality and aleatory gestures, the limits of freedom and forms of censorship. Koja's work has been proved in different projects, exhibitions and

individual presentations, both locally and internationally. Her work is part of the Ludwig Museum, Budapest (Hungary) collection. Her work is part of private collections in Kosovo and abroad. Recently she published a book *Flirting with leftovers*. She is a lecturer in UBT, Prishtina. She lives and works in Prishtina.