## 

**XI National Scientific Conference with International Participation**

***Balkan Art Forum 2024***

**(BARTF 2024)**

**Niš, 18th – 19th October 2024**

The Faculty of Arts of the University of Niš, in cooperation with the Branch of SASA in Niš, is organizing the eleventh ***Balkan Art Forum 2024*** National Scientific Conference with International Participation. Our aim is to gather artists, researchers, pedagogues and theoreticians, whose research, idea and innovation results, as well as concrete achievements in the field of art, will contribute to the advancement of artistic creation, artistic and pedagogical theory, practice and the scientific research in the field of art. The BARTF organizers invite all interested experts to participate in the Conference and present a paper targeting the key topic:

**BALKAN ART FORUM (BARTF) 2024 – ART AND CULTURE TODAY:**

**THE PHENOMENON OF EMPATHY IN ART AND CULTURE**

Empathy is a notion that increasingly saturates the lexicon of contemporary popular culture. The phenomenon itself, in its basic form, refers to the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. The term comes from aesthetics. It is derived from the Greek word "empatheia", i.e. "in pathos" (from Greek εν – in; and Greek παθος – feeling, passion) meaning literally feeling, experiencing, "involving" (through intuition and motor mimicry) one's own attitudes and feelings into a work of art or a natural phenomenon (a gloomy cloud, a clear day, etc.). The concept, originating more than a century ago, as a reflection on art, was then transferred through psychology into popular culture, mostly due to the hybridization of European art and science, at the beginning of the XX century. Issues of empathy, understanding and acceptance of others belong to universal civilizational values, just like art.

Nowadays, when artificial intelligence is taking domination over human cognition and when humanism- as a view of the world emphasizing reason, ethics, justice and philosophical naturalism- is facing even greater and more difficult challenges, the phenomenon of empathy is, with reason, gaining more and more space in scientific discourse, primarily within the framework of psychology, pedagogy, anthropology and, of course, the theory of art and aesthetics. Bearing in mind the nature of the current time and its increasingly complex problems fundamentally and rapidly changing the world known to the human spirit, the focus of this year's Balkan Art Forum scientific conference will be the phenomenon of empathy, as a question of essential importance for the art and culture of the modern world.

The thematic framework for discussion is broad. All papers whose contents can be directly or indirectly related to the understanding of artistic and cultural phenomena through the phenomenon of empathy are welcome. The basic problematic question is focused primarily on the process of reception of the work of art, that is, on the role of empathy in that process. Is it important to know the context in which the work of art was created in order to understand the ideas and emotions emitted through artistic expression? Is it possible to understand and experience the work equally deeply unless the author, his mentality, sensibility, psychological profile, physical and biological characteristics, social status, belonging to a certain cultural environment and other, are known? To what extent does the recipient project his physical and mental profile into the work and is it possible to fully understand the work from the perspective of another person, without the influence of his own sensibility affinities?

These and similar questions can be answered from the perspectives of all participants involved in various processes related to the affective experience of art. These are primarily analysts of all backgrounds (scientists and theoreticians of art, culture and media, researchers in the fields of literature, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, sociology, pedagogy, librarianship). This also refers to the authors of art works, as well as performers, because every creation of a work of art is a form of performance (even when it comes to visual arts) since performers are both creators and recipients of the work they perform. The purpose of this year's Forum is to determine – through pluralism and diversity of relevant opinions- whether, and, if so, to what extent and in what ways the phenomenon of empathy is present in contemporary artistic creation and the reception of works of art, as well as in what ways the presence of empathy in art reflects on other social and humanistic phenomena in different cultural environments.

**FORUM PARTICIPATION FORMS:** Forum will be organized live and online via Zoom application.

**PRESENTATION TIME:** 15 minutes

**OFFICIAL FORUM LANGUAGES:** Serbian, English, Slavic languages.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPER TOPIC WITH ABSTRACT:**

(in official language and in English, up to 250 words and up to 5 keywords): **15.08.2024.** at the e-mail address: bartf@artf.ni.ac.rs

The Application form and the registration fee payment instructions can be downloaded from [the Faculty of Arts website](http://www.artf.ni.ac.rs/eng/).

**ABSTRACT ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION DEADLINE:** 01.09.2024.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** 4.000,00 dinars or 35 Euros for participants from abroad, at the middle exchange rate of the National Bank of Serbia, on the day of payment. When paying the registration fee in foreign currency, the costs of bank fees are borne by the payer.

The registration fee includes a Book of abstracts, a Certificate of participation, the Conference Proceedings with peer-reviewed papers, as well as a cocktail with food and drink.

**REGISTRATION FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE:** 15.10.2024.

**FULL PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** 01.03.2025.

For any further information, please contact BARTF Organizing Committee at the following e-mail address: [**bartf@artf.ni.ac.rs**](mailto:bartf@artf.ni.ac.rs)

Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Niš

*Prof. Milena Injac, DMA*