



Report on the Eighteenth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism 2023
Organized by the CURE Foundation in Sarajevo

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

LIČNA KARTA
ЛИЧНА КАРТА
OSOBNÁ ISKAZNICA
IDENTITY CARD

**IME/ИМЕ/
NAME**
Pitchwise,
Festival ženske umjetnosti i aktivizma

**MJESTO ROĐENJA/MJESTO РОЂЕЊА/
PLACE OF BIRTH**
Sarajevo, Historijski muzej BiH

**GODINA ROĐENJA/ГОДИНА РОЂЕЊА/
DATE OF BIRTH**
2006

**GODINA REALIZACIJE/
ГОДИНА РЕАЛИЗАЦИЈЕ/
YEAR OF EST.**
18

**POTPIS/ПОТПИС/
SIGNATURE**
PitchWise

Festival ženske umjetnosti i aktivizma
07. do 10. septembar 2023. | Historijski muzej BiH

PitchWise

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About the PitchWise Festival

The CURE Foundation organized the eighteenth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism (PW), which began on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM and concluded on September 10, 2023, in the afternoon. This year's program took place at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the streets of Sarajevo.

We are very proud and happy that this year we hosted more than 300 people (registered during the four days of the Festival, in addition to volunteers and organizers), as well as about 200 people who attended the PW's night program. Participants came from the local community, all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the region (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Germany). As part of this year's program, around 70 artists, theorists, activists, and feminists presented their work. In planning and organizing this year's PitchWise festival, Jadranka Miličević, Selma Hadžihalilović, Stela Kovačević, Saša Radulović, Medina Mujić, Vedrana Frašto, Denija Hidić, Sanda Udovčić, Lana Klasić, Enida Čamdžić, and numerous volunteers, friends, activists, and project partners took part. In 2023, the CURE Foundation marked and celebrated the coming of age of the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism! Yes, you read it right - PW has grown up, and we celebrated PitchWise's 18th birthday! This was a special year for us as the festival matured into a unique experience that provides unforgettable moments and an incredible journey.



Photo by Almira Mehić

As every year, members of the CURE Foundation had great support from the volunteer team who dedicated their time and energy, helping to ensure the Festival ran smoothly without any issues. This year, we had 16 volunteers, and we would like to express our gratitude to each one of them: Lejla Zulić, Anja Kozomara, Azra Fazlić, Azra Dilberović, Alma Feriz, Ajša Kočan, Amina Hasanović,

Emran Omar Raković, Edina Gugać, Iman Džafo, Benjamin Fazlić, Lamija Hodžurda, Emina Hasanbašić, Petra Bubalo, Džejlja Čiko, and Ilma Kovačević.

Special thanks go to Tanja Ćurić for creating the visual identity of this year's festival. We also express our gratitude to Elma Hodžić, who curated the exhibition of artworks at PitchWise 2023, titled "Ars Feminae" (artists: Nermina Alić, Elma Alić Šobot, Elma Čaušević Mujezinović, Edita Gazibara, Kasja Jerlagić, Džejlana Karaman Pašić, Maja Matašin, Meliha Teparić, and Adrijana Todorović Panjeta). We also extend our thanks to Almira Mehić, our photographer at PitchWise.

Fondacija CURE is also grateful for the strong media support, support from sister organizations, supporters, partner organizations, and donors who have recognized the significance of providing support to such unique feminist events.



Photo by Almira Mehić

The eighteenth PitchWise brought us numerous exhibitions, creative workshops, lectures, performances, plays, book promotions, discussions, all to convey a different story - a narrative of building peace, tolerance, respect, humanity, and to resist all oppressive policies.



Photo by Almira Mehić

Clarification of the theme of the eighteenth PitchWise festival

In 2023, the PitchWise festival celebrated its coming of age at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the same place where it began, initiated by the activists of the CURE Foundation who wanted to showcase engaged, alternative, and feminist art—an unique artistic concept in Sarajevo. As we all know, coming of age is a symbol of transitioning from childhood to adulthood. When a festival that promotes feminist and activist values celebrates its coming of age, it becomes a real reason for celebration!

And that's exactly what happened at our festival this year! The maturation of the festival brings about many changes. With its new adult status, the PW will continue to develop and grow, providing even more unforgettable moments, telling stories of resistance to patriarchy in its unique way. However, coming of age also brings responsibility. Our festival will continue to provide a safe environment for all visitors, emphasizing respect for everyone, celebrating diversity. The CURE Foundation is committed to ensuring the best experience for everyone attending our festival.

Back in 2006, PW was uniquely conceived, but over time and with various creative forces working on its conception and realization, the festival evolved. Many individuals were involved in defining the themes and concepts of the festival, and we are immensely grateful to all of them. They invested their effort, knowledge, experience, and time to ensure the idea of the PitchWise festival of women's art and activism endured—and they succeeded!

Yes, the festival has undergone programmatic changes, but the original idea, driven by the need to occupy abandoned and neglected public spaces and transform them into meeting places that bring together socially engaged artists, activists, theorists, feminists, and all individuals interested in women's issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, remains the same.

During the eighteen years of organizing PW, the CURE Foundation has created a space for connecting and networking feminist work and culture, bringing together artists and activists from formal and informal women's groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the countries of the region, and abroad. We have hosted over 5000 socially engaged artists, activists, theorists, feminists, and advocates for women's rights.

Therefore, this year, the coming of age of the PitchWise festival is marked by the central theme:

"GIRL POWER OVERTHROWING PATRIARCHY - WE'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR 18 YEARS!"



Photo by Almira Mehić

We, the organizers of PitchWise, wanted to show that the women's and feminist movement exists at the regional level, and we are part of it. Through networking, breaking down boundaries, creating a safe space for the exchange of experiences, giving and receiving support, we have always resisted and will continue to resist every oppressive policy and patriarchy. That's why we are strong, courageous, daring, and, most importantly, determined. Our strength comes from every woman, and girl, regardless of how loud or quiet, whether we have just raised our voices or have been doing so for years, and regardless of how we raise our voice.

We launched the festival:

- Driven by the need to reclaim abandoned and neglected public space and transform it into a meeting place for socially engaged artists, activists, theorists, feminists, and all individuals interested in women's issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.
- To provide a safe and open space for a new generation of artists and activists.
- To never falter and, thanks to solidarity and networking with sisters worldwide, create a history of resistance so that all women are treated equally.

The main goal of the PitchWise festival as an idea and a community of individuals working towards gender equality is to create and promote positive changes in the immediate environment through engaged art and activism.

The political position of the CURE Foundation, from which PW originates, represents our fundamental perspective through feminist activism aimed at initiating positive social changes. PW is rooted in the idea that the transformative power of art encourages and empowers individuals to positively change

both themselves and their environment. We understand politically engaged art as a creative process of questioning, exposing, analyzing, transforming, and deconstructing our own positions and roles in society, internal states, and questions of identity in the diverse spectrum as we know them in reality.

Thanks to the energy we gain at PitchWise festivals, the members of the CURE Foundation and volunteers are strongly motivated to continue working on positive social changes in their environment.



Photo by Almira Mehić

The opening of the PitchWise festival

At the opening of the PitchWise festival, we drew attention to the historical context and the importance of organizing a festival of women's art and activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also reflected on and expressed gratitude to all the organizers of the PitchWise festival, everyone who created visual identities over the years, thanked the volunteers, the Administrative Board of the CURE Foundation for their support in implementing the festival, and the donors and supporters of the festival.

On this occasion, we wanted to emphasize our gratitude for every moment, every artistic explosion, every discussion, and how PitchWise has grown with our incredible participants.

During the opening remarks of the festival, the CURE Foundation sincerely thanked everyone for the support, energy, and enthusiasm invested in this festival. Ideas, strength, knowledge, and dedication have left an indelible mark on PitchWise, and the presence and contributions of all participants have made every moment worthwhile.

You can watch the opening on the CURE Foundation's Facebook page at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eS_TpByZdqQ



Photo by Almira Mehić

PitchWise LECTURES AND PANELS

PANEL *Gender-Based Violence - Changing Rules and Practices - Overview of the Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro*

The panel featured Tena Sambolić Petrišić and Vendi Keserica (CESI), Jelena Memet and Selena Simić (Alternative Center for Girls), and Maja Šenk (activist and researcher), with Medina Mujić moderating the entire process. The panel emerged as a result of the publication titled *Gender-Based Violence - Changing Rules and Practices - Overview of the Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro*, which was created as part of the Uproot Gender Based Violence project. The panel presented results derived from the publication, focusing on the context of these four countries regarding gender-based violence, with an emphasis on prevention. Discussions covered the causes and consequences of gender-based violence, experiences were shared, and recommendations for providing adequate protection to survivors were discussed. The conversation also addressed online violence, patriarchy, and the environment nurtured by all four states that encourages violence by not condemning and adequately sanctioning it.

You can watch the panel on the Facebook page of the CURE Foundation at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va24TdZxg4Y>



Photo by Fondacija CURE

PANEL *Sister Outsiders Topple the Patriarchy!*

The panel featured Amina Imamović (Sarajevo Open Centre), Dženeta Agović (Impulse Tutin), Tihana Bertek (Vox Feminae), Tea Hvala (Mesto žensk, Rdeče zore, and Deuje babe), Jelena Višnjić (BeFem production), moderated by Vedrana Frašto. The panelists introduced their organizations, programs, and festivals focusing on women's and LGBTIQ rights. A common feature is the significant role of festivals in raising awareness of the challenges faced by women and marginalized groups. Festivals provide a safe space for expression, connection, and promote progress towards greater understanding and acceptance in society. The panel discussed outsider sisters, dismantling patriarchy, the role of activism in society, empathy, solidarity, and how festivals contribute to all the aforementioned aspects.

The panel can be viewed on the CURE Foundation's FB page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swGY0lWTB28>



Photo by Almira Mehić

PANEL *Spread your wings, little girl!*

The panel featured Dr. Sabina Veladžić (UNSA - Institute for History), Masha Durkalić (activist and co-creator of #WomenBiH), Anela Hakalović (*Bajkologija*), and Nejla Đonko (content creator on social media), moderated by Selma Hadžihalilović. The speakers presented their works, including the anthology "*Zamišljanje žene. O ideološkim i kulturnim konceptima ženskog roda u povijesti Bosne i Hercegovine*" (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung/Heinrich Böll Foundation, Sarajevo), #WomenBiH, and the overall production of *Bajkologija*. The panel shared stories and experiences about feminism, the absence of women as creators of socio-social constructs in the region, as well as stories of women and girls resisting socio-social norms, their literary works, and narratives transmitted to girls.

The panel can be viewed on the CURE Foundation's FB page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygsTU6UdNk>



Photo by Almira Mehić

PitchWise DOCUMENTARY FILMS

At this year's PitchWise festival, a screening of documentary films took place, including "Ja bi' da to imam doma" directed by Ana Opatić and Noah Kraljević, and "Miris kruva" produced by the Domine Association. Following the screenings, a discussion ensued.

In the documentary film "Ja bi' da to imam doma," nine protagonists share their experiences with bullying, discrimination, and violence. The idea behind the film was to bring together members of the LGBTI community in the broadest sense, representing all the letters in the acronym. The film includes individuals of different ages and experiences—those who have experienced peer bullying and violence due to their gender identity and expression, individuals who have experienced family violence due to their sexual orientation, those who have faced physical attacks in public places, and individuals who have attempted suicide due to the lack of acceptance from their environment. The protagonists of the film come from different age groups, social backgrounds, and geographical origins, reflecting diverse experiences of being part of the LGBT+ community in Croatia.



Photo by Almira Mehić

The research and filming of the documentary "Miris kruva" about the experiences of women belonging to the Serbian national minority in the area of the Biskupija municipality near Knin, specifically about their lives before, during, and after the wars of the 1990s, were conducted within the framework of the project of the same name by the Domine Association. The project focuses on life in the local community, mostly comprised of Serbs, in the Biskupija municipality near Knin. Their lives are analyzed through sociological research using the life story method of three women. These women share their life stories in the documentary film, which also depicts the work of women in the community. The common thread among these women is the experience of the war in Croatia, particularly in the Knin area in the 1990s, displacement, and return. Their choice of lifestyle and work contributes to making coexistence in a multiethnic community possible and sustainable.



Photo by Almira Mehić

PitchWise WORKSHOPS

At this year's PitchWise festival of women's art and activism, we organized six workshops. The workshop *Maturity through Sculpting: Ode to the Power of Women* was led by Tatjana Kovačević - Vidović. Participants in this workshop had the opportunity to explore maturing through clay and the sense of touch by engaging and suppressing the senses of sight, smell, and taste. Tatjana graduated from the Department of Product Design, after which she extensively explored working with ceramics. She founded the association "Tako," through which she continues to promote working with clay and ceramics.



Photo by Foundation CURE volunteers

The workshop *Beneath the Iceberg - How to Resist Manipulation?* was led by Ranka Katalinski, a Master of Humanities and a specialist in traumatic psychology. Resisting manipulation from the media, family, friends, colleagues, and partners is challenging. It's difficult due to our past negative experiences, the burden of emotional baggage, a lack of skills, or the inability to react appropriately. Fear of consequences also adds to the difficulty. The metaphor of the iceberg can help us become aware of and understand our own insecurities and sensitive points. Participants in the workshop explored important personal topics from new perspectives.



Photo by Almira Mehić

The workshop *Awakening the Women's Body through Sound*, led by Milica Vujović, provided participants with the opportunity to understand how music affects our body, brain, and emotions. The way Milica designed *the sound bath* - a meditation with the sounds of gongs and Tibetan bowls - allowed participants to experience emotions, insights, and similar feelings, freeing their minds and bodies from everyday stressors.

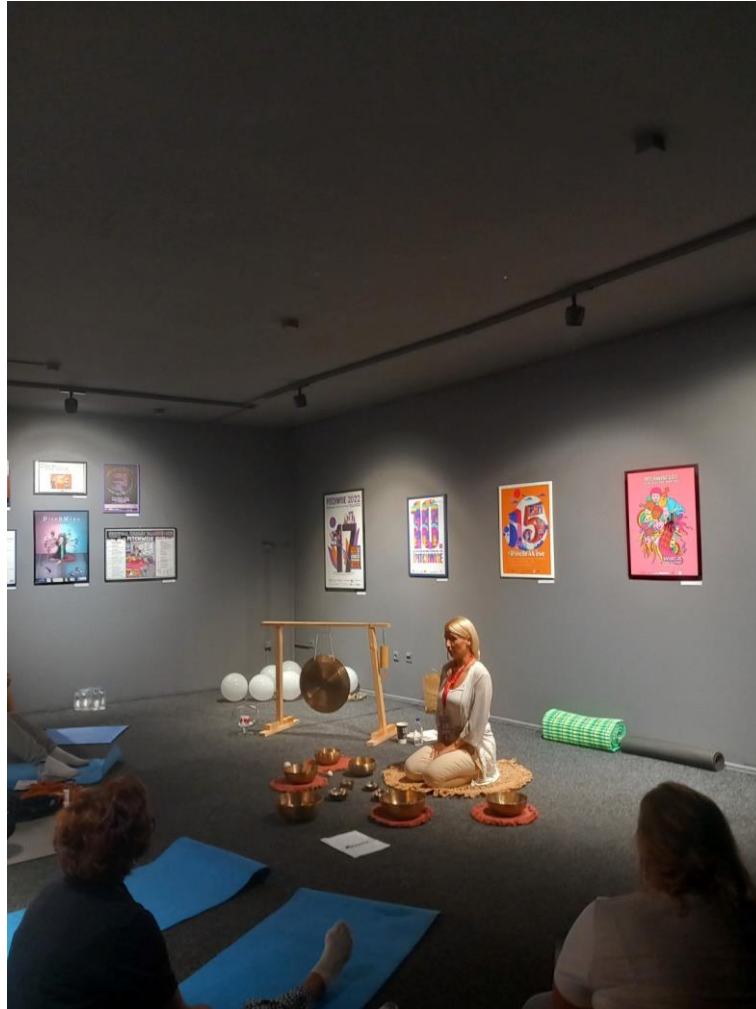


Photo by Foundation CURE volunteers

The workshop *Feminism from the Gym - a Sustainable Training Concept from a Feminist Perspective* was led by Hristina Cvetinčanin Knežević. Hristina is the owner of the Instagram profile *Feminism from the Gym*, which operates as a completely non-profit, activist project focused on the idea of improving physical and mental health through the concept of feminist training. During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn more about the concept and feminist education through practical activities.



Photo by Almira Mehić

The workshop "Self-Defense Course" was led by Emina Heganović, joined by her colleagues. Emina trains a women's team in BJJ Arena, the first of its kind, and the training takes place exclusively in women-friendly atmosphere. Participants of this workshop had the opportunity to learn the basics of self-defense through movements and practical exercises.



Photo by Almira Mehić

The workshop *Dance to Sensuality* was led by Mia Kešetović. Mia is currently involved in improving and conducting training in Latin American dances in Banja Luka. In this workshop, participants had the opportunity to discover the charms of Latin American dance movements.



Photo by Almira Mehic

The workshop *Political Pussy* was led by Selma Hadžihalilović. The workshop questioned population policies in the Balkans from a feminist and activist perspective. In a culture that glorifies the Mother and Motherhood as the profile of the Perfect Woman, the question arises about the relationship of feminists and activists to the social role of the mother and motherhood itself. How much is the free will of each woman truly free in the decision-making process about motherhood, and do we really make that decision with our own free will? Do we have the space and support to decide whether we will be mothers at all, in what way, with whom, at what stage of life – or if we do not want to be mothers at all? How to be responsible to ourselves? How to advocate for the redefinition of societal perceptions of the modern family, and what is a modern family, anyway?



Photo by Almira Mehić

PitchWise PLAYS

***Devojčice* directed by Milena Minja Bogavac**

The play *Devojčice* (*Girls*), directed by Milena Minja Bogavac, was created through a multi-month, artistic, educational, and research process. The co-authors and performers tell their personal stories in their own names. They are not professional actresses but girls who use theater to share their experiences and observations about women's coming of age in today's Serbia. This is an intimate, personal, and feminist play that brings authentic stories under the spotlight. In this piece, ten girls explore the boundary between the personal and the political, art and activism. The play was created as part of the project "SUPERGIRLS: Devojke mogu sve" by the Center E8, with the support of the European Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). *Reflektor* Theatre is a socially engaged theater founded in 2012 within the youth organization Center E8. In the first ten seasons, they produced fifteen plays performed in sixteen countries, sixty cities, and about ten villages in Serbia. They work with and for young people on performances that draw an equal sign between art and activism. They are called *Reflektor* (*Reflector*) Theatre because they want to create plays that shed light on important social phenomena.



Photo by Reflektor Theatre

PitchWise PERFORMANCES

The Handmaid's Tale, Domine

Thanks to the association Domine, a street performance titled *The Handmaid's Tale* was staged in Sarajevo, highlighting the importance of giving freedom of choice and protecting women's rights in the region. Participants, dressed in costumes from the popular series, took to the streets, drawing attention to the relationship in which women remain silent, endure, and are treated as mere wombs.



Photo by Almira Mehić

Upozorenje prije nego što je kasno, Centar ženskih prava Zenica

The Center for Women's Rights is a legal advocacy organization dedicated to improving the position of women and children in all social relationships. They have been warning about femicide for almost a decade. Through their performance, they question whether enough is being said about murdered women. Femicide, the killing of women, does not happen suddenly. Threats such as "I will kill both you and myself..." and "I will never leave you alone..." are often taken lightly by institutions that are obligated to provide protection to the victim and adequately punish the perpetrators, the abusers, but fail to do so. We all must act before it's too late!

Fire Performance

Thanks to the longstanding member of the CURE Foundation, Saša Radulović, participants had the opportunity to witness a fire performance. Fire spinning is an impressive and thrilling art form that requires great skill and courage from the performer. In this performance, the artist used poi as a prop, creating incredibly fascinating visual effects. The audience enthusiastically watched the fire performance, making this show a unique and unforgettable experience.



Photo by Almira Mehić

PitchWise MUSIC

In the following text, we talk about the musicians who performed during the festival.

Lana Hamza & Bend

Lana Hamza was born in Sarajevo, where she started singing and playing the piano in her youth. With her strong and energetic character, she decided to form a band with some of the best musicians in Sarajevo. Over the years, they have built an impressive repertoire of popular music, performing it in their unique way. "Music is part of my soul, my life, my being. The feeling when I achieve the desired sound, groove, and energy with my band, I simply have to share with people."



Photo by Almira Mehić

Berna Balić became a member of the choir "Princess Krofne" and won awards at two children's festivals as a young girl. In 2016, she had the opportunity to perform in the play "Otkrivanje žene" directed by Haris Pašović. As the youngest performer, she participated in the project "Indexi i prijatelji" in 2013 in Sarajevo. She continued with the same project in 2017 in Belgrade (Sava Centar), Zagreb (Lisinski), and again in Sarajevo (Dom mladih). In 2018, she became the lead vocalist of the band "Mirza i Panduri." In 2019, as a member of the group "Indexi," she performed at the rock marathon "Izvan vremena za sva vremena," organized by Želimir Altarac Čičak. During 2020, she recorded her first maxi single "San za dan" in the production of PGP RTS.



Photo by Almira Mehić

Anita Šunjić

The musical journey of Mostar singer-songwriter Anita Šunjić began in a shopping center in Zvornik in 1990 when, as a two-year-old, she saw a guitar toy in one of the shop windows. A more serious chapter unfolded in her 18th year when three women from Mostar (Ana, Martina, and Anita) formed the band Venus, which existed for five years. She first performed as a solo artist after the dissolution of Venus in early 2012. We highlight her participation in: Art Femine 8, the Festival of Feminist Activism and Art Niš, Old Town Street Fest Mostar, Open City Mostar, Pitchwise Sarajevo Festival, as well as Mostar Liska, the Festival of Women's Activism and Creativity "Planet Ženera" in Konjic, and Advent in Mostar. The year 2022 was marked by her new single "Ostavi trag".



Photo by Almira Mehić

PitchWise EXHIBITIONS

From September 7 to 10, 2023, artworks were displayed at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the Ars Feminae exhibition curated by Elma Hodžić.

GUERRILLA GIRLS made their debut at this year's PW with a symbolic work: The world needs a new weapon: Estrogen Bomb.

guerrillagirls.com

facebook.com/guerrillagirls | twitter.com/guerrillagirls | instagram.com/guerrillagirls

During the festival, the activist history of previous PW festivals was presented through an exhibition featuring PW posters, photographs, and T-shirts.



Photo by Almira Mehić

The text about the Ars Feminae exhibition and concept was written by Elma Hodžić.

ARS FEMINAE GIRL POWER OVERTHROWING PATRIARCHY!

This year, the Pitchwise Festival celebrated its coming of age - 18 years of collective contemplation on art, society, and culture. The Ars Feminae exhibition is a concept that brings together exhibitions of Bosnian-Herzegovinian female artists in a dialogical format in one space, questioning our society. These are not exhibitions that exclusively address problems with a critical voice; instead, they represent a summary of potential solutions, explanations, witty revelations, intimate whispers, sincere and bold messages. The Ars Feminae concept is not susceptible to the challenge of aligning female voices but rather reflects a hybrid coexistence of diversity!

"There is a loud silence that can be heard in museums," say the renowned artists and activists gathered under the Guerrilla Girls group. There are numerous painful silences, especially in Bosnian-Herzegovinian museums. However, this loud silence also arises from the discrepancy in gender positions in our society. This exhibition celebrates the return to the art scene of women/artists who grapple with the burdens of different life roles and positions, encourages the first steps of young artists, and supports senior artists who have years of creativity and work behind them.



Photo by Almira Mehić

Through *Ars Feminae*, the relationship between tradition and freedom is questioned based on two principles. The first principle is inclusion, relying on tradition through the use of traditional media and techniques that are then intervened with various modernization mechanisms. The second principle is inversion: it involves refusing to operate within established social norms of visual language. This principle entails intervening in processes and tasks that patriarchy has appropriated and labeled as "male," aiming to deconstruct myths and misconceptions about gender roles/tasks/trades/knowledge. This exhibition shows how subtle social boundaries are and dispels misconceptions about male and female tasks.

The following exhibitions were presented through *Ars Feminae*:

- Nermina Alić - Luna
- Elma Alić Šobot - She
- Elma Čaušević Mujezinović - Extend a Hand!
- Edita Gazibara - Altar of Nature
- Kasja Jerlagić - Bursting at the Seams
- Džejlana Karaman Pašić - Freedom is of the Female Gender
- Maja Matašin - Fe
- Meliha Teparić - Our Land
- Adrijana Todorović Panjeta - Her Own
- Guerrilla Girls - The Estrogen Bomb

The best way to predict the future is to create it. And to create it every day. Resolutely! Determined and brave people (not just girls) dismantle every discriminatory order. Let this exhibition be our guide in building a more just society where we all have the opportunity to fulfill the full potential of our being!



Photo by Almira Mehić

PitchWise REFLECTIONS

Reflections from the volunteers that we share with you:

Petra: "As a volunteer at the PitchWise festival, I had the opportunity to experience an exceptionally inspiring journey. I met many wonderful people whose positive energy inspired and motivated me throughout the entire event. The festival was rich in diverse activities, including panels and workshops that offered profound insights and an exchange of ideas. I had the chance to participate in organizing these activities and provide support to the participants, which allowed me to gain valuable experience in teamwork and event organization. What will stay with me the most is the atmosphere at the festival. The positive energy and enthusiasm of everyone present were contagious. This festival encouraged me to engage in the community and believe in the power of positive changes that we can achieve together. Volunteering at the PitchWise festival was not only an opportunity for me to contribute to event organization but also to personally develop and be inspired for future engagements in similar projects. I will fondly remember this experience as a volunteer."



Photo by Foundation CURE volunteers

Benjamin: "This is the first year I volunteered, and my impressions are positive. The organization was top-notch, and volunteers contributed significantly to that. The highlight of the festival was definitely the panel on gender-based violence, where we discussed this serious issue faced in our society. My personal favorite was the play 'Djevojčice,' where the story of a girl's upbringing was told in a humorous and educational way, depicting various situations women encounter in their daily lives. I sincerely hope that, with my example, I encouraged other men to get more involved in the future, and that we will have more male volunteers in the future."

"My experience as a volunteer at this year's festival can be described with one word, and that is magical. It was truly inspiring to hear all those experiences of strong women who came to support each other considering all the events. I can say that I learned a lot; the panels were so high-quality, and I also met new people. In a way, it made me happy that we all came here to encourage each other. I look forward to next year because I know that the CURE Foundation will never disappoint."



Photo by Almira Mehić

Džeja: "PitchWise, a feminist festival, was a deeply moving and empowering experience. It celebrated the talents of women in music, art, and activism, addressing important feminist topics relevant to the community. The atmosphere was unique and inclusive, with workshops that strengthened solidarity among participants. In the end, PitchWise inspired and motivated me to support the ongoing struggle for gender equality. It proved that art and music can be powerful tools for social change, making it an unforgettable and transformative event."

Azra: "As a volunteer at most events in our city, I can rightly say that PitchWise lived up to its adulthood. Events like this should become an everyday occurrence and receive more media coverage because what this festival promotes and advocates for deserves to be heard by a larger number of citizens. Besides the entire program, the opportunity to personally talk to most exhibitors and hear their inspiring stories fascinated me especially. I can't even imagine how amazing the festival will be next year."

Lamija: "I'm glad that my first volunteer experience was on this festival. It was a pleasure to meet and socialize with other volunteers, and I hope that with our efforts, we made the festival shine in its full glory."

Iman: "PitchWise festival has truly brought me many beautiful experiences and acquaintances. The organization is so well done, and everyone is trying to contribute and help new volunteers fulfill many interesting tasks."



Photo by Almira Mehić

impressions of the participants

"I returned home full of impressions from PitchWise. Congratulations on the overall organization, the quality of the performances, and the very creative program. As far as I'm concerned, you deserve a solid five, and you haven't become of age in this women's expression festival for nothing. Kisses to everyone.", Mira Vilušić, Tuzla

"The 18th PitchWise brought new experiences, friendships, knowledge. Thanks to the CURE Foundation for allowing me to be part of this event.", Nihada Pepić, Tuzla



Photo by Almira Mehić

"I need words to describe all these QUEENS! Thank you, girls! Bosnia and I... love to the sky!",
Pravda Božović Vučinić, Kosovska Mitrovica

"The women's activist regional network of solidarity, social activism, courage, and determination is unique, growing bigger and stronger day by day. Brave and determined. All for one, one for all ❤️ Women paved the way for us, and we continue to pave it so that those who come after us can reach their destination more easily, go further, and get closer to their goals. It's wonderful to be something to someone 🤝❤️.", Zehida Bihorac Odošajić

PitchWise VISIBILITY

In 2023, the CURE Foundation provided the opportunity to document the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism. Thanks to technology, individuals who couldn't attend PitchWise could still participate in the festival as all panels and most festival events were covered by live streaming.

The analysis of the live stream of the PitchWise festival in 2023 showed that four (4) live streams were viewed by over 500 people, and we had a total of 1700 reaches on September 22, 2023.

The analysis of the Facebook page revealed that in the previous period, 11 posts related to the PitchWise had a reach of 20,700.

For an overview of promotional materials, please refer to the attached documents titled *Promotional Material Presentation*.

Thanks to all the friends, activists, donors, and volunteers who made it possible to hold the 18th
PITCHWISE FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S ART AND ACTIVISM in Sarajevo!



Photo by Almira Mehic