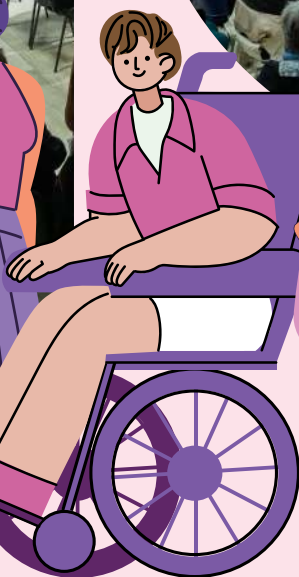
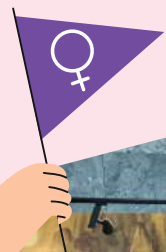
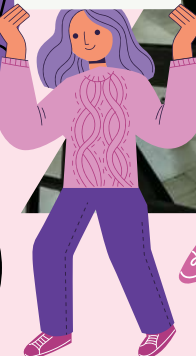


Pitchwise Report 2024

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PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism in BiH

organized since 2006, has become a signature event of the CURE Foundation as a unique feminist international event that combines activism and engaged art. The festival was initiated with the aim of transforming abandoned public spaces into meeting places for socially engaged artists, activists, theorists, and feminists, creating a safe and open space for the new generation. Through solidarity and networking with women worldwide, we strive to build a history of resistance and fight for the equality of all women.

The main goal of the PitchWise Festival is to create and promote positive change in the community through artistic practices and social engagement.

The PitchWise Festival advocates for:

- Promoting feminist ideas and policies.
- Encouraging young girls and women to join the women's movement and contribute to the reconstruction of reality.
- Opening new fields of action through dialogue and initiatives led by women with diverse experiences and histories.

The political stance of the CURE Foundation, from which the PitchWise Festival emerges, represents the core prism of our work through feminist activism aimed at driving positive social change. The PitchWise Festival is rooted in the idea that the transformative power of art empowers individuals to positively change themselves and their surroundings. We understand politically engaged art as a creative process of questioning, analyzing, transforming, and deconstructing one's own positions and roles in society, as well as addressing identity issues within the diverse spectrum of realities.

PitchWise Festival, held from September 12 to 15, 2024, at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, once again confirmed its importance as a unique feminist event in BiH. The 19th edition of the festival brought together artists, activists, theorists, and feminists from across the region and the world, with the aim of promoting women's art and culture, gender equality, and positive social change.

The festival's opening on September 12 began with an energetic performance by the Drumming Activist Network (BAM) from Croatia, Serbia, and BiH, which symbolically set the tone for the engaging program that followed. This included the exhibition *Opening the Museum from a Woman's Perspective*, curated by Elma Hodžić. The exhibition featured works by the following artists: Nanda Agić, Arnela Lela Dabić, Aleksandra Kokotović, Ata Omerbašić, Sonja Radan, Aida Šehović, Kiana Hayeri, Belma Arnautović, and the collective Stripo-Tetke.

You can view details from the opening ceremony, as well as the complete festival program, on the CURE Foundation's YouTube channel and on other social media platforms.

YouTube Kanal: <https://www.youtube.com/@fondacijacure2069/videos>



The PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism, which has also expanded its presence to online platforms, attracted significant attention on social media over the course of four days, highlighting the importance and impact of this event beyond the local level.

The festival achieved the following numbers of likes/views/shares:

-  In just four days, we became Instagram story stars with **34.901** views.
-  We garnered **27.068** views on Facebook. Meanwhile, 60 new followers joined us. Since CURE values community, solidarity, and interaction with our virtual friends, we can proudly say we have become a true small feminist community!
-  Our livestream reached an incredible **3.121** minutes of viewing time! Each minute represents support and solidarity, which is what truly inspires us.

During the four days, the PitchWise Festival hosted over **400 participants** who had the opportunity to engage in a rich program featuring diverse educational and creative activities. Visitors had the chance to attend workshops such as:

- **Do It Yourself/Women in Action:** Learn practical skills and awaken your inner craftswoman.
- **Creative Clay Workshop:** Express your creativity through working with clay.
- **Dance Workshop:** Connect through movement and dance.
- **Photography Workshop:** Capture the essence of feminist activism through the lens.

In addition to the workshops, participants had the opportunity to actively engage in panels discussing important social issues, including:

- **Hate Speech:** Understanding and combating the rise of hate speech in our communities.
- **Femicide:** A discussion on femicide and urgent solutions to address this pressing issue.
- **Policies of Inequality:** Examining the rights and freedoms threatened by anti-gender narratives and ways to resist them.
- **Rebellious Readers:** Engage with feminist literature and participate in thought-provoking discussions.

During the festival, we also had the honor of promoting two books: "**Activism in the Women's Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Challenges, Advances, and Social Changes**" by Zlatiborka Popov-Momčinović and "**The Regional History of Feminism and the Fight for Women's Rights Through the Texts of Yugoslav Authors**". Additionally, we presented the literary selection **Štefica Cvek #3**.

A screening of the documentary film "**Beyond Silence**" was held, produced by IAMANEH Switzerland, the organization "Woman to Woman" from Albania, the Counseling Line for Women and Girls from Albania, and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.



The play "I Need Something to Tell You", produced by the Bosnian National Theater Zenica, was also featured at the festival, along with a rich musical program that included performances by Lana Hamza and the band Panduri as well as a stand-up show by Duška Mušić and Anita Šunjić.

You can find the detailed festival program on the CURE Foundation's website:

<https://fondacijacure.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Eng.-PW-programme.pdf>



Take a look at our video from the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVgvN6nUodw>

The theme of this year's festival emphasized the power and unity of women and girls who gathered to initiate significant social changes:

Me, You, We* Magnificent Feminists. We Can Do It – Initiate It – Transform!

Once again, this year, as in the past nineteen years, PitchWise achieved its goal – we connected and celebrated the diversity, strength, and achievements of women, exploring their well-being through numerous events and activities with the support of artists, theorists, musicians, and activists from BiH, the region, and around the world.

The lives of women worldwide are subjected to various oppressive policies that restrict their freedoms and lead to violence against their bodies. We resisted daily, challenging imposed prejudices and stereotypes, and actively contributed to the fight against radicalism, nationalism, patriarchy, and all forms of conservatism.

The festival program was open to all who support the development of the women's movement and feminist thought in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. We gathered, celebrated achievements, and inspired each other to continue striving for positive social change. In true PitchWise tradition, participation in all events was free of charge.

Thank you to all the friends, activists, donors, and volunteers who made the XIX PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism in Sarajevo possible!

See you next year at the jubilee 20th PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism from September 11th to 14th, 2025!



We share with you **a few reflections** from participants who enriched this unique event with their experiences and presence. Their stories and impressions further emphasize the importance of the space we have created together for art, activism, and the collective fight for equality.



"Dear CURE team, I take this opportunity to thank you for organizing another wonderful and impactful festival. It was a pleasure to participate, gain new knowledge and skills, and meet new activists and fighters. We return encouraged to continue our struggles."

"I would like to thank the CURE Foundation team for the well-structured organization of the 19th PitchWise Festival, which covered a wide range of issues and challenges in the development of the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

"The women's activist regional network of solidarity, social activism, courage, and determination is unique, growing stronger and larger every day. Brave and determined. All for one, and one for all ❤️ Women have paved the paths for us, and we continue to pave them so that those who come after us may reach further and achieve their goals more easily. It's wonderful to be something to someone."

"A wonderful experience and amazing women with whom I communicated and socialized. I learned a lot from the panels I attended, and I am glad I had the opportunity to hear the stories of different and brave women. The festival was truly amazing, and I hope to be there again next year!"



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