

international festival of alternative photography

ZRNO

Let's follow the sun!



let's follow the sun!





'Zrno' literally materialized when we planted a tree. It was the first tangible, visible activity we did together. Life, rooted in mother earth, naturally striving for the sun! There it is, at Matka, near Skopje. It shared a part of its wisdom to us, teaching us not to rush like Icarus but to proceed carefully, with care, each on our own way.

Between the publication of the first catalog and the preparation of this one, we planted over a thousand trees - various ones, including oaks, hazelnuts, dogwoods, hornbeams, lindens, and walnuts - in different locations throughout the country. We believe that some of it will take hold, start its own life, and reach for the sun!

In the meantime, we ourselves grew, matured, and learned something. The world heard about us. With that, grew our responsibility, but also our passion for what we do even more.

The second edition of 'Zrno', naturally, increased the quantity and quality of the whole content, discarded the *wrongly planted* sprouts, and continued to grow. I don't believe that when we started it, we could have imagined that we would reach such a quality of content. We don't know if it's pure luck, a blessing, or if we've earned it in some way, but we had wonderful exhibitions, with a quality rarely seen here, and incredibly talented workshop participants. We communicated with people from all continents and corners of the globe. In Capari, we mingled with people from Athens to Oslo! There, the entire love, passion, and dedication to the play, creativity, and experimentation with photography shone brightly. We learned, photographed, got frustrated, laughed, cooked, and traveled together. We laughed a lot! Enlightened. In such a context, with ups and downs but with incredible energy among all of us, high-quality works were created. 'Zrno' is a specific festival or phenomenon. It is different from all other photography festivals. It doesn't want to grow at the expense of humanity. It doesn't want to overload itself with activities it cannot sustain. It believes that the best context for learning is when everyone feels good, playful, and comfortable to make mistakes, play, share, ask questions, seek opinions, help, and advice. 'Zrno' is much more introverted than other festivals. It probably isn't even a festival, but it has to be labelled somehow. It focuses on essential things. It doesn't focus on technical capabilities but on creative growth. The working conditions are a test of endurance, but it drives people toward solidarity, sharing, and opens up opportunities for improvisation and play. And I believe that even if we wanted to, it would be hard to change our approach. As we announced from the very beginning, we are extremely committed to our unseriousness, fully dedicated to our intention not to take ourselves too seriously. The goal of 'Zrno' is to stimulate, initiate, and show rather than complete a process. 'Zrno' aims to indicate that a different world and a different approach to things are possible. It is allergic to rigidity and entrenched rules. It is oriented towards the process itself and encourages passion.

'Zrno' celebrates play, the opportunity to experiment, tactility, the readiness for countless mistakes and the comfort to make them, anticipation, and the unpredictability of the result. Freedom. 'Zrno' provokes questions yet does not offer final answers. It aims to encourage going in an unknown direction, even when it is likely to be a dead end. For us, such an attitude signifies a higher level of understanding. That's why 'Zrno' attracts people who have matured enough to know that a higher level of awareness is required to reach a state of playfulness and the absence of rational control and petty ego impulses in order to truly create freely. For many, this simply seems unserious and immature. And those people will pass us by, but there are countless other opportunities for them. 'Zrno' is one of its kind. We are a small community that self-stimulates, aware that true, serious work comes later. Our mission is to plant the seed; growth and development are the responsibility of life itself. We are not so self-esteemed as to think that we could influence it to that extent. One can write so much yet capture so little. The text can hardly convey that primal, simple, and elemental human feeling. As one participant said: 'Zrno' cannot be described, it must be experienced! And so, I would just thank everyone who, in one way or another, was part of this year's journey. It required an extensive amount of energy, time, anticipation, fantasies, hopes, dreams, brilliant ideas that fell through, disappointments, tears of despair, and tears of laughter. The entire process built strong and deep connections among us - the people who created 'Zrno'.

'Zrno' 2023 formally consisted of:

- Seven exhibitions
- Seven alternative photography workshops
- Held over the course of seven days

When we opened the last exhibition, someone mentioned that it was *St. Dimitrija's Day*, and somehow, we remembered that we opened the first exhibition on May 6, *St. George's Day!* What a mythical coincidence! These are the days when work activities have traditionally started here, from agricultural work to migration. Unknowingly, we were synced with the rhythm of the universe, with an ancient rhythm, the prehistoric collective pattern, so natural for the folk life and (over)consciousness. And perhaps that means something...

Of course, 'Zrno' is a team effort, and the most deserving for the entire magic that happened throughout the year, especially at the workshops in Capari, were Petar, Tezan, and Ena. Each of them contributed in their own way to make this edition of 'Zrno' so beautiful. This edition of 'Zrno' is dedicated to Damian Diaconescu, who brought wonderful, peaceful, and joyful energy, a radiant smile that warmed up Capari. We consider ourselves honored to be graced with his presence.



To Ena Aluševska, Petar Stojanoski, and Tezan Hajredin, the best *volunteers* who literally worked *tirelessly* - quietly, day and night. Without their dedication, humility, and organization, we would stumble many times. And, of course, to Vlado Dimoski, who is the pillar, conscience, advisor, and cornerstone of 'Zrno'. And *to the tiniest grain*, Evgenij!

We owe a special thank you to the Filevski family and the De Niro Art Colony for their support and for hosting us in the incredibly noble space where the workshops took place. We cannot thank them enough for their kindness.

This year, we had many activities, a wide audience, and about thirty workshop participants from across Europe. We believe that some of this will continue, start its own life, and aim towards the sun!

Sašo Alušeovski
Skopje



Who are the 'Zrno' people?



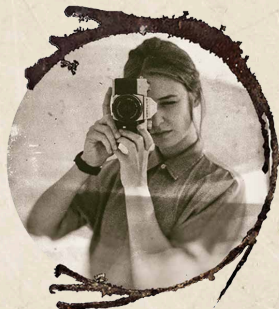
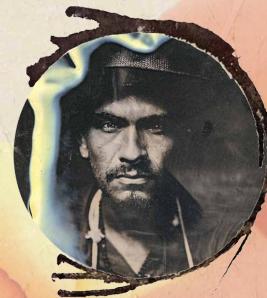
Keti Talevska-Bakrevska - photographer and videographer. She was the first to be infected by Sašo and set up an alternative exhibition of lumens in Bitola. All the videos at 'Zrno' are her work.

Martina Pavloska - the most impulsive spirit of the fiery nest. She often physically suffers during 'Zrno' activities because she dives in with her whole heart!



Emilija Sandikj - studies photography, either always apologizes or expresses gratitude. Her modesty is the greatest gift.

Stefan Stefanovski - studies photography, all the characters from Looney Tunes in one!



Martina Peneva - no one knows if she's a better DJ, an architect, or a photographer.

Ena Aluševska - an organized mind and serious dedication. Everything runs smoothly with her.



Petar Stojanoski - can be a companion, a helping hand, and support for a Himalayan expedition or on a concert of a big band. Everything will be done meticulously and on time, and you'll feel comfortable.

Jelena Belikj - photo architect. All the scripts for the meetings are with her.



Vlado Dimoski - the oldest among us, with the youngest spirit. For every dilemma, he has a life example to share and wisdom to give.

Sašo Alušeovski - showed that he cooks better than he photographs at 'Zrno'. 'Zrno' is his stew!





Towards the sun! Alas, it stole my mind!

Exhibition of
alternative photos by
the 'Zrno' team





The first activity of 'Zrno' this year was the exhibition on the occasion of Victory Day over fascism/Europe Day and the opening of the European House in Bitola. Setting up the exhibition titled *Towards the Sun!* at the Magaza in Bitola was an exhausting pleasure, and was part of the European House event called *Alas, it stole my mind!* Experiencing how compatible we are in our differences was priceless!

From the catalog: Exhibition by the 'Zrno' team, International Festival of Alternative Photography. The festival that nurtures, promotes, and enjoys classic, noble photographic processes and plants trees!





In charge of this experience:

- Martina Pavloska with creative manipulations of polaroids
- Keti Talevska-Bakrevska with lumen prints
- Emilija Sandikj with classic analog photos
- Jelena Belikj with lumen prints
- Stefan Stefanovski with classic analog photos
- Viktorija Machkovska with cyanotypes
- Sašo Alušeovski, with classic and 3D cyanotypes on various materials
- Vlado Dimoski with visual equipment
- Martina Peneva for an audio stimulus throughout the event





The moment we gathered all our works in one place, we realized that in such a setting, they are intertwined with one another, they communicate with each other, sometimes cooperate and other times oppose, they argue and laugh together. At different intervals and with a distinct intensity. Just like us, or the parts of us that are dedicated to 'Zrno'.

We realized that our work has a life on its own and has an energy resembling ours.

It can, perhaps, mean that we have indeed brought authentic, honest parts of ourselves into our works. And that in the works themselves, it is recognized how much and what kind of energy has been invested.

It could also just be our perception of it.

Perhaps Jelena Belikj's description of her works describes the entire setup. *'Threads' - lines of unification, connection. Relationships between people, beings, entities; basic threads, thin, tangled, and unbreakable connections.*

The works are a hologram of the primal mother forest of life, from which 'Zrno' emerged and where has so far planted only a few trees. In it, at every moment, new births, beginnings, flights, and decay take place. Life and death. All permeated by mother earth and driven by and directed towards the sun!

Stated for the exhibition by the unnamed fluid joint entity of the 'Zrno' team.

The exhibition was opened by the 'Zrno'-team and the EU Ambassador of Macedonia, David Gier.



Under the sun, in the courtyards, among the nettles and straw fields!

Exhibition of alternative
photography in a natural
environment.





The most punk activity this year, and probably the closest to the spirit of 'Zrno', was the one-day exhibition in the village of Capari, for the opening of the De Niro colony and the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between 'Zrno' - an International Festival of Alternative Photography, and the De Niro International Art Colony from Bitola. 'Zrno' is only two years old, while De Niro has been of age for some time, but we somehow get along.

Our informal, leisurely, joyful works *fit perfectly* among the tree trunks, nettles, courtyards, and stone walls in Capari. Nature and rural surroundings are obviously the most suitable home for 'Zrno'. We ourselves were impressed by the final appearance of the exhibition, its unobtrusiveness on one side and its strong message and aesthetic weight on the other. A selection of works previously exhibited in Magaza, Bitola, was displayed.



let's follow the sun!





Let's aim for the sun!

Exhibition of
alternative photos
from the international
open call 2023





One of the most significant activities this year was the open call for single entries or series of analog photos. It was the first time we had done something like this, and we agreed to it, that: *we are new, people don't know about us, and we are from the Balkans. If we get twenty submissions, that's good! We must start somewhere.*

Surprisingly, we received a significantly larger number of submissions for the open call, from over thirty countries, from all continents around the world! I remember how excited we were, like little kids, with each new submission coming, how we would immediately share a new *WOW - look how good they are!*

It was a real challenge to select the ones that will be exhibited. We selected more than we planned because of the incredibly high quality of the works, and some of them, with a heavy heart, we had to reject due to the gallery's capacity.

We must thank all the wonderful members of our jury:



Natalia Kopkina - Analog author, from the friendly Helsinki Darkroom Festival

Stig Marlon Weston - Alternative photographer, Oslo



Ivana Tomanović - Professor at the Academy of Arts Novi Sad, Belgrade



Emil Kindlajn - Founder of the friendly festival
Analogmania, Timișoara/Vienna



Dino Rekanović - From the friendly festival Rotlicht, Vienna



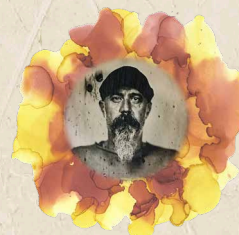
Bruna Valensa - Young alternative photographer, São Paulo



Emilija Sandić - Photography student at the Academy of Arts, Novi
Sad, part of the 'Zrno' team, Belgrade



Sašo Alušeovski - 'Zrno', Skopje



Consciously and deliberately, we tried to gender balance our wonderful jury. We also thought it was important to value young authors. Which is why we invited Bruna Valensa from Brazil and Emilija Sandić from Serbia, as young female authors, and we are especially proud of that. On one hand, we have the *youthful perspective* on contemporary photography as added value, which rarely happens elsewhere, and on the other hand, they were given the opportunity to gain insight into what a jury process looks like and to add this experience to their resumes.

The call was published somewhere in March and the selected works arrived up to the very day of the opening. (Thanks for the expeditiousness of all the post offices in the world!). Some traveled for more than two months!

The received works were first exhibited at the Multimedia Center Mala Stanica in Skopje, and on this occasion we thank the National Gallery of Macedonia for the opportunity to collaborate and exhibit the works in a space suitable for their quality. The exhibition was set up from June 16 to 30, 2023.

The exhibition was entirely equipped by Vlado Dimoski who was also a huge support for the actual setup. Both technically and aesthetically.

The same exhibition was then set up in CIC - Bitola, in the gallery of the Officers' Home from July 8 to 22, 2023. Thanks to all employees at the Officers' Home for the help and support, especially to the director Dr. Lili Boshevaska for the heartfelt support and the profound speech at the opening of the exhibition, in front of the participants and guests of 'Zrno'.

In parallel with this exhibition, in the eastern gallery of the Officers' Home at CIC-Bitola, a group exhibition of alternative photographs by the members of the Iris photo club from Timișoara also took place.



КУЛТУРЕН И
ИНФОРМАТИВЕН
ЦЕНТАР-БИТОЛА





The jury of the first open call of 'Zrno', from the hundreds of submitted works, selected these authors/works to be exhibited:

AUTHOR	TITLE
SINGLE ENTRIES	
1.	JORMA ONKINEN – FINLAND BOAT
2.	КАЛИН МАЏОВСКИ – MACEDONIA 15
3.	AJR MOXON – UNITED KINGDOM ASTROGRAM 1, 2, 3
4.	ANA VIVODA - SLOVENIA TRACES OF SUMMER 2
5.	ANDIE DALE – UNITED KINGDOM JOINED HANDS
6.	BARBARA DOMINGUEZ SEIVA
7.	BUGRA KIBAROGLU - TÜRKIYE UNTITLED 1, UNTITLED 2
8.	CHIARA PEPE - ITALY EDOARDIAN
9.	GUZEM TONBAK- TÜRKIYE CYANOLUMEN, TURMERIC, CHASTE LEAF
10.	KATJA SIIRTOLA - FINLAND NO WOODS WITHOUT ROOTS
11.	KATRI LASSILA - FINLAND PEONY5, PEONY5
12.	KOSTAS TSANAKAS - GERMANY DAWN
13.	MARIA ZAWADZKA - POLAND THE SWAN
14.	MIHAILESCU ANDI - ROMANIA NISTE MONSTRII
15.	NINA GOLOB-SLOVENIA FREEDOM
16.	ВИКТОРИЯ СЕРГЕЕВНА-UKRAINE СТРУКТУРА МЕЧТЫ
17.	OLE BRODERSEN'S - NORWAY TIME BY THE SEA-1, 2, 3
18.	RICHARD SHAFFNER – UNITED KINGDOM 1 MEN, 2 MEN
19.	SERGEY CHEKH - UKRAINE HANDS PICTORIAL OILPRINT
20.	SONIA DIPI - GERMANY 1 SUN OVER BERLIN
21.	SPYROS KALIVAS - GREECE LUCID DREAMS 1
22.	SPYROS KALIVAS - GREECE SPYROS KALIVAS 2
23.	SPYROS KALIVAS - GREECE SPYROS KALIVAS 3
24.	ΙΟΥΛΙΑ ΛΑΔΟΓΙΑΝΝΗ - GREECE BODYSCAPE I, BODYSCAPE II, BODYSCAPE III,
SERIES	
1.	ALEX WITHEY – UNITED KINGDOM FOLDING WAVES
2.	ALEXANDRA COSTEA - ROMANIA RETRIEVAL
3.	ANNA FRAIRE - GERMANY PERFECT UNIQUE PIECES
4.	DANY VIGIL-EL SALVADOR/CZECH REPUBLIC PICTURES I NEVER TOOK
5.	DAVID AQUINO – CANADA WHAT'S LEFT BEHIND
6.	EVA SCHLÖGL - AUSTRIA DAILY LIFE
7.	FELIX BABLER - GERMANY ANALOG SLITSCAN
8.	INES VALENTE - PORTUGAL WOMEN IN HISTORY
9.	IZABELA NOWAK - POLAND MARS
10.	KSAWERY WRÓBEL – POLAND/USA SOLAROGRAFIA
11.	MAEVA TOTOLEHIBE – FRANCE/CANADA APPARAT
12.	MICHAEL PERO - ITALY BONES
13.	MORE MARGO – UKRAINE FIRST SHOT
14.	NUNO SERRÃO - PORTUGAL NO TITLE
15.	SOLANGE JUNGERS - FRANCE ELSEWHERE
16.	STEPHAN SCHWARZ-AUSTRIA JAMMER
17.	STEVE LOVEGROVE-NEW ZAEALAND EXQUISITE CORPSE
18.	URSHKA SPALEMBEK-SLOVENIA RAIN ON A CAR WINDOW



let's follow the sun!





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MUTE DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO MASTERS OF THE ANALOG APPROACH

Exhibition by:
Josep Maria
Ribas Prous
and Damian
Diaconescu

CIC,
June 20, 2023, 8.30pm



Josep Maria Ribas Prous (Barcelona, Catalonia), a photographer - master of the black and white photo lab. The first Spanish author awarded the title Maitre de la Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (MFIAP, 1985). He has received the accolades: AFIAP, EFIAP, MFIAP, and ESFIAP. Honorary member of various photographic clubs and salons, cited by the fellowship as one of the photographers with the most national and international awards. His work is exhibited in 62 museums and private collections worldwide.

Among the themes of his work are the act, conceptualism, pictorialism, and landscape. Described as an author with an unmistakable style, his artistic career is based on the constant search for the divine, which he finds in the simplicity of the subject supported by a deep knowledge of photographic techniques and chemical processes. He has worked with pigment processes and other historical noble techniques, dichromates, cyanotype, salt prints, albumen, bromoil, platinotype. All this experience is visible in his perfect classic analog handcrafted positives. Part of this mastery could be seen in the CIC-Skopje salon.

Opposite him, we presented Damian Diaconescu (Timișoara, Romania). If Ribas Prous is a world-level star, Damian, in our opinion, is barely known and recognized even in his native Timișoara. We would call him - unjustly unknown. Certainly, looking at his works, he deserves global fame, if we are guided by the norms of the majority. But would this magician, alchemist, have found his philosopher's stone if he had been *discovered* and world-famous twenty years ago? How would that have affected his almost childlike zeal and passion for photography? Would we have had these incredible works?

In terms of approach, aesthetics, and relation to the visual, it is peculiar to see how two authors from different parts of the continent, simultaneously, almost synchronously work on similar processes, similar themes, in different cultural contexts - with dramatically different expressions.

The Mediterranean sun in Catalonia, long under the shadow of Franco, produced some classic, typical Central European views, while the Carpathian foothills and the open Central European plain, in Little Vienna under the protection of Ceaușescu, led to a *potential movement* and development, let's say of Impressionism, which was heavily influenced by the Mediterranean sun. Ribas is a star and moves and expresses himself confidently. Damian is humble, introverted, mystical, and works on his photographs with his own chemical recipes, of which no one else has an idea or knows how his works are created.

By delving deep into the works of both authors, one can hear an eternal pan-European dialogue, a conversation about everlasting themes, full of subtle jabs, throw-ins, passion, and fervor in the presentation, but also many suppressions, lumps in the throat, jokes, and witticisms. Rarely have we had the opportunity to see such exhibitions here. We believe that what you hear will touch some of you.

(Excerpt from the exhibition announcement)

The exhibition was opened by:

- The Director of CIC, Mr. Toni Dimitrov,
- Cultural Attaché of the Kingdom of Spain in Macedonia, Ernesto Heredero del Campo,
- Sašo Alušeovski, from 'Zrno'.



let's follow the sun!



Josep Maria Ribas Prous



Eve's Dreams by Damian Diaconescu

Defining this type of image is confusing from the very beginning because for those who are curious by nature it is difficult to discern the *nature* of the image from the point of view of the technique used. At first glance, the image seems to belong to the spectrum of graphics, in any case not to photography, and even less to argentic photography.

Therefore, Damian Diaconescu proposes a spectacular experiment of transfiguration of the silver gelatin image, in the age of digital technology, when the rush of the image as such has become dizzying, foreshadowing even the suppression of the word at the top of the communication hierarchy, when the means of digital plasticization seem to be infinite, and when almost all the *resources* of modernist and postmodernist expression seem to be exhausted. What would be the *newness* of the technological mystery, beyond the *alchemical* aspect, which in turn, is obviously part of the arsenal of creative means, because it is not at all exaggerated to accept the idea that "technique is art and... art is technical...?"

There is a strange association and juxtaposition of silver particles in Damian Diaconescu's images, in such a way that metallic tonalities, of an extremely convincing material suggestion, are counterpointed by others so vaguely outlined that they seem volatile... Eve's features, the characteristics of femininity, are actually revealed, exploring the whole range of tonal suggestions from the firmness of metallic shines to the angelic delicacy of uncertain transparencies, from the legible drawing of a fragment of the woman's body to its total dissolution, from the definite presence to the illusion of presence...

Obviously, stylistically, the images can be analyzed and associated with abstractionism, Orphism, Neoplasticism, synchronistic painting, daring, every now and then, to access even Jackson Pollock's action-painting, etc. However, beyond these inherent parallelisms remain those three-dimensional suggestions, obtained by joining some tonal densities and culminating with what seem to be the gold leaves of the Orthodox iconography... Conclusively, we can say that this "recovery" of the expressive potential through silver gelatin images - these unique images - reveal to us the inexhaustible universe of silver crystals/matter when meeting the creative spirit.

Art critic Gheorghe Șfaițer

Technique: hand-made photographs on black-and-white photographic paper are made in a classic laboratory through a technique that chemically damages the photographic emulsion. Chromatic and creative effects are achieved through the author's experimental chemical techniques. The works are unique; an identical copy cannot be obtained even by the author.

Cultural Informative Center (CIC)
June 20, 2023, 8.30 pm



Damian Diaconescu



let's follow the sun!



Workshops for alternative photographic processes, Capari village, Bitola



The core activity of 'Zrno' is the workshops for noble photographic processes. We all eagerly await the time of year when excitement grows, students are finishing up their obligations, and our rag rug can spread out! We come together, strangers and friends, and in that conceived magical circle of shared passion, something happens that is difficult to describe yet always takes place.

The 2023 'Zrno' workshops were held in the extraordinarily noble space provided by the Filevski family, the venue where the De Niro art colony is held. The Pelister air and cold water, the wonderful natural surroundings let the magic happen. We didn't have to try hard. We spent an unforgettable seven days.

As we mentioned earlier, there was a lot of chemistry in those seven days. Some of it was provided by Adox!



Classic black and white photography workshop

Led by: Ivana Tomanović
Assistant: Emilia Sandikj

Participants:
Jordan Zvezdoski
Philip Itsoski
Ivana Cvetanoska



*Ivana Tomanović,
Belgrade*

Ivana Tomanović was born in 1971 in Novi Sad. She completed her master's degree at the Academy of Film and Television (FAMU) in Prague, at the Department of Photography. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies in the field of visual arts at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad. From 2001 to 2015, she worked as an editor at the photography culture magazine - ReFoto (Belgrade). She teaches photography as a full professor at the Academy of Arts at the University of Novi Sad and at the Academy of Arts at the University "Alfa" in Belgrade. She was the artistic director of the Artget gallery in the cultural center in Belgrade for the 2016 season. She regularly gives lectures on the aesthetics of photography and participates in numerous panel discussions at festivals, workshops, and congresses dedicated to photography and visual arts.

Ivana has published over three hundred articles in the ReFoto magazine and in other catalogs, books, journals, newspapers, etc. She is the editor of the photo-monograph Dragoljub Tošić - Photographs. She has been a jury member at numerous exhibitions in the country and abroad and a member of the committee of the Photography Fair organized by the Artget gallery and the Belgrade cultural center, as well as a member of the national team for the selection of the Rovinj-Photodays festival. She represented Serbia in the European project "Transeurope" dedicated to contemporary European photography, organized by the Finnish Museum of Photography (Helsinki), PhotoEspana (Madrid), and Euromare (Athens).

In her photographic work, she is most devoted to individual research in the field of documentary photography and scenography, showing a keen interest in exploring the potential for artistic installations in various spaces.

The name of the festival perfectly matches its concept and how it's held. It's a bit frivolous, like some children's show, while also being intriguing, and above all, it sounds great! The word 'Zrno' evokes the idea of growth, something that can be sown, cultivated, and continuously grows. The fruits will certainly come. This year's 'Zrno' proved that. Many workshops and a lot of hard work, and therefore, many results. Wonderful socializing with diverse people - from their age to the language they speak, to their interests - in photography as in life. A colorful palette of characters and stories that 'paint' the festival with the colors of the rainbow, making it unique because there's almost no line between work and socializing - sometimes we resemble a hippie commune contemplating how to change the world for the better. During the seven days of the festival, the world indeed seems better, and the difficult farewells and new friendships remind us that knowledge is worthless without the human dimension, that the most important and beautiful thing is to share what you know and what you can do. We carry 'Zrno' in our hearts and when it's long over, we eagerly await the new edition - crazy, uncertain, and exciting as always. One thing I know for sure, 'Zrno' has healthy seeds, and from it, only beauty and goodness can grow!



Workshop for Cyanotype

Led by: Damian Diaconescu

Participants:

Miloš Točaković

Ljubica Vlaški

Angela Grozdanov

Toma Dimovski



*Damian Diaconescu
Timișoara*

Damian Diaconescu, born in 1954 in Rosiile Valcea, Romania, was first introduced to photography at the tender age of five in his father's laboratory, where he crafted his own enlarger. His childhood was immersed in the world of photography and cinema at the Balcesti cinema, with his father leading the cinematographic department in the Oltetu district. During his high school years, he was an engaged member of the photography club. From 1991 to the present, he has been serving as a cultural and artistic photo-film critic at the Timisoara Students' Culture House. Earlier, between 1982 and 1990, he was a Zootechnical engineer and the Head of the Orțișoara farm in Jud. Timis.

His participation in several editions of the "National Student Festival of Photographic Art" from 1976 to 1980 culminated in him being honored as a laureate in 1978. He is also the creator of the artistic documentary film "Transhumance" in 1981 and has developed a distinctive personal silver-based photographic technique.

Author's exhibitions: London Analogue Festival 2014 (England) - „Marturii argentice”, Analog Mania 2014 (Timisoara) - „Marturii argentice”, Timisoara Philharmonic dec 2013 - „Marturii argentice”, Calpe Gallery Timisoara 2013 - „Marturii argentice”, International Photo Romania Festival - „Marturii argentice”, Calpe Gallery 2018 - "Eve's dreams", Revela't International Festival of Analog Photography - „Transhumanța” - 16mm artistic documentary film

Cultural Management: Since 1991, he has been the cultural and artistic coordinator at the Iris Photo Club within the Timisoara Students' Culture House. He has overseen 7 editions of the ISO 400 national photojournalism competition and 15 editions of the Student Photogeny Contest. Additionally, he has conducted 30 courses on photographic art and technique, as well as 16 photo creation camps. In his remarkable 32-year career, he has organized over 250 photo exhibitions at the Students' Culture House.



For me, 'Zrno' was a captivating experience at the intersection of soulful essence and what I perceive as the tangible manifestation - the pure imagery - of the delight in discovering your kindred spirit through the journey of self-discovery alongside these wonderful Macedonian people. In that moment, I realized that the most direct link between myself and others, the way we can collectively engage with the world, is through the Sun and Nature, by how Light unveils our thoughts and feelings. Consequently, cyanotype became our genuine medium of connection... It was magnificent! My gratitude to 'Zrno'! May your silver grains eternally resonate in our memories!



Workshop for Lumen Print

Led by: Jelena Belić

Participants:

Aneta Popova

Ioulia Ladogianni



Jelena Belić, Skopje

Jelena Belić graduated as an Architectural Engineer with a thesis on 'Strategies for the Renewal of the Macedonian Village' at the University of Saints Cyril and Methodius - Skopje, on February 2, 2011.

She has been working as an architect and 3D visualizer at Stone Design Ltd. Skopje since March 2018, and has experience in the field since 2011. Jelena is a collaborator on projects in the areas of interior design, urbanism, and architecture, and author of 3D models/visualizations and projects for numerous architectural structures.

Photography

Jelena is a co-founder and member of the 'Zrno' Alternative Photography Festival. She also led a workshop for lumen prints in July 2023, village of Tsapari, and is an official photographer and part of the photo team at Makedox since 2017. Eager photographer of many cultural events: exhibitions, promotions, performances, theater and ballet show, concerts and festivals.

Selected exhibitions / publications / projects

- *October 2023*: Group exhibition of screen-printed graphics "Turbulator" at the Novodoba Festival at Cetinska Tower, Belgrade (Serbia) as part of the Partisan Print collective.
- *September 2023*: Group exhibition of screen-printed graphics "Fatal Error" in Veszprém, Hungary, organized by Partisan Print (ZKU Collective Veternica).
- *July 2023*: Co-author of a book-exhibit of lumen prints Light Records in collaboration with Aneta Popova.
- *May 2023*: Group exhibition of alternative photography "Towards the Sun!" with members of the 'Zrno' Alternative Photography Festival team in Magaza, Bitola.



- *December 2021:* Group exhibition of drawings and book promotion of Nightmares and Dreams in screen printing organized by Partisan Print (ZKU Collective Veternica), KSP Center-Jadro in Skopje.
- *May 2021:* Solo photography exhibition at Bukva during the Art Area Festival, Skopje.
- *March 2021:* Group exhibition of graphics Partisan Diary, as part of the Partisan Print collective, Street Gallery, Belgrade.
- *September 2020:* Part of a group photography exhibition at YCC (Youth Cultural Center) during the Another Story Festival, Skopje.



The simplicity of the lumen print process allows participants to quickly immerse themselves in the deep sea of experimentation and improvisation play. The real challenge of any artistic method or technique is to emerge from there, avoiding the comfortable reproduction of just 'beautiful prints'. This year, we were fortunate to have a brilliant participant show us that it's possible to do just that while developing a personal, unique approach. Together, we created lumen prints in shades of blue, pink, violet, from coffee blue to pale yellowish colors and hues, countless textures, and pulsating rhythms, on black-and-white photographic paper. Directly from the sun and towards the sun!

Workshop for Collodion Photography

Led by: Predrag Uzelac
Assistant: Mile Vlaški

Participants:
Ernestine Louise
Ana Runčeva
Tijana Borbelj
Sarah Islam



Predrag Uzelac, Novi Sad

Predrag Uzelac has always cherished his love for photography. He graduated from the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, in the visual arts department, majoring in photography, where he continues to pursue his doctoral academic studies in the Department of Fine Arts. Since 1997, he has exhibited in numerous group and solo exhibitions in Belarus, Yugoslavia, Mexico, France, Hong Kong, Germany, Slovakia, Serbia, etc. In his artistic practice, he explores various approaches and genres, including documentary, staged, landscape, and portrait photography. However, the focus of his interest is the portrait of a person, bearer of their own philosophy, and their impact both on themselves and others, as well as on the personal and collective material and immaterial environment. Recently, he has been exploring and working in the field of historical and noble photographic processes (wet collodion, cyanotype, etc.). He works at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad and as a professional photographer in museology, advertising, and design.

I thought that the great love and innocence that gave birth to the first edition of the festival could only be attributes of something newly born or a first love, and that it would be an overwhelming burden for the future life and existence of the festival. However, just like in nature, the 'Zrno' that sprouted showed the magnificent course of life and incredible growth. I am amazed. The unconditional exchange of skill and love is more than a suitable soil for the growth of everything related to this unique festival. Thank you for accepting us unconditionally.

Predrag Uzelac, Meštar



Testimonial from Ernestine Louise

The 'Zrno' Photography Festival was truly inspirational. Gaining insights from both the tutors and fellow participants fostered a sense of community, characterized by a spirit of sharing and active engagement. As a visual artist, I discovered that this community was open, supportive, and inviting. Immersing myself in the collodion process within a relaxed yet concentrated setting deepened my appreciation for photography and its capacity to integrate into my artistic endeavors.



Workshop on Sandwich Print

Led by: Stefan Stefanovski

Participants:

Katerina Nikolovska

Mila Makarovska

David Hrubik



*Stefan Stefanovski,
Zrenjanin*

Stefan Stefanovski, born in 1994 in Zrenjanin is currently a third-year student at the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad, majoring in photography. His photographic work includes being a photographer for the 21114 Film Fest and MakeDox, as well as a cinematographer for several projects of the collective Ministry of Space. Stefan is an integral part of the 'Zrno' team, where in 2023, he led the workshop on sandwich prints. He is also a member of the Shock Cooperative team within the Multimedia Center Led Art and serves as production support for the Passage Festival. Stefan has participated in 20 group exhibitions across Serbia, Macedonia, and China. Currently, he is working on his first solo exhibition.

For me, the 'Zrno' festival was a joy since the day I applied to participate, where the natural and photographic environment was filled with creative and inspirational energy. This festival gave me the chance to be part of the team and assisted in my further personal and creative development.

Considering this was the first workshop I have conducted, I can say that I am very pleased, both from the energy of the participants and from the overall creative, positive vibe that permeated this year's edition of 'Zrno'. The synergy of creativity was magical and effective.

'Zrno' brings together beautiful people!



let's follow the sun!



Workshop for Polaroid

Led by: Martina Pavloska

Participants:

Tasos Papadopoulos

Milica Vlaški

Mila Stardelova

Nikola Stamenković



Martina Pavloska, Milano

Martina Pavloska, born in 1981 in Skopje, Macedonia, works as a model and fashion photographer for some of the biggest fashion brands, such as Dior, Yves Saint Laurent, Givenchy, Chanel, Christian Lacroix, Alexander McQueen, and Vivienne Westwood. She is also known for her work with famous photographers. She comes to meet photography through fashion, where she first encounters polaroids. The magic of the "here and now" that Polaroid offers, along with its spontaneity, becomes her passion.

She completed foundational and advanced photography courses with Sašo Aluševski. As a co-founder of the 'Zrno' International Festival of Alternative Photography, she is responsible for the festival's public image. Led a Polaroid photography workshop at the 'Zrno' festival, 2023.

До сега се претставила со авторски фотографии на:

She has presented her photography work at:

- Group exhibition of alternative photography at CIC (Cultural Information Center) in Skopje on July 4, 2022, titled 'Let's grow together'.
- Group exhibition that marked the first edition of the International Festival on Alternative Photography 'Zrno' in CIC on August 9, 2022.
- Group exhibition of Macedonian Photography on September 21, 2022.
- Group exhibition of alternative photography in Magaza, Bitola on May 6, 2023, under the theme 'Towards the Sun!'
- Group exhibition of alternative photography on the grand opening on the 19th International biennial De Niro in Bitola, Capari, on June 23, 2023.

- Group exhibition of instant photographs at the SiFest festival of analog photography in Savignano sul Rubicone titled 'Fairy Tale' on September 8, 2023.
- Group exhibition of ISO6000 instant photographs in Paopeti Gallery - Bologna on October 6, 2023.
- Group exhibition of instant photographs at the artCity exhibition in Bologna, Viola Gallery on February 2, 2024.

Currently lives in Milan, works as a PR on social networks, and is involved in fashion.



Leading a Polaroid workshop where knowledge and passion for Polaroids can be shared with others was an incredibly fulfilling experience, especially for me as it is my deep passion.

Although some participants were encountering this technique for the first time, they managed to find their own direction in creative play with Polaroids. Some collaborated and used various techniques, such as lifts and drawing. Others experimented with Polaroids and cyanotype. The greatest success for me is when I see that I have sparked a lasting passion for instant photography, as well as inspiration and a sense of community that continues long after the workshop and festival have ended.

Workshop for Mordançage Photography

Led by: Sašo Alušeovski

Participants:
Stig Marlon Weston
Michael Laubsch



Sašo Alušeovski, Skopje

Sašo Alušeovski lives in Skopje, Macedonia. He is interested in the forms of expression itself. Utter melancholic. Or a sangvinic? Depends on the moment. Sagittarius. His temper navigates by the Moon. He sometimes takes pictures. The first Macedonian photographer who systematically cultivates noble photographic processes. In a serious relationship with the dark art of collodion photography. Often exchanges knowledge, experiences, and skills. Is convinced that the whole universe is a child's game or a joke. His life is a Faustian cliché, that he would describe as balancing between the alter egos of Homer Simpson and Huckleberry Finn.

Likes classical music, jazz, ballet, and punk. Does not watch Hollywood movies and series. Prefers auteur movies. Says he's a better cook than a photographer. Feels silly to write about himself in the third person.

It was not simple at all to lead such a workshop with adult friends who are well-versed in the secrets of analog photography. The technique itself is delicate and intricate, and relies heavily on chemicals. It has been a long time since I have felt uncomfortable imposing myself and leading an educational process, but now I did, feeling unworthy of such a task out of respect for the participants. A strange and instructive feeling. I left the entire process to unfold as it would, being only partially present if I was needed. They carried on by themselves. I'm not sure how I feel and deal with all of this. But it wasn't bad for me, and I believe my two participants didn't regret being at 'Zrno'.

Sašo

Testimonial from Stig Marlon Weston

'Zrno' photofestival was an amazing mix of learning, playing and socializing in one of the most welcoming photographic communities I have met. The workshop was laid back but still intense as I was allowed to experiment and try out new ideas in my own time. Through helpful advice and friendly discussions I got to spend the days at the festival learning new methods of printmaking and go from frustration to being genuinely happy with a whole series of new prints. Taking home with me ideas and plans for new photo projects, I have also made friends and connections in a way I have not experienced at bigger photofestivals.



Our mischievous cheerfulness in times of crisis, our video master without whom no one would have known about 'Zrno', this year, had more work and no workshop - Keti says: *Despite the obligations with my little grain this year, I still managed to be part of 'Zrno' in Capari.*

I managed to be a part and steal a sun ray from each workshop, and I think the other participants did the same, so we sent them off satisfied (and educated) with suns in their eyes. And that was our goal!

And NO, we didn't follow the Sun, we shone together with it :)



Screening of the film *Manaki*, A Story in Pictures and lecture on Old Macedonian Photography

On June 14th, 2023, 'Zrno' invited all interested individuals to come and see, to try to create something using alternative techniques. On June 14th, we had an open day. We were visited by villagers with whom we had previously socialized, friends from Bitola, Skopje, and photography enthusiasts. In the afternoon, we took our guests for a walk around Bitola, and from 8 pm at the Manaki Cinema, there was a lecture on old Macedonian photography and a projection of the film *Manaki - A Story in Pictures*.

Special thanks to Professor Robert Jankuloski, who delivered an impressive presentation on old Macedonian photography. In his presentation, we heard about and saw works from many pioneers of Macedonian photography, including Hristo Dimkaroski, Evstatie Joleski, Janaki and Milton Manaki, Zafir Oshavkov, Jonche Pop Stefanija, Blagoja Žežoski, Lazar Kermel. It was a lecture full of interesting information, especially for participants and guests outside Macedonia. The lecture was entirely in the spirit of what 'Grian' tries to do - maintaining tradition and reviving noble photographic techniques.

The projection and lecture at the Manaki Cinema were open to the public, and the cinema hall was almost full.



Manaki - A Story in Pictures, 2018, 70'

Documentary Film, Macedonia

Director: Robert Jankuloski

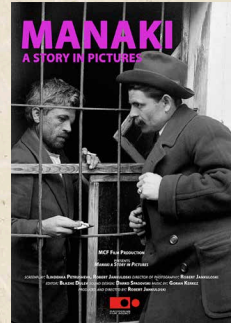
Producer: Robert Jankuloski

Editing: Blaže Dulev

Screenplay: Ilinka Petrusheva, Robert Jankuloski

Director of Photography: Robert Jankuloski

Music: Darko Spasovski



The film showcases the photographic work of Janaki and Milton Manaki, the first Balkan cinematographers. Over the years, the Manaki brothers have been mythologized, and the addition of new and unconfirmed information to increase their significance is unnecessary and harmful, as their work already holds great cultural importance not only in Macedonia but also in the broader Balkan context.

For this reason, every fact and opinion presented in the film *Manaki - A Story in Pictures* is carefully researched and confirmed with presented artifacts. The story is narrated through original documentary photographs, tracing their work from the opening of their first professional studio in 1898 in Janina and their subsequent move to Bitola, now known as the city of the Manaki brothers.

Robert Jankuloski was born in Prilep, 1969. He graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Skopje in the Camera Department in 1996. He completed his master's degree in 2011 at the University for Audiovisual Arts - ESRA Paris-Skopje-New York in Skopje. He is the founder of the Macedonian Center for Photography, established in 2000. He has realized 40 solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions all over the world: Skopje, Belgrade, Venice, Novi Sad, Vienna, New York, Istanbul, Brussels, Warsaw, Zagreb, Pančevo, Paris, Rome, Plovdiv, Lyon, Rotterdam... He has received several awards in the field of visual arts and film and holds the title of Knight in the field of Arts and Literature, awarded by the Ministry of Culture of France. He is currently a full professor at the Faculty of Film Arts at the International University 'Europa Prima' in Skopje.



Robert Jankuloski, Prilep



Burnt by the Sun

Exhibition of works created
at the workshops for
alternative photography





The last activity of 'Zrno' in 2023 was the final exhibition of selected works that were created at the workshops in Tsapari. The exhibition was held in the sales showroom of CIC (Cultural Information Center), Skopje. Thanks to all the employees at CIC, who from the very beginning recognized our value and have been a great help and support. Compliments also to the current CIC director, Mr. Toni Dimitrov, who is restoring the shine, intensity of activities, and the cult status to this place, which was almost forgotten for years.

The exhibition was opened by:

- Mr. Toni Dimitrov, Director of KIC-Skopje
- Sasho Alushevski, 'Zrno'







let's follow the sun!



КУЛТУРЕН И
ИНФОРМАТИВЕН
ЦЕНТАР-БИТОЛА



Municipality
of Bitola



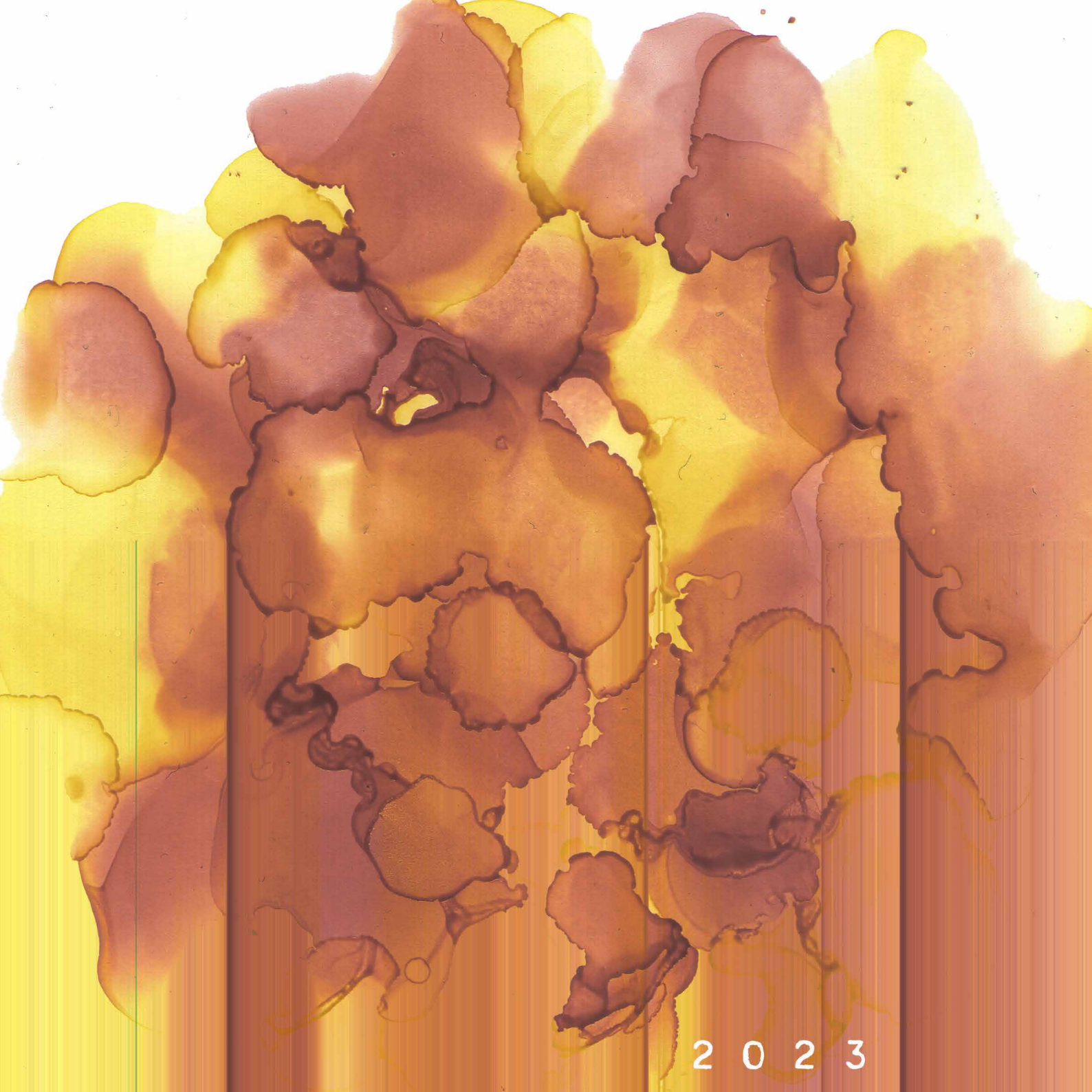
International
art colony
De Niro - Bitola



Zrno 2023 is supported with a
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2023