

A
cultural fusion group
publication
with NGO Art Studio
Republic of Macedonia



Oci Novosti

BALKANS



Special Edition

PREMIER ISSUE

- Macedonia & the Balkans Today...Tomorrow
- A Different Place to Meet
- Art as Philosophy
- Cultural and Art Tours
- Art as Dialogue



Macedonia Revealed!



The Stone Bridge 1909



The Stone Bridge

SKOPJE MACEDONIA

A HISTORICAL CITY LEADING THE WAY FOR MODERN MACEDONIA.

What is Skopje?

Skopje is the capital of the Republic of Macedonia. As largest city in the country, it is a political, economic, and cultural center of Macedonia. It lies on the upper course of the Vardar River and is located on a major north-south Balkan route between Belgrade and Athens.



Skopje at Night

Obtained from the Macedonia FAQ website.

A project of Macedonia.org

URL: <http://faq.Macedonia.org/>

MARCH 12, 2007

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Follow NGO Art Studio In

Cultural Fusion Group

THINK

Touch Need

sexuality, relationships, HIV/AIDS Longing for Ideal love and

HOPE



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Left: Indian wall hangings from a group supporting micro-enterprises and gender equality

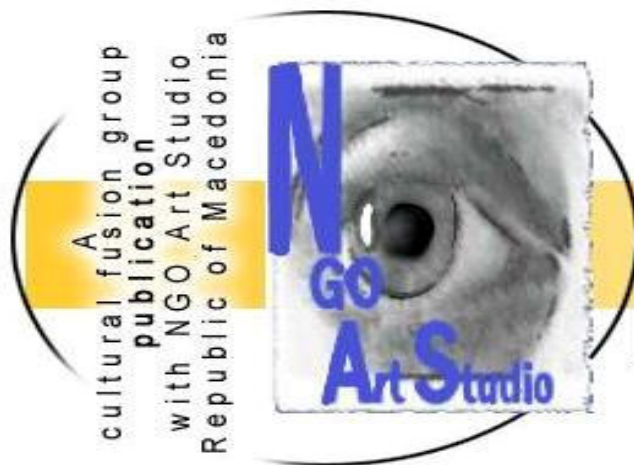
Identify Needs

Discover Opportunities

Artist: Anita Prinsen

002eivorm eerste schaal

010vaas rood 5punt



Oci Novosti

BALKANS

MARCH 12, 2007

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Paintings from NGO Art
Studio



"All works of love
are works of
peace."

Mother Theresa

CULTURAL FUSION MENU

when I or one of my minions crosses your path and you
recoil in horror at our appearance or tales of our journey
ask yourself what part you play in the evil perpetuated
on innocents?

From the Introduction to the Immortal Egos

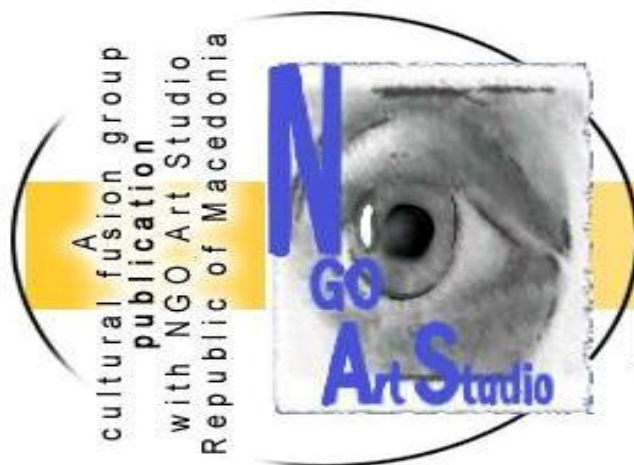
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Commitment

Exploring Converging virtues

Transverse the world of Scary-
birds.com to create your own
Immortal Ego with artist men-
tor Stu Smith and Kerry Santo
before moving on to Mace-
donia to immerse yourself in
the Cultural Fusion experience
(artist workshops) developed
with NGO Art Studio



Society....Eyes of An Art-
ist



Oci Novosti BALKANS

Cultural Fusion Group Exploration

Irena Gapkovska Art Director

Ronald Wopereis Attention Architect

Yvette Dubel Source Artist

Contributing Writers

Landyss Kovak

Contributing Artists

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SoulFood Tradition
Art Team

Jade .A. D.

Gerith O. D.

David A.D. II

Yvette A. D.



Maak je geen Zorgen

a Clear CRM Strategy Solution
powered by Cultural Fusion

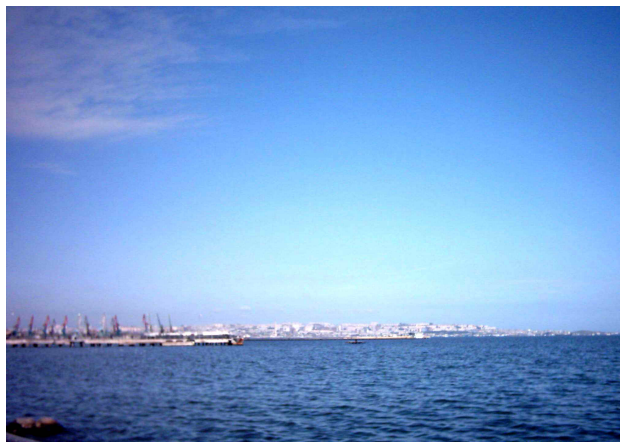


WebAntiphon Corporation

To Re-Envision what your Meeting can be

Start with a different destination

Come Experience Macedonia



Photos courtesy of NGO Art Studio Skopje
Macedonia

To start planning your event today email:
ydubel@gmail.com

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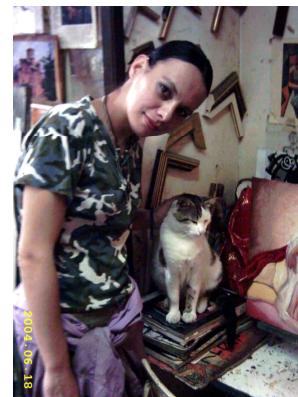
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Art As Philosophy

A Macedonian Perspective from Irena Gapkovska



I believe that Arts can give some very positive answers to Macedonian people and other people in the world who share the similar histories and/or current situations. The identity and self-awareness within the community need to be developed and this makes more sustainable programs in field of art education a necessity. Cultures can glorify law-breaking in ways that mask the obvious self-serving motivations. Everyone has a culture. It shapes how we see the world, others, and ourselves. Contrary to popular belief, not all people share the same culture. People see the world in very different ways.

Some aspects of culture are visible; others are beneath the surface. Invisible aspects of culture influence and cause the visible ones. To keep from misunderstanding the behavior of others, you have to try to see the world from their point of view, not yours.

Art open eyes through the creating a process that can move an individual away from only seeing the world as one act of aggression after another. Individuals can develop the ability to see themselves for who they are and then challenging what they see.

To approach solving the problem is to answer the question that resonates WITHIN us all: 'who am I' and 'why am I here'?

But the greatest danger which we are facing here today is Ignorance. So the Idea to "open the eyes" is to create self-awareness about identity as creative being.

opening eyes is core

To move forward and create a place where people can express themselves, their passion and love for their nation through art. Through my experience I find out that Art can teach people how "to be yourself" and find your best. In doing so one learns balance instead of obsessing about small upsets and being critical of others. It becomes clear that there are a thousand other things to worry about. Petty acts should never elicit emotional responses, unless it's a response that drives you to take positive action that promotes peace. Ignorance, it seems, is really not bliss at all.....

Society....eyes of artists

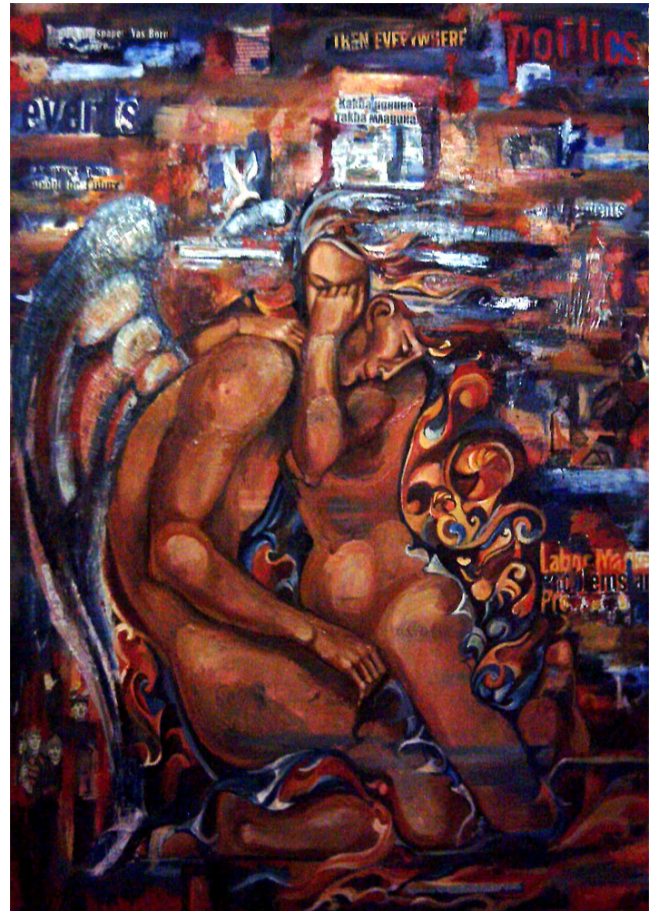
Art As An Expression of Political Life

Politics can not legislate what is the heart...the deeply personal needs that drive behaviors that shape societies. When despair prevails, the cries must be acknowledged, Attention paid and stories heard.

The longing for idealized romantic love in the lives of too many leads to betrayals of the self that ultimately result in an undermining of self esteem and all that flows from honoring your innate value. It is the places where your integrity is compromised that the greatest damage is done.

In the lives of women this message takes on multiple dimensions as they struggle to balance the need for love, security, and creative expression. There have been countless studies illuminating the challenges women confront in the myth of the modern woman and the social impact of amplified personal crisis is undeniable. Whether the issue is one of economics or healthcare policies, what drives the individual heart is a factor...while it can not be legislated it is beneficial to integrate this level of understanding for sustainable progress.

The idea here is to encourage meaningful dialogues about the power of individuals to create positive change at both the personal and communal/social levels.



Title: Loves Artist: Irena Gapskova

Media: Oil and mixed media on canvas

Continued on Page 25

Discover

Your Macedonia

Get close to nature

Let us help you plan your eco-tour....soaking in the scenery will provide the inspiration for your lessons in landscape art.

Unleash your Passion for art and visit the wineries and agri-tourism destinations of this beautiful land of warm creative people.



Transform your concept of Meeting Destination

Does your team need a new approach to “team building retreat”?

Are you ready to inspire creative problem solving and deep analysis by literally taking thinking beyond the board room?



Shop, Eat, Play.....Enjoy!

Of course you'll find plenty of places to shop, eat, and play....

And while you're at it be sure and soak in some Macedonian culture.

Let us help you get tickets to a show....classical music performances, contemporary art, a play, film or whatever suits your needs.

If you need to promote a tour/destination or arrange your customized Macedonian experiences contact us to discuss your needs by email: ydubel@gmail.com



It is said that the first impression of a visitor to Skopje is invariably the same: it is a new and modern city.



The city and its vicinity have plenty of valuable cultural and historical monuments which attract the attention of every visitor. Skopje has many historical monuments including The Kale Fortress raised in the 6th century (its present appearance dates from the Turkish period) .



NGO Art Studio- the cultural heart of Macedonia Today



CULTURE....A RICH TRADITION

Skopje specifically and Macedonia in general has a rich culture that is alive and pulsating to the rhythm of a distinguished city.

Exploring the relationships between art and peace has established Skopje Macedonia's NGO Art Studio as a beacon of hope for the world.



Irena, the Studio's founding director and Cultural Fusion Group member is at the center of Macedonia's most promising art scenes....she is active in music as well as visual arts.



*Irena with her Artists from
NGO Art Studio*



*Irena with Gligor Tashkovich: Minister without
Portfolio (for Foreign Investment) NGO
Art Studio at Peace Exhibition*

Did you know?

Peace One Day (a growing non-profit organization) reported that in 2006 there were commitments to Peace Day in 200 countries, including all 192 UN member states, directly involving 27.6 million people. **More than 300 of them were participating in the first Cultural Fusion collaboration introducing the "what is peace?" series.** The event took place in the Republic of Macedonia to bring attention to peace building in the Balkans region.

Get the experience *YOU* need

Relax

In Solitude

If you need to kick back and up plug
we know just the place...



Recharge and Reconnect

Do you want to take it easy and
rekindle your connection with
someone special, without being
completely unplugged?

We know just the place...

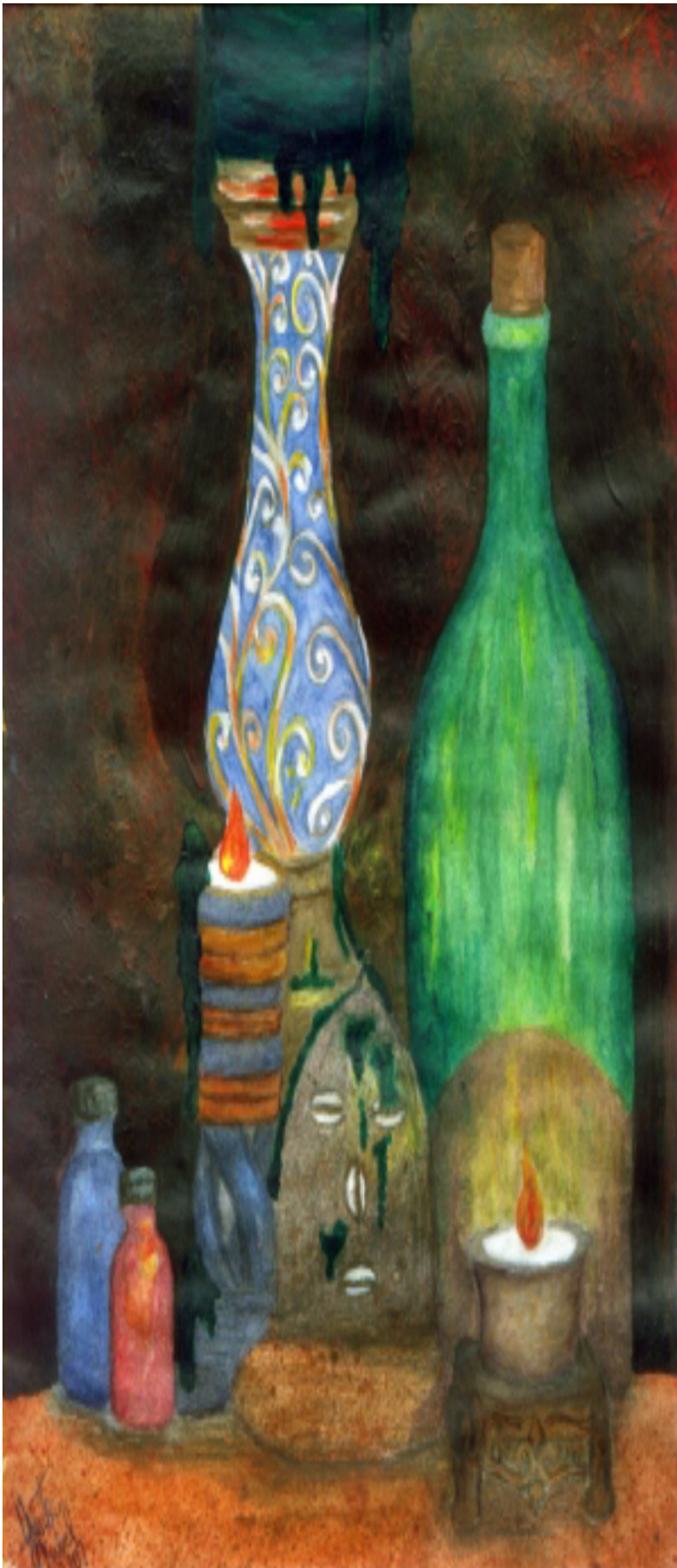
Mountains to climb

Does your hiking group need a
new challenge?

Do you have a work team that
needs to learn to climb new
mountains together?

You know the place, let us help
you get the experts you need
based on your business challenge
and destination terrain.





Imagine....

Your company's

- Fine silver and dinnerware
- Organic produce
- Organic flowers
- Antiques or reproductions
- Decorative or standard containers
- Candles or Candle holders
- Light fixtures or lamps
- Or other fine collectibles

featured in an original still life that stands as a true

Work of Art

That supports community renewal through creative expression.

What is a sponsorship?

This means a business, organization, or individual is sponsoring its commission and/or licensing it for reproduction on specified items.

The resulting Artwork will be reproduced on or included in a collection of note cards, calendars, posters, archival fine art reproductions, and/or photographic limited edition prints; in addition to comic strips, sculptures, installations, digital art, animations and short films, etc are available as menu options. Selected artworks (depending on sponsorship level) will be featured in virtual and offline events that target multiple business segments within the creative services (and related) industries. Creative deliverables can be developed or licensed for mobile device integrated marketing.

Depending on sponsorship level this can include the purchase of the original. At least thirty-five percent of every transaction brokered through a Cultural Fusion series or system will go to support selected community arts programs for community renewal.

Title: Ellegba by candlelight
 Painting: Mixed media on paper
 SoulFood Tradition Original- Y. Dubel
 WebAntiphon Corporation © 2007

Open Dialogue

Posted by Ronald Wopereis on Tuesday, August 01, 2006

[HTTP://WOEPWOEP.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://woepwoep.blogspot.com)

ATTN: The art of un-knowing

The question of **what is peace** is really about seeking to understand, rather than to agree or disagree. We understand that all conflict arises from two or more claims on one and the same area; be this area the truth, a country, or any other right that excludes the claims from other people.

Art, in its own unique way of expression, is a way out of this dilemma. The dilemma is that our minds must be

free, unique, without conflict or argument; yet our intuition is one. The project about attention is to find out, how

these two perspectives of mind and intuition can exist concurrently. Our translation of mind = HOW, the expres-

sion, the shaping. And the translation of intuition = WHAT, the content, the formless. Together they form a bilocality. There can not be content without form, no fruit without skin. And yet there can be no form without content; borders exist by the virtue of contrast.

The art of dialogue is then, to understand that HOW and WHAT, mind and intuition, affect one another. I use my attention to feel, and if i want to analyze my feeling with my mind, i use part of this feeling-attention for mind-



Artist: Mario Brakuza

Media: Oil on board

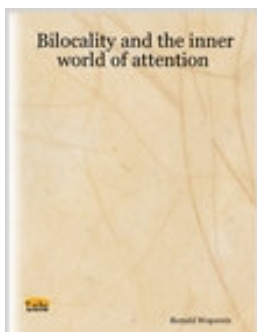
Zagreb, Croatia

attention. The result is that i have less attention less to feel. Then my mind tells me that i loose grip of my feelings. I try even harder, which means i take away even more feeling-attention and use it for my mind to work harder. And in this process, where feelings are gone and the mind is left with nothing to shape, to analyze... This is where you and i need to be a team. One is the mind, the other is the intuition. This game, this dance, is a never ending one, you and i can switch roles each and every milli-second. Most people don't realize that the game continues : that it is a quantum process, where the reality is different, depending on whether you observe , be aware , or whether you don't.

To see the process, this game, you and i need to step back. If you look into the world, thru a pair of red-coloured sunglasses, you see the world as red. But if you have had these pair of red-coloured sunglasses all of your life, then the world does not look red ; instead it looks NORMAL. So the question is : how do i know that i am wearing a pair of red-coloured sunglasses ? How do i start to wonder ? And so , within the dialogue , there is yet another level of collaboration, of being a team. This is the art of unknowing, of walking the path back from knowing to not-yet-knowing. You ask yourself : how do i know this for sure ? Where did this belief come from ? What is this feeling all about ? And instead of answering these and other question, thereby effectively shutting down the door to the world beyond the red colours, you start looking for your glasses. Nobody in the world has ever reminded you that you were carrying such a thing as red-coloured sunglasses. They thought it was YOU.

The art of dialogue is the ugly duck looking in the pond, seeing its mirror image. The art of unknowing is the ugly duck, asking itself if being different means being less equal. So where do we go from here? What is normal? What is frustration? And how can art help to build the bridge to a future, where each person is acknowledged for their uniqueness, and radically included in this one whole that is incomplete without the last person at their own unique place.

Up Close



Bilocality and the inner world of attention by Ronald Wopereis

Description:

Consider this book to be a work of art, rather than a collection of words. The author has a message for your intuition; yet the messenger is his mind full of beliefs. And maybe there are one or two beliefs in the mind of you, the reader. So this book is a mission impossible by definition. But who cares? Enjoy reading!

<http://www.lulu.com/content/228479>

Opens up a world of infinitely more by Yvette Dubel

Bilocality and the inner world of attention trusts you, the reader, to be capable of seeing and appreciating its brilliance.

To say the revelations of bilocality are life altering is an understatement because embarking on the quest to experience the reality of bilocality opens up a world of infinitely more questions that only serves to bring more clarity to the situation which seems to prompt the journey. What the book does is approach this incredible set of concepts with the streamlined elegance of an artist, so that any fear of complexity evaporates as soon as it emerges...as he says in this text, it is better to see it as a work of art. And as such it touches on and illuminates areas as diverse as business/organizational development, CRM and marketing strategy, philosophy, community development and health care. It's easily applicable because the ideas are so available in the context of stories.

This is a must read for anyone who wants to understand the place where reality and experience meet!



Title: What's in a name?

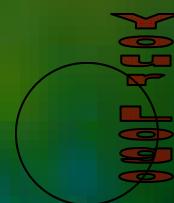
Artist: Ivana Mladenovska

NGO Art Studio Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Media: Oil on canvas

Sponsored by Your Business

<http://www.yourbiz.com>





Still Life Angela Micevska of NGO Art Studio

Oil on canvas

Sponsored by Your Organization

Art As Philosophy

Cultural Fusion 101

[GamePlay: Art/Board/Art_Series/
Cultural_Fusion](#)
[GamePlay: Art/Goal/Project_Gallery/
Cultural_Fusion](#)

Cultural Fusion is an [Art_Series](#) and a [Project_Gallery](#)

Cultural Fusion is an [Art_Series](#) in response the [Question](#),

"what can i do?"

Inspired by the the [Millenium Campaign](#) The Millennium Campaign informs, inspires and encourages people's involvement and action for the realization of the UN led Millennium Development Goals.

This magazine represent an example of a Cultural Fusion artwork which is also a Clear CRM Strategy solution.

**"No problem can be solved from the
same level of consciousness that
created it."
Albert Einstein**

Why ART?

"Art, in its own unique way of expression, is a way out of this dilemma. The dilemma is that our minds must be free, unique, without conflict or argument And yet there can be no form without content; borders exist by the virtue of contrast."

From [Ronald Wopereis](#) Cultural Fusion collaboration Aug 1, 2006 10:14 am



SoulFood Tradition Originals YD © 2007 WebAntiphon Corporation

Mandala Series-

Genesis; Deconstruction I, ii, iii, iv ; Reconstruction Experiment

Cultural Fusion

A re-visioning of art ,business and the ecosystems in which they must thrive which integrates community renewal through creative expression.

It offers a flexible means of generating revenue that can contribute to organization sustainability for nonprofits and social enterprises, at the same time it provides the means to involve others in Global Social Responsibility as they meet their own needs.

It is a radical re-envisioning of community and business development. In the context of a global community these projects use creativity and imagination to address real life challenges.



A SoulFood Tradition Original YD

Deconstruction iv

Mixed media on paper

Become a Cultural Fusion Sponsor



Dialogue

!! You are now here

GamePlay: Attention/Stroke/Dialogue

GamePlay: SoulFood/Stroke/pre-heating the oven

SoulFood: Like oral traditions, this is where the recipe is discovered &/or shared.

A **dialogue** is a CollaborationProcess between two or more Members and an invisible partner. In a casino blackjack table, the invisible partner would be the bank. The Goal of the **dialogue** is to find out what the rules of the bank are. In SoulFood terms these "rules of the bank" are called Vibes. Dialogue can ONLY occur inasmuch as each Member is aware of their Self Value.

A **dialogue** is a CollaborationSpace where an Attention Expert and another Member interact to get a clear definition of

- the Member's Need; or
 - the Member's Resource; or
 - a Project; or
- a radically new type of CollaborationProcess.



A SoulFood Tradition Original YD © 2007

Title: T-Dream

Media: Digital Graphic

Oci Novosti is a sample Meal and Menu for Cultural Fusion SoulFood and a Cultural Fusion Group Collaboration starting with Irena Gapkovska and her studio to create a Fusion meal from dishes informed by the culturally enriched Ingredients each of us contributes.

Art Project

!! You are now here

GamePlay: Art/Goal/Art Project

GamePlay: SoulFood/Goal/Meal

An **art project** is really a kind of Meal that results from certain Recipes.

Project

In the Context of Art, the **project** is an Art Project

The power of working together to embrace the world

Once upon a time.....

The paths of three women and two men converged to create the sparks that would unite in Cultural Fusion. Two of these women found themselves as artist in each other as they traveled the path of friendship inspired by the question “what is peace?” A Macedonian cat person and an American dog person were introduced by tender-hearted trash talking wander-woman, the most honorable Queen of the Scarybirds. Despite the differences and distance between we have encouraged, inspired and grown together and in that process Oci Novosti has been born with the encouragement of a clever Scotsman and Dialogue with a Dutch life artist. Out of this the idea was conceived for art themed tourism and event packages.

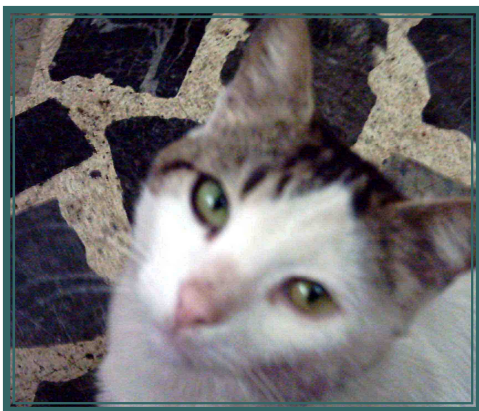
The development of our friendship and collaboration is a testament to the power of social networking enabled by technology when guided by converging passions. Within such connections new opportunities are seen and solutions conceived .

In our friendship and through our art we have found valuable insights about the paths to peace.

Our work separately and together endeavors to share these insights and shape them into programs that will rebuild our communities, one neighborhood...one project...one person at a time. We celebrate the value of the individual and the power of the creative spirit.

Perhaps most of all we stand on, behind and for the power of love that is expressed in passion. It's partly for that reason that our animal companions are pictured. As we were finding strength and inspiration as artist, it was our recognition of love that made the difference...the need for it being no less than our need for oxygen...that is something our animal companions (among others) teach us daily.

Perhaps just as importantly they also remind us to live by the golden rules, to celebrate appreciation and to have fun! This is the energy that we bring to this endeavor to share here with you, the readers... and soon to be visitors and guests.



Expert Love Trainer

Republic of Macedonia



Expert Love Trainer

United States of America

Searching for Mother's Garden

An experiment in Cultural Fusion

Oci Novosti Balkans, to be distributed locally in Skopje and globally via the Internet. It will focus on the community and emerging art scene through the eyes of artists. Art and culture are at the heart of the sustainable community renewal. This project is step one in a larger art based community renewal project for Skopje to include an art themed hotel and supportive events/services.

Oci Novosti means Eyes News in Macedonian. It gives voice to the previously voiceless...it involves the community in early phase projects s... it illuminates paths to new approaches. First, the International Oci Novosti (digital), then Oci Novosti Balkans (digital). The first planned print edition will be for the Balkans in Macedonian. One goal is to engage communities in dialogues about bridging the digital divide and it's role in community renewal ,cultural identity and appreciation.



Artist: Angela Micevska

Untitled

Media: Oil on canvas

NGO Art Studio

Skopje, Macedonia

This is where everyone is invited to [Experience](#) where relationships can be built by engaging and meeting mutual [Needs](#). Here we have the opportunity to discover Global Social Responsibility on a personal and community level as reality instead of just a future possibility.

What does it mean for you as a potential sponsor?

What enterprise can survive without unique Attention from individuals?

If you have any interest in building brand equity that includes social capital ...

If you any interest in serving the creative community...

If you are interested in global social responsibility , sustainability, and inclusion...

If your existing or potential customers enjoy art, then you want to pay attention to this.

Alternative to competition

"The art of dialogue is the ugly duck looking in the pond, seeing its mirror image. The art of unknowing is the ugly duck, asking itself if being different means being less equal. So where do we go from here? What is normal? What is frustration? And how can art help to build the bridge to a future, where each person is acknowledged for their uniqueness, and radically included in this one whole that is incomplete without the last person at their own unique place." From [Ron](#) ald Wopereis Aug 1,2006 10:25 am

- when you combine these [Ingredient](#)s it is the answer to the pains: [Artists](#) commonly struggle to balance the [Need](#) to remain [connected](#) to the experiences that inspire with the [Need](#) to support themselves. The result is often the starving [Artist](#).
- Businesses/Organizations need methods of promotion that will get [Attention](#) on your offering, or needs.

You need to build interest and [Trust](#) that will get [Attention](#) and [Sponsorship](#) opportunities or Sponsors that build [Relationships](#) to increase support./sales.

Value and social capital become the clear markers for distinction.

See also: [Contrast](#)

What is SoulFood?

Soul food is depository of Love that flows forward through time to reach across generations. It is less about a particular kind of food, and more about an approach to creating. The soul food tradition when undertaken with Attention, is one that endeavors to create culinary artistry infused with Love. This is why so often Mom's version of a dish tastes so much better than the rest.

Because it is about cooking from the heart it relies on the intuition rather than a recipe card (which granted, does help others to prepare the dish). Soul Food seems to be akin to oral traditions in that it is passed on via interpersonal Relationships and you have to observe them to learn/retain them.

WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF SOULFOOD?

Important dialogues are required to build the needed bridges and creativity tempered by good will is essential to accomplishing global social responsibility as a way of living/doing business. Has the time come to ask questions about the nature and roles of Love and Attention in commerce?



A SoulFood Tradition
Original YD © 2007

Title: Fusion Alchemy

Media: Mixed media on
paper

AS FOUNDATION

It is in the work of artists that it is clearest that individuals are the vessels of culture and it is SoulFood which is the foundation. Because it connects us to our family and community it is a wellspring of inspiration, wisdom, and strength. Just as we have found inspiration and encouragement in each others similarities and contrast, this same opportunity awaits others. SoulFood is universally enheartening, because even in mourning it celebrates the truth of survival...in art as in music it gives voice to enduring suffering as well as exhilaration in times of communal rejoice and private joy.



Soul Food emerges from oral traditions as a **soul-ful** tradition not be confused with an intellectual tradition. Rather than rely on known knowledge (intellectual tradition) it combines it with the creative intuition (soulful tradition).



Peace, Parallels, and Soulfulness

Some experiences defy words.

Whether you want to visit during a festival or you'd be interested in creating one, we can help.

Irena stated it beautifully,
“Two realities
and one spirit....art.”

Whether it be visual or musical expression Soulfulness transcends the limitations of verbal language barriers, personality contrasts, cultural difference.. The soul understands even as the mind grapples to make sense of the words. And yet the rhythm of the music and words can not be separated without sacrificing the message.

Since every culture has its own SoulFood what follows will endeavor to explore this reality within the context of the Balkans diverse cultural and art scene... Spotlighting the Republic of Macedonia.

Email: ydubel@gmail.com for more info

Blues and Soul Festival Skopje Republic of Macedonia



Blues legend Jimmy D. Lane performs



The Right To Choose To Think

Excerpt from essay

by Landyss Kovak

Sexuality is a fundamental part of being human and alive. It is powerful, even in its distortion it carves our lives in the same way that flowing water engraves the planet. As we struggle to harness hydropower for its best use, so it is with our sexuality (in the best cases). This is not a result of some philosophical hiatus; it is the effect of day-to-day choices. So is it really so arduous to accept that thinking humans should view their choices around sexuality in a larger context?

Take honor for instance. Honor and its sister Integrity are issues normally presented as side dishes on the buffet of religious dogma, untimely asides to the cornucopia associated with sexual bliss. I often wonder why this happens. Am I the only one who feels these issues are essential to an individual really being attractive enough to be considered sexy? To me, this means going beyond the (dehumanizing) objectification of persons towards (humanizing) evaluation, to place “sexiness” in a holistic framework. How can the presence or absence of the substances which make us really human be regarded as “irrelevant”? If love is what you do not what you say, then I hold that the same applies to who you are...and who you will be. Who we are is the result of accumulated choices. ©

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Above Title Perfect World Artist Simona Stojanovska

Media: Pastel on paper

Below Freedom1 Artist: Irena Media: Oil on canvas

Both of NGO Art Studio Skopje, Republic of Macedonia



What is peace?

It is my hope for the world. My [Question](#) has led me to see that peace is only possible in the world when we have it within ourselves. In my journey this started with making peace with my past because not doing so is what seems to create conflict or [Resistance](#) and this is the clearly marked path to [War](#). An observation i want to communicate in "what-is-peace?" is the process, that can get uncomfortable and sticky - if not just downright gut wrenching, on the path to peace. The reward is found in moving through the awkwardness, not by denying it, but honoring its message...a request for [Space](#) and [Attention](#).

Question

!! You are now here

GamePlay: [Dialogue/Board/Question](#)

GamePlay: [SoulFood/Board/Oven](#)

A **question** is the starting point for creating a new [recipe](#) or [Project](#)

A **question** is the application of an inquiry as the starting point for a [Collaboration](#).

The **question** is the open door to the kitchen, it is the [Customer](#) placing an order. It expresses the need/hunger that is the reason the [Dish](#) or [Meal](#) is prepared and then offered.

DEDICATION

This [Project](#) is dedicated to the loving memory of my Grandma Lottie Tecora, my friend Noni,
the re-discovery of my father
...and all the loved ones left behind, tormented by the reverberating effects--the truth of war-- that leave them
praying daily for peace.

[BREATHE]

MISSION

So this [Project](#) will be one that explores the path(s) to peace with ourselves and in our [Relationships](#) to each other, history, truth, justice, the present, the planet, [Comfusion](#): all the plants and trees waiting to be discovered as we gather [Ingredients](#) for the [Dishes](#) for this [Banquet](#) called "what-is-peace?". When this is normalized, a world at war ceases to be an option.

In my experience, the path to peace starts with an end to abuse and victimization and because i can only control me that is where this quest for peace begins. It may not be an easy task, but just as i was about to embark i was reminded that i am not [alone](#)...and this [Project](#) will remind others that they are not [alone](#). i also hope that it helps others in their exploration and understanding of what peace is so that **some day no one will be afraid to**

commit to--

invest in--

Peace.

Sponsor a "what is peace?" Art Tour Package Today!

Are You ready to be part of the Solution?

Macedonian Art Studio is a Beacon of Hope



Pictured above: Ivana, NGO Art Studio President and Director Irena, Milosh, Petar, Gorjan

Twelve Macedonian artists and a group of graphic novel artists from Northern England exhibit their art works. However there was international interest in participating in this Peace One Day event which is also the official launch of "what-is-peace?" the Studio's collaboration as part of the Cultural Fusion art series. This event drew interest from individuals and organizations from a number of African states, USA, UK, India and from Brazil.

Within the global activities organized on the occasion of September 21, International Day of Peace, the Art Studio NGO opened an art exhibition with works by Macedonian and foreign artists. The exhibition officially opened on Thursday, September 21, 20:00 hours, at the "Sv. Kliment

Ohridski" National and University Library in Skopje.

Twelve Macedonian artists and a group of graphic novel artists from Northern England will exhibit their works. However there was international interest in participating in this Peace One Day event which is also the official launch of "what-is-peace?" the Studio's collaboration as part of Cultural Fusion, a groundbreaking art series. This event drew interest from individuals and organizations from a number of African states, India and from Brazil.

"There is a true skepticism whether there will ever be peace in the world. The message we want to send is that voice should be given to every individual, since the individuals have the influence and the power to solve the problems," [Irena Gapkovska](#) from Art Studio was quoted by the press prior to the event.

The Studio's Peace Exhibition attracted more than 300 attendees including Gligor Tashkovich: Minister

without Portfolio (for Foreign Investment) who gave an inspiring speech in Macedonian. His speech concluded with, I ask you all to join me today in making a shared Commitment for Peace: "Let Macedonia be a Beacon Of Hope for Peace", which evoked thunderous applause from the audience.

The exhibition event was made possible by IMAF International Music and Arts Foundation from Liechtenstein, as well as several philanthropic individuals from Macedonia and abroad including partners from [WebAntiphon Corporation](#) (USA) and [MacEachern Associates](#) (Scotland-UK) .

Asked for comment following the event [Gapkovska](#) replied, "It was like a dream come true. Such an experience! And with our team I believe we can do a lot more." The exhibit titled "The Power of Culture" explores art and cultural expressions in conjunction with human rights, education, the environment, emancipation and democratization.

She and her team are convinced that the skepticism and the passive pessimism can be overcome with enough enthusiasm, commitment and faith in the ideals that make world peace possible.

Art Studio participates in this year's celebrations of the International Day of Peace on invitation by Jeremy Gilley from [Peace One Day](#) organization from London, the initiator of the Resolution 282 of the UN General Assembly that established September 21 as the International Day of Ceasefire and peace.





**Country Landscape
in Republic of Macedonia**

Artist: Ivana Mladenovska

NGO Studio Skopje, Macedonia

Oil on canvas

Sponsored by You

<http://www.you.com>

What will you add here to connect to
readers?

Your logo?

Sponsored by Your business or organization
123 Easy Street Anytown Anywhere 12345
Yourbusiness.com



In “Creating a Culture of Responsibility”

Yasuhiko Genku Kimura writes,

“Today we live amid a pandemic of irresponsibility—irresponsibility within governments, business, education, the media, the arts, academe, and other sectors. In this culture of rampant irresponsibility, responsibility as such has become almost a forgotten ethical value and moral virtue. However, it is the responsible action that alone carries with it the requisite integrity that brings about real change. Therefore, unless we can transform the present culture of irresponsibility into a culture of responsibility, social movement of any kind, including peace movements, will bear only bitter fruit, if any.”

Source:http://www.via-visioninaction.org/Creating_a_Culture_of_Responsibility.pdf



“An Artist has a gift for seeing the common everyday normal events, places, and people as something far more revealing in its' complexity and simple beauty. “

Lee Down - Professional Coach, Spiritual Teacher, Writer & Speaker

<http://www.onemancan.ca/2006/09/art-in-being.html>

The Role of Technology and Tourism

in the Paths to Peace

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Inclusion

There is an IT component of this “what is peace” [Project](#) and one goal is to create an online repository for cultural and art collections as a unique [Portfolio](#) type function for arts/cultural nonprofit or community organizations with relevant artifacts and documents. This technology driven Cultural Initiative will be available for [all](#) at no cost for basic features with a quality standards system similar to Wikipedia by partnering with iFOSSF (International Free Open Source Software Foundation) to convene expertise. [WebAntiphon Corporation](#) is working with partners [iFOSSF](#) to manage the technical planning for development, implementation, technical support and maintenance to ensure free basic services for struggling nonprofits and community groups.

The basic features will be designed to give the global community easy access to collections and information that would otherwise be lost.

FOR EXAMPLE--(FROM YVETTE DUBEL)

My Storyteller painting was inspired by summer evenings at my Grandma Lottie's house on the front porch where she'd read various books to us. My favorite was [The Negro Caravan](#) which was full of old stories that were a rich source of cultural and historical information. Well, my Grandma lived on Cemetery Street where there was an old graveyard hidden in the woods. Years later when my Auntie began collecting information on who was buried down there, because many of our ancestors were among them, she discovered that someone at the county office had burned the records. Apparently not seeing the value of retaining such information for one of the oldest, if not the oldest, "colored cemetery" in the county. That is now a wealth of historical information that predated the Civil War, lost...to create a dead end for those seeking to find and connect with their family history in the American southeast. This worsens the situation created by slavery that makes it extremely difficult to trace one's family lineage. This experience demonstrated the connection between Art and History...why contemporary artworks are relevant to historical and cultural preservation which are entangled in oral history which is frequently a subject for artists.

My goal is to create a repository that provides an alternative to local preservation institutions that continue to be tainted by the history of discrimination. This repository would be independent and ownership shared by the global community. Best of all it ensures that the valuable information that has been collected is preserved and easily shared with those seeking such. There are a very limited number of resources for that region and history must not be revised by excluding important information that played vital role in shaping the community. This project will create a solution to this problem for many others around the world that they can easily plug into to create a virtual annex for other cultural and historical preservation resources, as well as a cultural portal for global community. This is an innovative application of ICT to inclusively benefit historically oppressed groups and developing countries. Consider a future where history welcomes the voices of many to better inform understanding of complex realities.

Who benefits?

The resulting product will benefit many, including NGO Studio and other Nonprofit and community organizations like it.

In addition to Private [Sponsorship](#) the specialty tours inspired by Cultural Fusion will help to fund the creation and maintenance of this repository and eLearning portal to cover technical support cost, hosting, development, testing etc.

Actively seeking sponsorships and partners to develop this valuable community tool. Contact us for details by email: ydubel@gmail.com

The Role of FOSS Technology

On the surface this project is like so many others, a testament to what technology has rendered as do-able when passion, vision and a bit of energy are combined. What is less obvious is what occurs beneath the surface the relationships forged and fortified by technology that makes it possible for friendships and commitments to positive change based on attention to peace and love.

As an aside to the debates in the halls of politics artists are finding inspiration in each other and connecting with programmers, IT specialists, FOSS (free open software leaders) and businesses to find there is a vision around everyone's interest converge....a better world where all can feel included and the value of the individual is universal.

This starts with creating platforms for collaboration that are also architecturally and strategically developed to support issues of global inclusion. There is an organization that is leading the way by it's participation and support of the Cultural Fusion series and it's creative partners.

Introducing iFOSSF

International Free and Open Source Software Foundation

Purpose & Strategy

The International Free and Open Source Software Foundation (iFOSSF) is a non-profit organization focused on the role open source software can play for the betterment of all humanity. Problems such as poverty and social exclusion seem insurmountable due to their sheer size but the open source community has demonstrated that equally large collective efforts of people working together for a common good are possible.

The organization facilitates growth of new and emerging businesses with consideration for equal inclusion, and

provide strategic leadership in developing FOSS

opportunities that are driven by both market and social contexts.

We will achieve our mission and goals by applying the following strategies:

Engagement in R&D using Free and Open Source

Software that can help meet the needs for crisis management and economic development by promoting innovative approaches.

Creation of tools & initiatives that can help bridge the digital

divide between developed and developing countries.

Cultivation of the organization as a global resource with expertise in FOSS based strategies to create new marketplace(s).

iFOSSF fulfill its objectives through a number of Strategic

Programs that drive a portfolio of enabling Tactical Projects

carried out joint by partners and membership networks. All

iFOSSF tactical projects must address the root causes of

social, humanity or economical problems and lead to new ways of thinking and acting by using ICT FOSS as an enabler.

Take Action

iFOSSF is an open and inclusive platform inviting everyone to take part in a growing and active community sharing similar vision and interests. Our current focus is on the following program development areas:

The remit of this program is to distill the key mechanics of the process systems used for FOSS development, with a view to understanding how it can be utilized for other organizational and social benefits. Projects sought under this strategic program including research and development of best practices, reports and tools to

Art As History

“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”

Maya Angelou



Untitled Artist: Mario Brakuza

Media: Oil on board Zagreb, Croatia

“We can learn from history how past generations thought and acted, how they responded to the demands of their time and how they solved their problems....The main thing history can teach us is that human actions have consequences and that certain choices, once made, cannot be undone. They foreclose the possibility of making other choices and thus they determine future events.”

Gerda Lerner

Art As History

Is_The_Context_For

!! You are now here

Category: [Relationship/Is The Context For](#)

[SoulFood](#): A **context** is an energetic framework. A [Kitchen](#) feels different from a bathroom. **Context** is the result of history.

LIST OF CONTEXT

1. a [Meal](#) is the context for a [Dish](#)
 2. [Hotel Infinity](#) is the context for a [Project](#)
- The specific type of [Chef](#) (executive, etc) is defined by the context of the [Collaboration](#).

History is... why we are the way we are.

[David C. McCullough](#)

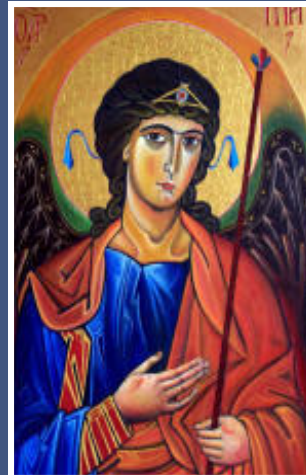
Anyone who believes you can't change history has never tried to write his memoirs.

[David Ben Gurion](#)



Artist Name: Irena Gapkovska

Media: Oil and Canvas



Artist Name: Ivana Mladenovska

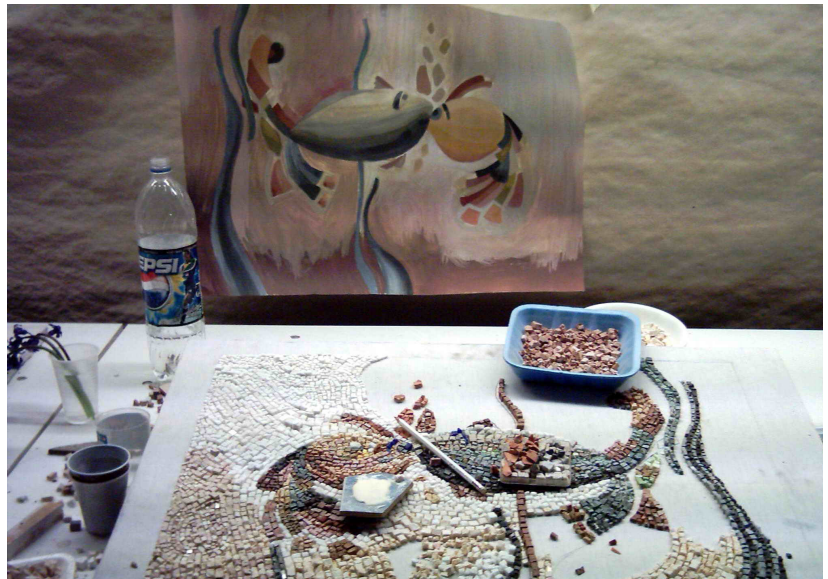
Media: Oil and Canvas

Art As History

Restoration in Skopje Macedonia

Featuring the work of students at the Academy of Suli

This brief introduction gives you a peek into the work to restore traditional Macedonian works of art. It underscores the relevance of the techniques and cultural significance of the work NGO Art Studio is doing. Most notably blending the traditional with the cutting edge ensures that the cultural traditions will lead the way in giving voice to and teaching a new generation of Macedonian talent.



ROLE OF FOSS TECHNOLOGY CONTINUED

understand this process.

The FOSS movement has evolved from the stages of philosophy and licensing into a complex and pragmatic

Ecosystem for software production and distribution that can be benefited in a much more organized approach.

Projects sought under this program are:

FOSS Partner Network Development, FOSS Advocacy, Capacity Building and Education and Localization of FOSS into regional languages.

This strategic program focuses on the continuing and

accelerating the development and adoption of FOSS technologies to provide more tools to more people, and to enable more conversation and more commerce with a view to increasing the activity levels and success rates of social entrepreneurship. Example projects in this strategic effort may include:

Solutions for local ICT Telecenters,

E-Government Business Infrastructure, and

Community development

Text reprinted from the iFOSSF brochure with permission

<http://ifossfoundation.org>



**"iFOSSF
accelerating the
development and
adoption of FOSS
technologies to
provide more tools to
more people ..."**

GRIMMOUR OF IMMORTAL EGGS



DAUGHTER OF HELL

© Copyright Grevtari Creations Ltd 2006



SCARYBIRDS.COM

Society....Eyes of Artists

This is **not** your typical tour

Package

Travel to first to Edinburgh Scotland to collaborate with Stu Smith (artist behind the Immortal Ego series) and Kerry Santo (concept originator and broker) to create your own immortal ego over drinks in the pub. This can follow a bit of sightseeing where YOU decide what you want to see and we help you get there.

Once you're done in developing your Immortal Ego your membership to a secret world is included...along with a special invitation to participate in special Digital Arts Workshop package in collaboration with NGO Art Studio in Macedonia.

Kerry Santo, her Scarybirds, and Grimmoiré of Immortal Egos showcase impressive talent and hold the mirror up for all to peer into. Offering an unflinching insight into human suffering, birth of the shadow self, and clues about the journey to personal healing.



Kerry Santo's Grimmoiré of Immortal Egos

Introduction by Sadistic Ophelia

As part of a unique Cultural Fusion exchange you will be mentored by Stu Smith of Graviton Studios and Irena Gapskova of NGO Art Studio in Macedonia to cultivate or expand your own artistic vocabulary with art and culture tours and hands on studio instruction.

So whether you need a creative solution for business, art and clubbing vacation, art and culture, art and eco-tourism, art and winery tours....

We can help! Contact us by email ydubel@gmail.com



Daughter of Hell, Leader of the Immoral Egos
Born from the collaboration between artists
Stu Smith And Kerry Santos

Mortals trapped in a reality that denied them justice, dignity, safety, and so no longer content to wait for others to give them what was their divine right they slipped...one by one into the dream world where their Immortal Egos can reign without fear of consequence....

...This other place is one that rises out of the open misty shadows where unspeakable transgressions are perpetuated and amplified by the millions.

Because we are the evidence that convicts should anyone care to convene a trial. The Immortal Egos share boldness in our stride. She moves about in the world emerging from dark gutters as the Daughter of Hell having shed her weaker human self. The cruelty endured has pushed our face into the nasty stench that is hell on earth for the helpless, the downtrodden and the poor. She is the Queen Scarybird leading a positive uprising in a dark in sinister manner.

One act, by one individual human being, creates a new humanity.

Confusion Proverb from Cultural Fusion



Slika 54., 2004. Ulje na MDF-u, 40 x 60 cm

Title: Balkan People
Artist: Mario Brakuza
Zagreb, Croatia

Genesis

In the beginning there was a question that led to a dialogue. Those dialogues facilitate the discovery of ingredients that have found their way into artworks. In turn those dialogues and artworks became ingredients in multiple works of performance art that will culminate in a series art installations. We share a grand vision based on the understanding of what art and creative expression offer to humanity that both unites and inspires us .

It is community renewal and economic development as ingredients inflamed with passion that create the context for these explorations. The intention being to illuminate the value of individuals as the vessels of culture and the essence of community. Business and Art are deconstructed as roles in the games people play through the transformation of the individual and the shifting of Attention.

It was my [Yvette Dubel] Cultural Fusion series concept that brought us together. Shortly thereafter came the idea of calling our core team Cultural Fusion Group then came the Oci Novosti concept.



Irena Gapkovska mixed media painting: Freedom

These two artworks represent an opening dialogue between two artists based on converging questions.

The result was the Cultural Fusion experience's arrival to Macedonia..... fueled by a shared vision to strengthen community with an arts district based on commitment to art with purpose.

The Cultural Fusion Art Tours endeavor to share with you what art and culture has inspired in people through the ages....*Passion!*



Yvette Dubel's mixed media drawing: Cultural Fusion Mandala-Genesis

....to discover the meaning of Art as a factor in the life of the State, and to make ourselves acquainted with it as a social product. We have to recognize that the system can sometimes be the problem – more accurately, power dynamics that are rooted in the system can be a problem. The system says this is how we expect you to act and to speak. But arts offer a freedom and goes beyond the system. — **Irena Gapkovska,**

Founding Director NGO Art Studio; Skopje, Macedonia