PREMIER ISSUE

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

Macedonia Revealed!
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.
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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NGO Art Studio is a beacon of hope for Peace One Day.

34 Economic Development from the Bottom Up
SoulFood Tradition as an approach to that can bring Love and Attention into business, economic and community development.

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

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March 12, 2007

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“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 perpetrated on innocents?

From the Introduction to the Immortal Egos

42 Cultural Fusion as Commitment

Exploring Converging virtues

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

Society....Eyes of An Artist
Cultural Fusion Group Exploration

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a Clear CRM Strategy Solution
powered by Cultural Fusion
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:
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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 be 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.....
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.

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).
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.

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…. Imagine…. Imagine…. 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
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 expression, 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-

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Open Dialogue

ATTN: The art of un-knowing

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-

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Artist: Mario Brakuza
Media: Oil on board
Zagreb, Croatia

Posted by Ronald Wopereis on Tuesday, August 01, 2006
HTTP://WOEPWOEP.BLOGSPOT.COM

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-
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 millisecond. 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
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 to the question, "what can I do?"

Inspired by 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

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**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/Discourse
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

**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 artists 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

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.

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 Ronald Wopereis Aug 1, 2006 10:25 am

- when you combine these ingredients 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?

**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 *soulful* 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).
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
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. ©

Originally Published Quiet Mountain Essays; vo.l, no. IX
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.

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**Question**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If You are now here</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GamePlay: Dialogue/Board/Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GamePlay: SoulFood/Board/Oven</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, Confusion: 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!
Macedonian Art Studio is a Beacon of Hope

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.

“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.

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.

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.

Have you ever considered participating in an art exhibition as a way to express your ideas and meaningful messages? Macedonian Art Studio is a beacon of hope as they continue to inspire and challenge their audience with their art. Their collaboration with graphic novel artists and their international reach is an inspiring example of how art can bring people together from different backgrounds and cultures. The exhibition continues to draw interest from around the world, with attendees and participants sharing their stories and ideas.

Are you ready to be part of the Solution?
Country Landscape in Republic of Macedonia

Artist: Ivana Mladenovska

NGO Studio Skopje, Macedonia

Oil on canvas

Sponsored by You

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What will you add here to connect to readers?
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.”


“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

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

Maya Angelou

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

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.
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
- 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,
- Community development

Text reprinted from the iFOSSF brochure with permission http://ifossfoundation.org
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 Grimoire 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.

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

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.

Comfusion Proverb from Cultural Fusion

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

Title: Balkan People
Artist: Mario Brakuza
Zagreb, Croatia
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!

...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