



# 12-19 JULY SUMMER ART SCHOOL IN LESKOVAC

**CITY: THE FUTURE OF TRADITION / THE  
TRADITION OF THE FUTURE**

University of Arts in Belgrade is organizing the Summer Art School as interdisciplinary research project associated to a particular city in Serbia . This year, the Summer School is being held for the 18th time and the city in focus is Leskovac.



**Urban identities  
– contemporary  
interpretations**

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**New past –  
genius loci  
Vučje**

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**City song  
between two  
wars in  
Leskovac – new  
readings**

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**Leskovac –  
memories as  
key to opening  
future horizons**

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City of Leskovac once was the key industrial center in Serbia, known as *Little Manchester*, thus it will use its history as an inspiration to participants coming from different range of art disciplines. Today, the overall urban heritage is endangered due to different historical turmoil and will be used as the cornerstone of contemporary readings. We hope that artistic interpretations can contribute in raising awareness on the importance of that heritage and also stimulate future development.

The program of the Summer School consists of four artistic workshops:

### **Urban identities – contemporary interpretations**

#### **Biljana Branković, Faculty of Applied Arts**

The workshop will research the urban identity of Leskovac, its multilayered heritage and city stories. The aim of the research represents a fine selection of recognized potentials, formation of personal reactions and propositions of author interventions in existing public space. The media for expressions are diverse – from models to prototypes in size, through photomontages, up to short films and activities in space.

### **New past – genius loci Vučje**

#### **Svetlana Volic, Faculty of Fine Arts**

The area of intervention within this workshop is concentrated towards Vučje, a village in proximity of Leskovac, with its capital structures of electro and textile industry and modalities of luxurious living, which are in ruins. The aim of the workshop is to document these aspects, to produce artworks associated to mentioned heritage and provide propositions of future interventions. The results of this workshop will be shown within an exhibition framework of Cultural Center of Leskovac.

### **City song between two wars in Leskovac – new readings**

#### **Branka Popović, Faculty of Music**

The workshop is based on published collections of urban musical heritage of Leskovac. Workshop participants will be given an opportunity and a task to provide contemporary readings of that heritage and adjust to a children's' choir. Results of the workshop will be a

public concert of internationally acclaimed choir “Zvezdice”<sup>1</sup> that will interpret old songs in authors’ readings of Summer School participants.

## **Leskovac – memories that open horizons of the future**

### **Milena Dragičević Šešić and Jovana Karaulić, Faculty of Dramatic Arts**

The aim of the workshop is to establish new culture of remembrance with the special focus on the period of its arising until the beginning of the Second World War. Workshop has an accented theoretical dimension and analyzes the processes of shaping the cultural life in the city while also interprets the overlaps between different identities and recognizes key figures of the artistic and intellectuals life. Within the working process the subjects that are treating the cultural meaning of the city will be assessed – identity and symbolical values, strategies for city and cultural development, city readings, policies of memory and roles of vocal and personal stories in preservation of authenticity of urban units.

### **ABOUT LESKOVAC**

Leskovac is the administrative center of the Jablanica District, located in the Leskovac basin, known for its Serbian point of five rivers. According to the 2011 census, 60,288 people lived in Leskovac, while 144,206 inhabitants lived in the municipality. The settlement dates back to the Roman Empire. The medieval name of the settlement is Glubočica (*glōbokъ* – „deep”), and hence the toponym of Dubočica. The city name Leskovac was named after the hazel forest (old Slavic - Lěska) – hazelnut.

Probably the most significant site in the wider surrounding of Leskovac is the archaeological site Caričin Grad, which is on the tentative list for enrollment in the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is a unique preserved example of Byzantium urbanism erected at a place where, according to the sources, Emperor Justinian was born. The site itself extends on a 42,000-square-meter plot. The city is surrounded by ramparts and is divided into the episcopal, middle and southern part of the city. The settlement was related to the episcopal part - the acropolis (fortified part of the city). There is a episcopal church with a baptistery and a episcopal palace. The episcopal church is threefold and it is about 70 m long. In its western part, there is a pool - a stone carved tank, connected to the main waterway passing through Petrova Gora, about 16 km away from Caričin Grad. The Episcopal palace and the basilica are separated by a street with tremors, which leads to the eastern city gate and crosses a forum that is circular in shape. In the north-east, the episcopal part of the city encounters a basilica with a crypt (tomb). The street leading from the forum to the south is decorated with residential buildings. In the southern part of the city, a basilica with a transept was discovered. The floor of this building is decorated with a mosaic in nine shades of colors, and one of the capitals of the pillar carries a monogram of Justinian I.

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<sup>1</sup>

Outside the ramparts, in this part of the city, there are antique bathrooms connected to the city via the east gate in the lower part of the city. The streets and the square were paved with large blocks of processed stone, and on the side were the porches that held the pillars. Beneath the dugout streets, as well beneath some buildings, sewage was discovered. In the sixth century Caričin Grad was the administrative-governing and the ecclesiastical center of the Byzantine region in the Balkans.

Skobaljić Castle is located on the top of the rocky ridge of the mountain Kukavica on the left bank of the canyon of the river Vučjak, 18 km from Leskovac. The settlement was proclaimed as a cultural property in 1986. The city consists of the Upper Town, the Lower Town and the suburbs that extend on the eastern side. It covers an area of 2 hectares. The most powerful ramparts are located in the west, and in the north there is a defensive trench. The Upper Town is a square shape with about 400 square meters of land in which a powerful cultural layer is preserved. The two towers are diagonally placed. The smaller tower is located next to the gate leading to Donji grad and bigger - Donžon tower is located in the NW part and its walls are preserved to the height of the ground floor. The layer was dated with the republican denar from the 100 BC. These are the remains of the fortress from the pre-Roman times. The younger phase of the fortification originated from the early-Byzantine time of the sixth century. The preserved walls of ramparts were built of stone and mortar. One rampart was damaged - crossed by a rampage dating from the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and the first half of the 15th century. Donji Grad with a suburb in size of 1400 square meters extends towards the east of Gornji Grad and follows the configuration of the terrain.

In addition to the ethno-archaeological park in Hisar, a place where another medieval urban agglomeration is preserved in the city itself, there are two churches, of which the Odzaklija church was especially important erected in 1803. In the vicinity there is a complex of Jašnjuk monasteries: male monastery of the Saint John the Baptist erected in 1517 by "Mr. Andronik Kantakuzen with his brothers", and women's monastery of St. The Virgin, that is, the Vavedenja, erected by the nun Ksenija with the monks Teof (Theophany). The guards were painted in church as nuns and older women. The inscriptions about their representations are quite short, only the mentions of their names, except next to Ksenija's name is added "the patron saint of the holy temple".

The urban heritage of the town of Leskovac includes examples of the town houses of the so-called "Balkan architecture" - Bore Dimitrijević's House - Piksla House (one-store building in the Balkan style was built in the XIX century.) The facade to the street is with two bay windows, and towards the courtyard with a closed divan in front of which the entrance is located. On the ground floor, next to the hallway there are two rooms and a cellar. Divan on the first floor with several steps is raised from the hallway floor. The floor has three larger and one smaller room. The roof is interesting with a wavy larmier) and Šop Đokić's house 120 years old, one-store building with a porch above the entrance above the divan. The ground floor of the building is almost without an opening, half of which is covered by the basement. The floor of this house was done with a good wood-carved ceiling in the biggest room.

In addition to the facilities of the industry (Leskovac was once called "Serbian Manchester"), Vučje hydroelectric power plant belongs to one of the important factories. It is a derivative type of a power plant with a water supply, a water supply chamber, a derivative channel and a pipeline. Construction of the power plant began with the construction of the canal 1902-1903

year, which brings water over the power plant. It is by itself a curiosity. The length of the canal is about 1000 meters, with an average width and depth of 1 meter. On the one hand, it is carved in the rock and on the other is a supporting wall. Natural beauty is not disturbed by the construction of the canal, moreover from its rims it is possible to see beautiful views of the waterfalls, rock cliffs and the canyon of the river Vučjanka. Most of the other parts of the power plant complex were built in 1903. The oldest long-distance transmission line in Serbia, 17 kilometers long, connected the hydroelectric power plant and the city of Leskovac, with which the owners of the power plant had an agreement on lighting. In the year Henri Ford founded his car factory, Wright brothers achieved the first successful flight in the history of mankind and when electricity was considered a relatively new phenomenon, the first electric current flowed through the copper conductors of the Vučje-Leskovac transmission line on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1903.

This is, of course, only part of the invaluable heritage of Leskovac region that will serve as a field of research and creative upgrading in the context of the Summer Art School.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Students whose work and study are related to visual arts, design, cultural management, architecture, urban design, cultural heritage and related areas are welcomed to apply until 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2018.

The application is done via email **lus@arts.bg.ac.rs**:

Fill out the Application Form (Provide a valid e-mail address on the form as all communication regarding your application will be sent via e-mail)  
Provide the supplemental materials (3-5 examples of your recent artwork in JPEG format (required only from students of visual arts))

Application deadline: **June 4, 2018**

Incoming students from our partner universities are exempt from paying any tuition fees to the University of Arts in Belgrade. We will also provide housing for them during their one-week stay.

Limited spaces are available. Applicants are encouraged to apply early.

For information contact **lus@arts.bg.ac.rs**.