



Installation For The Erich Fried Poem Abandoned Room by Magdalena Klasnja



An attractive crowd mingles during the exhibition's opening at de Veevloer

## Balkan Art Fluxion Exhibition

The *Balkan Snapshots Film Festival* is currently held in venues across Amsterdam. A celebration and study of all things Balkan, the festival aims to deconstruct exotic and negative notions of Balkan culture and identity. Held in conjunction with the *Snapshots Festival* is the *Balkan Art Fluxion Exhibition* or *BAF!* A compelling exhibition which has brought the best in contemporary Balkan art to the Netherlands. *The Times* paid a visit to the exhibition this week.

Story and photos by Rufus Richardson

The *BAF!* exhibition is a perfect example of the immense creative potential of new artistic endeavours in the current European cultural landscape. Unfortunately in the wider region of the Balkans, most of this potential is still suppressed by weak cultural policies that remain mired within the constraints of bureaucracy, while independent and experimental artists struggle to find a platform for their unique brand of creativity and cultural expression.

By gathering together several generations of artists from the geo-social surroundings of the Balkans, *BAF!* is a discerning example of the varied and distinctive cultural expressions produced in this often neglected region of Eastern Europe.

Through discursive and bold expressions based

on long term art practice, education and dense life experience *BAF!* brings to a Western European audience an insightful snippet of visceral Balkan creativity.

Through diverse media, this group of artists show in great detail how they can push themselves, their techniques and their concepts. By following honest, original, ideas the artworks at *BAF!* give their viewer a unique study on the comprehension of the dynamics of daily modern life. Through socially engaging art criticism and the high aesthetics of both traditional and new media, the artworks at *BAF!* question and address long standing issues of Balkan identity, nationhood and the brutality of political ignorance and suppression.

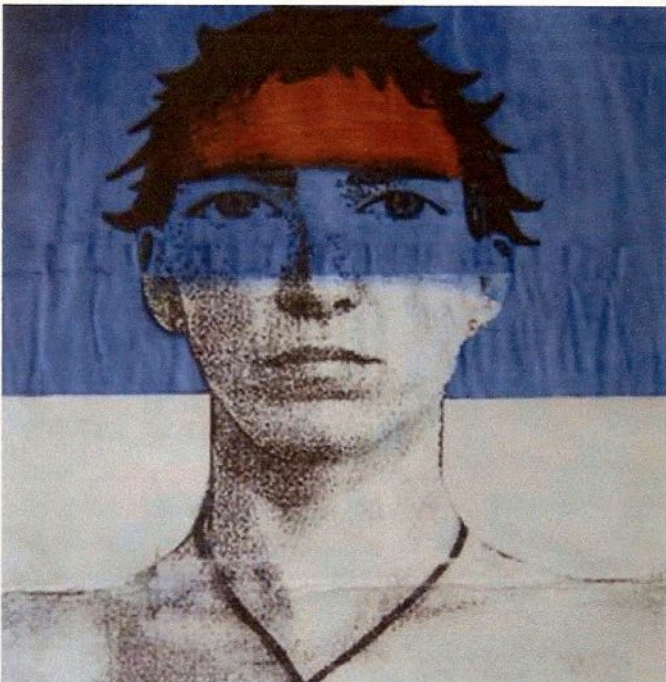
This is not an exhibition that one walks away from idly. There is a distinct feeling of personal attachment and expression to almost all the artworks on display. A feeling that (almost) every artist is openly sharing personal moments of creation rather than giving a sense of distance to their art.

This engagement in expression and freedom to experiment with form reflects the rumbling, and somewhat angry Balkan mentality that is shaped by sophisticated personal overviews of life in urban environments.

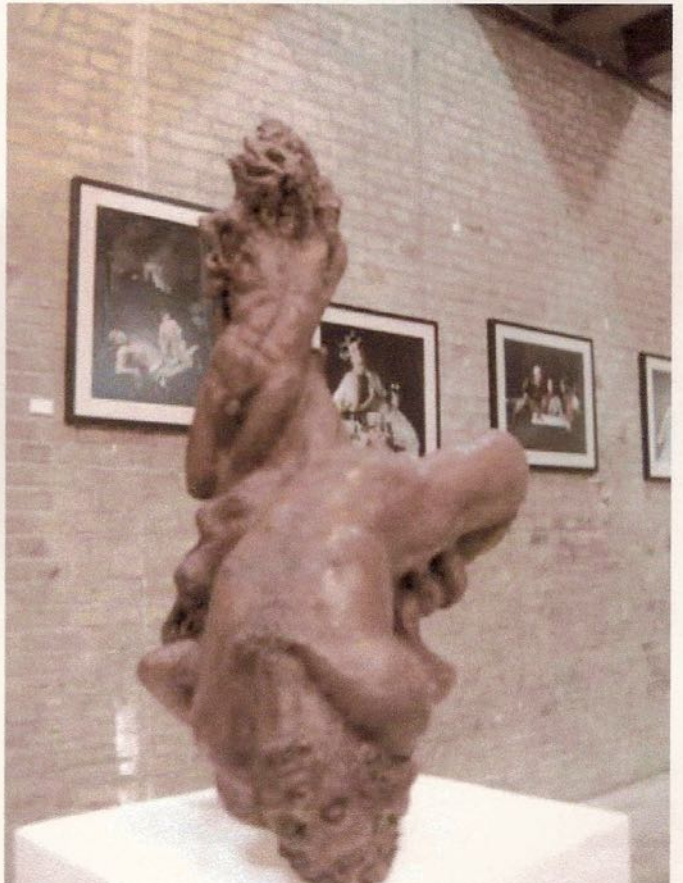
*BAF! Balkan Art Fluxion Exhibition* is now until the 26th of October at de Veevloer, van Diemenstraat 410, Amsterdam. For more information visit [www.auropolis.org](http://www.auropolis.org)



Diagnosis: Pathological Grief by Simonida Rajcevic



Immortal by Ivona Pleskonja



Uprising of Dreams by Adriana Popvic