

Country: *Bosnia-Herzegovina*

Name: *Sarajevo Center for Contemporary Art (SCCA)*

Artistic Medium: *Visual Arts*

Dates: 1996-2000 after which it became a non-profit organization

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Sarajevo Center for Contemporary Art - SCCA

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Objective: *To engage in the production, promotion and development of contemporary art and new media in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

SCCA does not have its own gallery space; instead it travels around to other galleries and a complement or an alternative, mainly setting up in open city spaces. The change of environment, the relocation from art-oriented space (the gallery) to non-art-oriented space (the street), changes an artist's manner of thinking and behaving, his/her choice of subject matter and materials, and his/her way of communication with the public. New meeting places and new art scene are created. Art becomes a part of everyday life. The emergence of this new concept not only relates to a change in the artistic paradigm, but also to a change in the understanding of the function of culture and art. SCCA develops communication between artists from Bosnia Herzegovina and the international art community.

The Center had their first exhibition « Meeting Point » in 1997. It consisted of a two-month series of installations, actions and performances in creative response to the historical and architectural context of one specific place, the summer garden "Culhan" located in the remains of a 16th-century Turkish bath in the heart of Bašcaršija (the old town), and the screening of collected video works that were created during and immediately after the war. Because of its great success, another project was started in 1998-1999 in an outdoor space that utilized electronic and digital art to bring various artists together in an exhibition titled « Beyond the Mirror ». The exhibition included everything from video installations to interviews to mixed media and photography collages. Parallel to this SCCA held workshops and educational activities to address any questions and discussions.

The third annual exhibition was called "Under Construction" in 1999 and was again held in an open space, this time in front of the National Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo and contributed again to creating a dialogue of what is considered "national art" i.e. that what was in the Gallery, and that which is informal and contemporary which was outside.