



**She Personally.**  
Young Women Artists  
from Bosnia and Herzegovina

# ONE LIČNO

**She Personally.** Young Women Artists  
from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Artists: Lana Čmajčanin, Leila Čmajčanin, Sandra Dukić, Lejla Čehajić, Nela Hasanbegović, Dženita Huseinović, Adela Jušić, Emina Kujundžić, Renata Papišta, Lejla Porobić, Iva Simčić, Merima Smajlović, Zvezdana Veselinović, Ana Vidović

Curator: Branka Vujanović

Young women artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina presented at this exhibition focus on the aspects of identity and cultural position of woman through the engagement with their own social background and personal intimate worlds. In the case of video art works, the body of the artist herself becomes a site for inscribing the meanings. She testifies of her personal condition, but the 'autobiographical' account serves to detect the phenomena related to a wider social, cultural, and political context.

In the video self-portrait titled *Make Over* by **Ana Vidović**, the artist's face appears in the centre of a dark empty space and goes through a slow and horrifying metamorphosis. The change from the young and radiant to the wrinkled and tired expression is related to a personal loss, but it also symbolises the destiny of a whole generation that grew up in the atmosphere of war. On another level, it also brings forth the emotional and psychological ballast that leaves traces on the body of a woman in every phase of her life.

**Nela Hasanbegović** inscribes her family history on her body. In the ritual atmosphere, the names of the ancestors and family members are written in red, using the old scripture of "bosančica". The old scripture evokes the past times of the beginnings of the family tree. The web of names slowly covers the surface of the body completely. We are carrying our descent as a 'second skin'.

Three self-portraits in the video work titled *San Zaru* by **Leila Čmajčanin** embody the bakhtinian metaphor of the world 'turned upside down'. San Zaru are three wise monkeys in Japanese tradition - Mizaru, Kikazaru, Iwazaru - which together signify the proverbial principle to "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil". Following this maxim against

evil, the artist covers her eyes with sunglasses, her ears with headphones, and her mouth with handkerchiefs. The wisdom of refusal to see, hear or speak does not come from the ignorance, but it is the result of the impossibility to see, hear or speak good. The artist speaks in Japanese: *I shut my eyes in order to see; I shut my ears in order to hear; I stuff my mouth in order to speak.*

In her video *DiviNation*, **Iva Simčić** uses the form of dialogue in order to receive an answer to a question that her male interlocutors find "compromising". We don't hear the question, and we don't see the artist's face. In the sequences between dialogues, we see her hands throwing beans (folk tradition of foretelling future), as a "feminine" mean to come to an answer, which is otherwise obviously out of reach.

**Adela Jušić** uses the medium of video as a kind of self-therapy related to her intimate painful experiences such as the time spent in the hospital bed. The position of bed is moved from the horizontal to the vertical position, which corresponds with the author's inner state. The passive and powerless horizontal position has become unbearable. As an act of resistance, the artist's voice recites the list of things that could be done on Wednesday, and this list comprises a small history of art.

The video-performance *The Woman President* by **Lana Čmajčanin** evokes the disturbing confession of a woman who was raped and tortured during the war, but in the manner of a politician's oration, bringing out the discrepancy between the victim-speech and power-speech. The orated text comes from the book "I beg them to kill me – Crimes against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, published in 1999 by The Centre for Research and Documentation – The Association of Victims of Concentration-camps in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Close the fucking door* by **Lejla Porobić** brings about the multiplied image of the everyday act of opening and closing the door. It extrapolates the rhythm of life that proceeds through constant move back and forth between private and public, open and closed, inside and outside, presence and absence, *Fort* and *Da*.

In her work, which combines the media of sculpture, installation, and graphic art, **Renata Papišta** synthesizes the aspects of her intimate personal world and the aspects of her cultural background. For **Dženita Huseinović**, graphic art has the best capacity to elicit the contents of fantasy and the inner state of being. More in line with Surrealism

and the aesthetics of Japanese manga, **Emina Kujundžić** in her paintings combines the fantastic iconography, the imagery of mass media, and the iconography of urban life in futuristic setting. The art of **Zvezdana Veselinović** employs blow up details of everyday contemporary life, with the messages attached in the form of advertisement, which brings it in proximity to the realism of Pop Art. Whether leaning on the aesthetic principles of Expressionism, Surrealism or Pop Art, the artists employ these principles within their own authentic artistic strategies. **Lejla Čehajić**'s sculptures present oversized image of a female body, which is a mixture of the imagination and the reality. The cycle of collages titled *Beauty of Cri* by **Merima Smajlović** explores the aesthetic of violence, inspired by Peter Greenaway's movie "The cook, the thief, his wife, and her lover". The energy of moving images is transposed into the static image, which "does not want to move, but to burst". In the cycle titled "Advices", **Sandra Dukić** creates collages on textile, which transmit messages related to the usual stereotypes about the role and position of woman. The sharp criticism of these imposed rules is contrasted with the traditional women practice of embroidery. Gauguin's question remains inwrought in all of these artworks: Where are we from, who we are, and where are we going?

Branka Vujanović

**ONE  
LIČNO**

ČMAJČANIN  
**LANA**  
PORTRET  
**ŽENE**

**Portrait of a Woman**

*kombinovana tehnika (medijapan ploče), 2007.*



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KONTAKT

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**ONE  
LIČNO**

ČMAJČANIN  
**LEILA**  
**san-zaru**

**San-Zaru**

*video, 2007*



BIOGRAFIJA

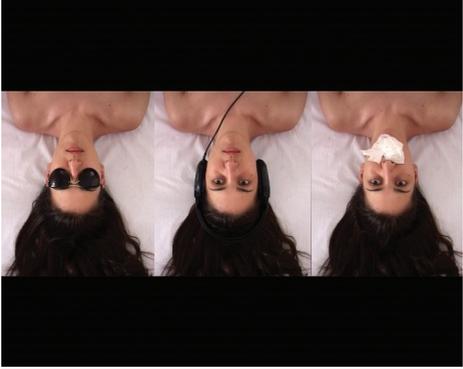
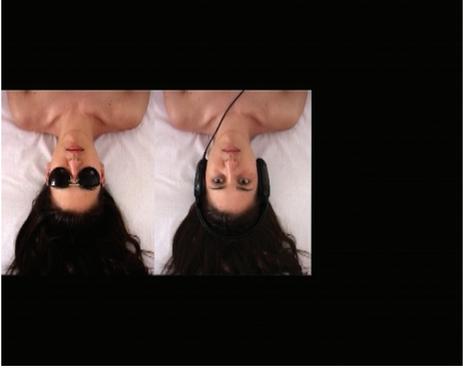
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**ONE  
LIČNO**

# ĆEHAJIĆ LEJLA ŽENA SA OGLEDALOM

## **Woman with a mirror**

*gips, žica, 2006*



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**ONE  
LIČNO**

**DUKIĆ  
SANDRA  
PAMET  
U GLAVU**

**Be Smart**

*iz ciklusa Savjeti,  
kolaži na platnu, 2006*



BIOGRAFIJA

KONTAKT

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ONE  
LIČNO

HASANBEGOVIĆ  
NELA  
post  
scriptum

**Postscriptum**

*foto, 2008*



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**ONE  
LIČNO**

# HUŠEINOVIĆ DŽENITA

**Iz ciklusa  
Marionete**

**from the cycle "Marionete"**

*kombinovana tehnika, 2007*



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Rođena 1981. godine u Sarajevu. Diplomirala na Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti u Sarajevu 2005. godine, Odsjek grafika. Pohađa postdiplomski studij na Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti u Sarajevu. Član je ULUBIH-a.

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ONE  
LIČNO

JUŠIĆ  
ADELA  
*Srijedom  
ne mogu biti  
umjetnica*

**On Wednesday I Can Be an Artist**

*video, 2007*



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**ONE  
LIČNO**

EMINA  
KUJUNDŽIĆ

# **Sweet Violence**

**from the cycle "Sweet Violence"**

*akvarel, 2009*



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2008, Department of Painting. From 2003 works  
at pro.ba multimedia production in Sarajevo.



ONE  
LIČNO

PAPIŠTA  
RENATA  
**Fragile**

**Fragile**

*kombinovana tehnika, 2009*



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KONTAKT

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ONE  
LIČNO

POROBIĆ  
LEJLA  
CLOSE THE FUCKING  
DOORS

**Close the Fucking Doors**

*video, 2007*



BIOGRAFIJA

KONTAKT

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**ONE  
LIČNO**

# SIMČIĆ IVA

## DiviNation

### DiviNation

*video, 2006*



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Rođena 1974. godine u Sarajevu. Studirala u SAD na studiju lijepih umjetnosti, Odsjek slikarstvo/grafika na School of the Art Institut of Chicago i na University of Illinois, College of the Architecture and the Arts. Diplomirala na University of Illinois, College of the Architecture and the Arts 2000, Odsjek slikarstvo/grafika. Godine 2005. Završila postdiplomski studij lijepih umjetnosti, Odsjek slikarstvo/grafika na Yale University School of Art. Član ULUBIH-a. Živi i radi u Sarajevu.

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Born in Sarajevo in 1974. Studied fine arts in the U.S. at the School of The Art Institut of Chicago and University of Illinois, College of the Architecture and the Arts. Graduated from the College of the Architecture and the Arts 2000 (University of Illinois), Department of Painting/Graphic. Completed postgraduate studies of fine arts at Yale University School of Art 2005. Member of Artists Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lives and works in Sarajevo



**ONE  
LIČNO**

SMAJLOVIĆ  
MERIMA  
**Beauty  
de Cri**

**Beauty de Cri**

*kombinovana tehnika, 2007*



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**ONE  
LIČNO**

VESELINOVIĆ  
ZVEZDANA  
**DRINK**

**Drink**

*kombinovana tehnika, 2007*



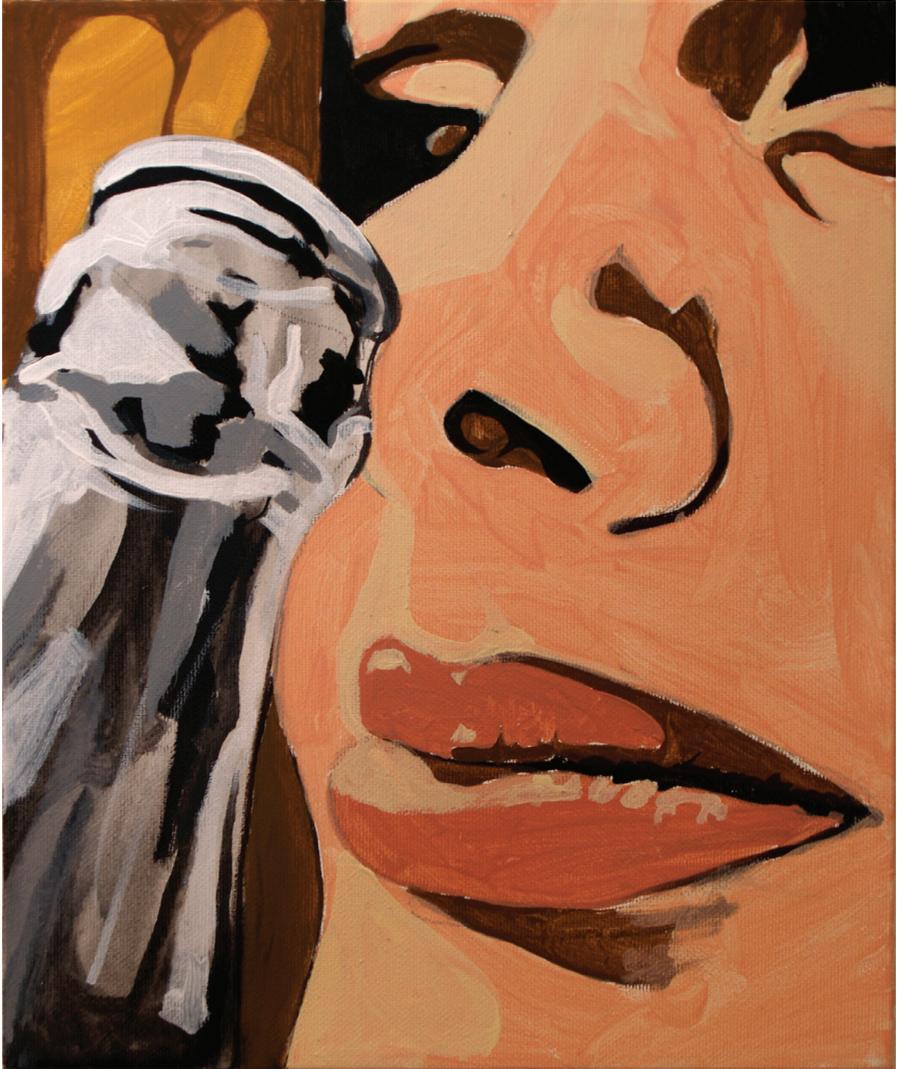
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**ONE  
LIČNO**

VIDOVIĆ  
ANA  
**MAKE  
OVER**

**Make Over**

*video, 2007*



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## **She Personally**

**Young women artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Huizer Museum**

**17. 10. 2009. – 19. 12. 2009.**

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