

Nada Miljkovic's BALKAN SONG ABSTRACT

My thesis investigates the concept of Sevdah while experimenting with new digital media forms. Followed by years of isolation and suffering created by war, the need for reconciliation is essential for the people of the former Yugoslavia. Multi-media can be powerfully effective for post-conflict reconstruction across ethnic divides.

The *Balkan Song* project, through the employment of song, video, and social networking, intends to create connections and collaboration between the peoples of Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and its Diaspora. The concept and musical tradition of Sevdah will be the thread.

An expansion on theories of contemporary art, systems and the politics of difference will inform this process. By applying ideas from Andrei Simić, Dylan Evans, Fritjof Capra and Tamara Karaca-Beljak, a new historiography will be written. Also, I examine the artistic practices of two artists – Christian Boltanski and Marina Abramović in reflection upon my own experience as an artist, in adapting to particular modes of art practice from performance to video archive and social networking

Balkan Song aims to create a sense of how conceptual art and technology can support the belief that art is inextricably bound to the promise of a better world.

