



PO Box 400
Altrincham
Cheshire
England
WA14 4WY

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Report by Fazli Blakçori (MAK representative in Kosovo)

The development of MAK's art programme 2004/2011

Introduction

In 2004 the exhibition 'Bridges of Love' was held in a restaurant in Podujeva to welcome Manchester Aid to Kosovo who had been working in the area since 2001. The exhibition, co-ordinated by the press officer of Podujeva Municipality, brought together young Llapi artists. The exhibitors were encouraged to form as a group by MAK. The group was formed in a short time and named itself Vizioni i Paqes (Vision of Peace). I was 15 years old and led the group. Most of the other artists were in their early twenties and at university studying fine art. The day after the exhibition we visited MAK who were creating the 9 hectare Manchester Peace Park in our town.

We exchanged ideas and shared our dreams as artists with MAK. This meeting was to have a big impact on our lives.

The best meetings we had were on the Manchester Peace Park where we explored the site in more depth. The site was a place we had all visited once a year with our schools. We artists talked about the isolation we were experiencing and our dreams of opening the doors of Kosovo which felt firmly closed at that point. Above all we wanted to travel, to meet artists from England, to exchange exhibitions, residencies, training and to install art installation at the park. Our collaboration began to develop when we invited MAK to our studios, and the town and the countryside above Poduejva. MAK leaders said they would support our desire to gain more experience and would contact the Arts Council , England about our isolation.

In 2004 Vision of Peace decided it wanted to meet with MAK artists and different MAK volunteer groups coming to Podujeva to share experiences, build bridges and networks, and broaden the experience of young people in our town.

MAK was already strengthening the group's confidence. The artists started to work as a group getting together regularly every evening, painting, making sculpture and making plans.

MAK art from 2004 to 2011:

- Eight visits of the Kosovar artists to U.K were organized by MAK
- Many residencies of Kosovar artists to U.K
- Sixteen workshops organized in Kosova and U.K
- Fourteen exhibitions organized in Kosova and U.K
- Many visits of British artists to Kosova.
- Installation of the art in the park
- Strengthening of bridges and networks
- 7 Children's Summer Clubs in Podujeva

Eight visits of the Kosovar artists to U.K were organized by MAK

2005 One month visit of four Vision of Peace artists:

- Manchester, London, Cornwall, visiting galleries, museums, universities, different centres: Vernon Mill artists, Imperial War Museum North, Warrington Peace Centre, Community Arts, Schools and meeting artists and curators.

2005 Two weeks visit of two Vision of Peace artists:

- Manchester, Cornwall: supporting and participating in Badly Drawn Boy (MAK patron) Eden Session Concert at the Eden Project.

2006 One month visit of four Vision of Peace artists (second part of the group):

- Following the same programme as the first part of the group

2007 One month visit of four Vision of Peace artists:

- A development visit following through many of the contacts made the previous year. The artists also underwent 2 weeks training in bronze casting at Castle Fine Arts Foundry.

2007 Two week visit of nine leading Kosova artists ('Fragile State, Art from Kosova' exhibition):

- Manchester, London: all the exhibitors attended a cultural and education programme.

2007 Three month visit of Fragile State Project coordinator/ MAK representative in Kosova

- Co-led the two week cultural and education programme with the 9 Fragile State artists and underwent 3 weeks casting training at Castle Fine Arts Foundry.

2009 A one month visit of two Kosovar Co-Directors of Art in the Park:

- Manchester, Yorkshire, Wales, Cornwall: exploring, training, working on sculpture for the Peace Park, and developing ideas for theatre in the Peace Park with the directors of WildWorks.

2010/11 MAK representative in Kosova visit:

- Developing MAK's art projects and participating in exhibitions

Many residencies of Kosova artists to U.K

2005 One week residency at Eden Project: four Vision of Peace artists, 3 weeks Manchester.

2005 One week residency at Eden Project: two Vision of Peace artists, 1 week Manchester

2006 One week residency at Eden Project: four Vision of Peace artists. 3 weeks Manchester

2007 9 Fragile State artists attend 2 week residency in Manchester

2007 10 day residency of Head of Prishtina Fine Art University in Manchester and London

2007 Two weeks residency and training at Castle Fine Arts Foundry: four Vision of Peace artists

2009 One week residency at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, two Co-directors of Art in the Park

2009 Two week residency at Castle Fine Arts Foundry, two Co-directors of Art in the Park

Sixteen workshops were organized by MAK with our partners in Kosova and U.K

2004 'Exploring art and nature'

- *led by Sue Hill, Artistic Director of Eden Project organised in Manchester Peace Park and the Podujeva countryside*

2004 'Planning use of space in the Manchester Peace Park'

- *led by Eden Project staff, Podujeva and Eden Project.*

2005 'Ceramics'

- *led by Altrincham School of Arts.*

2005 Terra Nova Preparatory School,

- *den building and clay workshop with young children*

2005 'Video Art'

- *led by Dr Steve Hawley, Head of Fine Art, Manchester Metropolitan University*

2005 'Origami'

- *led by a visiting Japanese artist, at Vernon Mill artists' studio.*

2005 'War and Peace'

- *led by UN group and Stockport Art Gallery staff, Stockport Art Gallery.*

2005 'Shadow light '

- *led by Eden Project art technicians, Eden Project, Cornwall*

2006 'Schools art workshops' *a week of schools based workshops in Kosova led by Matt Raw, Rowena Vassallo, Beki Ramsey with Vision of Peace art teachers*

2007 'My wish for the world'

- *led by photographer Paul Cliff, at Podujeva's primary schools*

2008 'Orpheus'

- *led by flag artist Lucy Birbeck, at Podujeva's primary schools working with students, a women's group, Handikos and the wider community*

2009 'Peace Banner'

- *led by language artist Stephen Raw, at Podujeva's primary schools working with students, a women's group, Handikos, Mosque, Municipality and Community.*

2009 'Peace One Day'

- *a celebration of this international day for world peace at Yorkshire Sculpture Park led by Stephen and Matt Raw and Castle Fine Arts Foundry.*

2009 'Casting Bronze Sculpture'

- *led by Castle Fine Arts Foundry, at Eden Project*

2010 'Wild Zone' *unstructured play with natural materials on the Peace Park led by founders Karen Payne and David Hawkins*

2010 'Our dream'

- *Art course for young people led by Agron Blakcori, Phil Young and Jacqui Purvis at the Manchester Peace Park and Podujeva town.*

Fourteen exhibition were organized in Kosova and U.K

2004 'Bridges of Love', Beni Dona restaurant, in Podujeva

- *9 Llapi artists exhibit their work, paintings and sculptures and formed Vizioni i Paqes (Vision of Peace) with MAK after the show.*

2004 'Vision of Peace', Cultural Centre, in Podujeva

- *9 Vision of Peace artists exhibit their work, paintings and sculptures*

- 2005 Vizioni artists participated in 'War and Peace' UN at Stockport Art Gallery**
- 3 Vision of Peace artists participated in this exhibition with other 10 British Artists
- 2005 'Vision of Peace', Cultural Centre, in Podujeva**
- 9 Vision of Peace artists exhibit their work, paintings and sculptures
- 2005 '10 Llapi Artists', Cultural Centre, in Theranda**
- 9 Vision of Peace artists exhibit their work, paintings and sculptures
- 2005 'Vision of Peace', Eden Project, in Cornwall**
- 9 Vision of Peace artists exhibit their work, paintings and sculptures
- 2005 'Vision of Peace', Vernon Mill Artists Studio, in Stockport**
- 9 Vision of Peace artists exhibit their work, paintings
- 2006 'Vision of Peace', Vernon Mill Artists Studio, in Stockport**
- 9 Vision of Peace artists exhibit their work, paintings and sculptures
- 2006 'Vision of Peace', Art Gallery, in Altrincham**
- 9 Vision of Peace artists exhibit their work, paintings and sculptures
- 2007 'Fragile State, Art from Kosova', Stockport Art Gallery, in Stockport**
- 9 Kosovar leading artists exhibit their work, paintings, sculptures, photography
- 2009 '10', Xheladin Rekaliiu, in Podujeva**
- 30 Kosovar and British artists exhibit their work, paintings, sculptures, photography to mark the 10th anniversary of tragic events in Kosova on 28.3.99 and the Dedication of the Manchester Peace Park
- 2009 Inspired by her MAK Kosova visits, Manchester painter Margaret Cahill**
- Margaret Cahill creates and exhibits 'Butterflies in Rain' at Artland Gallery, Manchester
- 2009 'Interactive Arts', MMU Interactive Arts graduates exhibit at Expoart 40, Pristine**
- 10 British graduates exhibit their work, painting, installation, photography, video art
- 2011 'Stitch Cut Draw' More Arts Gallery, Wokingham, London**
- 3 MaK artists exhibit their work, sculpture and embroidery

Visits of British artists to Kosova.

(With visits in chronological order, with many repeated visits)

Jane Knight - Landscape Architect, Eden Project participated in exhibition, workshops,

Sue Hill - Artistic Director of Eden Project, participated in exhibition, workshops, lectured art

Mike Anitt - Sculptor, participated in exhibition, bronze workshops, art installations in the park

Rebecca Davy - Painter, participated in exhibition, children's summer club

Mathew Raw – Ceramicist. participated in exhibition, workshops, art installations in the park

Paul Cliff - Photographer. photographer of Fragile State exhibition, children's workshops

Stephen Raw - Language artist, participated in exhibition, workshops

Lucy Birbeck - Flag artist, participated in exhibition, workshops

Jason Bothroyd, Head of Fine Art, Manchester College, participated in exhibition

Margaret Cahill – Painter, participated in exhibition

James Walmsley – Curator, *Fragile State curator, lectured art*

Louis Loizou, *film lecturer Manchester College, film projects*

Janette Pratt, *Education Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, workshops*

Peter Sandover, *Architect, regeneration plan*

Chloe Hamill - Embroidery artist, *workshops*

WildWorks team, *site specific drama project*

Bled Bejupi, *film lecturer Manchester College, film projects*

Castle Fine Arts Foundry team, *bronze workshop*

Phil Young – Photographer, *photography workshop*

Jacqui Purvis *photography workshop*

Installation of the Art in the Park

In 2007 4 Directors of Art in the Park were appointed to develop MAK's Peace Park art programme

Mathew Raw – Ceramicist, *Brighton University and RCA graduate*

Mike Anitt – Sculptor, *MMU graduate, CFA bronze technician*

Agron Blakcori – Sculptor, *Fine Arts University Prishtina, Fine arts teacher*

Fazli Blakcori – Sculptor, *Fine arts University Prishtina,*

Art work installed in Manchester Peace Park:

- 2008** Nine art flags, 'Orpheus',
 - *created by Lucy Birbeck based on a design by local schoolgirl Blakçori inspired by a 4th century mosaic in Podujeva*
- 2009** First cast sculpture, 'Thinking Man'
 - *created by Agron Blakcori*
- 2010** Bronze Memorial plaque and flowers,
 - *created by Mike Anitt*
- 2011** Entrance Mosaic 'Parku i Paqes, Peace Park',
 - *created by Lucy Birbeck with Valmir Gashi*

Networks and bridges continuing building and becoming stronger

Many networks and links between Kosovar and British artists have been built commencing in 2004. These continue to grow stronger with many new collaborations

Summer Club

Every year MaK organise a Summer children's Club in Podujeva's schools and on the Manchester Peace Park. Over 120 children participate in the Summer Club, which always art and creativity. The children's work (painting, sculpture, clay, photography) is always displayed on the Park Park during an Open Day

Ongoing Projects

Promenade drama production in Manchester Peace Park
 Planning installation of the art in the park
 Use of the site as an open gallery
 Bringing new Kosovar artists into the Vision of Peace group
 Matt and Mike training residency at YSP (curating an outdoor gallery)
 Art projects in 2100 peace Camp (15-17 yr old students) and children's summer club
 '10' Manchester album release including album artwork by je and St and embroidery project
 'Bogujevci exhibition' an exhibition reflecting the war crimes experience of MAK members, curated by James Walmsley assisted by Fazli Blakcori

Partnerships

Eden Project
 Yorkshire Sculpture Park
 Castle Fine Arts Foundry
 Imperial War Museum North
 The Travelling Band

Funding

Direct Funding for Arts Projects Manchester Aid to Kosovo 2004-2010

This analysis excludes all Just Giving (Total to date £12,792) and non peace banner sports sponsorship. No arts payments were received before 2004.

Income

2004

(Vizioni) Abrams/ JW	£115		£115
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2005

Arts Council grant to develop Vizioni Paqes collaboration

including UK visits	£1796		
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Arts Council 2 nd Payment	£199	ACE	£1995
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Vizioni Schools Appeal

AGS	£150		
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Terra Nova	£100	VOP	£250
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Visiting Arts Vizioni Appeal	£500	VOP	£500
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RH	£90		
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DP (Eden)	£300		
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Burns	£80		
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H and D	£140		
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SH	£352		
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Art project Donation	£100	VOP	£1062
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2006

Arts Council for PD'cs costs to further develop artistic collaboration between Manchester and Kosovo	£3,000		
Arts Council PD interim payment	£1,000		
Arts council PD post appraisal	£528	ACE	£4,528
Stockport art Gallery (via Doves)	£32		£32
Trafford MBC (P. Dawes lecture fee used for FB arts flight)	£125		£125

2007

Cecil and Hilda Lewis Trust (family of Cathy Wills)	£5000		£5000
Awards for All 'Fragile State, Art from Kosovo' outreach and education grant	£5000		£5000
Arts Council Fragile State, Art from Kosova 'grant	£4,050	ACE	£4,500
Arts Council final payment on completion of report	£450		
Flights for Kosovar sculptors' training at Castle Fine Arts Foundry	£1212		£1212
Contribution to 'Fragile State, Art from Kosova' from Ministry of Culture, Kosova €3,500	£2471		£2471

2008

Castle Fine Arts donation (sculptors on staff donation doubled by management)	£1146		£1146
Art Auction sales and donations £635			
	£90		
	£207		
	£275		
	£1262.66		£1,834

2009

Cecil and Hilda Lewis Trust	£1025		£1025
Eden Project donation for art flags project	£3,000		£3,000
Banner sponsorship S.R.,K.B., M.R.	£314		
2Peace banner donations SR	£208		
MR Wimbledon run sponsorship	£85		£608
(excludes JG donations of approx £300 for project)			
Arts Council Grant : 'British Artists and Kosova'	£4,463		

Arts Council final payment on completion of report	£495	ACE	£4958
Photo fee (Readers Digest)	£120		£120
Poster sales Eden Project	£60		
Income from Peace One Day (Peace Banner prints)	£70		£130
Lion's club donation to SB/ FB Interactive Arts			
Exhibition costs (Kosovo)	£100		£100
<u>2010</u>			
Castle Fine Arts donation (sculptors on staff donation doubled by management)	£1826.78		£1827
Wild Zone donations	£100		
WZ via Just Giving approx	<u>£300</u>		<u>£400</u>
Total Art income (+ some Just Giving) :			£41,938

Income Breakdown :

Arts Council Grants:	£15,981
Private art trust	£6,025
Awards for All	£5,000
Castle Fine Arts Foundry	£4,185
Flag Project Eden Project donation	£3,000
Ministry of Culture Kosovo Donation	£2,471
Music Art Auction Income	£1,834
Vizioni(non Arts Council) donations	£1,427
Banner Printing donation (+ some JG)	£608
Visiting Arts	£500
Other	£907

+ Donations in Kind

Artists donated work: peace park design, leading workshops, teaching and training in UK and Kosovo, photography, graphics, donated transport use of vehicles etc.

Artists have raised many thousands to cover own travel costs, exhibitions, etc .

Additional Arts Council payments have been made to MAK artists (applications supported by MAK) to develop their work in Kosovo e.g. Mike Anitt

Music Income

Music donated to MAK Albums, concert tickets and donations , Run stage payment etc has yielded an additional income of approx £30,000 during this period (with some overlap in 2009 ACE payment)

Drama

Wild Works site specific company have covered own R and D costs including company visit to Kosovo to work with MAK on Peace Park . **Pam Dawes Arts and Community Manager / Treasurer**

Future development

Base

Funding

Arts in health -

Further Training of Art Directors