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**Art and activism (protest through art) - “Modern and contemporary art scene in Kosova from 1990-2010”**

My dissertation topic consists of a wide range research of the artistic development in Kosova during the 90s and its growth on the contemporary practices. Moreover, this topic will analyze the artistic approach in activism in Kosova. Mainly focusing on the artistic point of views either through protests or other mediums (posters, graffiti etc).

What role do protests and artistic/social activities have in politics ?

What influence and responsibility have artists today in activities that aim to reform the political system? Art provokes the mass, through different creative forms to react to their dissatisfactions, by performing artistically, through social activities or protests.

In 1968 when in Europe students' protests began for a cultural revolution, in Kosovo protests began for the political rights of Albanians at that time.

The 1981 demonstrations were initiated from students, initially to fulfill the university criteria, yet the demonstrations marked a major number of protesters.

The end of 1980s and the beginning of 1990s, has been an artistic period with an imposed shift and political denials. The political situation has influenced the artistic representation to an alternative manifestation. This situation has imposed the narratives of the works of art, that mainly where in contradiction with folkloric ideologies of the political system.

The 90s mobilized intellectuals, artists and activists from civil society, their activities were spontaneous but coordinated based on the awareness and mobilization of international political circles.

Therefore for the first time after different initiatives, were shown artistic works with POSTERS with requests for Democracy against violence. These works influenced the local and international opinion to start different activities to support Albanians' requests.

Part of the 90s protests where those of women, whereas in 2013 were documented with an exhibition and a five day workshop with the title Silence - civic activism of women during the 90s realized by ZDF Forum in cooperation with the Center for contemporary art in Prishtina – “Stacion”.

But besides the street protests that have been materialized in different mediums - Art Protest and performances are activities that started in the 1970s from urban subcultures - in various forms with music, visual arts etc. but today it is a very contemporary creative expression . In the 70's they were non-conventional today are very popular and avant-garde.

Different kind of group were created after the conflict, when Kosova was under the Un administration. An example is “Vetevendosje Movement”, initially started with street protests against politics. But besides movements/protests there are other groups that achieved to be part of politics wining 2% of votes in local elections. This formed a political party which illustrates in a sarcastic humor the actual political reality. Named “Partia e Forte” / Strong Party, they express the idea to show power in an exaggerating mode, alluding that they work for power. Although comparing to Vetvendosje which has a more nationalistic ideology moreover they succeeded to get certified. They do not share the same ideals but one, which is opposing actual political reality. A group inspired by Pussy Riot's performances is the HAVEIT collective, who perform and protest through art, expressing their dissatisfaction. These have also been part of One Billion Rising, and many other activities. Through art and activities, artists in Kosovo are using these opportunities to provoke and raise social consciousness. From the mentioned activities artists find their judgment as an idea for reaction / provocation, thus engaging more in socio-political activities. After the conflict of the year in 1999 until today, the contemporary art scene in Kosova is developing and advancing, thus bringing a production of successful artists at the national and international level.