

The archipelago – a site-specific archival platform for public space

Digital art and research project



Videotapes of the film "Sarajevo Diary: From Bad to Worse" (1993) by Dom Rotheroe and Bill Tribe, photo (c) Armina Pilav.

The archipelago is a site-specific archival platform for public space in the Post-Yugoslav context that brings together war document collections. Thirty years after the wars that led to and followed the breakup of Yugoslavia, many dedicated archival initiatives collectively offer an important multi-perspective view of the region's recent history. But they rarely come together and often struggle with repression in their respective local contexts. This is where the archipelago comes in, turning a smartphone into an easily accessible archaeological device independent of local political restrictions while bringing together a multitude of archival voices. Historical audio-visual documents tagged with GPS data will be available via an augmented reality (AR) app. Diverse archival holdings can be made topographically and interactively accessible at places they are linked to and encountered in a low-threshold way. The digital art and research project connects different archival initiatives exploring the technology of AR as hands-on participatory archival practices within the Post-Yugoslav space. It will introduce a carefully curated multi-perspective view of the region's recent history that encourages audience interaction via a mobile AR app, a website archive as well as accompanying public events such as exhibitions, workshops, and film screenings in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, and Croatia as well as internationally.

Together with the archipelago's partners, in every city, we are exploring different site-specific cases and representational methods through which material is curated and made available in Augmented Reality realm. In Belgrade (Serbia), a collection of counter-memorialization to the "General Stab" will be built up, the former military headquarters of the Yugoslav National Army (YNA) that was destroyed during the NATO bombardments (1999). In Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the focus is on microstories, visual collections from various neighborhoods, and public spaces that play an important social role in Sarajevo, including life

during the siege (1992–1996). In Mostar (Bosnia & Herzegovina), the river Neretva will be explored as a flowing archive of war in relation to the city and interspecies society living in the toxic and destroyed post-war environment. In Prizren (Kosovo), the collection of an amateur videographer, who documented pre and war-related protests, public events, and Prizren's transforming urban landscape, is the starting point for collecting further comparative archival material.

Developed by

Armina Pilav (Un-War Space Lab)
Nihad Kreševljaković (Library Hamdija Kreševljaković Video Arhiv)
Clarissa Thieme (Izmedju Nas / Between Us, open archive initiative)

Archival and research partners

CZKD - Center for Cultural Decontamination, Belgrade, SRB
Dokufest Prizren, XXK
Library Hamdija Kreševljaković, Sarajevo, BiH
Un-War Space Lab, Brać, HRV& Mostar, BiH

Partners

Arsenal – Institut für Film und Videokunst e.V, DEU
Augmented Archive, TUR/DEU
Austrian Cultural Forum (Austrian Embassy, Sarajevo)
Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo)
Fondacioni Lombardhi, Prizren, XXK
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Goethe Institute Sarajevo, BiH
Historical Museum Sarajevo, BiH
Institut Francais (Sarajevo)
Izmedju Nas / Between Us, open archive project, BiH

Artistic directors

Armina Pilav
Clarissa Thieme

Implementing Institution

Goethe-Institut Sarajevo, BiH

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