

PRESS RELEASE
Opening of Skopje Pride Weekend 2025 Festival – YUGOQUEER

<https://linktr.ee/skopjeprideweekend>

- **Opening of the EXHIBITION ON *PUNK. SUBCULTURE. SOCIALISM. ARCHIVES AND PHOTOGRAPHY FROM SLOVENIA***

**Museum of Contemporary Art Skopje, North Macedonia
June 3, 2025 at 20.30**

- **Symposium ON QUEER, THE BALKANS, EASTERN EUROPE, AND GLOBAL TRANS INSURGENCIES***

**CSC Centre-Jadro, Skopje, North Macedonia
June 4, 2025 at 19.00**

WELLCOME!

EXHIBITION June 3, 2025 at 20.30

The Skopje Pride Weekend – Skopje 2025 Festival will be officially opened on **June 3 at 8:30 PM** at the **Museum of Contemporary Art** with the exhibition **“PUNK. SUBCULTURE. SOCIALISM. ARCHIVES AND PHOTOGRAPHY FROM SLOVENIA”** – a large archival exhibition that explores the Slovenian punk movement from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s through photography and documents. Curated by philosopher and theorist Marina Gržinić, in collaboration with Slavčo Dimitrov, the exhibition represents a rare opportunity for the domestic audience to confront the visual and political history of subcultural resistance in the former Yugoslavia.

Positions in the exhibition: Janez Bogataj, Janusz Czech, Božidar Dolenc, Vojko Flegar, Dušan Gerlica, Aldo Ivančić, DK, Siniša Lopojski, Elena Pečarič, Matija Praznik, Bogo Pretnar, Bojan Radović, Relations / 25 Years of the Lesbian Group ŠKUC-LL, Ljubljana, Mladen Romih, Tone Stojko, Tožibabe, Igor Vidmar

This will already be the fifth installation of the exhibition. Following its magnificent opening at the Grand Gallery of Cankarjev dom in Ljubljana, the exhibition has travelled to various European cities: Pforzheim, Graz/Laafeld, and Novi Sad. It is now being presented in Skopje, and its return to Slovenia is planned for 2025 as part of an exhibition in Murska Sobota. Each edition is unique, provocative, and highly performative.

The exhibition focuses on the visual culture of Slovenian punk from 1977 to the mid-1980s – a period of explosive alternative energy, self-archiving and resistance. At the MoCA, the exhibition will be tailored to the themes of sexuality, subculture and body performance and it will highlight how photography shaped the aesthetics and politics of punk: a document of rebellion, criticism and self-expression. Through archival images of concerts, protests and street gatherings, life is depicted on a scene that simultaneously challenged norms and built collective memory.

Punk in Slovenia was also a form of left-wing, pro-socialist resistance – linked to labor protests and LGBT activism. Punk has always been closely associated with labor protests, playing the role of a cultural ally in the struggle for justice and social change. From Yugoslavia to the present day, punk bands have supported protests with music and a clear political message. Even today, punk elements are recognized in modern labor uprisings as a symbol of resistance, revolt and active participation against exploitation and political apathy. The exhibition was an outcome of a research project by Marina Gržinić and dr. Jovita Pristovšek (ZRC SAZU).

SYMPOSIUM June 4, 2025 at 19.00

On **June 4, 2025** at **CSC Centre-Jadro**, starting at **7:00 PM**, the program continues with the **symposium “ON QUEER, THE BALKANS, EASTERN EUROPE, AND GLOBAL TRANS INSURGENCIES*”**, which opens a space for theoretical, poetic and political discussion. The symposium will feature authors, artists and researchers from Slovenia, Austria, Spain, Germany – **Marina Gržinić, Tjaša Kancler, Vesna Liponik, Janusz Czech and DK** – who will speak about the histories and contemporary strategies of resistance of LGBT+, queer and trans communities in relation to state power, dominant narratives and global technocapitalism. The symposium connects art, poetry, pornography, and politics in order to articulate radical and decolonial visions for future rebellions and political communities.

Janusz Czech will speak about the exhibition “PUNK. SUBCULTURE. SOCIALISM.” in Pforzheim, Germany, and on the gender controversies that accompany it, with an emphasis on its international acceptance. Marina Gržinić will speak about the exhibition and the aesthetics and politics of subculture. Tjaša Kancler, professor and activist, will rethink trans* politics and insurgencies in the context of global techno-racial capitalism, fascism, war, and genocide. Vesna Liponik, a poetess, philosopher and activist will explore the intersection of poetry, ecology and queer sensitivity, through figures that reshape poetic thinking into resistance and fantasy. In the final part of the symposium, DK and Marina Gržinić will lead a dialogue on photography as a document and tool for shaping subcultural and punk narratives in the Balkans.

The symposium's themes connect poetry, ecology, pornography, and the archive with questions of state repression, global technoracial capitalism, necropolitics, and leftist resistances. At the same time, space is given to personal narratives, historical intersections, and engaged positions, through which dominant narratives are challenged and queer visions of the future are articulated.

The exhibition is organized in cooperation with the Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), and with the support of Cankarjev Dom, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, the National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia, Modern Gallery, Luminus and A.K.T; from Pforzheim, Germany. In Skopje, the exhibition is organized by COALITIBS MARGINS within the framework of the Pride Weekend Skopje 2025, in partnership with the MoCA Skopje and the LGBTI Support Center. Thank you for the support: Dr. Oto Luthar, director ZRC SAZU, and Janusz Czech, artistic director A; K; T; Pforzheim.

The Skopje Pride Weekend Festival will be held from June 3 to 14 in several cultural institutions in Skopje: MoCa Skopje, YCC, CSC Centar-Jadro and Theatre Comedy.

Check out the full program and RSVP [HERE](#).

**The poster, program and the theoretical anthology of the Skopje Pride Weekend
- 2025 – YUGOQUEER edition are available [HERE](#).**



The thematic focus of Skopje Pride Weekend is "YUGOQUEER". This year's curatorial theme aims to explore the counter-hegemonic configurations of gender and sexual embodiment in queer (feminist) performing arts and socio-cultural practices during and after socialist Yugoslavia. It also examines the various performances by queer bodies and subjectivities in cultural and political performances, visual culture, and subcultural world-making practices. Consequently, the central focus of this festival edition relates to the historical and contextual nuances, critical and political bodily tactics, and affective re-articulations employed in queer and queer-feminist performative and choreographic practices in (post)Yugoslav spaces. These practices will be analyzed in relation to intersecting systems of oppression such as heteronormativity, patriarchy, ethno-nationalism, racism, authoritarianism, state violence, religious hostility, and neoliberal capitalism. The festival treats these practices as spaces for the emergence of oppositional counter-publics and minority projects with world-making potential.

The curator of the festival and editor of the theoretical anthology is Slavcho Dimitrov.

The festival team consists of: Stefan Bogeski, Manja Velichkovska, Ljubomir Faizov,
Natalija Vidinska Atanasov.

The translation of the catalog from English was made by Julija Micova, while the theoretical anthology was translated by Gracija Atanasovska, Dushica Dimitrovska, Dushica Lazova,
Julija Micova and Slavcho Dimitrov.

The publisher is Coalition MARGINS – Skopje.

Graphic design: Igor Delov.

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The Pride Weekend – Skopje 2025 festival is organized by Coalition MARGINS – Skopje, in cooperation with the LGBTI Support Center, and in partnership with Tiiit! Inc., the Museum of Contemporary Art – Skopje, A.K.T; from Pforzheim, and the Research Center at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Skopje Pride Weekend, FIRSTBORN GIRL Festival and Performance Platform dedicate June to contemporary and critical performance art in dance, theatre and visual arts, as a gesture of care, a relational, politically engaged artistic practice and an act of democratized public imagination. We create a space for collaboration, togetherness and exchange, asking institutions to recognize and continuously support it.

The festival is supported by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, A.K.T; and the Global Fund for Women.