

# Swiss Cultural Week

by the Swiss Cultural Fund

# Programme

Dialogue  
through  
culture.



Swiss  
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Albania



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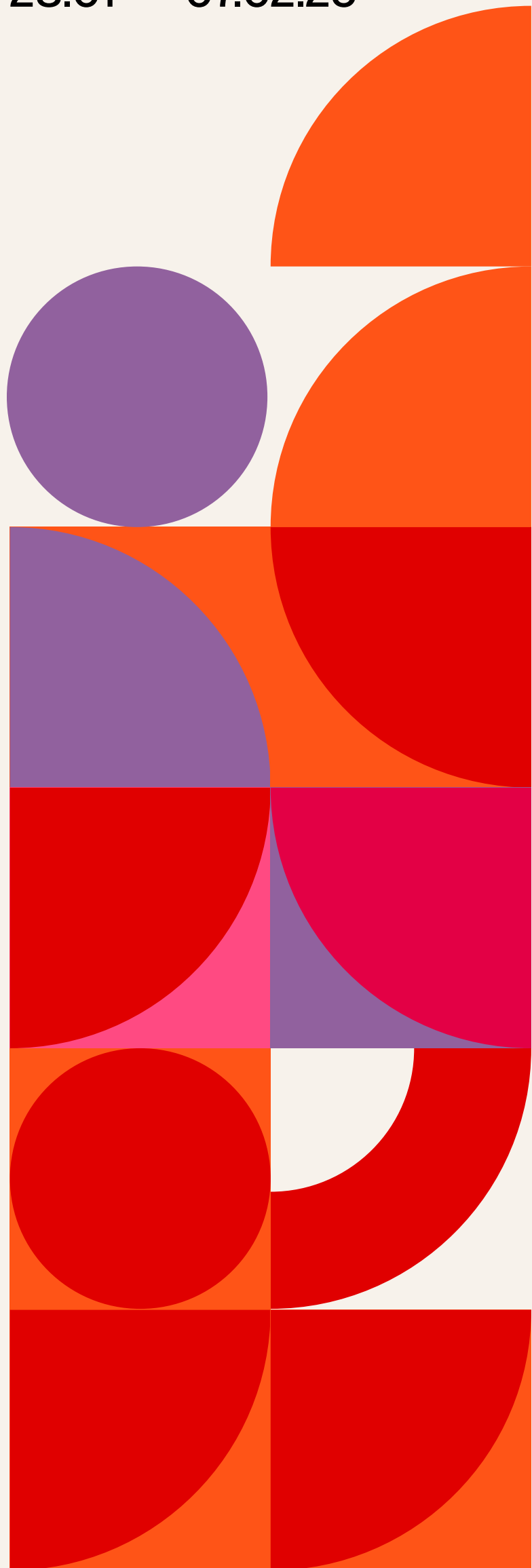
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# Swiss Cultural Week

by the Swiss Cultural Fund  
28.01 — 07.02.25



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## Artistic events

**28.01** 19:00

### Music for Broken People

Mardit Lleshi

*Artistic Lyceum Tirana*

**29.01** 19:00

### On Waterscapes

was bleibt kollektiv I Gentian Doda

*National Experimental Theatre*

**30.01** 18:00

### Zines by Zanat

Zanat Collective

*Studio Luce Exhibition Room*

**31.01** 18:00

### The World of the Mind

Renato Lleshi

*Ferdinand Deda Auditorium, RTSH*

**01.02** 18:00

### Between Us

Endrit Ahmetaj, Daniela Gjopalaj

*Ded Ndue Lazri Culture Palace, Lezhë*

**04.02** 19:00

### Between Us

Endrit Ahmetaj, Daniela Gjopalaj

*National Experimental Theatre*

**05.02** 18:00

### In the Socialist Paradise (it doesn't rain)

Ermela Teli

*National Film Archive*

20:00

### The Past is Our Country

Ardian Vehbiu

*Destil Creative Hub*



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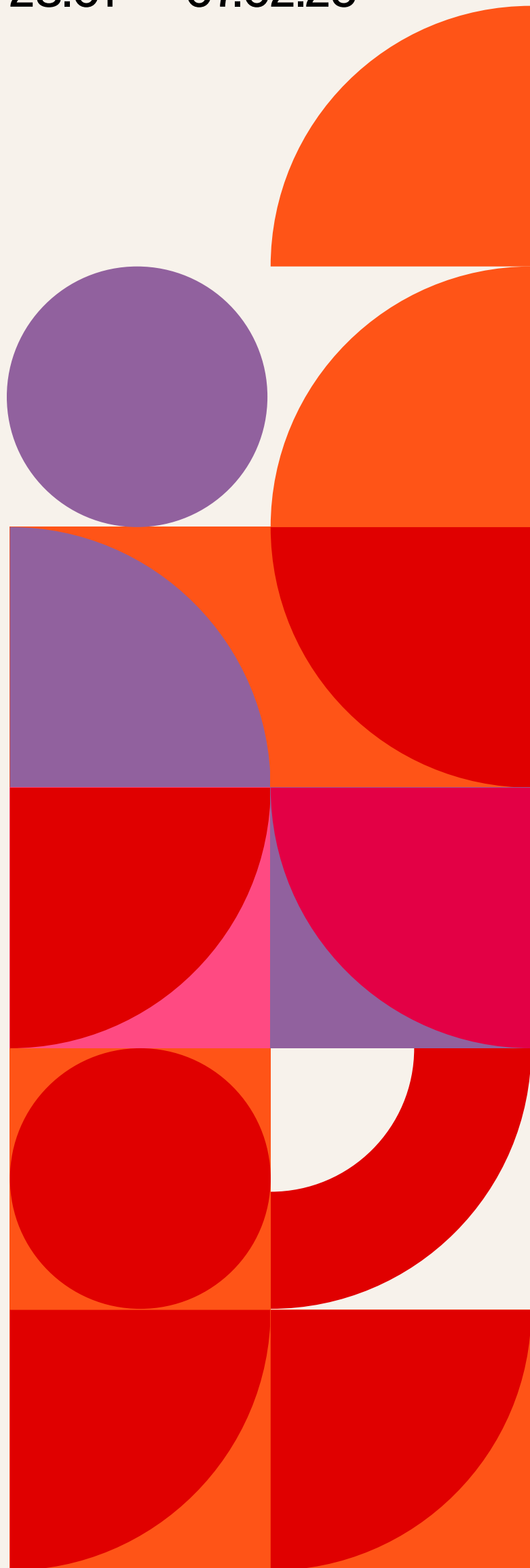
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28.01 — 07.02.25



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## Artistic events

**06.02** 19:00

### The Old Bazaar of Tirana: Between narratives

Anna Shkreli, Arba Baxhaku,  
Alen Bejko

*BERK*

**07.02** 19:00

### Polluted Horizons

Geri Prendushi

*Tulla Culture Center*

## Conversations

**29.01** 18:00

### On Censorship of Classical Music During the Communist Regime

Mardit Lleshi, Dr. Mikalea Minga

*Destil Creative Hub*

**06.02** 18:00

### Cinema on Trial: From the Newsreels of the Communist Show Trials to the Revolutionary Vigilance Films

DebatikCenter of Contemporary Art

*ZETA Contemporary Art Center*

**07.02** 18:00

### The 1990s as a Time of Making and Unmaking Culture in Albania

DebatikCenter of Contemporary Art

*ZETA Contemporary Art Center*



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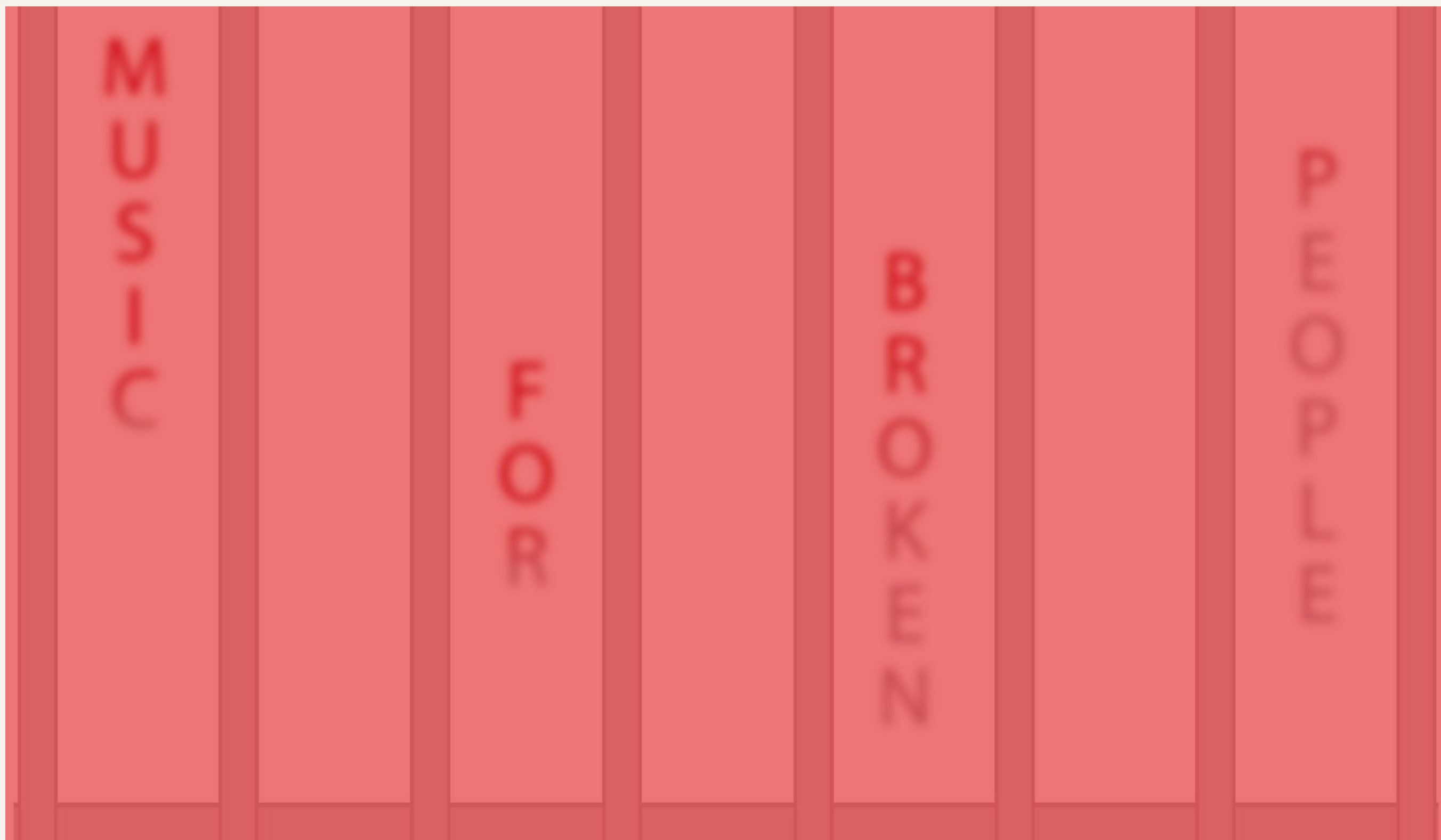
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28.01

19:00

## Music For Broken People

Mardit Lleshi

*Tonin Harapi Auditorium, Artistic Lyceum of Tirana*

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28.01  
19:00

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Tonin Harapi  
Auditorium, Artistic  
Lyceum Tirana

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29.01  
18:00  
Destil Creative Hub

Music by Mardit Lleshi  
Conductor: Gridi Kraja  
Artistic director: Ergi  
Papadimitri  
Air String Orchestra  
Soprano Rovená Xhelili

## Music For Broken People

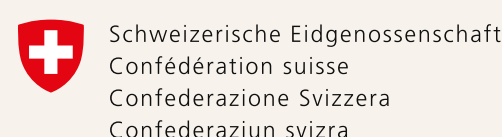
The musical performance Music for Broken People is a programmed work composed of several musical pieces. Each piece, through the orchestra's performance, narrates the dark journey of the communist dictatorship in Albania from 1945 to 1990.

The following day, an open discussion will address the censorship of classical music during the communist regime, focusing on the composers who risked persecution, with Dr. Mikaela Minga and composer Mardit Lleshi on the panel.

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28.01 — 07.02.25



29.01

19:00

## On Waterscapes

was bleibt kollektiv | Gentian Doda

*Kujtim Spahivogli National Experimental Theatre*

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## 29.01

### 19:00

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Kujtim Spahivogli  
National  
Experimental  
Theatre

Artistic direction &  
Choreography:

Gentian Doda

Performers & Collaborators:

Rosella Pellicciotti, Fjorald

Doci, Arber Vathi,

Rafael Hoxhaj,

Rajkard Bardhi (on trumpet)

Costume designer:

Ardi Asllani

A production by: was bleibt  
kollektiv | Gentian Doda

## On Waterscapes

Driven by the primal force of thirst, On Waterscapes by 'was bleibt kollektiv | Gentian Doda' is a dance performance that explores the symbolic and emotional aspects of water. Through movement, it reflects the fluidity, renewal, and transformative essence of water, embodying the tension between power and vulnerability.

The performance will be followed by an open conversation with artists from was bleibt kollektiv | Gentian Doda and Gökhan Tuncer (director of Heinrich Böll Stiftung Tirana), discussing the creative process of On Waterscapes and its connection to social issues of drinking water and water equity in Albania.

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30.01

18:00

Zines by 'Zanat'

Zanat Collective

*Studio Luce Exhibition Room, rr. Kosovarëve*

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# Swiss Cultural Week

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## 30.01

## 18:00

Studio Luce  
Exhibition Room,  
Rr. Kosovarëve

The collective:  
Jolin Matraku,  
Xhesi Shehu,  
Lea Tabaku,  
Melisa Koyun,  
Antea Vogli,  
Denisa Suli

## Zines by 'Zanat'

Zanat (Fairies) is an art collective empowering young women students to develop design skills through workshops and mentorship. Its inaugural event features a presentation of Zines nga Zanat and an illustration exhibition, showcasing zines that address gender inequality. With humor, sarcasm, and sharp writing, the project inspires reflection and social advocacy.

This presentation follows an open conversation organized in November 2024 with women creative entrepreneurs, on issues of women representation in the creative industries.

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31.01

18:00

## The Mind World

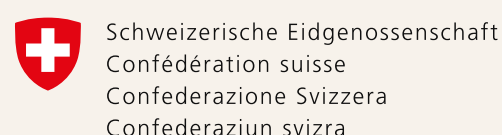
Renato Lleshi

*Ferdinand Deda Auditorium, RTSH*

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# Swiss Cultural Week

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28.01 — 07.02.25

31.01  
18:00

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Ferdinand Deda  
Auditorium, RTSH

Choreography:  
Renato Lleshi  
Dancers: Renato Lleshi,  
Ambra Troplini,  
Armando Meci, Eles Resuli,  
Enea Qirici, Sabina Maklekaj  
Instrumentists:  
Erbi Piranaj - Violin,  
Blerina Cello - Violoncello

## The Mind World

This performance explores the connection between mental health, identity, and self-expression through dance and music. Young artists raise awareness of the mental health challenges they face, highlighting art's transformative power amidst triumphs and struggles.

A conversation with Dr. Irena Hysenaj psychotherapist will follow, focusing on the interplay between psychology, music, and performance arts.

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28.01 — 07.02.25

01.02

18:00

## Between Us

Endrit Ahmetaj, Daniela Gjopalaj

*Ded Ndue Lazri Culture Palace Lezhë*

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28.01 — 07.02.25

04.02

19:00

## Between Us

Endrit Ahmetaj, Daniela Gjopalaj

*Kujtim Spahivogli National Experimental Theatre*

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## 01.02

### 18:00

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Ded Ndue Lazri  
Culture Palace  
Lezhë

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04.02, 19:00  
Kujtim Spahivogli  
National  
Experimental  
Theatre

Director: Endrit Ahmetaj  
Assistant Director: Ana Guçe  
Playwright: Daniela Gjopalaj  
Actress: Mimoza Marjanaku,  
Rexhina Ibro  
Scenography / Costume  
Design: Klara Fyshku  
Video Art: Redina Qose

## Between Us

“Between us” is an original drama that brings to the center a complex relationship between a mother and a daughter, focusing on how society affects and determines the dynamics of this relationship. The drama explores social, cultural and gender issues that reflect the challenges faced by girls and women in Albania.

Following an open conversation with feminist activists held in December 2024 in Tirana, the world premiere of the play will take place in Lezhë. After the premiere, an open discussion with the participating artists will further explore the play’s themes.

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05.02  
18:00

## In the Socialist Paradise (it doesn't rain)

Ermela Teli

*National Film Archive*

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05.02  
18:00

National Film  
Archive

Written and directed by  
Ermela Teli

Camera: Olsi Hoxha,  
Ermela Teli;

Sound: Ermela Teli;

Music and editing:  
Olsi Hoxha;

Graphics: Klea Muceku;  
Translator:

Anxhela Cikopano;

Consultant: Saimir Bajo

In collaboration with the  
Albanian National Film  
Archive

## In the Socialist Paradise (it doesn't rain)

An audiovisual narrative addressing the theme of propaganda in art and its significant political role. The project draws on archival images from Albania's cinematic heritage of the communist era, delving deeply into the ways propaganda shaped not only film painting and music but also personal experiences and family histories.

The premiere screening will be followed by an open conversation with the creative team discussing the themes explored in the project, as well as the concept and creative process behind the work.

Interviews: Ermir Hoxha, Researcher; Raino Isto, Art historian and curator; Mikaela Minga, Ethnomusicologist; Dr Julian Bejko, Professor of Social Sciences and Cinema Researcher

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05.02

20:00

## The Past is Our Country

Ardian Vehbiu

*Destil Creative Hub*

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05.02  
20:00

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Destil Creative  
Hub

## The Past is Our Country

This series by Ardian Vehbiu explores the intersections of memory, personal and collective identity, weaving fragments of Albania's totalitarian past with the present and future of Albanian society. The series is published as a special dossier of the magazine Peizazhe të Fjalës.

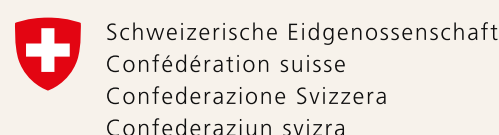
An evening of storytelling with readings from the series, led by Elsa Demo. The readings will be accompanied by a visual projection featuring images from Rruga Kont Urani, as the emblematic space where the past and present collide and are rewritten.

Author: Ardian Vehbiu

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06.02

19:00

## The Old Bazaar of Tirana: Between Narratives

Anna Shkreli, Arba Baxhaku, Alen Bejko

*BERK*

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06.02  
19:00

BERK

Authors:

Anna Shkreli, Arba Baxhaku,  
Alen Bejko.

Editors: Anna Shkreli,  
Alen Bejko.

Artist: Klea Muçeku.

Proofreader:

Antonela Pepkolaj.

Archival Reseach:

Anna Shkreli, Sokol Çunga

## The Old Bazaar of Tirana: Between narratives

This project is aimed at shedding light on the history and cultural significance of Tirana's Old Bazaar, based on archival materials and field research. A booklet with essays and illustrations that reconstruct the face of the Bazaar, along with an exhibition featuring the artistic works developed during this study, seeks to encourage reflection on the urban history of Tirana.

The book presentation will be accompanied by an open conversation with the creative team behind the publication, giving the audience the opportunity to engage more deeply with the topic.

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07.02

19:00

## Polluted Horizons

Geri Prendushi

*Tulla Culture Center*

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# Swiss Cultural Week

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## 07.02

## 19:00

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Tulla Culture Center

Visual Artist:  
Geri Prendushi  
Art Curator:  
Rea Lemnusha  
Project Manager:  
Burim Bilali  
Urbanist with Expertise  
in Environmental Issues:  
Darling Dardha

## Polluted Horizons

Polluted Horizons is a digital art exhibition exploring the impact of urban development on society and nature in Albania. Through digital sculptures and surreal landscapes, the show addresses the psychological effects of consumer culture, such as body image issues and self-worth, while highlighting the environmental consequences of our choices.

The exhibition will be followed by an open conversation on art's role in raising awareness of consumer culture's impact and how digital art and surreal landscapes can inspire sustainability and eco-conscious urban planning, with Geri Prendushi – artist, Rea Lemnusha – curator, Tea Zeqaj – Coordinator for Environmental Programs at Heinrich Böll Stiftung, moderated by Burim Bilali.

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## MANIFESTO GREAT WAVE (Conversations)

*Zeta Contemporary Art Center*

**06.02**  
18:00

**Cinema on Trial: From the Newsreels  
of the Communist Show Trials to the  
Revolutionary Vigilance Films**

**07.02**  
18:00

**The 1990s as a Time of Unmaking and  
Remaking Culture in Albania**

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## MANIFESTO GREAT WAVE

Between November 22 and December 15, Zeta Contemporary Art Center hosted Manifesto GREAT WAVE: “TWO HOURS OF FRESH AIR,” an unexhibition offering a comprehensive overview of two decades of marginal artistic activities produced since the 2000s by the DebatikCenter of Contemporary Art and Manifesto Collective.

As an extension of these activities, two final events will be held: “Cinema on Trial: From the Newsreels of the Communist Show Trials to the Revolutionary Vigilance Films” – A book presentation and open conversation with author Jonida Gashi, PhD (author / member of the BAP editorial board), Ataol Kaso (publisher / member of the BAP editorial board), Ylber Marku, PhD (internal reviewer / member of the Academy of Sciences of Albania), and Anxhela Çikopano, PhD (internal reviewer / member of the Academy of Sciences of Albania) (February 6), and the workshop “The 1990s as a Time of Unmaking and Remaking Culture in Albania”, featuring speakers: Jonida Gashi, PhD; Ylber Marku, PhD; Vincent WJ van Gerven Oei, PhD; Raino Isto, PhD, and Sashenka Lleshaj, PhD (February 7).