

Respected vice-rectors, deans, vice-deans
Distinguished guests,
Dear colleagues and students,

This day, the Day of the Faculty that is the youngest within the University, which has succeeded to occupy a very important place in the academic community for just 13 years of work, not only of Niš, but on a much larger scale, is in many ways unique. This is the day when each of us, even when not wanting to admit it out loud, uses simple mathematics, statistics or comparing to others.

The future can not be predicted with certainty, but we can prepare ourselves for new challenges. The preparations require a look back and a detailed analysis of already trodden road. Then you turn to one side, and to the other, to look at the circumstances in which you accomplish your dreams and at the end ... it is a matter of personal choice and courage whether you would and you are able to step on a path that is hard, but true and real.

The time in which we live is neither simple, nor easy, and it is very important to remind that every community, especially academic one, is as strong as its members are strong.

Only three years ago, we were said to have set too ambitious goals. In every corner, one could have heard that this or that is not possible, which is the easiest excuse for inactivity. It was important to become aware of the times which we live in, and it is often not what we were prepared for, it is more recent and hardly anyone of us can state with certainty to absolutely know where to go. Yet, we managed to wake up, believe again and hope. We returned to the life and spirituality that drives and maintains artists.

Can you imagine how much exercise you need to achieve a technical or experiential advantage of the free movement of the mind through different emotional colourings. You need to train every day, until your mind is open to the invisible forms of communication which are intuitively transformed into art. Because art and beauty are the highest values of harmonious living. The artist as a divine creator grows along with his or her work, and only then, and only in such way becomes truly human. This naturally leads to prosperity.

We could mention the individual success of professors, associates and students and it would take time ... I decided to remind you of the team's greatest achievements of the Faculty in cooperation with high schools, Niš Symphony Orchestra, National Theatre, Student's Cultural Center, Gallery of Contemporary Art, Student Center and other institutions in the city. Active participation in various events and competitions created equal opportunity to everyone at the Faculty to improve their own references by a personal engagement and at the same time strengthen the reference of the whole institution.

I will not burden you with the enumerations, but it is important, very important to point out the achievements of which we are all happy and proud to remember and which will not lose its

freshness even after 50 years, even when we're all gone. We did a couple of the most complex projects, engaging all our potentials:

- We renewed opera scene in Niš, when no one believed it was possible
- We performed Beethoven's 9th Symphony with joint Niš powers
- We started publishing and research work
- Our students are among the best in artistic events and competitions, and professors increasingly popular in domestic and international fields, which leaves deep and indelible marks on the road we have chosen

Only joint and united in defense of art we can create great works. A new time for education and culture comes. Let us give in to it without fear and questions where it might lead. Art has been, it is well known, surviving under impossible circumstances and in the most difficult times for humanity, changing shape and form, adapting, but surviving.

Previous and mandate management has set the goal of unifying of all the arts under the same roof. Corroborated by the fact that great names of cultural scene in Serbia, and even Europe have shown interest in various forms of engagement and cooperation with the Faculty of Arts in Niš, this goal is not just a mere ambition. Convinced that we may breathe not only its former shine to the barracks of Filip Kljajić Fića, but also colours, sounds and the energy of youth art, with which this magnificent building can become an elite place, both of the City and Serbia, we will not cease to want and will not cease to hope.

Together we can do much more for generations to come, only and if we truly believe in it. And we, professors and students of the Faculty of Arts strongly believe that, in times to come, the wider public would understand our being necessary and needed in their lives.

We know how to breach without contact and how to speak without words. I greet you, sure that you will understand us even when you do not see us and do not hear us!

To all who have joined us in this celebration, but also to those who are in their thoughts with us, I congratulate the Day of the Faculty and let it be happy for us!

prof. dr Suzana Kostić

Dekan Fakulteta umetnosti u Nišu