



UNIVERSITY OF NIS
FACULTY OF ARTS NIS



XII National Scientific Conference with International Participation

Balkan Art Forum 2026

(BARTF 2026)

Niš, October 9–10, 2026

The Faculty of Arts, University of Niš, in cooperation with the Niš Branch of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, is organizing the 12th National Scientific Conference with International Participation – ***Balkan Art Forum 2026***, with the aim of bringing together artists, educators, theorists, and researchers whose research findings, ideas, innovations, and practical achievements in the field of art will contribute to the advancement of artistic creation, art pedagogy theory and practice, and scholarly research in the arts. The organizers invite interested participants to submit papers and actively contribute to the international scientific conference, which this year is held under the theme:

BALKAN ART FORUM (BARTF) 2026 – ART AND CULTURE TODAY:

THE BODY AS MEDIUM:

PERFORMATIVITY, IMAGE, AND SOUND

IN ARTISTIC AND RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS

The scientific conference entitled “**The Body as Medium: Performativity, Image, and Sound in Artistic and Religious Contexts**” aims to promote interdisciplinary research on the body as a site of encounter between spiritual experience, artistic practice, and media representation. Across diverse cultural and historical frameworks, the body emerges as a bearer of meaning, a medium of communication, and a space of transcendence. It is not merely a biological given, but a dynamic phenomenon shaped through rituals, artistic expressions, and media technologies.

The focus of the conference is directed toward the performative, visual, and sonic aspects of corporeality, both in religious practices and rituals and in works of art and contemporary media contexts. Particular attention will be devoted to the ways in which the body becomes an active participant in the processes of creating and transmitting meaning—whether through voice and sound, through image and visual representation, or through movement and performative action.

The purpose of the conference is to open a dialogue among various disciplines, including theology, philosophy, art history, performance studies, media studies, literature, and film, as well as contemporary artistic practices that question the boundaries of corporeality within digital and intermedial spaces. This dialogue seeks to demonstrate how the body, in both its material and spiritual dimensions, functions as a medium connecting the visible and the invisible, the individual and the collective, tradition and contemporaneity.

The organizers intend for this theme to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences among researchers and artists, to illuminate contemporary transformations of corporeality in art and religion, and to offer new perspectives for understanding the body as a medium of meaning, communication, and transcendence. In this sense, the conference itself becomes a site of encounter between diverse disciplines and cultural perspectives, fostering new understandings of the body as a medium in contemporary society.

Thematic Frameworks

- Theoretical approaches to the body as medium: phenomenology, semiology, the material and the transcendental
- The body in religious practices and rituals: voice, iconography, testimony of faith
- Visual representations of the body: from sacred images to digital culture
- Sound, voice, and corporeality: performativity and acoustic spaces
- Intermediality: the body between image, sound, and movement
- Boundaries and transformations of the body: sacrifice, pain, revelation, and transformation
- The body in literature and film: narratives, visual performativity, intermedial adaptations
- Contemporary contexts and new technologies: the digital body, bio-art, ethics
- Comparative and intercultural perspectives: dialogue of traditions and cultures

FORMS OF PARTICIPATION:

The conference will be organized in person, with the possibility of online participation and presentation.

PRESENTATION DURATION: 15–20 minutes

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE CONFERENCE: Serbian, English, and Slavic languages

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPER TITLE AND ABSTRACT:

(Abstract in the language of presentation and in English, up to 250 words and up to 5 keywords)

Deadline: **August 17, 2026**

Submission via email: bartf@artf.ni.ac.rs

THE APPLICATION FORM AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FACULTY OF ARTS WEBSITE (<http://www.artf.ni.ac.rs/eng/>)

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE: September 1, 2026

CONFERENCE FEE: 4,500.00 RSD or 35 EUR for international participants, according to the official exchange rate of the National Bank of Serbia on the day of payment. Bank transfer fees for international payments are to be covered by the participant.

The conference fee includes: Book of abstracts, Certificate of participation, Proceedings of peer-reviewed papers from the conference, Cocktail reception with food and beverages.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF THE CONFERENCE FEE: October 5, 2026

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL PAPER: March 1, 2027

For further information, please contact the conference organizers at: bartf@artf.ni.ac.rs

Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Niš
Prof. Dr. art. Milena Injac