

МБОУ «ЦО №46»

Индивидуальный конкурс эссе

**“Единство в различии”**

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

**«Диалог культур: искусство как инструмент единения  
народов»**



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2023

Individual essay contest

**“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking  
World. Time for Equal Opportunities”**

Research work (essay)

**«Dialogue of cultures: art as an instrument of nations’ unity»**



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Grade 10A

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2023

## **Theses**

1. Introduction. “Art for all?”
2. What is the value of international art projects? And how can we build bridges between different countries and cultures through art?
3. How did closed borders give the culture of each nation the opportunity to be heard?
4. How is the idea of unity of people expressed through performance?  
Dialogue between the artist and the viewer.
5. Conclusion. What is the power of art?

*“Art will unify all humanity. Art is one – indivisible. Art has its many branches, yet all are one. Art is the manifestation of the coming synthesis...”*

Nicholas Roerich “Beautiful Unity”

This veracious quotation makes it clear that art has the power to bring people together, regardless of their nationality, language, political views, or religious beliefs. In a nutshell, it means “art is for all”.

Have you ever seen a variety of flowers blossoming in a garden? Each type of flower is one-of-a-kind, possessing its own aroma and charm. Similarly, art is a universal language that connects all people, inspiring them to share the splendor and grace of their culture and traditions with the world.

Undoubtedly, when it comes to the importance of culture in an international context, it is hard to overstate its significance. Art projects bring people together, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and help them find a common language.

However, the snobbery and exclusivity that has historically surrounded the "art" field still persists to some extent. Dialogue through art can be a constructive way to address cultural contradictions. It emerged as a tool to unite people, allowing the cultural community to develop more quickly and in more interesting ways. Through collaborative projects and community-based initiatives, artists and cultural institutions have increasingly sought to engage with a wider audience, and to bridge the gap between art and society.

I dedicated my essay to explore the ways in which international art projects can serve as a powerful tool to bring people from different countries and cultures together. Specifically, I will be analyzing the work of Marina Abramović, a renowned performance artist who has made a significant impact on the global art scene. Through her various projects, Abramović has been able to break down the barriers that divide us as humans, including feelings of loneliness and detachment that have become all too common in our society.

Art, whether it's visual or the performing arts, has a very profound effect on people by emphasizing how much peoples have in common and at the same time unique. Art has shaped and inspired thousands of years of civilization, as evidenced by the countless museums, galleries, theaters and venues around the world to this day. Let us not forget that for many cultural initiatives, even the closed borders were not an obstacle. During the pandemic, art demonstrated flexibility and rapidly adapted to modern realities. Although work in museums and theaters was suspended, art did not "remain silent". Rather, it boldly began to "speak" even more confidently than before. Art is no longer something that people have to go out to see; it has become accessible to anyone, anywhere in the world. This has given each nation's culture the opportunity to be heard.

International art projects have become a powerful tool for promoting unity and collaboration across borders, helping to break down the barriers that divide us and bringing people from different cultural backgrounds together.

Speaking about today's International art projects, I can but mention the success of the project "Russian-German Music Academy online – for the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II", which is a testament to the power of art to bring people from diverse backgrounds together. The resounding success of the project was evident through the millions of views it received, as well as the attention it received from political and diplomatic circles across the world. Concert halls in Berlin, Moscow, and St. Petersburg were opened to record individual musical acts in compliance with all the rules of the pandemic, and a unique film "Together in Difficult Times" was created. The project was a kind of "bridge" between Russia and Germany, promoting cultural exchange and reminding the world of the importance of peace and unity.

Another project that really captured my attention and left a lasting impression on me was "The Cultural Capitals". I was immediately drawn to this initiative because of its focus on showcasing the unique cultural heritage and traditions of

different cities around the world. "The Cultural Capitals" art project was created with the aim of promoting cultural exchange between Poland and Russia. It was based on the concept of "not a competition, but an interaction", meaning that the artists from St. Petersburg and Krakow were not competing with each other, but rather interacting and collaborating to showcase the unique cultural identities of these two cities.

"I hope young artists and aspiring professionals will appreciate our contribution to the cooperation between Poland and Russia. We have a lot in common, actually. As for me, I am concerned about the disunity of Russia and other European countries. Someone has to take steps. In our case, we solve several problems: we give the opportunities to the young," says chief project coordinator Kira Sandina.

The success of "The Cultural Capitals" art project can be attributed to its innovative approach to promoting cultural exchange. By focusing on collaboration and interaction rather than competition, the project was able to create a shared space where artists from different backgrounds could come together and showcase their unique cultural identities. The project's emphasis on engaging young people in cultural exchange also helped to ensure that the project would have a lasting impact on the cultural landscape of both countries.

I am sincerely convinced that such projects demonstrate the power of art to bring people together and promote a sense of unity and understanding that transcends all barriers.

I devoted the second part of my essay to the person who once and for all converted the public perception of contemporary art, framing it as a form of dialogue that can deeply resonate with thousands of people.

Among art-world luminaries who expressed their vision without tailoring their art to the political demands of the government I would like to single out a person known as the "grandmother of performance art". She mesmerized audiences

with spectacular performances and speeches, but it was her passionate temperament, and genuine sincerity, onstage and off, that made her a phenomenon, a real international personification of freedom incarnate. But first things first – the speech is about Marina Abramovic and her idea of the unity people through art.

Truth to be told, I decided to write about Marina Abramovic in a heartbeat. In my opinion, she is one of the few artists whose craft wasn't affected by any biases whatsoever. At first glance, the work of Marina Abramović would appear to conform to that hackneyed old saying that the best art is always about the self. However, as with so many other clichés about contemporary art, this serves only to limit the scope, richness and originality of this particular artist who, since day one over four decades ago, has made her own human body into a vital space for dialogue between the artist and the viewer. Undoubtedly, the viewer's perception of performative art has changed. Earlier, the focus was on an artistic work that «existed independently of its creator and recipient». Now, artists create an atmosphere where the public and the artist are the most crucial components.

The Serbian artist's performances involve an immediate and emotional exchange of energy with the public, as she intends, making them that last piece of the equation without which the transformative experience of art would be incomplete and in vain. In her works, she creates a dialogue between the artist and the viewer, breaking down the traditional barriers between the two and allowing for a shared experience that transcends language and culture. Her work has inspired countless artists to explore the boundaries of their own art forms and to create new and innovative works that challenge our perceptions and promote a sense of unity.

One of Abramović's most notable projects is "The Artist is Present," a performance piece that took place at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. For 75 days, Abramović sat in a chair across from museum visitors,

inviting them to sit across from her and make eye contact. Abramović said that during that time, she became a mirror for people who entrust their feelings and emotions to her. This experience, according to Marina Abramović, "showed how lonely people can be in a society that establishes distance and makes people alienated and closed." This simple act of human connection had a profound impact on those who participated, breaking down the walls that we often put up to protect ourselves from others. Another example of Abramović's work is "Balkan Baroque," a piece that explores the artist's personal history and the history of her native Yugoslavia. Through a combination of performance, video, and audio elements, Abramović creates a moving portrait of a nation torn apart by war and conflict. By sharing her own experiences and connecting with the audience on a personal level, Abramovich is able to create a sense of unity and understanding that transcends cultural and political boundaries.

Overall, the work of Marina Abramović serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative power of art. By bringing people together and creating opportunities for meaningful human connection, international art projects have the potential to unite us all and promote greater understanding and empathy across borders.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the power of art to bring people together has been recognized for centuries, and it continues to be an important tool in promoting cross-cultural understanding and collaboration. Through international art projects, we can create a space where people from different backgrounds can come together to share their stories, their cultures and their experiences, and in doing so, promote a sense of unity and understanding that transcends all barriers. International art projects can be used as a tool to prevent loneliness and detachment by creating a shared space where people can connect and communicate across borders. As Marina Abramovic says, "Art is not just about aesthetics, it's about the possibility of communication."





## Resources:

1. Nicholas Roerich «Beautiful Unity» <https://roerich.org/roerich-writings-beautiful-unity.php>
2. Cultural Diplomacy online: «People of Art for Peace» <https://culturaonline.ru/en/cultural-diplomacy-online-people-of-art-for-peace/>
3. Marina Abramović «Walk through walls: a memoir»
4. Abramovich Marina. Telo khudozhnika / Publika kak telo: performans. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1obhtu1tj0&t=3835s>
5. Marina Abramovic on the Power of Intuition | Innsaei (2016) | Lifestyle Doc Exclusive Clip <https://youtu.be/8Fs1cmYghDs>
6. Marina Abramović: An Art Made of Trust, Vulnerability and Connection at TED Talks [https://youtu.be/M4so\\_Z9a\\_u0](https://youtu.be/M4so_Z9a_u0)
7. Зелинская П.В., Якубовская Ю.В. Перформанс Марины Абрамович: искусство или шарлатанство? // Бизнес и дизайн ревю. 2021. № 2 (22). С. 8.
8. Marina Abramović: Biography, works and exhibitions <https://www.alejandradeargos.com/index.php/en/all-articles/35-artists/41451-marina-abramovic-biography-works-and-exhibitions>
9. Considering Abramović as a Symbol of Freedom <https://hyperallergic.com/6876/abramovic-symbol-of-freedom/>
10. Марина Абрамович: «Теперь зрители могут поплакать без меня» <https://www.thesymbol.ru/art/diary/marina-abramovich/?ysclid=lgi3pcewxm159412881>
11. Marina Abramovic launches new app ahead of her participation at the Nobel Week Dialogue <https://acuteart.com/marina-abramovic-rising-app/>

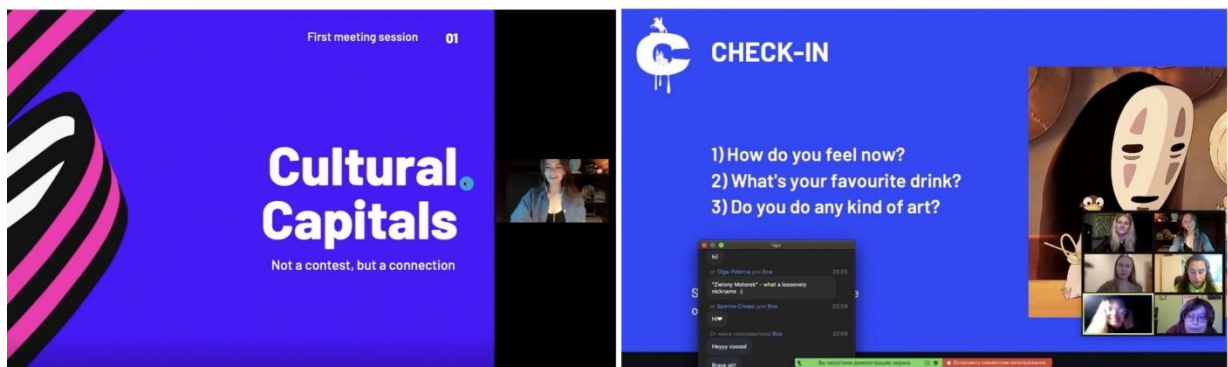
## Appendix



RCCR Projects, a production company based in Berlin, collaborated with Russian partners to prepare several projects to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victory Day. However, due to the pandemic, the events transformed into a series of international online events.



Classics from Russia and Germany, as well as works by composers from other countries related to the theme of World War II, echoed through empty concert halls in Berlin, Moscow, and St. Petersburg



“Cultural Capitals” art project is carried out by presenting personal photos/audio/video materials. After the online meetings period, artists from Saint Petersburg create artworks depicting Krakow, while Polish artists present their vision of St. Petersburg.



Performance “The Artist Is Present”

“...But the need of people to actually experience something different,” said Marina Abramović, “the public was not anymore the group - relation was one to one.”





“There was so much pain and loneliness, there's so much incredible things when you look in somebody else's eyes, because in the gaze with that total stranger, that you never even say one word - everything happened. And I understood when I stood up from that chair after three months, am not the same anymore.”

Marina Abramović



### Performance “Balkan Baroque”

“The whole idea that by washing bones and trying to scrub the blood, is impossible. You can't wash the blood from your hands as you can't wash the shame from the war. But also it was important to transcend it, that can be used, this image, for any war, anywhere in the world. So to become from personal there can be universal”

Marina Abramović