

Partisan Art: Revolution, Class, and Creative Labor
Bojana Videkanić

Partisan art is inherently class-conscious and politically engaged, yet it also affirms creativity as labor and a vital human impulse. Artistic production grounded in these dual commitments played a central role in both revolutionary struggle and post-revolutionary reconstruction in the Yugoslav region throughout the 20th century. While its practical realization was uneven—as is true of all revolutionary processes—the outcomes were nonetheless historically and culturally significant. Revisiting partisan Yugoslav artistic and cultural archives today offers a critical lens through which to confront the enduring contradictions of contemporary art, not only within the Yugoslav context but across global artistic production.



Bojana Videkanić is Associate Professor of Art History and Visual Culture at the University of Waterloo, Canada. Her research explores Yugoslav socialist modernist art, global modernisms, and various forms of vernacular and popular art. She is the author of *Nonaligned Modernism* (McGill-Queen's UP, 2020) and has published in *ArtMargins*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Public Journal*, and *Slavic Review*, as well as contributed chapters to *Routledge Companion to Marxisms in Art History* (2024), *Socialist Yugoslavia and the Non-Aligned Movement* (McGill-Queen's UP, 2023). Videkanić is currently co-editing a book on international socialist exhibitions, and on East European avant-gardes.