SJJ 016

Postcards from a Present in Progress



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I left for Sarajevo with the reports of a couple of friends and Giovanna Volpi's essay Sarajevo Maybe, 1994 in my pocket. In the bag, I also had a couple of cameras: a FujiFilm X30 and a small Ricoh GX100. The program included a photo exhibition entitled ko.existence.*

Those few notions I lost once in town. There, other friends – professor Tatjana Sekulić and photographer Jim Marshall, my partner in the *ko.existence* exhibition organized by the Universities of Milan Bicocca, Sarajevo and East Sarajevo with the patronage of the Italian Embassy in Sarajevo – pinned on my notebook some names of places and sketches from the past.

But I was living the present.

And *this* Present was full of new inputs: it was almost unable to contain its stories. The Baščaršija, the Ottoman market district; the Faculty of Political Science; a Sunday marathon; the alleys, a covered shelter during the long siege (1992-1995) away from the shots of the snipers; the numerous and silent cemeteries that embrace the city from the hills. Every aspect of Sarajevo told me stories of a *present in progress*. Everyday life survived the war and committed to stopping the resurgence of nationalisms and waves of fundamentalisms.

In *this* present in *progress citizens* of Sarajevo do not seem tired to defend the urgent sense of coexistence.

My task, as a street photographer, was to record all these inputs and send them to you as series of postcards.

Sarajevo, September 17-20, 2016

^{*} The title of the exhibition came from a suggestion of one of the directors of the Summer School: the original *co.existence* became *ko.existence* better tailored to the life of Western and Eastern metropolises. "Ko", in the Bosnian language means "who?", so the title is a pun implying a challenge to the viewers to rethink their notion of coexistence and avoid the danger of a social knock out.















































