

International art workshops by **Prof. art. Koraljka Kovač Dugandžić, Prof. art. Paulina Jazvić, Assoc. Prof. art. Josipa Štefanec, Assoc. Prof. art. Lea Popinjač, and Asst. Prof. art. Ivana Mrčela** were held as part of the three-day international conference “**Open Doors, Open Minds**”, from **16 to 18 December 2025** at the **Technical Faculty in Bihać**.

This three-day international artistic gathering brought together artists, researchers, and theorists with the aim of reflecting on migration as a layered and multidimensional phenomenon in contemporary society and local communities. The program was designed as an interdisciplinary platform connecting artists, local associations, researchers, and theorists through educational and research practices focused on themes of migration, identity, and collaborative creation.

Participants from **Croatia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina** took part in a series of activities including artistic and educational workshops, lectures, and discussions. The program included artistic and creative workshops, textile and fashion workshops dedicated to themes of identity and belonging, handicraft workshops organized in collaboration with women’s associations, lectures and discussions on migration, social inclusion, and cultural exchange, an introduction to the **#NoNationFashion** initiative of the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, and the marking of **International Migrants Day** through artistic activities at the **Lipa Temporary Reception Centre**.

An exhibition of art works created during the international art workshops was presented at the **Lipa Temporary Reception Centre, the City Gallery Bihać, and the Faculty of Textile Technology, University of Zagreb**.

The workshop led by **Prof. art. Koraljka Kovač Dugandžić, Assoc. Prof. art. Josipa Štefanec, and Assoc. Prof. art. Lea Popinjač**, titled “**Identities in Blue**”, was based on an interdisciplinary approach combining textile art, analogue photographic processes, and personal writing in reflecting on themes of identity, migration, and trauma. It was held in Bihać, a city marked by contemporary migration movements and located in close proximity to a migrant camp.

The starting point of the workshop was the concept of identity understood as a process shaped by experiences of departure, staying, loss, and memory. Participants—students of the Faculty of Textile Technology and artists from the region—reflected on their own positions between

movement and staying: between experiences of migration and inherited forms of women's labor, care, and knowledge transmission. The artworks were created using the cyanotype technique on aprons, which in this context were considered a multilayered object: a protective garment, a work uniform, but also a carrier of invisible everyday labor. In this way, the apron became a site for inscribing personal stories and a material trace of identity.

The workshop led by **Prof. art. Paulina Jazvić and Asst. Prof. art. Ivana Mrčela**, titled "**Embroidered Mapping**", was also part of the **IMPUP-TEXT project**. Participants used red thread and slippers as materials—symbols of home, belonging, and comfort. In the synergy of these two elements, they told stories about their aspirations and personal transformations in the search for identity. The workshop connected textile art with personal narrative: as the red thread passed through the fabric, paths, memories, and connections that we carry with us were inscribed, while the slippers symbolized the safety, warmth, and intimacy of home.