

These three works by Artist and Teacher, Lea Jerlagic, were presented at this year's traditional exhibition of Visual Artists in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Lea gracefully allowed us to use them in our gallery.



Lea wrote that these paintings “were created using a combined and experimental technique of Chinese woodcut along with drawing and painting. They explore the perception of Eros in different cultures. These works were inspired by a visit to Istanbul, as well as by the rich heritage of Ottoman miniature painting, which often dealt with erotic motifs.”

“The artworks have Turkish titles which, slightly modified, are also used as Turkisms in the Bosnian language: “Aşk,” “Canım,” and “Şerbet.”

Lea wrote that her “...exploration of Eros reaches into traditions that reflect hidden initiation and direct experience, which Georges Foucault, in his work *The History of Sexuality*, refers to as “*Ars Erotica*.” At the core of this practice lies the search for truth through direct and conscious experience. In contrast, “*Scientia Sexualis*” develops—on whose foundations the so-called Western society is built—where truth is produced through confession, leading to further categorization, censorship, and control.”

The words “Aşk,” “Canım,” and “Şerbet.” Aşk can be translated as Love, specifically passionate, romantic, or intense love. In Sufi tradition and Turkish poetry, Aşk often describes a divine or spiritual longing; Canım - My life / My soul; Şerbet - Sherbet (a traditional sweet drink).

These three words remind us of the words in the Song of Solomon in the Bible: “Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for his love is more delightful than wine.”