



**ALBANIAN AND AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS'
COLLABORATION AND EXHIBITION**

Common Threads of Tradition in the PRESENT, an art exhibition of two women fiber artists, will be held at the Edith Langley Barrett Art Gallery at Utica College from September 9th – November 16th 2007. Najada Hamza and Victoria Zacek are the two women fiber artists whose works of art are inspired by and incorporate the culture and clothing styles of traditional Albania.

Through a professional relationship created by Utica College Artist in Residence & Barrett Art Gallery Director Carolynne Whitefeather, between Albania and the United States, Hamza and Zacek have been given the opportunity to join together their inspiration, creativity, leadership and intercultural sharing to create an exhibit highlighting the rich artistic and historical impact weaving and fibers have had on the Albanian culture and the role of women throughout history.

Hamza is of Albanian heritage and is the National Fiber Artist of Albania as well as the Studio Faculty Chair for the Albania Academy of Art. Her new works incorporate Albanian weaving history and pieces of traditional antiquities into her paintings. A resident of the Albanian capital, Tiranë, Hamza's art is focused on the fiber arts.

Zacek, a Central New York native, recently returned to higher education in pursuance of her MFA from Syracuse University and is currently an adjunct professor in the Fibers Department. Her pieces in the exhibit comprise her inspiration and reaction of the landscape, culture and heritage of Albania from her visits there. Photographs, weavings and paintings collectively exude Zacek's creativity and experiences in Albania.

In addition to the art of Hamza and Zacek will be a collection of authentic Albanian garments on loan to the gallery from The Albania Collection. An opening reception will be held in the gallery on September 9th from 4-7 pm. Whitefeather, in addition to extending the invitation to both Hamza and Zacek and curator of the exhibit, will be speaking at the reception.

Sponsors and supporters of the exhibit from both Albania and the USA are listed below: US Embassy Albania, The Foundation for Albanian Visual Arts Across Borders, Albania Institute of Folk Culture, Utica College Offices of the President and The Vice President of Academic Affairs, Utica College Institutional Advancement, Edith Langley Barrett Fine Art Gallery, The Mele Foundation, The Albania Collection.

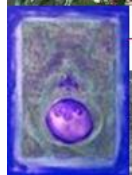
By Mamie M. Savage

Common Threads of Tradition in the Present

Barrett Fine Art Gallery
UTICA COLLEGE

September 9 – November 16 2007

Expressive Arts Through Intercultural Sharing



Najada Hamza
National Fibers Artist, Albania
Chair, Academy of Art Studio Faculty

Victoria Zacek
Independent Artist, USA
Adjunct Faculty, Syracuse U

Artist Reception and Gallery Director Talk
Sunday September 9 4 – 7 pm [gallery and concourse]
Exhibit Mon – Fri 1 – 5 pm and Sat 1 – 4 pm

Sponsored and Supported by

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Utica College Offices of President and VPAA
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