1+1: Life & Love travelling exhibition

LENA HEJLL, CURATOR, SECRETARY CHWB

In 2009, at one of the Balkan Museum workshops, the decision was taken to create a joint exhibition. Several workshops about the exhibition process, were accomplished during the following years. All of the 11 network museums, from six different countries, were taking part as often as they could. Finally, March 11, 2011 – 11 exhibitions, all named 1+1: Life & Love, opened simultaneously.

After the closing of the 11 exhibitions, the work continued with planning for the joint travelling exhibition. All of the 11 Western Balkan museums were asked to send a part of their exhibitions to the CHwB office in Sarajevo. The contributions were very different – objects, films, pictures, sound and texts.

In January and June 2012, a smaller group of participants elected from the 11 museums, met to discuss the content of the travelling exhibition out of the material sent in. The two workshops were also discussing learning, texts and marketing of the new exhibition.

Three young designers from Sarajevo were assigned to create the exhibition form and the National Museum in Sarajevo let the project use some space for the actual building of the exhibition.

The travelling exhibition, 1+1: Life & Love, opened September 7, 2012 at Museum Gustavianum, Uppsala University, Sweden.

This project brings together museums and people in six countries in the Western Balkans who wants to show the beauty of their countries and to share common heritage. The image of the former Yugoslavia is too often associated with war, conflicts and hatred. 1+1: Life & Love shows that people can and do want to work together for a better future.

Much learning is the effect of the project and all who has participated, most surely agree that is has been a great success and an important step towards working across borders.

“We will never forget, but we cannot stay forever on the battlefield”