Speech Dr Zlatko Lagumdzija

Art Exibition NY Contemporary.Bosnia

**The Magnificent Seven**, American western, with all star actors line up based on Kurosava Seven Samurai movie strongly influenced my generations from early childhood and we have been in constant search for magnificent around us.

**Today,** over half century later, I am so proud to be present at opening of Collective Exhibition of Bosnia-Herzegovina Artists in New York: Rebeka Abdagic, Rikardo Druskic, Amer Hadzic, Denis Haracic, Lea Jerlagic, Azra Subasic, Alisa Teletovic.

After getting more familiar with their work I want to share with you my feeling of seeing them as The Magnificent Seven of Contemporary Bosnia.

**Allow me** to thank my colleagues, who responded to my invitation to be with us tonight, ambassadors, PRs to UN, Miguel Angel Moratinos, USG, High Representative for the UN AoC, Columbia professor Tanya Domi who has been devoting significant portion of her life and carrier for the prosperity of contemporary Bosnia.

**Not** **only us** gathered in Juta Gallery, thanks to Hilleil Cohen and Amin Kujovic, but in every corner of the globe ordinary people know about Leonardo Da Vinchi and his Last Supper or Mona Lisa; about Michelangelo Buonaroti and his Scene from Genesis on Sistine Chapel Ceiling; or Rembrant Van Rijn and his Anatomy Lesson or Night Watch.

**Forgive me** for my ignorance but I have to confess that it took me quite a time surfing on my notebook to remind myself of some parts of my high school history knowledge in order to consolidate the exact names and titles of the most powerful and known rulers of that time - who were deciding about the life and work of greatest artists I just mentioned as well as their ordinary compatriots. Those were Duke of Milan Ludovico Sforza, called “arbiter of Italy”, Luis XII of France, de facto ruler of Florence Lorenzo de Medici , Pope Leo X Giovani De Medici, Prince of Orange Dutch Republic Fridrick Henry … In that renaissance period they were the greatest political figures (celebrities) of that time.

**We all** are very proud of the Pope Frances first words when he landed in Sarajevo 10 years ago: “I am so glad finally to be in Sarajevo -European Jerusalem”.

**That resonates** in brilliant sentence wrote by professor Lamija Neimarlija in Exibition catalog: “Rooted in a land shaped by diverse cultural, traditional, and historical influences, the works featured in “Contemporary Bosnia” testify to spirit of plurality, openness to diversity, recognition of the other, preservation of tradition, and contemplation of the future – all in efforts to better understand the existential assumptions of the present”.

**I can proudly say** that city of Sarajevo is one of the shared elements of Contemporary Bosnia the Magnificent Seven.

Sarajevo, as well as Bosnia-Herzegovina, is known as creativity gravity point of the broader region in art, film, music (Djani Sehu is one of our crown jewel examples). Just short footnote, as an example, today EU have 27 members and Bosnia is among other 6 candidate countries. But, if Oscar award for international film would be precondition, for creativity EU membership, than today EU would consist out of only 12 members, with Oscar, among which Bosnia is one of them.

**Finally**, I call you to take a look in the future for the moment.

I am sure that You will then turn back and will see Leonardo, Michelangelo, Rembrant,..

**And again** you will not see Ludovico Sforza, King Luis XII, Lorenzo or Giovani Medici, Fridrich Henry Prince of Orange…

**You will** turn back and see Rebekas, Rikardos, Amers, Denis, Leas, Azras, Alisas,..

You will see artists like Contemporary Bosnia The Magnificent Seven from all over the world - One world connected with creativity and compassion.

**And again**, you will not see our local or global Sforzas, Medicis, kings and princes that are CNNable today.

**That’s why** I am so thankful to all of you for being here together to see today, in NY , “Contemporary Bosnia”.

**No more words** as far as I am concerned, we listen Djani, then talk among our self, look at the paintings, every one of them says much more than 1000 words.