

# NEWSLETTER

*August 2023*



**FONDACIJA**  
HASTOR



# THE SIGNING OF SCHOLARSHIP CONTRACTS WITH THE HASTOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS FOR THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR

Although August for many represents the month of vacations and traveling, the Hastor Foundation members work tirelessly and are committed to the goal of expanding their great family. Still, we had trips as well, filled with more beautiful, more joyful, and more successful reasons. By signing scholarship contracts with scholarship students from elementary and high school, the Hastor Foundation has once again shown that it is the most successful foundation of this type in our area, having traveled more than 10,000 kilometers in order to successfully complete the admission of scholarship holders and the process of signing contracts all over Bosnia and Herzegovina and ensure scholarships for students, and in that way carry out its plan and reach the number of 2300 students in the next academic year. Throughout its 17 years of existence and operation, the Hastor Foundation has until now given almost 24,000 annual scholarships, and with its volunteers realized over 1,700,000 hours of volunteer work.

For many students, the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year will also mark the beginning of a new chapter in life because they have become a new and important part of our community. The everyday lives of our new, but also old scholarship holders will change greatly with the arrival of the new model for monthly volunteer work, all with the goal of improving social skills, guiding and developing the character of our scholarship holders, but also developing empathy for people from their surroundings.

Since its foundation, it has been known that, in addition to the scholarship its scholarship holders receive all 12 months of the year, the Hastor Foundation gives an opportunity to its scholarship holders through a carefully curated volunteering system to learn something new that will prepare them primarily for life, but also for their academic development. With their committed mentor work, our students prepare all kinds of lectures, presentations, and workshops, and they influence elementary and high school students in many other ways, and in that way, they are involved in creating successful leaders in our country. This is exactly how each individual in the Foundation is part of a puzzle that would be incomplete without any of the previously mentioned factors, and we all individually contribute to a better and more efficient way of realizing the Foundation's goals and ideas.

In the entirety of the scholarship period, and through the volunteer workshops, we strive to create future leaders from our scholarship holders, improve their skills, but above all – instill positive human values and traits that will be a great relief on their path to personal development and improvement. Before all, we want to instill in them the qualities of nobility, humanity, helping, and sharing the good, which will remain embedded in them even after the scholarship period at the Hastor Foundation ends, and they will be able to pass them on to others in their community.

The monthly conversations with former scholarship holders show that the memories and people from the Hastor Foundation nestle deep in our hearts and stay there in all the years to come. The friendships, acquaintances, relationships, and all the moments created in the Foundation are deeply engraved in the hearts and memories of every scholarship holder through all life opportunities that are to come in the future. This is exactly the kind of relationship the Hastor Foundation strives to build year after year, and it justifiably says that all its scholarship holders are one big family.

***Prepared by: Almina Šabanović-Kokot***  
***Translated by: Minela Geko***



# THE RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ART WORKS OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We have established, a long time ago, that the various talents of Hastor Foundation scholarship holders show a special promiscuity and our family's wealth. After we have organized in April, on the occasion of the seventeenth anniversary of the Foundation Hastor, a literary contest and handed out valuable prizes, not long after, in cooperation with ASA Construction and ASA Hospital, we decided to make a new group of scholarship recipients happy, the one who has a gift for the arts.

Thus, in the past period, we once again convinced ourselves of how hardworking, talented, and imaginative our scholarship holders are. All scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation had the right to participate. Nine valuable prizes were equally divided to scholarship holders who are primary and secondary school students, but also scholarship holders who are in the status of students. Scholarship holders could present their creativity in any technique and thus point to the uniqueness of their artistic work. Another relief was the free choice of topic in order to give scholarship holders the opportunity to express their emotions as best they know without any restrictions in their artistic expression.

Although we can rightfully say that special emotions were woven into each work, the nuances decided the commission awards decision to present the award to a certain group of hardworking and creative scholars.

## Award winners among scholarship students are:

1. Edna Đuliman, Faculty of Information Technology Mostar, 2nd year - award amount of 300,00 BAM
2. Saleha Redžepi, Faculty of Medicine Sarajevo, 6th year - prize amount of 200,00 BAM
3. Nejla Dedić, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Sarajevo, 2nd year - award amount of 100,00 BAM

## Prize winners among high school students are:

1. Lamija Tokić, Gymnasium "Vaso Pelagić" Brčko, 2nd grade - prize amount of 300,00 KM
2. Selma Salkić, Secondary School Center "Petar Kočić" Zvornik, 1st grade - prize amount of 200,00 KM
3. Medina Baraković, Gymnasium "Dr. Mustafa Kamarić" Gračanica, 2nd grade - prize amount of 100,00 KM

## Prize winners among elementary school students are:

1. Naída Omerović, Elementary school "Parsovići" Konjic, 9th grade - prize amount of 300,00 KM
2. Lejla Omerović, First Elementary School Srebrenica, 8th grade - prize amount of 200,00 KM
3. Almina Mumić, Primary School "Gornji Rainci" Kalesija, 8th grade - prize amount of 100,00 KM

In the end, it is worth pointing out how proud we are of all the received art works of all our scholarship recipients who showed their artistic talents through the picture and who introduced us to wonderful landscapes with their creativity their imaginations. Their works will decorate the walls of the ASA Hospital in Sarajevo, and we believe that they will also make strong impressions and send important messages to others. We use this opportunity to thank ASA Construction and ASA Hospital on the valuable prizes they provided to the winners and on the opportunity provided to our scholarship holders express their talents.

*In the next issue of our newsletter, in the Lens section, we will present you the works of our fellows.*

**Prepared by: Adelisa Begić**

**Translated by: Omer Muminović**

## LITTLE STORIES OF BIG VOLUNTEERS

Stories worth reading are often hidden in the lives of people who are sometimes unaware of how inspiring they really are. Scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation contribute to the creation of a better and happier today with their continuous volunteer activities. By talking about important topics, they help high school and elementary school students to create great ambitions and learn true values. One wonderful story from this month's volunteer meeting is brought to us by Luciana Marcheta, a student mentor who enriches students' knowledge with her monthly meetings and regularly brings new ideas to the Foundation.



Luciana's team consists of five students, and the special feature of this small group of high school students is that they all come from different cities. They regularly hold their meetings online, but this doesn't diminish their commitment and activity. This group of valuable volunteers forms a special part of the Hastor Foundation family and enriches it with stories from Srebrenica, Široki Brijeg, Travnik and Novi Travnik. With different interests, they complete their knowledge and find common topics. The topics they cover are mostly related to the main and additional topics provided for in the annual plan and program. In the meantime, they work on free topics that they prepare by communicating with each other. In this way, each of them tries on the role of a mentor at least for a moment.

Each of the students has the opportunity to propose a topic that is interesting to them, after which Luciana, as a mentor, chooses appropriate topics and focuses on them in more detail. This small mentoring group consists of Marina Trišić, Kemal Omerović, Matej Gašpar, Emina Đaja and Lamija Omeragić, and their mentor Luciana divides her 5 hours of volunteering into five one-hour meetings so that the students can pay better attention and be more active. For each meeting, Luciana determines a special topic to be devoted to that day, so that she and her hardworking team cover five topics per month. This month, they devoted themselves to sports, proper nutrition and an adequate lifestyle, and spiced it all up with the topic "Ways of Dressing", where they discussed whether and, if so, how the style of dressing describes an individual's personality.

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Luciana told us what one of their meetings looks like. At the beginning of the meeting, they initially repeat the most important concepts from the previous volunteer meeting, and then deal with the topic that is planned for the current month. Most often, these are previously prepared presentations with adequate illustrations. During the preparation of the presentation, but also during the volunteering itself, Luciana uses various internet platforms, videos, quizzes of (general) knowledge and surveys that she finds on the internet, and everything is, of course, adapted to the topic being addressed. In addition to the above, according to the possibilities and time they have available, they also hold debates, where students choose a side of the debate and thus communicate about the current topic.



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The students only had the words of praise for their mentor.

Meetings are interesting and we welcome them with excitement. We learn a lot of useful things and have fun at the same time. Our mentor explains the topic in detail and presents it in the best way with a presentation or video. We always communicate at the meeting and with her help we got rid of the nervousness and fear of public speaking. What makes me especially happy at these meetings is that we support each other, and we like to help each other. – Emina Đaja

Finally, Luciana told her fellow mentors how to make the meetings more interesting and of higher quality.

My message to other fellow mentors is to always communicate with students. Communication, or more precisely conversation, is a source of knowledge, i.e., new knowledge and, in my opinion, the most ideal way of monitoring the student's situation, whether it is a problem or that everything is in the best order. Also, regarding the way of conducting volunteer meetings, I would tell my fellow mentors to be creative and to convey their knowledge in the most beautiful way to the students who will become mentors upon enrolling in the faculties. In the mentioned way, the goal can be achieved that the students are active, like meetings and eagerly await new volunteer activities and learning new concepts, examples and the like. In a fun and interesting way, you can achieve the goal that students are always physically and mentally present at volunteer meetings.

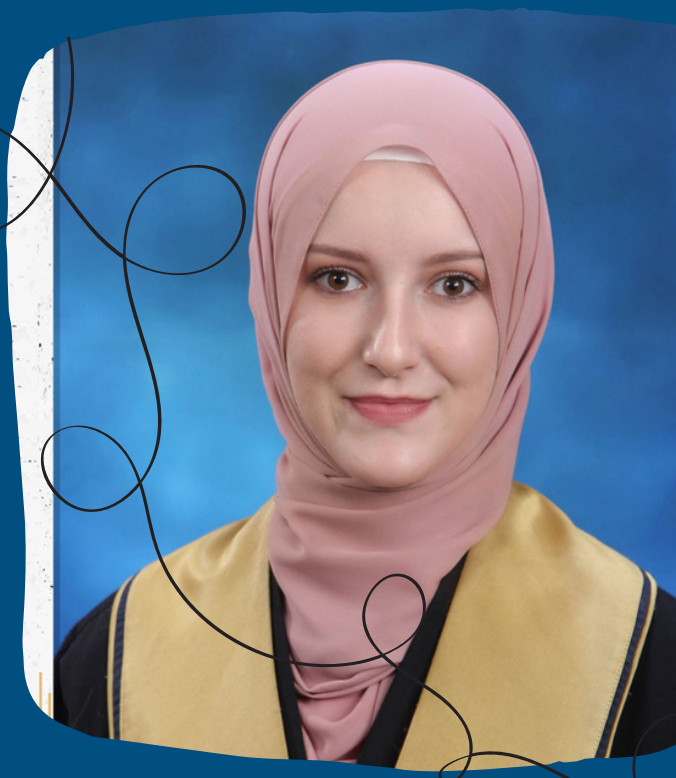
***Prepared by: Adelisa Begić***

***Translated by: Maida Avdić***



## LAMIJA HORIĆ

That we too often underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a hearing, a sincere compliment or the smallest caring act that can potentially turn a life around, American writer Leo Buscaglia noticed and then wrote down. Through their activities in the form of volunteering, scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation keep in mind every day that those subtle and smallest signs of attention addressed to another person can improve someone's day or turn their life around. Below, we bring you the story of Lamija Horić, who this time has the flattering title of Scholar of the Month. Lamija Horić was born in 2000 in Zenica. He began his higher education at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zenica, Department of German Language and Literature. At the end of this year, our Lamija successfully completed her studies and at the end of her journey she received the academic title of professor of German language and literature.



During her studies, she also started working at the Licensed Examination and Education Center „EDUKO“ Zenica, where she teaches the German language course. Lamija points out that she sees working on the course as an opportunity to leave lasting good behind her, passing on useful knowledge to her students, and that the classroom is her great passion and the place where she feels most useful and fulfilled. As she says, she likes to spend her free time reading as a hobby, which for her is a trip to some different dimensions of reality, from which she always and inevitably returns with new insights and knowledge. Our Lamija has a great love for nature and ecology, which is why she has a constant need to work on environmental awareness of her surroundings. This type of activism was particularly pronounced during her high school days, when she participated in the state competition „Young Eco-Reporters“ organized by the platforms „Social Innovation Incubator MUNJA“ and „EKOPAK“. Winning second place was an additional incentive that the fight for clean nature must be part of her everyday life, but also the everyday life of each of us.

Our Lamija has been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for almost three years and states that she applied for the scholarship without any great expectations and that she had no idea that the Hastor Foundation would become her guide, security and, above all, a friend she can always count on, regardless of what life circumstances happen. As part of volunteering, she is active in the translation team for the German language. She is in charge of translating newsletters, texts, articles as well as proofreading the translations of her colleagues. Regarding volunteering as part of the translation team of the Hastor Foundation, Lamija says the following:

My work within this team has multiple significance for me. From a professional point of view, translation and proofreading provide constant acquisition of new vocabulary from various fields that we do not encounter in everyday speech. In addition, they are an extremely good basis for engaging in translation work in the future. In addition to the mentioned benefits, there is certainly also work in a team where we achieved very good communication and cooperation. Through working on various tasks at the Hastor Foundation, I met many scholarship holders. Although I often didn't see them live, I often found myself in their stories and experiences and thus got the impression that we have known each other for a long time, and that the Hastor Foundation is responsible for our connection. It is this networking of all scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation and the feeling that in every part of Bosnia and Herzegovina we have someone on whom we can rely in case of need, what makes the Hastor Foundation special.





Throughout her life, Lamia was faced with difficult and seemingly insurmountable situations that she had to face, and the Hastor Foundation provided her with encouragement and strength, as she points out the following:

The fact that at the age of 18 I was left without my greatest support, support and inspiration, my mother, forced me to grow up suddenly and enter the life of an adult before the time really came. Taking over most of her responsibilities, in addition to school and numerous others, I vowed to fulfill my mother's greatest wish – to become a teacher. The Hastor Foundation recognized the weight I was carrying on my still small back and decided to become one of my biggest helpers along the way, for which I am immensely grateful. Today, when I realized it, I am sad because I cannot share that joy with her. Regardless, I know she's proud of me and cheering me on.

Lamia's life path was paved with difficult life situations and we are truly happy that in our Foundation she saw the light at the end of the tunnel, which gave her the strength to continue shining as she had been shining until then. Lamia's words about the Hastor Foundation are transmitted in full:

For me, the Hastor Foundation is one of the best teachers a young person can have on the path of their maturation and growth. The values on which the work of the Foundation itself is based are the values it instills in us and by which we continue to be guided throughout life. Do good deeds, help those in need, take care of your environment, educate yourself in order to be useful to our society, think globally and work locally, constantly work on yourself, be a responsible and conscientious individual in society, be a role model for younger people from ourselves... these are all universal values that we, as scholarship recipients of our Foundation, adopt and pass on to our loved ones and other members of society. Taking the above into account, we can say that the entire BiH benefits from the Hastor Foundation in addition to its scholarship recipients. Society, which really needs this type of profit in order to reject all negative phenomena and develop into a healthy and fruitful society.

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***Prepared by: Amina Abaspahić***  
***Translated by: Fadil Merdić***



## NEDADA RAMIĆ

The column of active youth is a space within which we showcase the most valuable scholarship holders of our Hastor Foundation every month. In this small space, significant stories are written about those who use every free moment to engage in beautiful and useful activities, striving to make the society they live in better, more beautiful, and healthier. RAM is a column dedicated to those who actively work every day to improve their society and enhance themselves, so it is our pleasure to talk about one of them every month. In the following, we present the active involvement of our scholarship holder, Nedada Ramić, a second-year student at the Faculty of Health Studies in Sarajevo, who proudly declares that she has been a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder for eleven years now.



Nedada's journey with the Hastor Foundation began when she was still a student, participating in mentorship meetings. Each new volunteer group and every mentor left a deep impression on Nedada's memory because, as she describes it, every volunteering experience was uniquely beautiful and productive. In addition to forming numerous friendships, Nedada mentions that they spent their time learning, cleaning parks, exploring cities, attending educational sessions, and engaging in debates on current issues both in the local community and the world. Currently, Nedada volunteers in the Foundation's office as a member of the administrative team. Despite initially thinking that she wouldn't "fit in" due to her extroverted nature and hyperactivity, she found this form of volunteering to be very enjoyable and enriching, expanding her knowledge and skills.

Although volunteering may initially seem like a small and insignificant activity, consistently practicing volunteering leads to adopting the principles of continuous assistance to others. Now, I see helping as a routine, a significant and beneficial thing that I apply daily. I find motivation for volunteering within myself, in other inspirational people who serve as my motivation, and in the fulfillment I experience when I realize how much our small help can mean to others, says Nedada. She claims that volunteering has helped her improve herself as a person.

Nedada highlights how volunteering motivated her to overcome personal obstacles such as the fear of public speaking or talking to unfamiliar people. Through volunteering, she had the opportunity to engage in conversations with many individuals, thereby enhancing her interpersonal skills and ultimately building confidence when interacting with others. She mentions that she has nurtured volunteer values within herself since she was young, but through monthly meetings and volunteering within the framework of the Foundation itself, she realized where to direct her time and activities, ensuring that they bring benefits to the entire society.



From a young age, I strived and made an effort to interact with people in need and help them. That's why I was drawn to the field of healthcare and assisting those who are sick and vulnerable. I believe that empathy and selflessness are the most beautiful qualities of every individual, and that's what makes us human at our core. I recognized these qualities in the work of the Hastor Foundation. The Foundation has had a significant influence on shaping me into the person I am today because it taught me from a young age to work hard and strive in school. On the other hand, it continually shows me the importance of volunteering and helping others, says Nedada.

Nedada shares that athletics has always been her first love, and everyone knew her as a lively, energetic child who was always on the move. Through her numerous achievements in athletics, she demonstrated how hard work pays off in every area, especially in sports. Her most significant achievement in athletics, she points out, was her participation in the European Team Championships in Cyprus in 2021. In her free time, she enjoys reading books, hiking, and volunteering. Given her interest in sports-related injuries and rehabilitation, it was natural for her to enroll in the Physiotherapy program after completing high school at the Sarajevo Medical School. As a member of the administrative team at the Hastor Foundation, she spends her volunteer hours processing and documenting various documents and maintains constant communication with other scholarship holders.



The Hastor Foundation shapes us as young people and guides us to become moral and strong individuals. For generations, the Foundation has been molding its scholarship holders into valuable individuals who continue to inspire positive changes in society, following the Foundation's own example. In a way, I can compare the Foundation to a second family. It has helped me achieve my goals in school, further motivated me to learn and work, expanded my education, and helped me broaden my horizons and knowledge on many topics. Without the Hastor Foundation, I definitely wouldn't be where I am today, and I wouldn't have become the person I am, Nedada emphasizes.

Through the Hastor Foundation, Nedada learned how to channel her volunteer activities in the right direction and how to gather valuable experiences along that path that will make her life easier in the future. She advises other scholarship holders to improve themselves in a similar way.

My message to the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation is to be as active as possible in the fields that interest them. By doing so, you'll make many friends, gain new experiences and knowledge, and, in the process, help others also. It's especially important to view volunteering as an opportunity to enhance your own personality, she concludes.

***Prepared by: Aleksandra Đukić  
Translated by: Semra Islamović***



## AIDA DURKIĆ



Both our current and former scholarship holders often remind us what a treasure our community of young volunteers is! In this month's newsletter with pleasure we bring you the story of Aida Durkić who comes from Mostar. Aida started her higher education journey at the Department of Psychology, the Faculty of Teacher Education of the University Džemal Bijedić in Mostar. Aida courageously continued walking on the path of higher education by applying for the Master's Degree at the already mentioned department, which she successfully completed and got a diploma in psychology.

Aida, when asked about her decision to apply for this major and how her career path went, told us:

I decided to apply for this major because of the lifelong love that I had towards human soul, communication, emotions and relations between people. I'm currently employed in the Kindergarten "Zemzem" where I've been working for ten years as a daycare teacher and psychologist. Before being employed on these positions, I gained work experience through volunteer work and internship. I got these positions after I volunteered in the same kindergarten and that would be my message to younger generations: to keep discovering various aspects of their gained knowledge and keep learning at various places until they finally find their inspiration in work.

Aida also shared with us how the Hastor Foundation became a meaningful part of her daily life:

A close friend told me about the Hastor Foundation and I researched more about it through the Foundation's official webpage. I waited the first chance to apply and the moment I got accepted as a scholarship holder is one of my greatest achievements in life. I also considered that moment to be one of the first opportunities for growth and improvement, both personal and professional.

Aida saw the volunteer work as an opportunity to carry over all the love that she had onto the younger generations in the Hastor Foundation that she became friends with in Mostar. Aida gladly shared with us the aspect of volunteer work that she loved the most:

What I loved the most during the volunteer hours were the meetings and discussions with younger generations that I worked with. We had created projects that had the potential to be realized, and their ideas were a limitless source of inspiration to me. We had watched each other grow and become successful people. I have countless memories related to the Hastor Foundation. One of my first memories is how someone for the first time observed our effort, work and appreciation that we had for what we did. All the Hastor members gave their best for us to acquire the most valuable human and professional virtues. I'm sure that each of us who got the opportunity to be part of the Hastor family can be proud and grateful for all the goodness that this foundation has given us.

As a conclusion of our short interview, Aida left a short but important message for other scholarship holders: Utilize the good in you for the good of other people.

***Prepared by: Hana Kolasević***

***Translated by: Sara Kuduzović***



## THE FIRST REGULARLY USED TRAM IN THE BALKANS WAS IN SARAJEVO, AND IT BEGAN OPERATING IN 1885!

In the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina, nestled between mountain peaks and along the banks of the Miljacka River, lies a city that has witnessed many changes and advancements in its rich history. That city is Sarajevo, known for its multiculturalism and architectural beauty. One of the symbols of this city is the tram, which has become an integral part of the daily life of its residents. To avoid unnecessary street excavation in Vienna or Budapest, the Austro-Hungarian Empire decided to first test the "horse railway," as the tram was called at the time, in Sarajevo. So, in the summer of 1884, the digging of Sarajevo's streets and the laying of tram tracks began. On that occasion, Sarajevo lost one of its most beautiful bridges – the stone bridge that spanned the Koševski stream near the Ali-paša Mosque.

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While there are claims that Sarajevo was the first European city to hear the tram, many, including Jan Čihák, dispute this. Jan came to Sarajevo as a tourist and couldn't leave it indifferent. Sarajevo has the power to enchant and make us fall in love with it. Jan turned his love for Sarajevo and its public transportation into a book titled "Sarajevo, Trams, and Trolleybuses." The tram system in Sarajevo was designed to blend into the city's architecture and provide comfortable and efficient transportation for passengers. Tram lines traversed the central streets of the city, connecting different parts of Sarajevo. Sarajevo's trams have become a recognizable symbol of the city and a part of its identity. Although Sarajevo was not the first European city with trams, its tram system holds significant historical and cultural importance.

In Europe, the tram first appeared in Birkenhead, England. The tramway system in Birkenhead began operating on August 30, 1860. These trams were horse-drawn and provided public transportation along specific routes in the city.

It's interesting to note that the first city with a fully electric tramway line was the town of Lichterfelde near Berlin, Germany. The electric tram system in Lichterfelde commenced operations on May 16, 1881. This line was the world's first to exclusively use electric power to propel trams.

The Sarajevo tram has become an indispensable part of the daily life of its citizens, symbolizing connectivity and progress. While it may not be the first European city with trams, Sarajevo has left a deep mark in the history of tram transportation on the continent. Today, as you ride the Sarajevo tram, you can feel the spirit of the past intertwining with modern times as trams gracefully glide through the streets of this beautiful city.

*Prepared by: Nikolina Stanar*

*Translated by: Zerina Kosovac*



## PART OF THE ATMOSPHERE FROM THE SIGNING OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT WITH STUDENTS FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR









## POET CORNER

On the same bed,  
 In different dreams.  
 Stepfathers and stepmothers  
 To their own sons.  
 At the same table,  
 But forever alone.  
 Twenty candles,  
 But in darkness we eat.  
 Embraced only  
 For family portraits,  
 Carrying the burden  
 That's heavy in our soles.

Distance me from everything  
 For I'm just a child of God.  
 Craving for your love,  
 At the table and no candles,  
 With no roof and no flowers,  
 With no dreams and no walls,  
 In the rooms of our sons,  
 In twilight and morns,  
 And the last waltz  
 While it's playing,  
 Because for pain I  
 And for life had chosen you.

Sevleta Halilović



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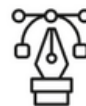
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 Painting on canvas



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