

Mersad Berber

10 February 2017



1940

Mersad Berber was born in Bosanski Petrovac, Kingdom of Yugoslavia, on January 1st. He was the first son of Muhammed Berber and Sadika Berber, a well-known weaver and embroiderer. A year later, the family moved to Banja Luka after the city had suffered damage from the World War II.

With his parents at Bosanski Petrovac, 1941

1950

Starting from the beginning of his education his ability on drawings was striking. His illustrations and cartoons appeared in numerous publications such as Oslobođenje, Čičak and Polet.

1958

His first exhibition together with Kemal Sirbegovic opened in Banja Luka. One year later, he entered the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana.

1961

His early series of Memories of Bosnia constituted the essence of his upcoming works. He won the Prešeren Award of the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana for the same series.

1965

His first solo show took place in Ljubljana City Gallery. He began to be known in Europe for his engravings.

1967

He moved to Sarajevo and started to teach in the School of Applied Arts. One year later on November 9th, he married with

Amgisa who was a fashion designer. She was known as "Ada" and had a great impact on Berber's art.

Illustrations and cover, 1971

1973

He obtained his master's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana. He started to work as an assistant professor in the Sarajevo Fine Arts Academy.

1978

He received the title of professor from the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo.

1980

For five years, he worked as the director of the animation film Tempo Secondo.





In his studio, Sarajevo, 1980

1982

He worked as the set and costume designer for the production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* at Folger Theater-Shakespeare Center, Washington D.C. His exhibition entitled *Berber, Dali* opened in the Hoeppner Gallery (Hamburg).





Stage scenery and costumes for The Merchant Of Venice, Washington D.C., 1982

1984

He quit from teaching to become a freelance artist. His works were acquired by the Tate Gallery in London.

1987

He collaborated on the scenography of the play Gamllet for Sarajevo National Theatre and inspired by the play, he produced the drawings Dossier Gamllet.

1992

Berber's house and studio were damaged during the turmoil in Yugoslavia. He moved to Zagreb with his family and opened a new studio there, as well as in Dubrovnik. From 1990s onward, his works were exhibited in USA, UK, Russia and United Arab Emirates and won several prizes.

2012

He passed away in Zagreb on October 7th, at the age of 72.





In his studio, Zagreb, 2003





Barcelona, 2009

[Mersad Berber: An Allegory of Bosnia](#) exhibition took place at Pera Museum between 16 February - 07 May 2017.

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The Horse Figure in Mersad Berber's Works

Mersad Berber (1940-2012), is one of the greatest and the most significant representatives of Bosnian-Herzegovinian and Yugoslav art in the second half of the 20th century. His vast body of expressive and unique works triggered the local art scene's recognition into Europe as well as the international stage.

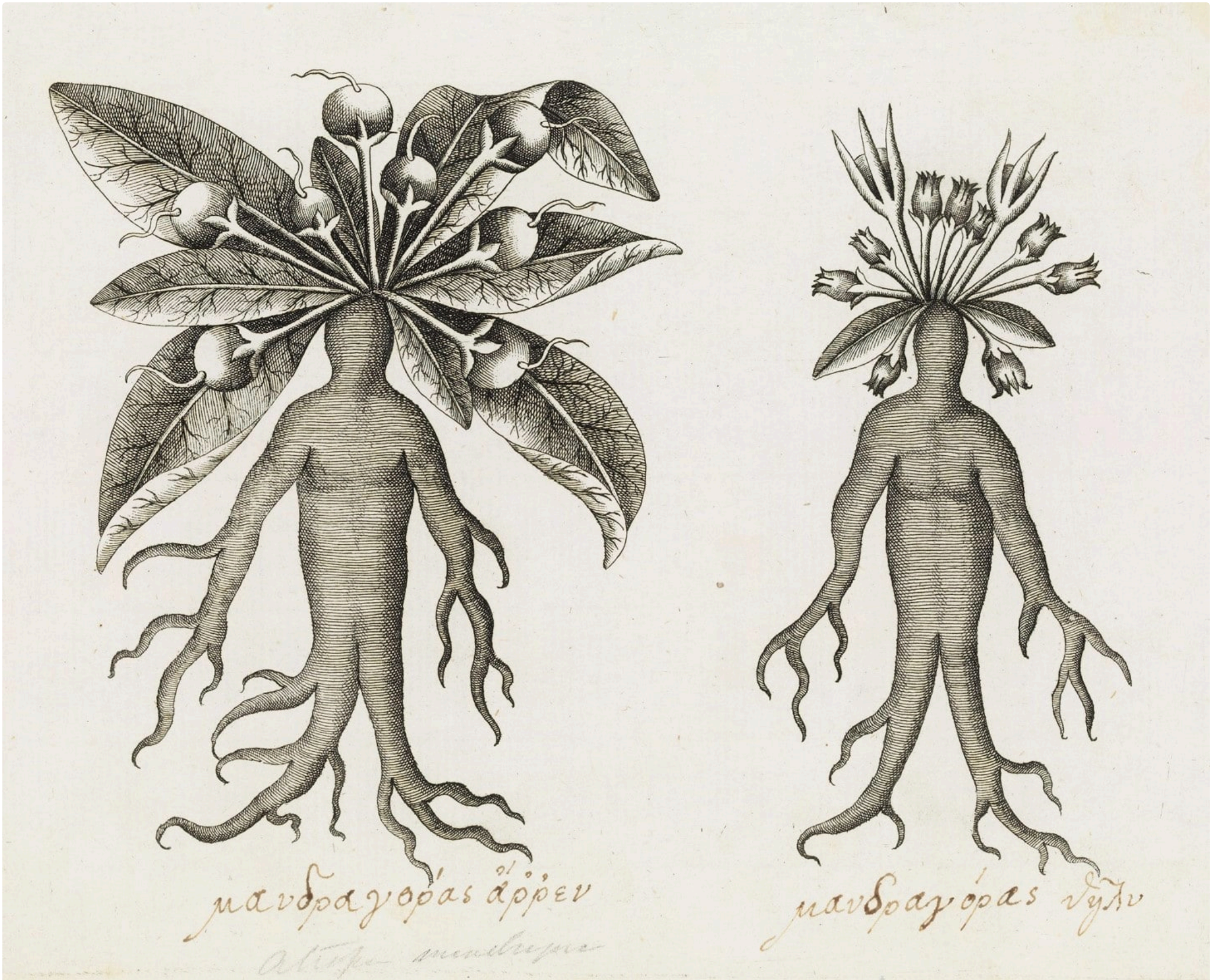




The Chronicle of Sarajevo

Inspired by the great European masters, from Renaissance to Art Nouveau, Berber's works exemplify the deep, opaque whites of his journeys through the fairy tale landscapes of Bosnia to the dark, macabre burrows of Srebrenica.





Medicinal Herbs in Byzantium

Knowledge of plants and the practice of healing are closely entwined. The toxic or hallucinogenic nature of some roots, and the dangers associated with picking them, conferred a mythical or magical character and power.

VISITING HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 - 19:00
Friday 10:00 - 22:00
Sunday 12:00 - 18:00
The museum is closed on Mondays.

Young Wednesday

On Wednesdays, the students can visit the museum free of admission.

ENTRANCE FEES

Full ticket: 300 TL
Discounted: 150 TL
Groups: 200 TL (minimum 10 people)

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Mersad Berber

16 Feb — 7 May 2017 at the Pera Museum in Istanbul, Turkey

28 APRIL 2017



Mersad Berber. Courtesy of Pera Museum

Mersad Berber (1940 – 2012) is one of the greatest and most significant representatives of Bosnian–Herzegovinian art from the second half of the 20th century. His vast body of expressive and unique works triggered the local art scene’s recognition into Europe as well as the international stage.

Berber belongs to an exceptionally dynamic period of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s contemporary cultural history. He led a young generation of graphic artists opening up the local scene internationally. He was one of the few artists whose talent and mastery enabled him to frequently exhibit in prestigious museums and galleries.

Inspired by the great European masters, from Renaissance to Art Nouveau, Berber’s works are mostly in large scales of combined techniques with a post-modern sensibility. His work embodies the culture of remembrance with characteristic themes and compositional novelties.

From the golden color gamut and the splendor of Berber’s early works, his interpretation of artists such as Piero della Francesca, Guercino, Velasquez, Gericault, David, Ingres, Ivan Kramskoi, Klimt, as well as the Yugoslav painters Bukovac and Jurkić, exemplify the deep, opaque whites of his journeys through the fairy tale landscapes of Bosnia to the dark, macabre burrows of Srebrenica. Berber was always the chronicler of Bosnia as he indefatigably painted the fragments of his country, reflecting the multi-layered cultural history as well as the complexities of its historical experience.

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Pera Museum

Pera Museum is a private museum founded by the Suna and İnan Kırac Foundation. The aim of offering an outstanding range of diverse high quality culture and art services is as important today as when the Museum first opened its doors to the public.

Museum profile

Location
Istanbul, Turkey

Founded in
2005





1. Mersad Berber. Courtesy of Pera Museum

2. Mersad Berber. Courtesy of Pera Museum