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Life & Style > Cooking > Story

## Bosnian native cooks food that reminds him of home

By Pat Eby  
 SPECIAL TO THE POST-DISPATCH  
 02/06/2008



Zlatko Cosic is an artist in the kitchen as well as in his professional life. Some of his work can be seen on his website, [www.eyeproduction.com](http://www.eyeproduction.com).  
 (David Carson/P-D)

day Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Cosic escaped his hometown to Belgrade in 1994, during the Bosnian war. He settled in St. Louis in 1997.

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"At Christmas, my brother hooked up to our parents while we had our lunch, in real time. Me and Rachel. My brother, Velimir, his wife, Citali, and Nicholas, their son.

"Our parents could see our tree, our table and talk with us. It's simple, really."

Simple for Cosic, perhaps, an inventive über-geek-artist whose multimedia works have earned him spots in two big shows this month. One, at the Sparks Festival of Electronic Music and Arts in Minneapolis, features 60 of Cosic's original videos in the "60 by 60 Project: International Mix 2007." Sixty composers, selected from more than 500 entrants worldwide, provided 60-second sound bites of original music. Cosic created unique videos for each musical bit.

### RECIPE

#### Hurmasice

Closer to home, his video work may be seen in "Odavde/Otuda (From Here/From There): An International Exhibition of Work by Contemporary Bosnian Artists," opening Friday at the Cecile R. Hunt gallery at Webster University.

In his art, Cosic focuses on the universal: eyes, hands, running feet, flowing rivers, the sway of dancers' hands.

"The war shows in my early work, in the disconnected movement, the isolation of eyes, mouths, hands," he said. "Today, it is different. My nephew Nicholas is 5. I made a video for a piece of music, and the rhythm reminded me of Nicholas on his swing set — back and forth. I used that happy image."

For Cosic, art has been a way to order chaos and to communicate beyond language. For the

February couldn't get much sweeter, or much busier, for electronic multimedia and performance artist Zlatko Cosic. Still, he will find time to bake the Bosnian dessert called hurmasice for his wife, Rachel, for Valentine's Day.

Hurmasice is a cross between a pastry and a cake. The dough, rich with coconut, bakes in egg-shaped mounds. A sweet-tart lemon syrup provides the finishing touch.

"This cake brings good memories," said Cosic, 35, who was born in the city of Banja Luka, Yugoslavia (the present-

"ODAVDE/OTUDA"

(FROM HERE/FROM THERE)

AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF WORK

BY CONTEMPORARY BOSNIAN ARTISTS

**Where:** Webster University's Cecile R. Hunt Gallery  
 8342 Big Bend Boulevard,  
 Webster Groves

**When:** Feb. 8-March 14

**Artists:** Alen Basic, Isak Berbic, Zlatko Cosic, Sejla Kameric, Margareta Kern, Damir Niksic and Nebojsa Seric Shoba

**Opening reception:** 6-8 p.m. Thursday

**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Thursday, Friday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday

**More information:** 314-968-7171 or  
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 TOP JOBS

Webster University show. Cosic created a video, "Symbols of YU." It incorporates monuments, public sculptures, signs and graphics from each of the six republics of the former Yugoslavia: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia.

"I wanted to bring back the positive feelings of the life that existed in all the republics before the war," he said. "My wish is for all of us, here or there, to be able to forgive. To realize we can again live together, embracing our differences and enriching each others' lives."

Cosic's love of family, his art and his energy for life will ever be informed by his experience of the war.

"I refuse to label, I will not separate myself, to say 'I am this or that.' Before the war, I didn't know if my neighbors were Muslim or Christian. Now, I am a person — not this or that."

**PAT EBY IS A FREELANCE WRITER IN ST. LOUIS.**

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