SCHEDULE IN DETAIL

FIRST DAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

Evening: Opening at Socio-Cultural Space “Centar-Jadro”

19:00–22:00

The opening of the School for Caring Futures in Skopje will take place at the Socio-Cultural Space “Centar-Jadro” with a group exhibition, a welcome note by **Hristina Ivanoska**, **Margarethe Makovec** and **Yane Calovski**, and a cocktail prepared by Chef Paul—he will accompany us all three days.

Thinking with the Matter:
Four Lessons from the Water and the Earth
The exhibition brings together four young artists whose research-based and socially engaged practices explore our relationships with materials, places, ecosystems, and the more-than-human world. Their work begins with local histories, specific places, and forms of knowledge, connecting them to broader questions of ecology, heritage, and environmental responsibility. The artists examine how natural materials and resources are transformed and how these processes affect both human and non-human life. Their practices also challenge the idea that knowledge belongs exclusively to humans, suggesting that matter itself carries memories, histories, and traces of different temporalities. Ultimately, the exhibition invites us to “think with matter” by recognising our interdependence with the material and more-than-human worlds that sustain life.

The curator **Jovanka Popova** will guide the audience through the exhibition and introduce the artistic practices of the participating artists **Valbona Fejza**, **Hristina Krsteska**, **Viktorija Poposka** and **Ivana Samandova**.

SECOND DAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

Morning and early afternoon: The Mountain

09:00 Meeting point: “Centar-Jadro”
Mount Vodno rises directly above Skopje and is a protected forest area, as well as one of the city’s most popular destinations for hiking, recreation, and outdoor activities. For many residents, it represents a place of escape from urban life, offering access to cleaner air, greenery, and a closer relationship with nature.

09:30 – 10:30 ***Virginia Was Not Fun At All***
A performative walk at Mount Vodno
with **Hristina Ivanoska**.
Beginning at one of the viewpoints overlooking Skopje, Hristina invites participants into her personal story of Mount Vodno. Guiding the group along one of her favourite trails, she reflects on her emotional connection to the mountain while growing up in Skopje, while also sharing its history of transformation—from a barren hillside into a protected nature area—and the injustices experienced by its original inhabitants. She draws attention to the ongoing encroachment of urban development, which continues to consume its green landscape, piece by piece. The walk invites participants to experience Vodno not simply as a landscape, but as a living archive of transformation, conflict, and collective memory.

11:00 – 13:00 Moderated session by **Margarethe Makovec**: ***Listening to the Mountain*** During a listening exercise we will attend to something very close, something far away, and something we cannot immediately identify. By sharing what we noticed we reflect on listening as a practice of care, attention and unlearning.
In exchange with: **Milica Bezmarević**, **Ivana Marjanović** and **Resina Meçani**.

13:00 – 13:45 Open-air lunch at Mid-Vodno

Afternoon and early evening: The Garden

14:00 – 14:45 A first stop at the entrance of "TITAN USJE AD Skopje" locally known as "Cementarnica Usje," which is a cement factory whose unregulated filter system has raised environmental concerns and questions regarding the air pollution in Skopje. The citizens' initiative "**Stop for Usje"** emerged as a collective initiative by residents and activists demanding stronger monitoring and transparency regarding industrial emissions.
The final destination, the Community Garden "Bostanie", is located slightly outside the city centre, in a neighbourhood developed during the socialist period. The garden is a community-led initiative created and maintained by local residents.

15:00 – 15:30 ***Tea under "Receptive Bodies"***
A guided walk with **Zorica Zafirovska** at Community Garden "Bostanie"
The walk begins at the northern edge of the garden. Zorica will share her experiences of collaborating with the gardeners from Bostanie, as well as her own practices of gardening, sharing, care, and collective engagement. The walk will conclude with hot and cold tea offered under the site-specific installation, creating a space for conversation. The installed linens have absorbed traces of different urban environments, including soil, rain, river water, ash, dust, and industrial pollution.

16:00 – 18:00 Moderated session by **Ajete Kërqeli**:
Gathering Like a Garden
An invitation to slow down, wander, notice, and learn with the garden. Rather than seeking explanations, we attend to relationships, rhythms, care, and the often unseen labour that allows a garden to live and endure.
In exchange with: **Ivana Meštrov**, **Jovanka Popova** and **Martina Yordanova**.

Dinner 19:00 Returning to the city centre, collective dinner.

THIRD DAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Morning and early afternoon: The River

10:00 — Meeting point: the “Goce Delčev” Bridge
The Vardar River is the longest and largest river in North Macedonia.
Before the earthquake, the riverbanks served as vibrant public spaces for recreation, including swimming and social gatherings. Over the past decades, they have gradually regained their role as places for leisure and public life, although the river itself remains heavily polluted. For many years, there have been ongoing discussions and initiatives aimed at establishing systems for water purification. There is renewed hope that this long-awaited ecological project will finally be realised.

10:15 – 11:15 — ***Almost, a Life***
A walk along the Vardar River with **Kalia Dimitrova**
A fate of “almost happening” lingers in the city of Skopje, making it a site of possibility and speculation, where things seem constantly on the verge of becoming, but never truly materialising. The river Vardar: ever-changing, wild, polluted, (almost) forgotten, romantic, terrifying, persistent and hopeful, will be used as a metaphor to explore the futures lost, and the costs and blessings of the fact that you cannot step in the same river twice.

11:15 – 11:45 — The walk continues toward City Park Skopje.

12:00 – 14:00 — Moderated session by **Elke Krasny**:
Writing with Water
Writing is watery. Water circulates through the bodies that write, through the production of paper and ink, through digital technologies, buildings, infrastructures, and the systems that make writing possible. Every act of writing takes place within water worlds. Writing with water is a way of inhabiting the hydrocommons: the shared, uneven, and contested waters through which life is made.
In exchange with: **Hristina Ivanoska**, **Başak Şenova** and **Vasiliki Sifostratoudaki**.

Afternoon until early evening: The Park

The “Skopje City Park” dates back to the late Ottoman period, and it was further developed and expanded in the decades that followed. Its current design largely reflects the socialist period, when public parks and green spaces became important elements of urban planning. Today, the City Park is the largest cultivated green area in Skopje, it includes the Zoo, the Natural History Museum, and Luna Park. For many residents, it remains an essential space for rest, social encounters, recreation, and everyday contact with nature within the urban environment.

14:30 – 15:15 Open-air lunch at Mobile/Montage Gallery of CAC-Contemporary Art Center (Park of the Francophonie)

15:30 – 16:00 ***Vera and Vida Jocić: Our Common Memorial***
A performance by **Kumjana Novakova** and **Jana Kocevska**.
The statue of the anti-fascist heroine Vera Jocić, created by her sister, the artist Vida Jocić, was recently stolen. Starting from this unprosecuted theft, Kumjana and Jana will perform a memorial that might be. Through performance, they explore feminist heterogeneity as a way of shaping and sculpting a collective, living memorial—walking alongside the archive, but also challenging and moving beyond it.

16:15 – 19:15 Moderated session by **Vida Knežević: *Caring as Resistance***
Taking the “Vera Jocić” Park and its antifascist legacy as a point of departure, this session explores the politics of care through interconnected socialist, feminist, anticolonial and ecological genealogies and their contemporary resonances.
In exchange with: **Dicle Beştaş**, **Andreja Dugandžić** and **Bojana Piškur**.

20:00 Collective dinner.