



# ROMA ARTS AS POLITICAL PRACTICE

JEKHIPE RESEARCH FINDINGS 2025

Based on research conducted  
in Germany, Spain, Italy,  
Romania, Czechia, and Sweden  
under the JEKHIPE Project

## Roma Arts Are Not Folklore, They Are Political Practice

*Roma cultural production is not decorative or symbolic. It is a form of political intervention that challenges exclusion, reshapes institutions, and reclaims narrative authority. Roma arts are instruments of civic participation, memory justice, and democratic transformation.*

**For centuries, Roma were:**

***Represented by others***

***Exoticized and folklorized***

***Excluded from cultural institutions***

***Framed as objects of study rather than  
subjects of knowledge***



**Art is a site of power, and claiming that  
space is an act of self-determination.**

## Shifting the Frame

**Today, Roma artists, curators, filmmakers,  
and scholars are:**

- Producing their own archives
- Rewriting dominant art histories
- Reclaiming museums and cultural spaces
- Challenging national narratives

**When Roma control their narratives:**

- Memory becomes self-defined
- Resistance becomes visible
- Institutions become accountable
- Cultural identity becomes a source  
of pride

***The shift is from representation to authorship.***

## Culture as Structural Change

**Roma arts contribute to:**

- Decolonizing museum and  
cultural narratives
- Challenging Eurocentric  
canons
- Embedding Roma presence  
into European heritage
- Transforming institutions  
from symbolic inclusion to  
shared authority