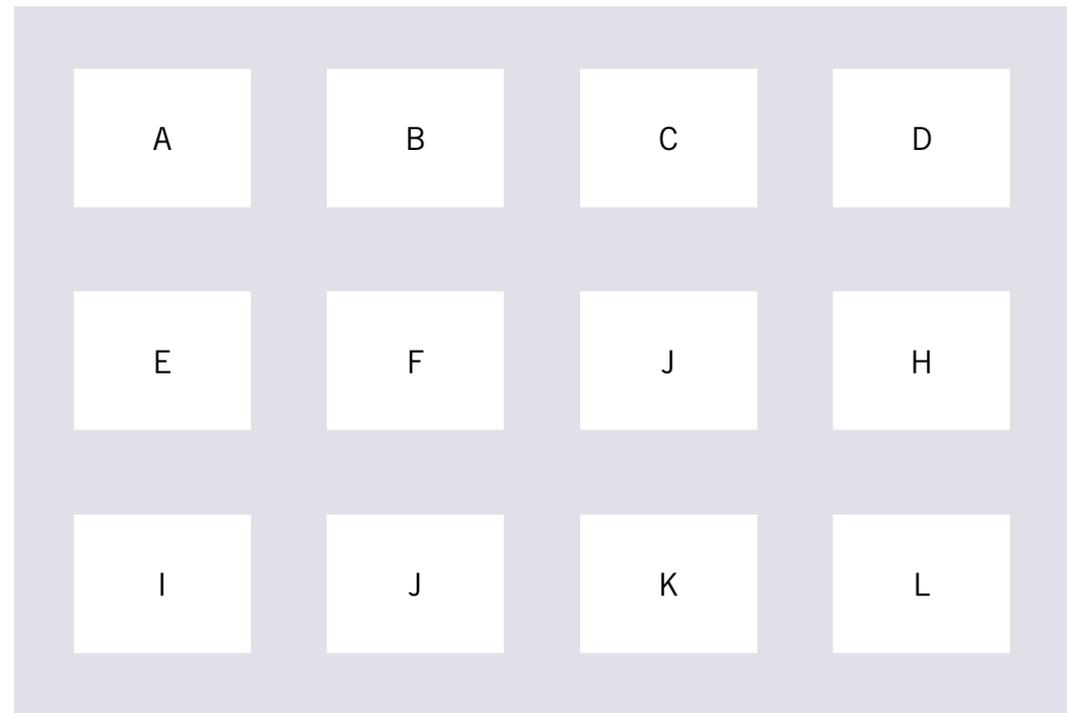


The Dosta! (Enough!) Quilt



The quilters display their finished product. The Dosta! quilt has since been shown at the Venice Biennale and the International Conference of Roma Women in Spain. Impressed, the city of Strasbourg has offered the women housing and training.



The Roma quilters became close friends, and learned new skills, while making their quilt. This was their first experience of sewing for handicrafts. They worked at the Council of Europe to avoid interruptions from their families and curious visitors.



A: Vesna Boti depicts the Roma tradition of young marriage in her panel. She married at 14, and her husband was 15. They were in love, but she also feels that she missed out on growing up. The quilt was an important departure from her day-to-day life of begging.



B: Mihaela Moldovan's panel expresses the trauma that comes from expulsions. Originally from Romania, she has been expelled from France several times, only to return. Before the quilt project, she lived in a caravan without running water or electricity.



C: Dominica Nicola's panel shows a married couple harvesting apples. She worked in agriculture with her husband when they used to live in Romania. They moved to France for medical treatment, but were forced to live in a caravan without services. The faces in her panel express sadness.



D: This panel, by **Vesna Boti**, depicts a poem by the Romanian poet Mihai Eminescu, named *Somnoroase Păsărele* (Drowsy Birds). Eminescu played an important part in Vesna's childhood in Romania and she thinks of him with pride.



E: Claudia Bercuta's panel shows the unequal power dynamic between Roma women and men. She says that many Roma women face the threat of domestic violence.



F: Roxana Neda used her panel to support the Council of Europe's Dosta! campaign. She stopped studying in Romania at 14, and is happy to see her three children succeed in French schools.



G: Ramona Stancu's panel expresses her fear of the police, who used to interrupt her while begging and confiscate her cash. She says that she felt shame at having to return to the caravan without money or food for her children.



H: Floreda Neda's panel depicts her life as a beggar on the streets of Strasbourg. She found begging to be depressing and dehumanizing. The quilt project was her first regular project since arriving in France.



I: Ecaterina Neda's panel depicts the Romanian flag and national anthem. Her family left Romania when she was 6 and she still feels strong ties to Romanian culture. Before the quilt project, Ecaterina relied on begging to provide for her daughter, Charlotte, 4.



J: Dominica Nicola's second panel depicts the separation of Roma children in schools. She moved to France from Romania with her husband for medical treatment, and is keen to stay in France to ensure that her son has an education like any other French child.



K: This panel, by **Mihaela Moldovan**, depicts a traditional Roma wedding, and portrays a moment of happiness in the community. Mihaela has included the phrase *Bine ai venit* ("welcome!") to express the hospitality of Roma culture.



L: Ecaterina Neda The words in French on this panel mean "no papers, no work, not welcomed, but still hopeful." Before the quilt project, Ecaterina relied on begging to provide for her daughter, Charlotte, 4. The quilting gave her confidence and professional skills.