

# TITO'S DESK

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Museum of Yugoslavia, Belgrade, Serbia  
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1 photograph, fine art print  
50 x 60 cm / 70 x 90 cm, framed

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Undoubtedly, the massive, elaborately decorated desk of Josip Broz Tito, the former president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is a symbol of political power. Today on display at the Museum of the History of Yugoslavia, in the House of Flowers, near the resting place of Tito and his wife Jovanka, the piece impresses above all through its historical significance.

The political and cultural situation in Belgrade today is different from Tito's time, when Yugoslavia was a multiethnic federation. While some view the museum critically and question the personality cult surrounding Tito, the high number of visitors from both home and abroad shows that the history of the former Yugoslavia and Tito's legacy remain highly relevant.

How is cultural identity constructed and preserved, and how is cultural heritage used to shape national identities and political ideologies? These and other questions about the complex history, culture, and politics of the country are raised by the image I staged, in which a young woman in local folklore attire – as a symbol of identity formation and self-positioning – looks through a large glass window at Tito's desk from outside.