

## **Portaluri**

Artists: Oana Coşug, Miron Ghiu, Adelina Ivan,  
Elena Pîrvu, Doina Simionescu, Zoltán Béla

Curators: Daria Ghiu, Cristina Stoenescu  
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What are portals? Frame-entrances with clear outlines; towards what? The title of this exhibition defines a reversed trajectory, an entrance from an ineffable world into a possible one, but by maintaining an eternal "between territories", a backwards journey, a pendulation without time between mechanical and manual, between non-defined forms, pale and undecided apparitions and obvious forms, barely sketched, from the tip of the pen.

We are trying to build an exhibition of contrasts, of vulnerabilities, of feverous work in a certain environment (drawing, collage, assemblage, painting, electronic music), an exhibition without power games, one full of search, of frailty, of seriality: the frailty of delicately imbedded textures, which let natural light to be seen through, the frailty and the paper deformation in contact with watercolours and more or less water, the sensitivity of the white surface of paper, when the drawing takes really very little space and clears out the rest of the space, the abstract, barely sketched, yet hyper-gestural sounds. A contour that searches the ephemeral perimeter of the shadow, a geometry of things that pass. An exhibition of more or less imprinted fingerprints.

"Portals" since the works set up into a dialogue, and sometimes into conflict, shape traversing areas: the figurative shadows nullify themselves under your eyes, the subtle details of the exterior world become the wall for the interior of the gallery-space, the indecisive shapes transform the paper surface into an embossed form, the repetitive obsessive motif maintains that atmosphere of new at every touch of the brush. Yet we are also discussing on passages in a generational sense: the mysterious presence of Doina Simionescu (1947 – 2016) becomes within the exhibition a possible resource for young artists: Oana Coşug, Adelina Ivan, Zoltán Béla or the newly graduated Elena Pîrvu. Their searches appear in overlapping time-lines – there is the perspective of the differentiated repetition of a horizon line – in image, in sound.

An exhibition that captures a contemporary sequence: of passages, sometimes visible on the same work-surface, from the clear drawing, the controlled, correct work, to the mechanical, the repetitive, the continuous, a result of an unconscious unfolding of the mind.

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## **Artist Biographies:**

**Oana Coşug** (b. 1979) lives and works in Brussels, Belgium. She studied painting at the National University of the Arts in Bucharest and then she decided to continue her studies in Brussels. In 2009 she obtained her master degree in Theory and Practice of Art at *Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts*, Brussels. She had numerous group shows in Brussels (B-Gallery, Galerie Actionfields, Galerie d'Ys and Artitude), and Bucharest (MNAC, Apollo, Assemblage Gallery, Căminul Artei etc.). Solo exhibitions (selection): *Landscape* (Artitude Gallery, Brussels, 2015), *Drawings* (ICR Tel Aviv, Israel, 2014), *Paintings / Drawings* (Visual Art Museum, Galaţi, 2012), *Blue face* (Artsenzafine Gallery, Milano, 2010), *My shadow* (Artsenzafine Gallery, Tokyo, Japonia, 2008), *ExPosition* (Atelier 35, Bucureşti). She was present in different art residencies (Destelheide, Tescani, Delta Dunării, Gent) and in 2012 she was awarded the First Prize within the *International Biennial of Contemporary Drawing Namur*, Belgium (ex aequo: Oana Coşug and Anya Belyat-Giunta).

**Miron Ghiu** (b. 1980) studied philosophy at the University of Bucharest and started to work as a new media and music journalist. In 2004 he published books on The Beatles, Ozzy Osbourne & Marilyn Manson and worked for about 3 years as a PR Manager for EMI Romania and BMG. For some years now Miron Ghiu is a freelance journalist for various media outlets and a sound designer and DJ. He's passionate about music and technology and tends to use all kinds of media in his works. He was a sound designer for multi-media publications and exhibitions, among which we mention: *Urme de distrugere pe Marte* (Teatrul Odean, Bucharest, 2013), *Reality Videograms* (Aiurart Gallery, Bucharest, 2012), *Cables* (Young Artists Biennial, Bucharest, 2012). Since 2010 he's a member of `Nava Spaţială`, an experimental ambient/drone/noise duo which debuted in 2012 @ Asiluum.com. In 2011 `Nava Spaţială` performed at the *Simultan* festival. In 2010 he did the sound design for an art exhibition held at the Brukhental Contemporary Art Museum. In 2006 he was sound designer for a multimedia CD-ROM based on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's "Little Prince".

**Adelina Ivan** lives in Bucharest. She is a visual artist who works with light and memory through textiles, photography, installation and video. Just like the fabrics used in her works, time space and memory fold and unfold into sleek silky surfaces and solid depths. In 1998 she graduated from the Design Department of the National University of the Arts, Bucharest. Solo exhibitions: *Time Delusion* (Kube Musette, Bucharest, 2016), *Atena adjusting her sandal* (ODD Bucharest, 2016). Group exhibitions (selection): *Frugalitas Severitas Fidelis* (Tranzit.ro/București, 2016), *Are We Human* (Istanbul Design Biennial, 2016), *ReRe. Overriding Design with Art and Vice-Versa* (Vienna Design Week, 2016), *Separated Objects* (Nicodim Gallery, Bucharest, 2014).

**Elena Pîrvu** (b. 1994) graduated from the painting department of the University of the Arts in Bucharest and she is currently undergoing her MA studies in painting at the same university. She is interested in the connection between literature, especially poetry and the visual arts. Her artworks will often be the result of assemblage of different materials, juxtapositions, materially-dependent transparencies with abstract tendencies. Elena Pîrvu's work is far from merely illustrative; it instead finds its roots in perceptual art, being more concerned with the effects of poetry texts unto the shape and manifestations of visual compositions. She assumes a subjective stance, one that stems from text interpretation and gestural poetry. She is one of the graduate students taking part in the biannual Diploma project of Anca Poterasu Gallery, exhibiting in the group show *AFTER SCHOOL* (Anca Poterasu Gallery, Bucharest, 2016).

**Doina Simionescu** (b. 1947 – d. 2016). She graduated from the graphics department of The Fine Arts Institute "Nicolae Grigorescu" in Bucharest. In 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983 and 1986 she participated at the Drawing Contest "Juan Miro" (Barcelona). She was granted the first mention of the contest in 1979, and then, in 1981, she was awarded the prize of the Juan Miro Foundation. Doina Simionescu's works were presented in many prestigious institutions in Romania and abroad, from which we mention: The Simu Museum in Bucharest, 1975 / The Gulbekian Foundation in Lisbon, 1980 and 1990 / The Contemporary Art Museum in Madrid, 1981 / The Art Museum in Craiova, 1983 / The Art Museum in Oradea, 1989 / The Art Museum in Bistrița, 1990 and 1991 / The Museum of the Art Collections in Bucharest, 1992 / The Art Museum in Constanța, 1998 / The Brukenthal Museum in Sibiu, 2001 / The National Museum of Contemporary in Bucharest (MNAC), 2003 and 2005. The elegance of her drawings and engravings impressed the audience at The International Drawing Triennale Wrocław (Poland), 1988 / The International Print Biennale in Fredrikstad (Norway), 1989 / The International Graphics Biennial in Varna (Bulgaria), 1989 / Bharat-Bhavan International Print Biennale in Bhopal (India), 1990.

**Zoltán Béla** (b. 1977) graduated from the University of Arts and Design in Cluj, and he presently lives and works in Bucharest. Zoltán Béla is mid-through his career in painting, installations and object-making, which are imbued in historical and metaphysical references inspired by his personal biography and from the recent historical timeline of Eastern Europe. Zoltan's most recent work is a turning point into his career exploring the details of everyday life and the traces it leaves behind. His latest series of drawings of acrylic on paper and canvas focus his interest on textures and the way they are transformed by the passing of time. He collects details from gates, walls and public spaces in order to reveal a fragmentary visual landscape of the details of deterioration and habitual urban habitation. His depictions of figurative shapes beget a macro-view, a process of abstraction of what is perceived at first sight in a cycle that returns to the places he witnesses, ever-growing, ever-shifting. His artworks are present in important foreign collections and has exhibited in important art galleries and cultural centres among which we mention: Triumph Gallery, Moscow (2016); Kunsthaus Apolda Avantgarde, Thuringia (2016); Timisoara Biennial Art Encounters (2015); MNAC - National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest (2014); The 4th Moscow Biennial of Contemporary Art (2011); The 4th Biennial of Young Artists, Bucharest (2010); *Transition Icons*, Carini & Donatini Gallery, Arezzo, Italy (2009).