

## The School of Cluj – Painting and Sculpture

The University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca is one of the oldest institutions of higher artistic education in Romania (2016 has marked its 90th anniversary). Over the years, UAD Cluj-Napoca was constantly interested in opening towards the international art scene, providing its professors and students a complex context through international events and exhibitions, educational or artistic projects either within the frame of the Erasmus+ Program, or by signing partnerships and agreements with European and international institutions, such as art galleries, art schools, academies or universities, art museums, cultural centers, etc.

UAD Cluj-Napoca has an intensive cooperation with Hungarian artistic institutions such as MODEM Debrecen, Parti Galleria Pecs, Mucsarnok Budapest, The Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest, The University of Pecs – Faculty of Music and Visual Arts.

In this context, the exhibition entitled „The School of Cluj – Painting and Sculpture” from Pécs becomes an opportunity to exhibit some of the latest works created our university, by graduated students and professors from the Painting and Sculpture Departments. The visual expressions multiplied by the artists’ individual performances are situated under the sign of the „progressive dimensions” and of discovering, through art, certain feelings regarding the everyday life. By an exquisite dialogue between figurative and non-figurative, the works are inviting the public to enter certain subjective universes which are questioning both the nature of the contemporary human being and the context of a landscape unconstrained in the everyday life.

Due to the international policies implemented by prof. PhD Ioan Sbârciu, former rector (2000-2008) and currently the president of the Senate of the University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, the artists from Cluj have got to be known under the name the ”School of Cluj”. This concept symbolically unites a movement and different groups of artists with a high national and international recognition. Unprecedented artistic phenomenon in the Romanian painting, this real contemporary artistic current is characterized by the revival of the figurative pictorial representation, recognized by the international press as emblematic for the art of the 21st century.

The works of the professors of the Sculpture Department of UAD Cluj-Napoca reflect the efforts of establishing a common visual language of a group of artists capable to answer the imperatives of self-knowledge and maturity in the conditions of the permanent mutations

experienced by the local and international artistic context. There remain questions such as What is the object of sculpture today? What is sculpture? to be answered. And this questioning is fundamented by the enormous range of materials, production techniques and technologies offered by the artistic market and by diverse conceptual approaches and creative strategies. All these factors claim new, pertinent and adequate ways to exhibit.

### Participants

The Painting Department: Ioan Sbârciu, Ioan Aurel Mureşan, Nicolae, Man, Komives Andor, Ioana Olăhuţ, Ioana Popa, Anca Bodea, Veres Szabolcs, Dan Măciucă, Andrei Ciurdărescu, Kudor-Duka Istvan, Cristian Gabriel Lăpuşan, Mihai Guleş, Gagyı Botond and Valentin Marian Ionescu

The Sculpture Department: Alexandru Păsat, Aurel Cucu, Florin Marin, Kolozsi Tibor, Radu Moraru, Septimiu Jugrestan, Ionel Tănase and Vlad Berte.