

# THE WANDERERS Contemporary Painting from Cluj

JAN 11 - FEB 19, 2016

OPENING JANUARY 11, 6-8PM



*Guardians of the molecules* 2016. Marius Bercea. Oil, acrylic, and spray on canvas. 74.5 x 93 in. / 160 x 190 cm.

For more than a decade, Cluj-Napoca, the capital of Transylvania, has been a thriving Contemporary art center for Romania and the international art world. This trend's inception was founded upon a call for change on behalf of the representation of a group of painters, a group that has since been identified as the "Cluj School." These young artists dared to assume a different artistic paradigm; one that combined the conceptual art trends of the West with traditional figurative painting.

Aiming to explore the outstanding conditions behind the emergence of such a complex artistic climate, **Richard Taittinger Gallery** is honored to have leading Romanian art historian **Maria Rus Bojan**, to curate the exhibition: **THE WANDERERS: Contemporary Painting from Cluj**.

For this exhibition, the curator has endeavored to make visible that, beyond the ascribed label of the Cluj School by way of international media, there is much more to be explored when considering this group of artists. Therefore, this multigenerational exhibition tracks a shared dialogue between masters and students in order to define certain Romanian traditions. Traditions, that has within the last decade, projected the painters of Cluj-Napoca,

into the limelight, astounding the international art world. The artists of this exhibition include; Cornel Brudaşcu (1937), Ioan Sbârciu (1948), Victor Răcăţău (1967) Aurelian Piroşcă (1973), Marius Bercea (1979), Oana Fărcaş (1981), Alin Bozbiciu (1989), Robert Fekete (1987), and Sergiu Toma (1987).

By bringing together these generations of artists, with different positions, conceptual principals, and pictorial approaches, this show proposes a re-evaluation of the very notion of the school. In doing so, it presents a multifaceted and inter-related phenomenon. The success of Cluj lies within a reflexive attitude that involves not only a filtering of past ruptures between history and time, presence and memory, but also a process of transfiguration that aims at self-discovery.

The romantic metaphor of "the wanderer" is intended to be a way to describe the common trait that pervades the selection of works included in this exhibition. By introducing conceptual positions that are both figurative and abstract, realist and surreal, nostalgic and critical, the paintings gathered here demonstrates a multiplicity of experiences that turns us all into wanderers. This show is an attempt to present the very essence of Romanian painting: a propensity for the lyrical and longing, the expression of anxiety in a precarious post-Communist present.

## ABOUT THE CURATOR

**Maria Rus Bojan** is an independent curator and art consultant based in Amsterdam. She has served as a curator at the Fine Arts Museum and Director of the Sindan Cultural Center; both of which are in Cluj, Romania. Her curatorial activities have included collaborations with OK Centrum for Contemporary Art, National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest, and the Romanian Pavilion for the 54th Edition of the International Art Exhibition La Biennale de Venezia. She is a member of the Russia and Eastern European Acquisitions Committee at Tate Modern, London. Rus Bojan is also a member of the board of trustees of the Beelden aan Zee Museum, The Hague, The Netherlands.

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