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## Transilvania Reporter

Masters and Disciples: Exhibition by Nine Artists from Cluj, in New York. Richard Taittinger Gallery Presents *The Wanderers: Contemporary Painting From Cluj*

By Cristina Beligar



Richard Taittinger Gallery in New York earlier this month will host the works of nine artists painting school representative from Cluj, in an exhibition that will bring together several generations with different artistic approaches.

Thus, the exhibition *The Wanderers: Contemporary Painting From Cluj* will be opened on 11 January in New York and will feature around 30 works by John Sbarciu (1948), Cornel Brudașcu (1937), Victor RACATAU (1967) Aurelian piroasca (1973), Marius Bercea (1979), Robert Fekete (1987), Alin Bozbiciu (1989), Oana Farcas (1981) and Sergiu Toma (1987).

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"It is the first time the two masters, and Sbârciu Brudaşcu expose abroad together a gallery of such importance, along with former students and disciples. The exhibition is meant to pay homage to the two masters of Cluj underlining their role extremely important in the formation of so many generations of artists from Cluj. The exhibition also aims to be an introduction to the American public the phenomenon painting from Cluj, a phenomenon that must be viewed from a historical perspective, bringing forward those who have contributed to articulating this particular context that stimulated the professional development of many young talents, including those who now make an absolute fame of our city," said exhibition curator for Transylvania Reporter, Russian Maria Bojan. She also stated that the exhibition will offer another perspective of what art school in Cluj, beyond the initial perception known by high-caliber international artists such as Adrian Ghenie or Victor Man.

Regarding the gallery where the exhibition will take place, Richard Taittinger Gallery is a new gallery in New York, with a program toward promoting artists from other art spaces than the western ones. Richard Taittinger family comes from the Champagne house Taittinger founded, then became one of the dominant families in international business and real estate Paris area. Richard Taittinger is married to Elodie Montesquiou Fezensac, it artistocrație from old French, which gave France more figures state marshals, ministers, promoters of Enlightenment. "What they have in common the artists present in the exhibition is not just local or national identity, but a sense of belonging, nostalgia for the past and anxiety over this precarious. Despite various life experiences they had during communism and during the dramatic changes that followed the long years of transition, these artists have overcome trauma history embracing a new paradigm that combined the conceptual approach of Western art tradition figurative painting. The success of this phenomenon lies in the reflexive attitude which involves not only a filter breaks between history and time, presence and memory, but also a process of transfiguration that tends toward self-discovery. The paintings brought together in this exhibition depict a variety of experiences that will enable us to wander every artistic universe revealed," adds the curator Maria Rus Bojan in presenting the exhibition *The Wanderers*.

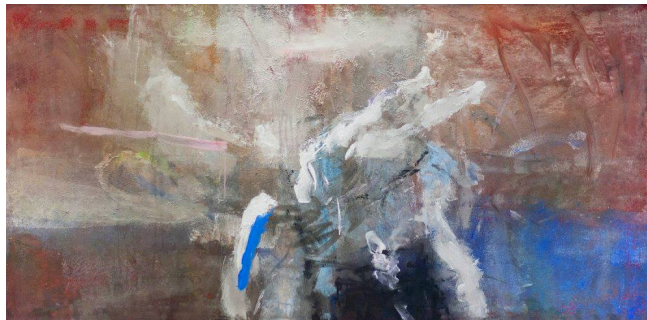
Maria Rus Bojan is an independent curator and art consultant operating in Amsterdam. A former curator at the Museum of Art in Cluj and Director of Sindan Cultural Center in Cluj and Bucharest. His curatorial activities include collaborations with OK Centre for Contemporary Art, the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest and Pavilion 54 Edition of International Art Exhibition of the Venice LaBiennale. He is a member of the Procurement Committee for Russia and Eastern Europe (REEAC) of Tate Modern, London. Maria Rus Bojan is part of the Board of Directors of Beelden aan ZeeMuseum, The Hague, Netherlands.

**Cornel Brudaşcu** is one of the few Romanian artists associated with Pop Art and mentor to many artists including Victor Man, Adrian Ghenie or Bozbiciu Alin. His work in the 70s were recently exhibited at the Tate Modern in London, the exhibition World Goes Pop (2015) and purchased Antique Centre Pompidou in Paris. The works in the current exhibition are compositions representing nudes who are trying to reconcile the fundamental contradiction between the desire to experience nudity as an expression of the primordial spiritual purity and traumatic awareness of original sin.



Cornel Brudascu, *Untitled*, 2015

**John Sbârciu** is Professor and Chairman of the Senate of the University of Art in Cluj. It was all the artists associated with the phenomenon Professor School of Cluj, from Adrian Ghenie, Victor Man, Marius Bercea and Mircea Suci, the younger generation represented by Oana Farcas Alin Bozbiciu, Sergiu Toma and Robert Fekete. Sbârciu John's paintings reveal a deep connection with the notion of space, perhaps the most complex in the Romanian contemporary art. Tactile quality painted surface reveals a certain materiality power and its ability to fit shape.



John Sbârciu, *Rapirea Europea 2*, 2014

The paintings of Victor Răcățau are dominated by an impenetrable enigma where risky nature of fate and randomness are exemplified by reasons such as throwing dice. His works are populated by mazes and maps where psychological space, imaginary and history is put in an order apparent. Victor Răcățau somber tones combine with moments of bright color and intense, thus building a color scheme that serves as a metaphorical transposition of a light material that glows in the dark.



Victor Racatau, *Walk Around the Sun*, 2016

**Marius Bercea** is one of the most representative artists who emerged in recent years show in Cluj. It is known for its colorful paintings, large size, which often combine modernist architecture with fantastic elements. His works build a universe placed in a generic Eastern European landscape, while being nostalgic and critical memory and history.

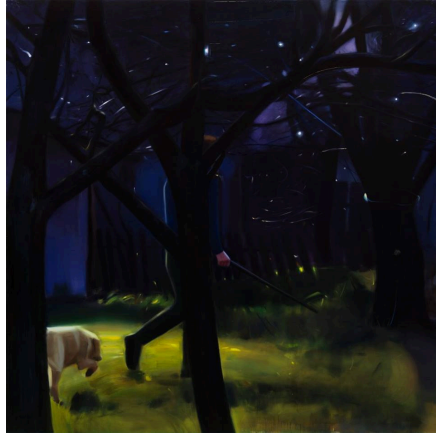


Marius Bercea, *Untitled (Aloe and Cadillac)*, 2016

**Sergiu Toma** began his career with hyper realistic portraits, before becoming interested in painting as a medium and as expressive potential. His work combines moments of everyday life indoors or open the gloomy passages crossing roads, rooms with open doors to other rooms, large market. Attention to detail coincides with moments where things appear out of focus; objects become blurred scenes seem to be hidden under a veil, indicating the nature of each fleeting moment captured.

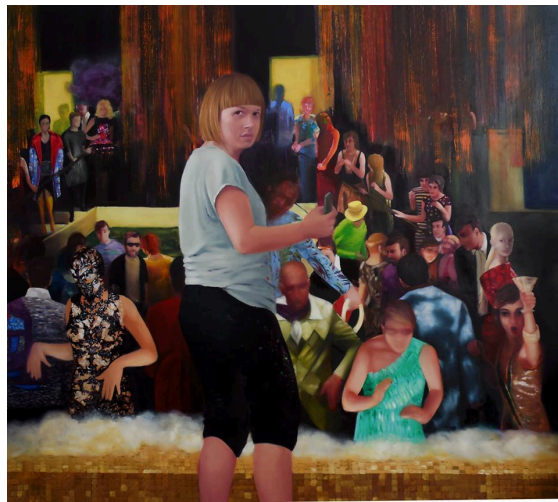
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*Sergiu Toma, Parallel Universe, 2016*

Paintings from **Oana Farcaș** ranges from extensive work on miniatures. Particularly interesting is that the thumbnails can be interpreted simultaneously as objects, curiosities or precious moments, a quality that turns them into valuable objects of contemplation. Acting as a metaphorical mirror for the surrounding world works reflect her own identity Farcaș Nancy and effort that woman, filtering reality and transforming it into a personal universe distinct and discreet.



*Oana Farcaș, Awake My Demons, 2013*

The works of **Robert Fekete** reflect the loneliness and melancholy so characteristic of German Romanticism, reinterpreting the key contemporary works of Caspar David Friedrich. Robert Fekete's paintings reverses the concept of (Neo) Romance. Using collage environment alongside traditional oil paintings, works of Robert Fekete creates a new sense of place, one where inconsistencies exist together, while sails înfățiează daylight and darkness in the foreground, suggesting a poetic approach distances.



Robert Fekete, *The Itinerary (Growing Ideas)*, 2016

Paintings by **Alin Bozbiciu** offers a fresh perspective where intense application of paint conveys a sense of the presence and physicality of the figures represented. Although made in dark and gloomy tones, subjects that inhabit his universe are candid depictions of intimate moments. Most remarkable are his studies of expressiveness and light. Bozbiciu's work expresses an incomplete reality that offers the viewer can imagine various ways to complete narrative.



Alin Bozbiciu, *The First Day after Ledi*, 2016

Large work by **Aurelian Piroasca** shows an irregular stringing cultural universe - from airplanes to international political figures - gathered in an assembly meant to offer a critique of contemporary society. His paintings can be interpreted as allegories of contemporary human absurdity and disappointment.



Aurelian Piroasca, *Right You Are (If You Think So)*, 2016

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