



#### SCREENINGS AND LECTURE MIXED & MASTERED

YEAR: 2010, April  
CURATOR: Xenia Kalpaktoglou & Christopher Marinou



#### SCREENINGS

YEAR: 2010, April  
CURATOR: Xenia Kalpaktoglou & Christopher Marinou

1 program puts up for the audience an encounter with the seminal work of several Romanian and international artists. Being designed as a series of screening evenings, held every month at the Centre for Visual Introspection, it highlights referential artistic practices as regard to the way the relationship between art, public sphere and the individual condition is negotiated. At the same time, because of its particular structure, a presentation in tandem of two artists, it sketches subjectively a regional and international map of modern and contemporary art where certain theoretical and visual components meet or, conversely, split up, expanding the conventional understanding of the work of these artists.

YEAR: 2010, October  
LECTURE BY: Ana Devic



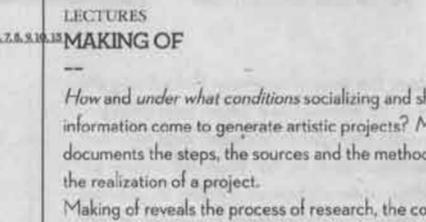
#### LECTURE BETWEEN BODY AND HISTORY

YEAR: 2009, December  
LECTURE BY: Magdalena Ziolkowska



#### LECTURE

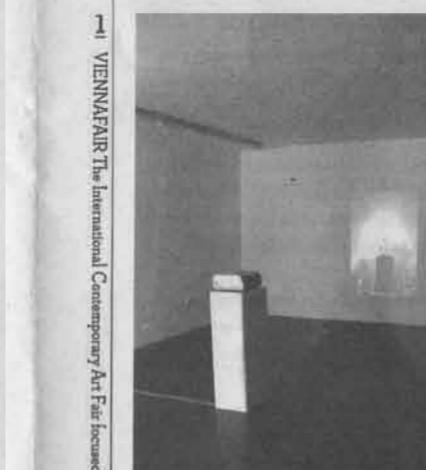
YEAR: 2008, October  
LECTURE BY: Ana Devic



#### LECTURES MAKING OF

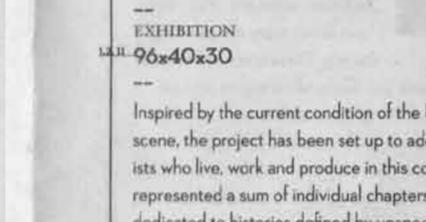
How and under what conditions socializing and sharing of information come to generate artistic projects? Making of documents the steps, the sources and the methods applied in the realization of a project.

Making of reveals the process of research, the context, ideas and attitudes, striving not to create an object for an exhibition but to activate a type of practice with possible effects on the real lives of the participants. Making of maintains the necessity of redefining the position of both the artist, the viewer and the experience of art.



#### EXHIBITION WHAT, HOW AND FOR WHOM?

YEAR: 2008, October



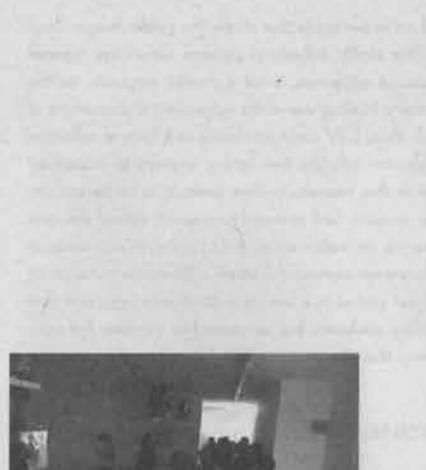
#### EXHIBITION 90x40x30

Inspired by the current condition of the Romanian art scene, the project has been set up to address to those artists who live, work and produce in this context. 90x40x30 represented a sum of individual chapters which were dedicated to histories defined by unspectacular that shared a common platform - a marble pedestal with the dimensions of 90x40x30cm.



#### PUBLIC ART PROJECT ARS TELEFONICA

Was conceived as a public art project that responded to the existing protocols of local cultural policy that accommodated a fragile representation of contemporary art in the public sphere. One of the aspects pointed was the insufficient number of art venues, artist-run-spaces, off-side spaces which in the economy of the project determined the appropriation of a (today) leftover space: the phone booth. The temporary interventions aimed to create new poles of juncture between location, its identity and audiences.



#### PUBLIC ART PROJECT ARS TELEFONICA

YEAR: 2008, September

CURATORS: Anca Benera, Arnold Estefan,

Cătălin Rulea, Alina Ţerban.

ARTISTS: studioBASAR (Bucharest)

Luca Frei (Malmö)

Carl Michael von Hausswolff (Stockholm)

Dörte Meyer (Berlin)

Jelena Šimić (Belgrade)

Natasja Tur (Berlin)

LECTURES BY: Adnan Kihal (Istanbul/Berlin)

Josanna Wrońska (Warsaw)

Roland Schönig (Vienna)

PERFORMANCE BY: Bernhard Schreiner (Frankfurt)

son: DA (Maribor)

"Envisioned and initiated by the artist Anca Benera, the project Matter & History documents in the form of book the exceptional state in which public monuments exist, searching how, in what way and why such representations survive in public space. The book brings together a series of case studies, presented in the form of individual files, which describe, logically and chronologically, the cultural and social conditions that led to the building of monuments; a collection of theoretical texts which highlight the historical behaviours, artistic practices and collective realities; and an audio CD that provides the listener with a fictional tour of 15 monuments around Bucharest, some of which no longer exist today. From collective forgetting to physical disappearance, from the perpetuation of classicising artistic traditions to the incorporation of monumental ambitions, from the flamboyant rhetoric of the political to the loss of public credibility, from idolatry to vandalism, the book presents the various metamorphoses of public monuments showcasing the complex relationship between matter and symbol, between the political and historical order, between discourse and image." Alina Ţerban

YEAR: 2009, September-November

CURATORS: Anca Benera & Zdravko Baladzan

ARTIST:

Babi Budakov, Fernando Sanchez Castillo, René Gabri

l, Ayreen Anastas, Lise Harlev, Anish Kapoor, Peggy

Meinhardt, Anatoly Onnoukovsky, Augustin Priaulx, Artur Zmijewski

DESIGN: Arnold Estefan

ISBN: 978-973-577-621-3

## SPACE<sup>1</sup>/ LACK OF SPACE<sup>2</sup>/ PUBLIC SPACE<sup>3</sup>

## ARTIST-RUN-SPACE<sup>5</sup>/ WHITE CUBE<sup>6</sup>

## CRITICAL<sup>7</sup>/ EDUCATIONAL<sup>8</sup>

## ART HISTORY<sup>9</sup>/ PERSONAL HISTORY<sup>10</sup>

## GOING LOCAL<sup>11</sup>/ GOING GLOBAL<sup>12</sup>

## SELF-SUSTAINED<sup>13</sup>/ FUNDED<sup>14</sup>

## AUDIENCES<sup>15</sup>/ PUBLICS<sup>16</sup>

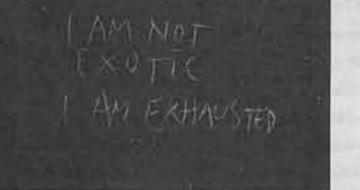
**WHO IS CIV?**  
CIV (Centre for Visual Introspection) is an initiative of artists Anca Benera, Arnold Estefan, Cătălin Rulea and art historian Alina Ţerban.

#### WHAT IS CIV?

CIV is a self-organized, independent platform founded in 2007 in Bucharest, Romania dedicated to the artistic production at the borders of cultural theory, research, architecture, design and sound experiment.

#### HOW IT WORKS?

Centre for Visual Introspection is a processed-based collaborative project engaged in an ongoing survey upon the condition of individual within the sphere of arts and politics. The term "introspection" points CIV as an observing agency that focuses on the identification of specific practices of interlinking the social space with the art space. CIV functions as a mobile and mediating structure connected to the community life, which assumes the task of articulating new forms of cultural pedagogy that would shape differently the discursive space shared by cultural producers and their audiences. A particular attention is dedicated to the research and theorization of local artistic practices and discourses, addressing their specificities and cultural subjectivities in the light of recent political and social shifts taken place in Central and Eastern Europe.



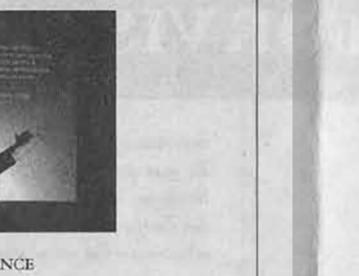
#### EXHIBITIONS 1990-2010

Traces and disputes the site-specificity of art practices, institutional and curatorial discourses in Romanian art over the last 20 years in a cycle of solo projects and inserts in 22 newspaper.

YEAR: 2010, April, September  
CURATOR: Alina Ţerban  
PARTICIPANTS: DAN PERJOVSKI S.A.<sup>\*</sup>  
Dan Perjovschi

EXPENSIVE FIASCO / CHEAP SUCCESS  
Ioana Nemeș

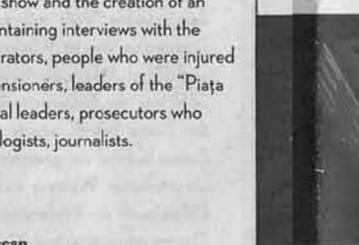
DESIGN: Cătălin Rulea  
ISBN: 978-973-0-09406-0



#### DOCUMENTARY/PERFORMANCE HEATED MINDS. 13-15 JUNE 1990

13-15 June 1990 is a project of research and performance of recent history based on a process of documentation that consists of interviews with witnesses, written press articles, reports drawn up by various institutions and organizations, public discussions, workshops etc., focused on the events which took place in Bucharest between 13 and 15 June 1990. The first stage of the project consisted of two parts: the achievement of a documentary theatre show and the creation of an informal audio-video archive containing interviews with the actors in those events: demonstrators, people who were injured or arrested, miners, workers, pensioners, leaders of the "Plata Universității" movement, political leaders, prosecutors who investigated the case, anthropologists, journalists.

YEAR: 2008, April  
DIRECTOR: David Schwartz  
TEXT: Michael Michailov  
PERFORMER: Alexandru Potocan  
VIDEO: Cinty Ionescu  
SOUND: Cătălin Rulea  
SET DESIGN: Adrian Cristea



#### PUBLICATION AND LECTURES EVICTING THE GHOST.

ARCHITECTURES OF SURVIVAL

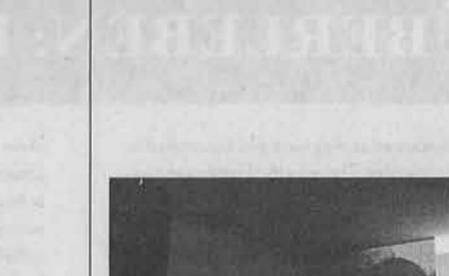
"In the autumn of 2006, walking down the street, we passed by a compact volume of furniture wrapped in blue foil. We had seen such makeshift structures put up in the street by the evicted families before, but we had not paid them more than just a mechanical, almost indifferent, attention, with which we generally take in all the anomalies of the Romanian public space to the point that they become almost invisible. When we found ourselves in the narrow space between the sidewalk package and the house facade, we heard several voices and a clink of spoons and plates; we were passing by a family who was having lunch inside the blue parcel. We realized that the structure was actually a dwelling, and its occupants were not homeless persons in the strict sense of that word, but homeless families who lived on the sidewalk and owned tableware, furniture and apartment plants." studioBASAR

YEAR: 2008, November-December  
CURATORS: Lukasz Ronduda & Florian Zeyfang  
ARTIST: Józef Robakowski, Kazimierz Bendkowski, Ryszard Wasko, Paweł Kwick, Zbigniew Rybczynski, Oskar Hansen, Paweł Althamer, Artur Zmijewski, Zofia Kulik, Przemysław Kwick, Natalia Li, Zdzisław Sosnowski, Janusz Haka, Zygmunt Rytko.

EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 1000  
PUBLISHED BY: studioBASAR

DESIGN: Lukasz Ronduda  
ISBN: 978-973-0-09206-0

EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 1000  
PUBLISHED BY: studioBASAR



#### EXHIBITION 1, 2, 3... AVANT-GARDES

Film/Art between Experiment and Archive

"In the autumn of 2006, walking down the street, we passed by a compact volume of furniture wrapped in blue foil. We had seen such makeshift structures put up in the street by the evicted families before, but we had not paid them more than just a mechanical, almost indifferent, attention, with which we generally take in all the anomalies of the Romanian public space to the point that they become almost invisible. When we found ourselves in the narrow space between the sidewalk package and the house facade, we heard several voices and a clink of spoons and plates; we were passing by a family who was having lunch inside the blue parcel. We realized that the structure was actually a dwelling, and its occupants were not homeless persons in the strict sense of that word, but homeless families who lived on the sidewalk and owned tableware, furniture and apartment plants." studioBASAR

YEAR: 2008, November-December  
CURATORS: Lukasz Ronduda & Florian Zeyfang  
ARTIST: Józef Robakowski, Kazimierz Bendkowski, Ryszard Wasko, Paweł Kwick, Zbigniew Rybczynski, Oskar Hansen, Paweł Althamer, Artur Zmijewski, Zofia Kulik, Przemysław Kwick, Natalia Li, Zdzisław Sosnowski, Janusz Haka, Zygmunt Rytko.

EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 1000  
PUBLISHED BY: studioBASAR

DESIGN: Lukasz Ronduda  
ISBN: 978-973-0-09206-0

EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 1000  
PUBLISHED BY: studioBASAR



#### WORKSHOP&LECTURES SELF-PUBLISHING IN TIMES OF FREEDOM

AND REPRESION

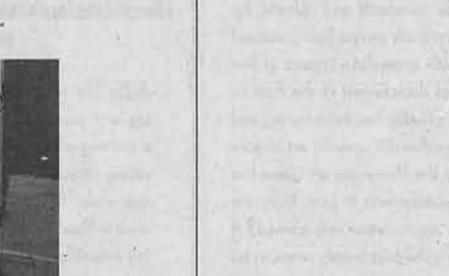
What are the new forms of censorship today? What are the limits and means of self-expression / self-censorship and freedom of speech? What is the role of printed matter in the age of Internet and social networks?

YEAR: 2010, April  
CURATORS: Anca Benera & Arnold Estefan  
PARTICIPANTS: Marco Bailesteanu (Portugal)  
Sofia Gonçalves (Portugal)  
Renata Cambatas (Croatia)  
Rafaela Dracic (Croatia)  
Eleonora Farina (Italy)  
Ward Heijnen (Belgium)  
Tatyana Reznik (Russia/UK)  
Katarina Sević (Serbia/Hungary)  
Gölie Talaie (Iran/NI)  
Paul Wiersbinski (Germany)  
Lia Perjovschi (Romania)

EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 800  
PUBLISHED BY: Asociatia pepuspatra/  
Centre for Visual Introspection

DESIGN: Lukasz Ronduda  
ISBN: 978-973-0-09206-0

EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 800  
PUBLISHED BY: Asociatia pepuspatra/  
Centre for Visual Introspection



#### PUBLICATION ARS TELEFONICA

The publication ARS Telefonica 2008 accompanies the homonym project, organized by Centre for Visual Introspection during September 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Bucharest. The book gathers a series of critical texts by a diverse group of art and architectural theorists, philosophers, critically engaged in debating the current conditions of social and cultural practice in Romanian public sphere. The body of texts introduces a glossary of themes, sub-themes and concepts which relate to the questions launched by the project and opens, as well, multiple directions of interpretation regarding the passive / active relationship between cultural producer and audience. The publication contains images, short descriptions of the artistic projects and of the lectures taken place within the event's framework, as well as an audio CD which documents the works of studioBASAR, Carl Michael von Hausswolff, Jiri Skala, Luca Frei, Iratxe Jaio & Klass van Gorkum, Dörte Meyer, Bernhard Schreiner, Nasan Tur, son:DA.

YEAR: 2009, April  
EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 800  
PUBLISHED BY: Asociatia pepuspatra/  
Centre for Visual Introspection

DESIGN: Arnold Estefan  
ISBN: 978-973-0-09315-8

EDITORIAL CONCEPT: Alina Ţerban  
LANGUAGE: Romanian/ English  
EDITION: 800  
PUBLISHED BY: Asociatia pepuspatra/  
Centre for Visual Introspection

THIS PUBLICATION IS PART OF THE PROJECTS AND SPACES SECTION OF VIENNAFAIR 2011.

SUPPORTED BY: RUMÂNISCHES KULTURINSTITUT

EDITOR: CIV

COURTESY PHOTOS: CIV AND THE ARTISTS

DESIGN: Arnold Estefan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Daria Ghiu, Gabriel Kohn, Alexandru Nebejca, Timotei Nădășan



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## COUNSEL FOR A YOUNG ART COLLECTOR

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Don't buy art to decorate your house with. Art shouldn't match the sofa or the wallpaper.

Read as many books, catalogues and reviews as you can. Learn more about art and its context. Don't listen to experts. Trust your own intuition.

Travel to see exhibitions where they happen. Don't go to art fairs only.

It's better to build a coherent collection of young artists than to own a few unimportant drawings by established ones.

Buy only from primary market (galleries & artists). Don't speculate. Art shouldn't be used as a means for financial gain but for spiritual & cultural enlightenment.

Size doesn't matter. A brilliant work can be cheap, small and perishable. Invest in ideas not in materials.

Take financial risks. Don't be afraid to buy works from artists that are not yet represented by a gallery.

Buy works from artists and gallerists from your own generation. You'll become an active player in the contemporary art scene.

Build your collection with a long term approach. Don't follow temporary trends.

Buy local artists. Invest in the quality and attractiveness of the city you're living in.

Once you purchased the work, pay ASAP. Don't postpone your payment.

Don't ask for a discount. It's about the art not the money.

Be humble. It's the artwork that's important.

**Daria Ghiu:** Where do you put yourself within the Romanian context? How did your initial intentions look like and how did they evolve? Did your discourse demand any amendments in time?

**Anca Benera:** The Center for Visual Introspection came into being first of all out of necessity, owing to a lack of coherent programs and discourses in local institutional exercise and to certain shortcomings in the system of artistic education.

**Catalin Rulea:** It has appeared as a team and so it has functioned so far. Our activity grew more complex and more demanding in time while support from the public sphere has gradually diminished. Thus we can say that our present potential exceeds the probability of accomplishing the projects we have elaborated.

**Arnold Estefan:** We have tailored the periodicity of our events to the demands from the public but also to our material capacity in a way that would not degrade the quality and coherence of the programs we set out to accomplish.

**Alina Serban:** Taking a detached look at the activity of CIV during the past two years, the conclusion is that the initial intentions did not change. Nevertheless we have only managed to develop just some of the ideas we started out with. We have kept our inner mobility, which is good, we are still an self-organized structure based on an integrating critical exercise that continually adapts to the conditions in the Romanian public sphere. We have wished to shift the role of the art institution on the Bucharest culture scene, by means of a systematic, clear and, why not, responsible discourse that is easy to identify: the exhibition *display* and the visual identity of our programs are essential. We neither sought to repeat an institutional canon, nor wanted to formalize the artistic practices and curatorial strategies on display. Owing to its collective dimension, this center has soon become a space for the meeting and interaction of various communities, discourses and initiatives.

**D.G.: On one hand you put heavy emphasis on local discourse and on connecting to the life of the community. On the other hand, you have a strong interest in developing regional connection with Eastern and Central Europe. How did these discourses work in time, while they have contributed to a re-writing of the European art history of the last fifty years?**

**C.R.:** For Western Europe, the East is like a rediscovered realm with fresh aesthetics and ideas modeled by events and constraints that the West has not experienced so far. In what concerns life standards and cultural dynamics, the propaganda from both camps had sustained a certain "East-complex" with immediate impact in fine arts. Thus the resistance and detachment of the East to and from its own problematic reality has determined, and it still does, a reluctance to value the specific art history of the region. Unfortunately, the Romanian art scene has established rather shy connections with its past. Why are Romanian artists looking for appreciation only abroad? If anything has been built during the past twenty years, in art this thing is closer to POP than to well-grounded culture. CIV wishes to bring the East into discussion, to show how others could archive and promote their past and recent culture, to show how they have carefully constructed an image of the context within which art was created and to secure the value of a historical heritage that should not be thrown overboard as ballast just because Jeff Koons is so much more cool.

**A.B.:** The directions referred to in the question share the exercise of archiving and the research of the history of experience in art, chiefly tracing it on the level of the Romanian and the regional context. By certain programs we enact, like *Regional Express*, for instance, we are presenting the projects CIV considers to be relevant and of reference to be introduced to the Romanian public as a counterbalance to the diminished local interest in the research of recent history.

**A.E.:** In our eyes, the East is not the East it used to be 20 years ago and neither has the West remained the same. We will have to understand who we are, for a start, thus the Romanian society might do away with the confusion between to have and to be. WE are interested in regional connections and artistic exercises owing to the relevance these have inside the Romanian cultural sphere based on the similarity of processes and on a common past. We are also interested in ways by which these regional scenes have particularized institutional structures and curatorial discourse.

**A.S.:** To answer this question also means to move the discussion towards the beginnings of the CIV platform in Bucharest. The emphasis on valuing these curatorial

and art experiences that shape the public imagery and validate similar behavioral patterns within the regional discourse apparatus, is not a chance emphasis, on the contrary. Making use of the subjectivity characteristic of each of us, CIV came into being as a form of collective production with the task to find answers to a question that at that moment in time seemed to us paramount. The question had, in a certain respect, shifted the view from the art institution towards the community because we were not interested in creating difference within an art context limited to a few institutional structures and their satellite platforms, but we wanted to convince the community that our existence was a necessity. The question "how" we could do that is beyond the realm of art and it establishes a reciprocal relation between the collective project of establishing an institutional structure and the public validation of the activities and programs generated by this project. The same interrogation urges CIV in the long run to avoid a certain type of institutional formalization characterized by the reproduction of previously checked discourses and to "risk" the adoption of a chameleon dimension, continuously adapted to the circumstances, particularities and limits of the Romanian social and cultural order. The critical analysis of the context and of the public we were to address had made us identify a few matters that were worth our attention. These were centered around certain problems in the (self)-representation of the Romanian art scene, in the management of the cultural heritage of the last fifty years but also in cultural translation. We need to add to all these our record of a reticence in the public to come into contact with contemporary art and the lack of public credibility in what pertains to the role of the art institution as a space for social action. Thus such programs as *Artelefonica* or *Cut-up History* were naturally conceived in our attempt to turn CIV into a mediator between artistic and curatorial discourses and the public sphere, between various regional histories and institutional strategies. For this point of view the strategy of the Romanian Cultural Institute is welcome.

**D.G.: What were the greatest difficulties you had to face? Is it difficult to operate an independent institution in Romania? Where do the obstacles emerge?**

**C.R.:** I will try to be concise because I have already said this so many times before, and a few words are usually enough to set things straight. The Romanian administration does not understand the power of contemporary art and it remains anchored in a faded subculture that can be exported not even to Cambodia. The culture of the day is a vendible product that could create an image for this administration. From this point of view the strategy of the Romanian Cultural Institute is welcome.

**A.B.:** To be an independent institution in Romania implies continuous financial efforts. Our finances are also individual, depending on a certain project. Owing to the low echo of contemporary art on a political level, the independent platforms here have always depended on foreign support. As an outcome of the closure of the Soros or Pro-Helveta financing programs, several active institu-

tions have disappeared as they were not accustomed to self-supporting practices. The majority of artists and curators are living on residences or projects financed from foreign programs. A greater interest and support from public institutions would consolidate independent initiatives.

**A.E.:** The two initiatives both have the condition of working and producing art within the Romanian context for a starting point. "96x40x30" is a program addressed to young artists, some of them at the beginning of their career while "1990-2010" includes important points of reference in Romanian art. You are switching from exhibitions and presentations from outside the Romanian space with exhibitions especially produced for this space. How did the locals react? In which direction will this exhibition dynamic turn?

**C.R.:** We have tried to avoid involvement with the manipulation strategies of the local art scene. It is a dynamic field connected to characteristically contemporary tensions. We set out to insert local names and artists into impeccably argued and constructed contexts. The team is involved, creatively and as curator, in the projects we are hosting. "96x40x30" and "1990-2010" are projects beyond a simple presentation of certain works. We are trying to get behind the name and the person and to reach the real ideas. The first project was a minimal one, starting from a series of limitations on basis of which the artist had to come up with a response to our initiative while the second is supposed to confront history and to give birth to certain questions regarding our recent past.

**A.S.:** We have got a fragmentary, discontinuous concept of our own culture without trying to establish a precise scale of values. In the field of art, still considered to be a niche, the sensation accompanying the effort to identify the directions of inflection of the Romanian art scene is that of improvising. This situation feeds upon a certain "provincial" feeling, a complex we suffer of, upon a certain moderation (not positivity) in what pertains to the lobbying going on in the public sphere on administrative and political levels and upon the constant victimization owing to a historical fact originating in the vices of the last fifty years or to a constitutional characteristic specific of the Romanian person as such. The "1990-2010" series,

started with the project "Dan Perjovschi S.A." consists in an analysis of the set of practices and discourses on the Romanian art scene of the last two decades, in a critical exercise of reflecting upon institutional sclerosis, upon the very logic behind the functioning of this scene. The debate behind this series is meant to point out some of the chapters in recent history. Nevertheless the artists are the ones appointed to reveal the contents of these chapters, exploring their own subjective experiences in engaging in/confronting with the realities of the post-communist Romanian society. The next project, *Expensive Fiasco/Cheep Success* belongs to artist Ioana Nemeș. Both the exhibitions and the newspapers, produced in cooperation with the magazine "22", are extremely personal and precise while they are, sometimes in quite a radical way, mediating delicate aspects of the present condition of artist and the art. The series will moreover continue as a "solo-show" program which we expect to materialize at the end in a publication.

**D.G.: What does the Romanian art sphere need? How does the local scene of the day look like? How does a non-profit, independent platform relate to the commercial spaces that have spread all across Bucharest?**

**C.R.:** The Romanian art sphere, as the society as well, needs more depth. Within a system based on capital, the commercial element is the engine but also the trap of culture.

**A.B.:** Romania needs to create locations, institutions, and to enact a reform of education in art to do away with the old anachronistic system. The art education in this country does not form the student; it merely offers technical skills. Not much has changed during the last two decades when one was his or her own curator, producer, gallery operator and technical assistant; thus we have learnt many things along the way. There is no market for mature art in Romania yet. Cultural managers and gallery operators come from spheres related to art but they lack impetus and are too profit-oriented. Many galleries are practically inactive (they only come out for "galleries' night" event), while others, giving in to financial pressure, limit themselves to fairs, bids, attracting collectors and have no consistent program at all. On the other hand, galleries that are offering artists support and financial ease are to be valued. They are workshops for the production of works and artist books that contribute to the career of the artist. Nevertheless these are quite rare.

**A.E.:** I think the Romanian art scene is active to the extent to which society needs to support contemporary art. Nevertheless both this need and the scene are extremely small. In cities like the size of Timișoara or Constanta

metric relations between the support given to institutions under direct state management (theatres, museums, etc.) and the support given to independent cultural institutions and operators.

**D.G.: Wie definiert Ihr Euch im rumänischen Kontext? Mit welchen Vorhaben seit Ihr gestartet und wie haben sich diese entwickelt? Ist eine gewisse Nuancierung Eures Diskurses nötig geworden?**

**Anca Benera:** Das Center for Visual Introspection (CVI) ist in erster Reihe aus einer Notwendigkeit entstanden. In der Praxis der lokalen Einrichtungen fehlte es an zusammenhängenden Programmen und Diskursen, das Bildungswesen vernachlässigte den Kunsterunterricht. **Catalin Rulea:** Es wurde als Kollektiv ins Leben gerufen und entfaltet seine Tätigkeit auch gegenwärtig als solches. Unsere Tätigkeit ist mit der Zeit viel komplexer und aufwendiger geworden, während die Notwendigkeit der Unterstützung aus dem öffentlichen Sektor immer mehr abgenommen hat. So können wir behaupten, dass unser jetziges Potential viel größer als die Wahrscheinlichkeit der Umsetzung unserer Projektvorhaben ist.

**A.B.:** Romania needs to create locations, institutions, and to enact a reform of education in art to do away with the old anachronistic system. The art education in this country does not form the student; it merely offers technical skills. Not much has changed during the last two decades when one was his or her own curator, producer, gallery operator and technical assistant; thus we have learnt many things along the way. There is no market for mature art in Romania yet. Cultural managers and gallery operators come from spheres related to art but they lack impetus and are too profit-oriented. Many galleries are practically inactive (they only come out for "galleries' night" event), while others, giving in to financial pressure, limit themselves to fairs, bids, attracting collectors and have no consistent program at all. On the other hand, galleries that are offering artists support and financial ease are to be valued. They are workshops for the production of works and artist books that contribute to the career of the artist. Nevertheless these are quite rare.

**A.E.:** Bei der Anzahl unserer Events richten wir uns einerseits nach den Interessen des Publikums, aber auch nach unseren finanziellen Möglichkeiten, so dass die Qualität und die Stimmigkeit unserer Programme nicht darunter leiden.

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**A.S.:** Um diese Frage zu beantworten, müssen wir das Gespräch auf die Prämissen der Gründung des CVI in Bukarest lenken. Ganz und gar nicht zufällig ist die Betonung der kuratorielien und künstlerischen Erfahrungen, die die Vorstellungskraft der Öffentlichkeit ansprechen und solche Verhaltensmuster legitimieren, die sich im Rahmen des regionalen Diskursapparats gleichen. Durch die Ausbreitung der Subjektivität in uns allen, hat sich das CVI als Form der kollektiven Produktion herausradiert, die ihrerseits laufend an die Bedingungen der rumänischen Öffentlichkeit angepasst wird. Wir wollten die Rolle der Kunsteinrichtung im Rahmen der Bukarester Kulturszene durch einen systematischen, nüchternen und – wieso nicht – verantwortungsbewussten und vor allem wiedererkennbaren Diskurs, in dem das austellerische Display und die visuelle Identität unserer Programme im Mittelpunkt stehen, neu verhandeln. Wir wollten keinem bestehenden

**Alina Serban:** Bei einer entspannten Betrachtung der Tätigkeit des CVI in diesen zwei Jahren kann ich sagen, dass sich unsere anfänglichen Vorhaben nicht verändert haben. Allerdings haben wir nur einen Teil unserer anfänglichen Ideen umsetzen können. Wichtig ist, dass uns die interne Mobilität nicht abhanden gekommen ist. Wir sind immer noch eine selbstverwaltende Struktur, die auf eine integrierte Praxis der Kritik baut, die ihrerseits laufend an die Bedingungen der rumänischen Öffentlichkeit angepasst wird. Wir wollten die Rolle der Kunsteinrichtung im Rahmen der Bukarester Kulturszene durch einen systematischen, nüchternen und – wieso nicht – verantwortungsbewussten und vor allem wiedererkennbaren Diskurs, in dem das austellerische Display und die visuelle Identität unserer Programme im Mittelpunkt stehen, neu verhandeln. Daher auch

**A.S.:** Allgemein gesehen, nehmen wir unsere Kultur bruchstückhaft, ohne Markierung einer genauen Werteskalen, wahr. Das Gefühl, das die Analyse der Richungen in der rumänischen Kunstszene die immer noch als Nischensegment gilt – hinterlässt ist Improvisation. Die Ursachen finden sich in einem gefühlten „Provinzialismus“, einem Komplex, an dem wir leider, einer Mäßigung (wenn nicht gar Passivität) in der öffentlichen, administrativen und politischen Lobbyarbeit und einer konstanten Vitimisierung (entweder historisch bedingt, oder aber konstitutiv). Die Reihe "1990-2010" – eröffnet durch das Projekt „Dan Perjovschi S.A.“ – analysiert die Praktiken und Diskurse der rumänischen Kunstszenen der vergangenen 20 Jahre und reflektiert die Starthilfe der Einrichtungen und die eigene Logik der Szene kritisch. Wir haben uns gewünscht, dass die von dieser Reihe angestellte Debatte einige Kapitel unserer jüngsten Geschichte aufzeigt. Aber die Aufgabe der Erstellung der Inhalte dieser Kapitel fällt abschließlich den Künstlern zu, die von ihrer subjektiven Erfahrung mit der postkommunistischen Wirklichkeit ausgehen. Das nächste Projekt, *Expensive Fiasco/Cheep Success*, stammt von Ioana Nemeș. Sowohl die Ausstellungen, als auch die in Zusammenarbeit mit der Zeitschrift "22" entstandenen Publikationen sind sehr persönlich und präzise und vermitteln für die gegenwärtige Stellung des Künstlers sehr heikle Themen auf oftmals radikale Weise. Zusätzlich wird sich die Serie programmatisch im Format "Solo Show" weiterentwickeln, wobei das Endziel die Herausgabe einer Publikation sein wird.

**D.G.: Was braucht der rumänische Kunstraum? Wie würdet Ihr die lokale Kunstszenen heute beschreiben? Wie steht eine unabhängige Plattform zu den vielen Geschäften lokalen, die in Bukarest erscheinen?**

**C.R.:** Der rumänische Kunstraum muss, genauso wie die Gesellschaft, mehr Tiefe bekommen. In einem auf Kapital basierenden System, ist der Kommerz kulturelle Anteile, gleichzeitig aber auch eine Kulturfalle.

**A.B.:** Rumänien muss Räume, Errichtungen schaffen,

den Kunsterunterricht reformieren um so der Anachronie zu entkommen. Das Bildungssystem bildet nicht aus, sondern vermittelt lediglich technisches Wissen. In den letzten 20 Jahren hat sich nicht viel verändert, der Künstler ist nach wie vor sein eigener Kurator, Produzent, Gallerist, Techniker. Vieles haben neuerdings gelernt. In Rumänien gibt es noch keinen richtigen Kunstmuseum. Die Kulturmanager und Galleristen stammen nicht aus der Kunstwelt, haben zu wenig Elan und sind zu sehr auf den Gewinn fixiert. Viele Galerien haben eigentlich gar keine Aktivität (sie nehmen nur an der "Langen nacht der Galerien" teil), während sich anderer nur auf Messen, Versteigerungen, Anwerbung von Sammlern beschränken, ohne ein eigenes gehaltvolles Programm. Andererseits sind die Galerien zu begrüßen, die ihren Künstlern Unterstützung und finanzielle Sicherheit bieten, Werke und Künstleralben produzieren und zur Förderung der Künstlerkarriere beitragen. Leider sind das die wenigen.

**C.R.:** Ich werde versuchen mich kurz zu fassen, denn Wiederholungen sind mir zuwider und klare Sachverhalte erkläre man in wenigen Worten. Rumänische Behörden haben kein Verständnis für die Kraft der europäischen Gegenwartskunst und bleiben in einer ermüdeten Subkultur gefangen, die man nicht einmal mehr den Kambodschaschnauhaften machen kann. Die Kultur der Gegenwart ist ein Produkt, das verkauft werden und diese Behörden zu einem Imagegewinn verhelfen kann. Die Strategie des Rumanischen Kulturstifts ist in diesem Zusammenhang geradezu lebenswichtig.

**A.S.:** Ich glaube, dass die rumänische Kunstszene insbesondere Maße aktiv ist, wie sie von der Gesellschaft unterstützt wird. Sowohl die Nachfrage, als auch die Szene sind sehr klein. Es gibt Großstädte wie Timisoara oder Konstanza, wo es keine Räume für Gegenwartskunst gibt, aber auch kleine Städte, wie Sf. Gheorghe, wo Räume zwar vorhanden sind, nicht aber Publikum für konzeptionelle Projekte. Bukarester Non-Profit-Einrichtungen haben ihre Praxis betriebe, die keinen Kontakt zu den Künstlern haben, die keinen Kontakt zu den Künstlern haben, die keinen Kontakt zu den Künstlern haben.

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**A.E.:** Um unabhängig zu bleiben, sollte man sich möglichst aus der Politik raus halten und nichts verkaufen wollen. Bekommt man öffentliche Gelder, wird jede Eroffnung von einem Parlamentarier vollzogen, aber das ist nicht unser Fall; und wenn man aus der Privatwirtschaft

## Ausstellungsdynamik einschlagen?

**A.E.**