

Art Encounters Biennial 2019 Timișoara
20 September – 27 October 2019

Official exhibition opening: Friday 20 September 2019

Întâlniri cu arta / Susretanje umetnosti / Maladimata la artasa / Találkozások a művészettel / Kunstbegegnungen / Art Encounters

The Art Encounters Foundation is pleased to present the artists and collaborators participating in the Art Encounters Biennial 2019, as well as information on the curatorial approach and format of the Biennial's third edition.

Art Encounters Biennial 2019 is a continuation of the long-term mission of the Art Encounters Foundation to engage a wide audience in debates about contemporary society and to create a dynamic platform in Romania for cultural exchange with the international art scene. **More than 60 artists from around the world will take part, 20 of whom will create new works specially conceived to relate to the city of Timișoara.**

The participants in the exhibition programme are: Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Dan Acostioaei*, Halil Altindere, Anca Benera & Arnold Estefan, Michael Beutler*, Irina Botea Bucan & Jon Dean, Pauline Boudry & Renate Lorenz*, Filipa César & Louis Henderson, Kray Chen*, Céline Condorelli*, Collection Collective, Alexandra Croitoru*, Chto delat, Forensic Architecture, Aslan Gaisumov, Ane Graff, Alma Heikkilä, Sandi Hilal & Alessandro Petti, Ane Hjort Guttu, Dora García*, Ho Tzu Nyen, Gunilla Klingberg*, Gülsün Karamustafa, Behzad Khosravi Noori, Vilmos Koter, Matts Leiderstam*, Anne Low*, Virginia Lupu, Taus Makhacheva, Liliana Mercioiu Popa, Metahaven, Ana Maria Millán, Malgorzata Mirga-Tas, Naeem Mohaiemen, Monotremu, Tanja Muravskaja, Ciprian Mureșan*, Joar Nango*, Pınar Öğrenci, Ahmet Öğüt*, The Otolith Group, Trevor Paglen, Gary-Ross Pastrana*, Lia Perjovschi, Peles Empire*, Thao Nguyen Phan, Zac Langdon-Pole, Agnieszka Polska*, Ghenadie Popescu, Vandy Rattana, Bella Rune*, STEALTH.unlimited*, Zhou Tao, Iulia Toma*, Tur de Arhitectura*, Mona Vătămanu & Florin Tudor*, Anton Vidokle, Haegue Yang, Mădălina Zaharia*, Zephyr*, Želimir Žilnik

* new commission

Curators: Maria Lind and Anca Rujoiu

Many of the artists participating in the Biennial have engaged in research in Timișoara and have made context-sensitive work. The approach adopted by the curators of the Biennial, Maria Lind and Anca Rujoiu, is based on the belief that contemporary art is a form of understanding which, along with science, politics, literature, and philosophy, helps us tackle the complexity of life today. The name of the biennial – **Art Encounters** – represents a source of inspiration for dialogue and reflection. Every art work will be the occasion for encounters, stimulating debates between groups and individuals.

“Over the course of this edition of the Art Encounters Biennial, different thoughts and ideas will flow through artworks and practices. Similar to the winds in Herta Müller’s novels, which take place in and around Timișoara and have different connotations, the winds of the Biennial will bring various temperatures, atmospheres, and even substances. Winds blow through borders and translations, something well known in Timișoara’s Banat region, including the edges of visibility and invisibility. Another wind drives an attentiveness to craft and the work of the hand. A third wind stimulates independent publishing, personal collections, and other forms of self-organisation.”
(Maria Lind and Anca Rujoiu)

In contrast to previous editions of the Biennial, the event extends beyond the five weeks of exhibition, beginning in January 2019 and continuing throughout the year. Monthly encounters and conferences, courses and workshops all function as integral parts of the Biennial. Artworks will create a path through different parts of the city, bearing into various exhibition or public and semi-public spaces, some of which are being used for this purpose for this first time. Among them are libraries, public streets and parks, a number of schools, an office building lobby, a youth cultural center, a national theatre, and a shopping mall.

The biennial encompasses *Biennial Talks*, organised in partnership with the Faculty of Art and Design and the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, with guest artists and other collaborators visiting Timișoara; *Artists Workshops*, which offer participants an introduction to the field of artistic production, research and experimentation; *Ambasada Gatherings*, a space in which cultural actors in Timișoara can engage in research exchange with guest artists; *Volunteer Program*, for students and graduates interested in learning and participating in the artistic process; *Film Screenings*, a collaborative programme between the “Mihai Eminescu” National Theatre and CEAU Cinema!; *Collective Readings* by guests from various cultural areas and based on the virtues of communal production of meaning; and *Publishing Platform*, highlighting initiatives from Romania and Serbia, a partnership with the International Festival of Literature in Timișoara that continues to map out the independent cultural scene launched during the 2017 edition of the Biennial and will focus, this time, on independent editorial initiatives.

The extensions of the format of the biennial, as well as its dense public program, received the kind support of “Timișoara – European Capital of Culture” Association.

The Biennial will extend outside of Timișoara, through collaborations with the Textiles Museum in Băița and the “Sever Bocu” Press Museum in Jimbolia; both of which will host site-specific artistic interventions.

A cultural mediation project – *Ways of Knowing* – an initiative of the Timișoara-based Contrasens Cultural Association, will engage the local community in the themes and work of the Biennial. Similarly the *Autumn School of Curating*, organised by Art Encounters and the Cluj Cultural Center, will take place in both cities with Joanna Warsza as course leader.

The official Biennial publication will be launched in October and will contribute to the Biennial’s ongoing dialogue with the city of Timișoara, developing themes addressed by artists in the exhibition alongside the curatorial approach.

The participants in the collective reading program and in the platform dedicated to independent publications are: Balamuc, Ana Bilbao, Cutra editors, Două Bufnițe, Adriana Gheorghe, Delia Grigore, Tatiana Fiodorova, Nicoleta Moise, Timea Junghaus, Leah Whitman Salkin, Radu Pavel Gheo, Tijana Savatic, Stevan Vukovic, IDEA Publishing House, kuda.org, PUNCH, Institute of the Present, Galeria Posibilă, The Most Beautiful Books in Romania, Triade Foundation.

Maria Lind is a curator, writer and educator. She lives in Stockholm and Berlin. She was director of Tensta konsthall, Stockholm (2011-2018), director of the curatorial studies program at Bard College University (2008-2010) and at Iaspis in Stockholm (2005-2007). From 2002 to 2004 she was the director of the Kunstverein München institute, and in 2016 she was the artistic director of the 11th Gwangju Biennale. 2015-2018 she was a professor of artistic research at the art academy in Oslo. Maria Lind also holds a Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement.

Anca Rujoiu is a curator and editor. She lives in Singapore and Timișoara. In her role as curator of exhibitions and, later, as editor in chief (2013-2018), she was a member of the founding team of the Nanyang Technical University Centre for Contemporary Art in Singapore (NTU CCA). Anca Rujoiu was the co-curator of the *Collective Fictions* project which was selected to the Nouvelles Vagues (2013) program dedicated to young curators at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris. She is a PhD candidate in Curatorial Practice at Monash University Art, Design and Architecture in Melbourne.

The **Art Encounters Biennial** is a cross between an experimental art festival and a contemporary art biennial. It focuses on a curatorial research program which encourages the dialogue between the local historical inheritance and the socio-cultural environment of the city of Timișoara. The mission of the Biennial is to become a creative meeting point for artists, communities, institutions and ideas.

The **Art Encounters Foundation** is an independent cultural initiative, founded in 2015, oriented towards supporting the contemporary art scene in Romania. The Foundation's activities follow three main directions: organizing the Art Encounters Biennial and the program of permanent exhibitions, fostering education and development of audiences through these public programs, and developing a solid repertory of artistic and curatorial residencies.

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Art Encounters Biennial 2019

Timișoara, Romania

20 September – 27 October 2019

Organizer: Art Encounters Foundation

Event organized under the High Patronage of the President of Romania

Co-Organizers:

Timișoara City Hall, Timiș County Directorate of Culture, Interart Triade Foundation, "Timișoara – European Capital of Culture" Association, Timiș County Council.

Main sponsor: Raiffeisen Bank Romania

Strategic Partner: "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre of Timișoara

Partner of the mediation program: Contrasens Cultural Association

Partners of the event include:

Banat National Museum, "Corneliu Miklosi" Museum of Public Transportation, Banat Village Museum, Union of Visual Artists Timișoara, Băița Textiles Museum, "Sever Bocu" Press Museum in Jimbolia, Museum of the Communist Consumer, Timișoara Faculty of Arts and Design, Timișoara Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, West University of Timișoara, Polytechnic University of Timișoara, Cluj Cultural Center, "Sorin Titel" County Library of Timiș, BETA (Timișoara Architecture Biennial), Order of Architects Timiș branch, Timișoara Youth House (FITT), Timișoara French Institute, Timișoara German Cultural Center, La Două Bufnițe Book Store, Balamuc, Ceau, Cinema!, Ambasada, Optilux

With the support of: AFCN, IFA (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V.), Phileas, The Swedish Arts Grants Committee and the Visual Arts Fund IASPIS, OCA: Office for Contemporary Art Norway, Goethe Institut Bukarest, National Arts Council Singapore, Frame Contemporary Art Finland, SAHA Association, "Traian Vuia" Timișoara International Airport, Shopping City Timișoara, City Business Center Timișoara