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al Președintelui  
României

# **Art Encounters**

## **BIENNIAL 2019**

**20.09–27.10.2019**

**Întâlniri cu arta**

**Susretanje umetnosti**

**Maladimata la artasa**

**Találkozások a művészettel**

**Kunstbegegnungen**

**Art Encounters**

**It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the third edition of the Art Encounters Biennial in Timișoara.** Organized by the Art Encounters Foundation, the biennial continues its mission to engage the public in a debate about the main issues in today's society and to create a vibrant platform for cultural exchange between the Romanian art scene and the global context.

Taking the biennial's ambitions even further, the two curators, Maria Lind and Anca Rujoiu have expanded the format of this biennial, as well as its timeline, by gradually building towards the opening events on September 20th with a series of events spread throughout the year and across disciplines. The choice of the curators reflects one of the main goals of this biennale, which is to explore as many layers of the city as possible, in close connection with today's most relevant artists and art productions.

We are delighted to have you with us these days so we can experience together a rich program of exhibitions and tours in the city, creating unexpected connections with the cultural, institutional and urban identity of Timișoara.

The Timișoara Art Encounters Biennial lies at the intersection of an experimental art festival and a contemporary art biennial, focusing on an extensive program of curatorial research and engaging in meaningful dialogues with the local context. Art Encounters Biennial is seeking to create a space for dialog between art scenes, ideas, audiences, institutions, and cultural fields. The mission of the biennial is to host a creative encounter for artists, audiences, institutions and ideas.

We thank you for your participation and look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ovidiu Șandor', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Ovidiu Șandor**  
**President of the Art Encounters Foundation**

We believe art plays a key role in understanding today's society, strengthening the local community and stimulating creative ideas for a more inclusive and a more sustainable future.

The **vision** of the Art Encounters Foundation is to become a meeting point for people, ideas, cultures, communities, and to create an open platform for contemporary art in connection with both the city of Timișoara and the global art scene. The public is encouraged to explore the field of art and to engage in a permanent knowledge exchange.

**The Art Encounters Foundation aims to deliver an institutional model tailored to the needs of the local context and which is equally engaged in contributing to the international art scene.**

Founded in 2015 by art collector and entrepreneur based in Timișoara Ovidiu Șandor, Art Encounters Foundation is an initiative aiming to enrich and support the development of the contemporary art scene in Romania. Its core mission is driven by the aspiration to foster **dialogue, learning, research, and experiment.**

The foundation's activities are carried out over the following main directions: organizing the Art Encounters biennial in Timișoara and the exhibition program taking place at its permanent space in Timișoara or other places; fostering education and audience development through public programs; developing a solid series of artistic and curatorial residencies. In conjunction with the permanent programs of the Foundation, the private art collection of Ovidiu Șandor, the president of the Art Encounters Foundation, functions as open resource for exhibitions, institutional collaboration, and research.

**The Timișoara Art Encounters Biennial** is an international event taking place in Timișoara since 2015, organized by Art Encounters Foundation in collaboration with Timișoara City Hall, Timiș County Directorate of Culture, Triade Foundation, and Timiș County Council.

The extended format of this year's Biennial as well as parts of its public program have been developed in partnership with "Timișoara—Capitală Europeană a Culturii" Association and are co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Identity and the Timișoara City Hall.

The Biennial is seeking to create a space of dialog between artists, publics, institutions and ideas through a wide-ranging program of art exhibitions, debates, workshops, performances and art in public space.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Dan Acostioaei\*, Halil Altındere, Anca Benera & Arnold Estefan, Michael Beutler\*, Irina Botea Bucan & Jon Dean, Pauline Boudry & Renate Lorenz\*, Filipa César & Louis Henderson, Kray Chen\*, Collection Collective, Céline Condorelli\*, Alexandra Croitoru\*, Chto delat, Forensic Architecture, Aslan Gaisumov, Ane Graff, Alma Heikkilä, Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency (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 Mureşan\*, Joar Nango\*, Pınar Öğrenci, Ahmet Ögüt\*, The Otolith Group, Trevor Paglen, Gary-Ross Pastrana\*, Lia Perjovschi, Peles Empire\*, Phillippe Parreno, Thao Nguyen Phan, Zac Langdon-Pole, Agnieszka Polska\*, Ghenadie Popescu, Vandy Rattana, Bella Rune\*, STEALTH.unlimited\*, Zhou Tao, Iulia Toma\*, Tur de Arhitectură\*, Mona Vătămanu & Florin Tudor\*, Walid Raad, Anton Vidokle, Haegue Yang, Mădălina Zaharia\*, Zephyr\*, Želimir Žilnik.

\*commissions

**CURATORS:**

Maria Lind & Anca Rujoiu

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

Curators: Maria Lind & Anca Rujoiu

For the third edition of The Art Encounters Biennial in Timișoara, a series of context-sensitive commissions approach contemporary art as a form of understanding which, along with science, politics, and philosophy, helps us tackle the complexity of life today. Curators Maria Lind and Anca Rujoiu have paired artworks and practices with situations, locations, and questions, placing them alongside existing works embedded in the landscape and history of Timișoara. The Biennial's name, Art Encounters, acts as further inspiration for discussion and reflection. Each artwork is the product of encounters, and aims to find and develop contact and conflict zones with groups and individuals around the art.

Over the course of the one-year long 2019 edition of the Art Encounters Biennial, different thoughts and ideas flow through artworks and practices, influencing this part of the project. 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 bring various temperatures, ambiances, 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 attention to craft and the work of the hand. A third wind stimulates independent publishing, personal collections, and forms of self-organisation.

Starting by inviting around twenty artists whose practice the curators found strong and immediate to make new work, patterns emerged—the winds—which led to forty more artists being invited with existing works. The existing works emphasize, complicate and problematize the winds. These works are spread out in more than thirty locations in Timisoara and beyond, including online, as clusters and as individual presentations.

### The Whole and Its Parts

#### →Biennial Talks

These presentations are part of a monthly talk series with artists and other cultural agents participating in the Art Encounters Biennial 2019. The talks take place between January and October 2019 and are organized in collaboration with local institutions (the Faculty of Arts and Design, the Faculty of Architecture and City Planning in Timișoara), independent organizations (La Două Bufnițe, Spațiul 2/2) and financial partners. Several participants to the Biennial contributed to this series: Dan Acostioaei, Kray Chen, Céline Condorelli, Alexandra Croitoru, Dora García, Vilmos Koter, Gunilla Klingberg, Matts Leiderstam, Maria Lind, Anne Low, Virginia Lupu, Liliana Mercioiu Popa, Monotremu, Ciprian Mureșan, Joar Nango, Ahmet Öğüt, Justin O'Shaughnessy, Gary Ross Pastrana, Peles Empire, Lia Perjovschi, Bella Rune, Anca Rujoiu, Stealth.unlimited, Apolonija Šušteršič, Iulia Toma, Mona Vătămanu and Florin Tudor, Mădălina Zaharia, and Florica Zaharia.



Michael Beutler, Biennial Talks @Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, © infi.ro



Lia Perjovschi, Biennial Talks @Faculty of Arts and Design, © infi.ro



STEALTH.unlimited, Biennial Talks @Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, © infi.ro



Apolonija Šušteršič, Biennial Talks @Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, © infi.ro

### →Workshops

Each workshop is led by Biennial artists and other cultural agents involved in this edition, and is driven by a specific inquiry or production process as part of their contribution to the Biennial. The workshop series was inaugurated in February with a performative workshop conceived by Mădălina Zaharia. It was followed in March by a workshop on art production, led by cultural producer Justin O'Shaughnessy, organized in partnership with Timișoara 2021—European Capital of Culture, and continued with a textile workshop led by Iulia Toma. Further workshops were led by Mona Vătămanu & Tudor Florin, Matts Leiderstam, and Želimir Žilnik.



Justin O'Shaughnessy, Workshop @Ambasada, © infi.ro



Iulia Toma, Workshop @ Faculty of Arts and Design, © AE

### →Ambasada Gatherings

These informal monthly gatherings at the co-working space Ambasada were conceived as a moment for exchange and mutual support, with food and drink, involving cultural agents and artists in Timișoara, as well as the Biennial artists who conducted research in the city.



Ambasada Gatherings, © infi.ro



Ahmet Ögüt, Dan Perjovschi, Michael Beutler, Ambasada Gatherings, © infi.ro



### →Volunteer Program

The volunteer program is addressed to students and young graduates interested in engaging in the research, production and mediation stages of the Biennial. The program entails a direct exchange with the artists, curators and the Art Encounters team, as well as an opportunity to learn and be part of the multi-layered process of this Biennial.



©AE

### →Screenings


Film and video screenings take place throughout the year in collaboration with various partners: Želimir Žilnik in partnership with the film festival Ceau Cinema!; The Otolith Group, Irina Botea Bucan & Jon Dean, and Metahaven with the Timișoara National Theatre, part of a selection of moving-image works of a theatrical nature. On Saturday afternoons, starting during the opening weekend in the main auditorium of the “Mihai Eminescu” National Theatre, the artists are invited for a conversation with the curators on stage after the screening. A screening of Gülsün Karamustafa, Chto delat, and Anton Vidokle’s films will take place at the Attic of the Faculty of Arts and Design in Timișoara.



# Art Encounters

## BIENNIAL 2019


Art Encounters  
BIENNIAL 2019



teatrul  
național  
mihai eminescu  
timișoara

→ Sala Mare a Teatrului Național  
Strada Mihai Eminescu 2  
Timișoara 300086

2017, HD, colour, sound, 43 mins, 43 sec 4




### The Otolith Group

*The Third Part of the Third Measure*

Saturday, September 21, 12:00–14:00


Art Encounters  
BIENNIAL 2019



teatrul  
național  
mihai eminescu  
timișoara

→ Sala Mare a Teatrului Național  
Strada Mihai Eminescu 2  
Timișoara 300086

2017 / 2018, HD film, colour, sound, 15 mins 55 sec 4  
2018, 16mm film transferred to digital, colour, sound, 16 mins 4



### Irina Botea Bucan & Jon Dean

*The Building Will Have a Future She Said  
A Cultural Hearth*

Saturday, September 28, 12:00–14:00

Art Encounters  
BIENNIAL 2019



teatrul  
național  
mihai eminescu  
timișoara

→ Sala Mare a Teatrului Național  
Strada Mihai Eminescu 2  
Timișoara 300086

2015, video HD, prin amabilitatea artistilor 4



### Metahaven

*The Sprawl (Propaganda about Propaganda)*

Saturday, October 19, 12:00–14:00

### →The Biennial Exhibition

Being a cross between a biennial and a festival, the 2019 edition of the Art Encounters Biennial is a sprawling phenomenon, taking place across more than thirty locations in the city, the region and online over the entire year. Rather than looking for “new discoveries” in terms of buildings and sites, the curators opted for existing infrastructure and other environments which give meaning to the work in question.

There are clusters of works in both designated exhibition spaces and in other settings. Some art works are developed on site by the artists, others have been embedded in specific contexts by the initiative of the curators. Art is both indoors and outdoors, in public space, private space, and between them. These different parts make up the multifaceted whole. There is no theme, but a methodology, an approach centered on art.



Dan Acostioaei, *Seas under deserts*, 2019, mosaic, © infi.ro



Joar Nango, *European Everything*, 2019, © infi.ro

### →Independent Publishing Platform with Collective Readings

Highlighting the field of independent publishing in all its diversity, several local, regional and national independent publishers and distributors are invited to take part in the platform and present their publications alongside a showcase of artists' books. The three components of this platform are: the collective reading sessions, the presentation of art books published by independent initiatives, and a display of artists' books.

The participants in the collective reading program are: Ana Bilbao, editorial collective of Cutra Adriana Gheorghe, Delia Grigore, Radu Pavel Gheo, Timea Junghaus, and Leah Whitman Salkin. The series of collective readings is grounded on the merits of the communal production of meaning and a diversity of reading methods and materials. Projects by Tatiana Fiodorova and Nicoleta Moise will be on display. Both artists engage with archives, and they present the book as an artistic medium in its own right.



Hailing from Romania and Serbia, the participants in the platform dedicated to independent publications are: Balamuc, La Două Bufnițe, Cele mai frumoase cărți, IDEA Publishing House, kuda.org, PUNCH, Institute of the Present, Galeria Posibilă, and Tijana Savatic & Stevan Vukovic.



publications, © infi.ro



Collective Readings: CUTRA, Ambasada, © infi.ro



Collective Readings: Adriana Gheorghe, La Două Bufnițe, © infi.ro



Collective Readings: Adriana Gheorghe, La Două Bufnițe, © infi.ro

### →Autumn School of Curating

The Art Encounters Foundation and the Cluj Cultural Center have joined forces in organizing the first edition of the Autumn School of Curating, taking place in Cluj and Timișoara 20—27 October 2019, marking the closing weekend of Art Encounters Biennial 2019. Having the writer Joanna Warsza as the leading curator of the course, the school proposes the format of Conversation as a main platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and learning tool. Over the course of one week, participants from Romania and elsewhere engage in the artistic context that the two cities have to offer, in activities around the theory and practice of speech and dialogue.



### →Publication

Conceived as a reader, the publication documents the Biennial's year-long program. In addition to texts on the artworks, there are conversations with the participating artists, and essays by Andrea Phillips, Boris Buden and Daria Ghiu elaborating on the thematic of "winds" which blew through the biennial. The introduction by curators Anca Rujoiu and Maria Lind outlines their curatorial approach, including the "winds": borders and translation, self-organization, work of the hand and the limits of visibility and invisibility. Photographic documentation and floor plans included in the publication record the making of the exhibition, conveying how the placement and interactions between the works were conceived in space and across the city.

Opening weekend  
Art Encounters Biennial 2019  
20—22 September

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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- 10:00–13:00**    **PRESS TOUR**  
start at Info Point, Bastion Multifunctional Center
- 14:00–16:00**    **Guided Tours with Artists and Curators**  
start at Maria Theresia Bastion, Building D
- 16:00–17:00**    **OFFICIAL OPENING OF ART ENCOUNTERS BIENNIAL EXHIBITION**  
The “Corneliu Miklosi” Public Transport Museum
- 17:00–19:00**    **Guided Tours with Artists and Curators**  
start at the “Corneliu Miklosi” Public Transport Museum
- 19:30–22:30**    **COCKTAIL PARTY**  
The French Institute Timișoara, C. D. Loga Blvd. 46

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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- 10:00–11:30**    **Guided Tours with Artists and Curators**  
start at Maria Theresia Bastion, Building D
- 12:00–14:00**    **Screening and Q&A: The Otolith Group, *The Third Part of the Third Measure***  
Sala Mare, “Mihai Eminescu” National Theater
- 14:00–17:00**    **Guided Tours with Artists and Curators**  
start at Helios Gallery
- 14:30–16:30**    **Tur de Arhitectură—*The Invizible City, Culture in Timișoara***  
register at [www.turdearhitectura.ro](http://www.turdearhitectura.ro), tour in Romanian
- 17:00–19:30**    **Trip to Sever Bocu Press Museum, Jimbolia**  
the bus leaves from Youth House, register at [contact@artencounters.ro](mailto:contact@artencounters.ro).  
limited seats
- 20:00–23:00**    **Party**  
The garden of the Jecza Gallery and Triade Foundation  
Calea Martirilor 51/52—53

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### SAUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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- 08:30–17:00**    **Trip to the Museul Textilelor, Băița**  
the bus is leaving from Youth House, register at [contact@artencounters.ro](mailto:contact@artencounters.ro)  
limited seats
- 11:00–13:00**    **Picnic and Visit to Museum of the Communist Consumer**  
Carmen Sylva Park and the Museum of the Communist Consumer
- 13:00–14:00**    **Guided Tours with Artists and Curators**  
start at Art Encounters Foundation
- 14:30–16:30**    **Tur de Arhitectură by bike: *Art encounters—Timișoara as a landmark***  
register on [www.turdearhitectură.ro](http://www.turdearhitectură.ro), tour in English
- 17:00–18:00**    **Guided Tours with Artists and Curators**  
start at The Faculty of Arts and Design
- 20:00–23:00**    **Drinks**  
Aethernativ, Mărășești Street 14



**Recommended collateral events:**

**The Art Museum, Timișoara, Unirii Square 1**

**Magdalena Abakanowicz (1930—2017): Presence, Essence, Identity.**

Curator: Maria Rus Bojan

Co-curator: Cristina Bută

Organiser: The Interart Triade Foundation

September 20—October 25

**Opening:** Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6 PM

One of the most acclaimed Polish artists on the world art scene, Magdalena Abakanowicz gained her international notoriety in the 1960's for her experimental, and highly uncommon at the time, gigantic fiber sculptures entitled generically *Abakans*. The fluid woven structures made of organic materials significantly expanded the traditional meaning of sculpture, transforming the flat surface of a tapestry into a dynamic space-organized form that triggers complex visual and tactile experiences. Featuring more than 100 sculptures, the exhibition aims to provide an understanding of the major issues in Abakanowicz's work, and to illustrate the ways in which she revolutionized the history of sculpture through a lifelong commitment to constant reinvention.

**Jecza Gallery, Calea Martirilor str., 51—52**

**subREAL—Serving Art Again**

**Călin Dan & Iosif Kiraly**

Curated by Ami Barak

September 18—October 25 2019

**Opening:** Wednesday, September 18, at 7 PM

The exhibition focuses on some unmissable moments of their past record but at the same time shows a recent work: *Mulțumiți—Nemulțumiți (Satisfied—Unsatisfied)* an adaptation to the context of Timisoara of one of their last production. Which explains why the word again is attached to this emblematic title, *Serving Art*.

**Interart Triade Foundation**  
**Qvo vadis homini?**

Video works: Dragan Vojvodić, Nataša Teofilović, Nemanja Nikolić.

Sculptures: Radovan Jokić, Radoš Antonijević, Goran Despotovski

Curator: Sava Stepanov

September 18—October 20

**Opening:** Wednesday, September 18, at 7 PM

The “Qvo Vadis Homini?” exhibition, part of “Danube Dialogues” (the contemporary art festival taking place in Novi Sad) will be held at Triade Foundation in Timisoara, in co-operation with the @GalerijaBelArt from Novi Sad. The opening will take place on.

**Spațiul 2/2, Renașterii str. 27**  
**Will we ever meet again?**

September 20—October 27

**Opening:** September, 19, 5PM

The exhibition is a short retrospective of the four editions of contemporary art camp Minitremu, with a focus on its visual results, and is a Timișoara Art Encounters Biennale Collateral Event.

Minitremu Art Camp is an itinerant lab-camp designed to create both aesthetic and life-changing experiences. Year in and year out, the project has managed to bring together the creative forces of various contemporary artists and students from vocational schools and high-schools in Romania, Moldova and Hungary

**Tempini, Aradului str. 115**  
**Între (noi) / Inbetween (Us)**

Delia Călinescu, Dragoș Neagoe, Răzvan Neagoe, Mălina Ionescu, Ada Muntean

Curators: Mălina Ionescu Călin Petcana

Organized by Calpe Gallery, The Temporary Museum of Contemporary Art

September 20—October 27

In the project In-between (Us), curators Călin Petcana and Mălina Ionescu and the members of Stup team investigate the meeting point between friendship, teamwork and individual artistic discourses and their possible connection in a two-way relationship.

# Art Encounters 2019 thanks its partners and supporters

## ORGANIZER:



## CO-ORGANIZERS:



## CULTURAL PARTNERS AND CO-FINANCERS:



MINISTERUL CULTURII ȘI  
IDENTITĂȚII NAȚIONALE

Cultural project financed by the Ministry  
of Culture and National Identity and  
co-financed by the Timișoara City Hall.



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THE INSTITUTE  
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# Art Encounters

## BIENNIAL 2019

### → Timișoara

### 20.09–27.10.2019

Info

**Art Encounters Foundation**

ISHO House  
46C Take Ionescu Blvd.  
300043 Timișoara  
Romania

**Web** → [2019.artencounters.ro](http://2019.artencounters.ro)

**Facebook** → [facebook.com/timisoaraartencounters](https://facebook.com/timisoaraartencounters)

**Instagram** → [@art.encounters](https://www.instagram.com/art.encounters)

**Contact** → [contact@artencounters.ro](mailto:contact@artencounters.ro)