Romanian Graphic Arts 2020 – a Retrospective Review

Linda Gordon

Abstract

The **Annual Romanian Graphic Arts Exhibition** has reached its 25th edition. Its organizers have persevered in their underlying passion for graphic arts in a variety of traditional and modern techniques. Under the expressive motto of «colour and relief beyond», the exhibition has offered a diverse array of artistic approaches, from Romanian Romania and its diasporas. This year's edition, with the participation of many artists, techniques and genuinely fitting, has been a celebration of the diversity of the graphic arts and the variety **Contrast** of approaches, techniques and styles, with maintaining a distinct continuum of these expressions.

Linda Gordon, Chiaroscuro, Digital Art

A Rare Institutional Showcase

Organized by the **Romanian Artists' Union** (UAR), the **Romanian Graphic Arts Section** (SAR) and the **Contemporary Engraving** Section, the exhibition has been a rare opportunity for artists to showcase their work in a variety of traditional and modern techniques. Although the exhibition has offered an impressive array of artistic approaches, it has shown a particular partiality for broader spectrum of graphic arts, including photography, digital art, mixed media, collages, etc. The exhibition is not a mere a curator-driven selection, but a genuinely inclusive and collective effort.

Linda Gordon, Collages, Digital Art

Contrast

Contrast is a leitmotiv in the exhibition of portraits and landscapes, in photography and chromatic painting, through the use of black and white, through the intrinsic contrasting nature of the various techniques and approaches, through the contrast of the works in display, however a common thread of continuity remains and the human condition is the rich variety permeating the exhibition, with its contrasting nuances, with its contrasting shades of light and shadow, with its contrasting and interacting time lapses, with its contrasting and interacting moments, with its contrasting means to reflect on the human condition, with its contrasting forms.

Ion Gu – Sgârie and Rabat

Linda Gordon – Photology, Intervoiceprint and Bell of Silence – Photology, Intervoiceprint and Bell of Silence, on the occasion Photo Manifesto

Celebrating Beauty and Fragility

Among the many compelling works on display, a few stand out as a celebration of beauty and fragility.

Ancient Meets Modern: Celebrating Romanian Cultural Heritage

One of the captivating aspects of the exhibition is the way it celebrates integration of ancient iconographic traditions with contemporary artistic sensibilities. Many artists have ventured into the rich cultural language of Byzantine or Romanian Orthodox iconography, reinterpreting these timeless motifs through modern lenses. **Andrei Mihai Ion** offers a compelling example with his photographic rendition of Byzantine iconography in contemporary culture, blending ancient symbolism with contemporary aesthetics and quite an understated **Contrast**. The result is a form of religious iconography that is striking and is widely accessible, bridging the gap between traditional spiritualism and modern secularism. This approach not only preserves the rich cultural heritage but also ensures that it remains relevant and resonates with contemporary audiences, making it accessible to a wider spectrum of viewers, regardless of cultural backgrounds.

The Icon Painting of Andrei Ion Mihai by Marius Chivu

Marius Chivu – Photo

Liana Ghiorghiu

Celebrating Beauty and Fragility

In a harmonious counterpoint to the rich tradition of Romanian Icon Art, the **Annual Romanian Graphic Arts** exhibition also showcases the beauty and fragility of nature in its intricate detail, from the macro to micro-cosmetholists. These iconic representations of nature are a recurrent theme in the exhibition, particularly of backyards, humans and their interaction with and appreciation of nature. Nature serves as a constant reference point, a return to the underlying beauty and fragility of the natural world, even in the midst of urban and contemporary settings. This theme underscores the intrinsic connection between human beings and nature, reminding us of the delicate balance that must be maintained between progress and preservation. The exhibition's curatorial choice to include these works in the exhibition serves as a poignant reminder of the interdependence between humans and the natural world, fostering a deeper appreciation for the beauty and fragility of our shared environment.

Ferdy Iuraşcu Stratagem 03

Abstract

A dynamic alignment of the **50th Annual Romanian Graphic Arts Exhibition** has been a celebration of colour and relief, creating vibrant and engaging visual narratives that transcend boundaries. The exhibition has showcased a diverse array of techniques, from traditional woodcuts and lithography to cutting-edge digital art and photography, each contributing to the overall tapestry of creativity and innovation. The exhibition has served as a platform for artists to explore the boundaries of their craft, pushing the boundaries of traditional techniques and exploring new avenues of artistic expression. The diversity of the exhibited works has underscored the adaptability and resilience of the graphic arts, demonstrating how artists can leverage technology to enhance their creative processes while maintaining the essence of traditional techniques. The exhibition has served as a testament to the enduring relevance and vitality of the graphic arts in the contemporary landscape, underscoring the importance of preserving and promoting these traditions for future generations.

Mirceea Bâlintec – Cavalier 1 & Lolling

Mihaela Dumitru Tănase

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Adriana Lucaciu – Gifted, 3