

RETROSPECTIVE STEFAN RAMNICEANU

Oct. 10 — Dec. 4, 2014



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Marks

OPENING MOGOȘOAIA PALACE:
OPENING ATELIERAMNICEANU:

OCTOBER 10, 2014, 4:00 PM
OCTOBER 10, 2014, 7:00 PM

Through a gesture whose deep symbolic meaning is self-evident, Stefan Ramniceanu returns – 26 after his last exhibition in Bucharest (*Ferecătura*, 1988), to his homeland. He who at the time had celebrated with courage the 300th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu with its *Bells*, *Shields* and *Helms* crossing a Bucharest torn to pieces by bulldozers, pays today again tribute — with the first retrospective of his work — to the monarch of the Romanian culture on the occasion of 300th anniversary years of his martyrdom. Ramniceanu's generous vision imposes the image of the man profoundly attached to culture, the noble prince and the tireless builder that was Constantin Basarab Brâncoveanu.

The retrospective displays to the public an outstanding selection of more than 300 works — most of which are from private European major collections — spanning his last 26 years of creation and success in galleries across Europe. As a counterpoint to the paintings, drawings and objects presented, the artist reveals for the first time to the public an all-new collection of 30 sculptures in wood and metal, most of monumental proportions.

The works presented simultaneously at the Mogoșoaia Palace in the new Văcărești Memorial as well as at ATELIERAMNICEANU correspond to distinct and consistent periods with evocative names: *Ferecătura*, *Manuscripts*, *Shirts of the Walls*, *Scholars*, *Clay Apostles*, *Pillars*, *Idols*, *Centaur*s, *Golden Nights*, *Universal Men* and *Islands' Memories*. Each period offers a new plastic case, or an invention of technology and materials, providing more channels through the expressivity, where fighting with the material returns to deep spiritual values.

The retrospective will be inaugurated on October 10 at 4:00 PM at the Mogoșoaia Palace by member of the Romanian Academy Răzvan Theodorescu (Chairman of the Arts, Architecture, and Audio-Visual department) and art critic and editor-in-chief of leading Romanian art magazine *Arta* Magda Cârneci. The creation and exhibition space ATELIERAMNICEANU will be then unveiled to the public at 7:00 PM and presented by the artist himself.

Born in Ploiești, Romania on August 15, 1954, Stefan Ramniceanu is the son of lawyer Constantin Dumitru. A graduate from the Institute of Fine Arts *Nicolae Grigorescu* in Bucharest in 1979, Ramniceanu present his first exhibition in galleries *Atelier 35* and *Orizont* in the context of the famous "generation of the '80s" in Romania. His first artistic research developed within the horizon of national Romanian painter Andreescu. His solo exhibition at the gallery *Simeza* earned him the attention of critics and the artist will work alongside a time *Prolog* group whose artistic research to depart later. In 1988, his solo exhibition *Ferecătura* presented in the ruins of the princely court *Curtea Veche* in Bucharest — one of the earliest and perhaps most remarkable conceptual art installation in Romania — imposes Ramniceanu with authority on the front of the Romanian scene through the vision, novelty, tragedy and plastic consistency of its scenography splendidly echoing the ruins of the old palace.

Established in France since 1990, Ramniceanu received a grant from the French government in 1992 and a studio at the *Cité Internationale des Arts* in Paris. He has exhibited successfully in numerous galleries in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece as well as Germany, also eventually addressing the Eastern world — with which it was created maintenance subtle connections — through remarkable exhibitions in Brussels and Istanbul.

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