



Everybody is real (detail) , 2011
oil and graphite on canvas, 65 x 80 cm

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to present

GEOMETRY OF HUMAN NATURE

A project by Catalin Petrisor

Curator : Maria Rus Bojan

From October 13 to November 10, 2012

Opening reception Saturday, October 13, 6 to 9 pm

The artist will be present

GALERIE DIX9 – Hélène Lacharmoise

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Geometry of Human Nature

A graduate of the Art and Design University of Cluj-Napoca's painting department, Catalin Petrisor proposes an absurd discourse reflecting on the contradictory dynamics of the Romanian post-communist society.

With this new assemblage of surrealist paintings algorithmically displayed on variable wallpapers, Catalin Petrisor seeks to articulate a visual dialectic that can emphasize the structural relationships between human creation and the harmoniously ordered totality of the universe.

Weaving multiple references to science, art history, and mathematics into a complex web of meanings, this anarchetypal installation challenges the notion of reflection on modern man's need for a more harmonious and wholehearted approach to life, an approach based on the assumption that the universe functions according to a specific order that is infinitely reproduced through similar orders at all levels of the living world.

The visual leitmotiv of this exhibition is the picture of a traumatic brain injury depicted by a computer scan that appears on the wallpapers in several permutations, partially covering the gallery's walls. The use of a transversal section through the brain and its obsessive repetition, which empties and reduces the image to a formal pattern that composes a decorative frieze, indicates the artist's interest in exhausting all the meanings of this conceptual element. Through this visual strategy, Petrisor plays both with the literal meaning of these images (referring to the generalized state of distorted perception of the person who suffered the injury) and also with the symbolism of Vanitas, which in Latin means «emptiness», corresponding to the meaninglessness of earthly life and the transient nature of all earthly goods and pursuits. Yet from a conceptual perspective within the general setting of the installation, the wallpapers' main function is to activate paintings' meanings, opening up the process of signification.

Maria Rus Bojan is a curator and art critic living and working in Amsterdam (NL). She has been a curator at the Art Museum of Transylvania, Cluj, and director of the Sindan Cultural Foundation, Bucharest. Currently she runs MB Art Agency Amsterdam, a platform for independent projects and curatorial programming. Her activity consists of an impressive number of international exhibitions in many countries in Europe, in United States and China. In 2011, she was the co-curator of *Performing History*, the Romanian Pavilion at the Biennale di Venezia. Along the years she developed a special collaboration with Catalin Petrisor, the artist being featured in several exhibitions.

The selection of paintings follows several themes that have recurred in the artist's most recent years of practice. Post-utopian landscapes and desolated interiors, ruins of unfinished constructions, and hybrid spaces resulting from several juxtapositions of images : these are all completed by imperceptible drawings that are meant to upset the primary meanings, thereby offering the key to comprehending the entire composition. The combination of realistic images structured on several layers and these almost invisible graphite drawings -- all within the same picture -- produce a tension that potentiates the meanings and increases the general sense of the surreal. The desired effect is to read the painting as the photograph of a stage decor in which a collage of different realities is mirrored in a misleading manner.

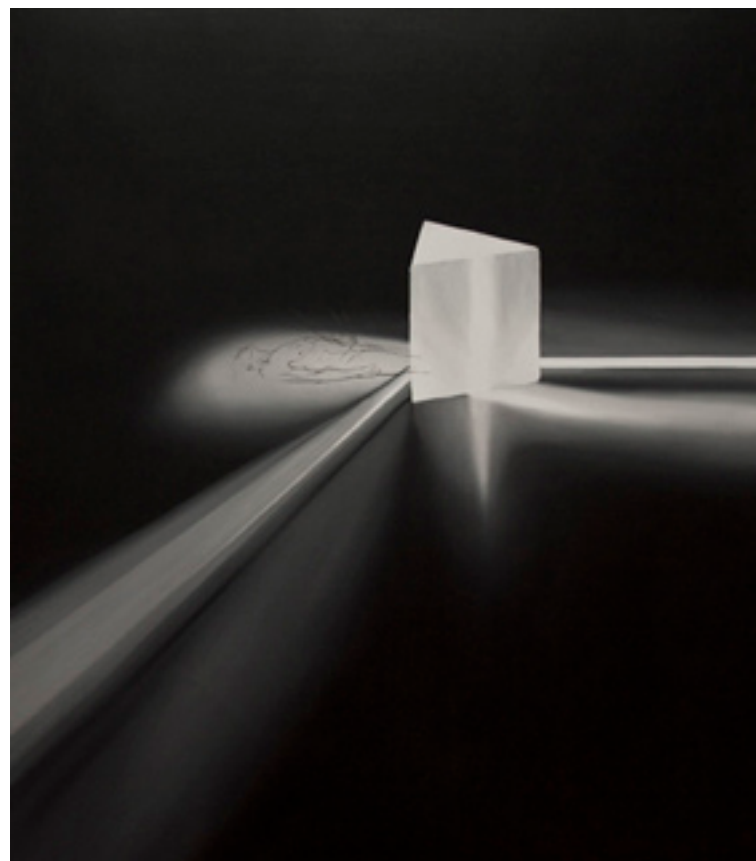
In particular, the restrained use of a black and white palette, mixed occasionally with colored grey tones obtained from various mixtures of primary colors, accentuates the artist's willfully non-aesthetic approach. This process of reducing the means of painting to a minimum, the controlled de-skilling in tackling the realist expression, as well as the manner of conceiving the exhibition as one single work, together indicate a post-conceptual attitude that singles Petrisor out from his generation's contemporaries, as well as from the figurative tradition of the Cluj School of Painting.

“Geometry of Human Nature” confirms the artist's propensity for an expression that is uncanny from all perspectives, and that manages to create clusters of associations and imaginative worlds beyond any familiar experience.

Maria Rus Bojan



No title, 2012
oil on canvas, 215 x 145 cm



Words can be learned, 2011
oil and graphite on canvas, 54 x 60 cm

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1978 , Catalin Petrisor works and lives in Craiova, Romania

Education / Awards

- M.A., Visual Arts, University of Art and Design , Cluj-Napoca, RO (2002-2004)
- Socrates-Erasmus Scholarship, Athens School of Fine Arts, (2004)
- B.A., Fine Arts/Painting, University of Art and Design of Cluj-Napoca (1997-2002)

Deutscher Wirtschaftsclub Siebenburgen Prize, 3rd edition (Art prize for young artists' promotion in painting, Sibiu, RO (2004)

Solo Exhibitions

2012

- *Geometry of Human Nature*, curator Maria Rus Bojan, Galerie Dix9, Paris, FR

2009

- *Understatement* (together with Ana Maria Micu) curator Maria Rus Bojan, C-Space, Beijing, CN

2007

- *Chroma Sky (Blue Key)*, Anaid Art Gallery, Bucharest, RO

2006

- *Cult*, Anaid Art Gallery, Bucharest, RO

Collective Exhibitions

2012

- *Renovation & Collateral Effects*, curator Ami Barak, Galerie Dix9, Paris, FR

2011

- *Colouring the Grey – State of Mind*, curator Cosmin Năsui, Artists' House Tel Aviv, ISR
- *Post Humanism*, curator Cosmin Năsui, V-Art Gallery Moscow
- *Colouring The Grey. The Second Wave of the Contemporary Romanian Artists*, curator Cosmin Nasui, special projects section of the 4th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art
- The-solo-project, Basel, Jecza & Ross Gallery
- SCOPE Art Show, New York, Hendershot Gallery
- Art Beijing, C-Space,
- Art Rotterdam, C-Space and MB Art Agency

2010

- *Impermanence*, Hendershot Gallery, New York, USA
- Acquisitions 2009 – a selection, De Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam, NL
- Art Amsterdam, C-Space/C-Projects

2009

- *Fast Forward*, curator Maria Rus Bojan, C-Projects, The Hague NL
- *Urban Fictions*, curator Irina Cios , organized by ICCA at the ARK Gallery, Bucharest, RO
- «...Expectations», curator Maria Rus Bojan, MB Art Agency temporary space, Amsterdam, NL
- Art Rotterdam, C-Space, NL

2008

- *Strategies for Concealing*, curator Maria Rus Bojan, C-Space gallery, Beijing, CN
- *Urban Art*, architectural projections festival, Bucharest, RO

2007

- *Urban Art*, architectural projections festival, Bucharest, RO
- Cologne art fair, Anaid Art Gallery

2006

- Cologne art fair, Anaid Art Gallery

2005

- *I Love Pictura, Under Construction Space*, Continental Hotel, Cluj-Napoca, RO
- International Biennale of Contemporary Art, National Gallery, Prague, CZ
- *European Blue/ Young Generation*, Aula Gallery, Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, PL

2004

- *Airbag*, National Art Museum Cluj-Napoca, RO
- DWS Art Award Exhibition, Contemporary Art Gallery of Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu, RO

2003

- *Urban Emotion*, Galeria Gallery, Bucharest, RO
- DWS Art Award Exhibition, Contemporary Art Gallery of Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu, RO
- *Skin*, Ataş Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, RO

2002

- Ana Maria Micu & Cătălin Petrișor, Atelier 35 gallery, Bucharest, RO
- *Dream Sequence*, U.A.P. Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, RO

Residencies

2012

- Myart, (finissage project: *Production as tableau vivant*, co-signed with Ana Maria Micu), Vienna, AU

- 5. art : aussee workshop, Altaussee, AU

2008

- “În construcție ”- 2, International Centre of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, RO

Collections

- National Gallery in Prague
- De Nederlandsche Bank



Making space, 2011, oil and graphite on canvas 60 x 80 cm