

# RE- NOVATION & COLLATERAL EFFECTS



With the support of Institut Culturel Roumain

Galerie Dix9 is pleased to introduce

**Oana Farcas**

**Catalin Petrisor**

**Liu Weijan**

**curator : Ami Barak**

**from March 15 to April 28 2012**

opening on Friday March 15 from 6pm

**GALERIE DIX9** Hélène Lacharmoise

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# RENOVATION & COLLATERAL EFFECTS

Three artists from the East were approached for this project. Two of them live and work in Romania and the third in China. They are all different but they have nevertheless a sort of family likeness. First, they approach painting as a genre to be rehabilitated in the context of multiple after modern. It is an intimate and personal approach that is intended to stay detached from a constraint form, which match the zeitgeist. But on the other side it appears that this genre, which has survived the ages and has given the impression of reaching the end of its history, is not as ahistorical than that, according to our protagonists.

The East is still living with the ghosts of the past, pegged to the body. Obviously, the last century was traumatic, but it appears that the new generations are constantly investigating the past and trying to exorcise it, particularly those stories that have not been experienced live but were by proxy through parents and grandparents. But there are not only the narratives, there is also the setting stage and the paraphernalia that has not completely disappeared under the assaults of globalization. There are still indelible marks and trappings that do not lie for them and appear uncanny to us.

The side effects of the Cold War are experienced by the new generations as collateral damages. And paradoxically, it is through painting, especially figurative, that the subject is addressed. One might have expected that the photograph or the video were more conclusive. Technically, the painting science is perfectly mastered but it is mostly the subject that takes the scope and the scale in an analytical mood. It is in turn that the subject is highlighted acts on our consciences and reappears in retinal impact.

Ami Barak



Liu Weijian, *Today I don't want to go home*, acrylic on canvas, 180 x 220 cm, 2010

AMI BARAK is an independent curator and art critic based in Paris. He has curated numerous international exhibitions in the past few years, for instance "House Trip", ArtForum Berlin 2007; "Can Art Do More?" Jerusalem 2008; "Re-construction" Young artists Biennale, Bucharest 2008; «Elixirs of Panacea» Palais Benedictine, Fecamp 2010, «Art for the world (the expo) City of forking paths» the Sculpture Project of the Expo Boulevard, World Expo Shanghai 2010, among many others. He is currently a Lecturer at University Paris I Sorbonne, works as an art adviser, and co-curated the Romanian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2011.

# OANA FARCAS

At the heart of Oana Farças's practice is portraiture.

Portraits of women, men and children, real or fictionnalised, parade accros the diminutive world of the miniature to large scale crowd scenes. Her work delivers a colourful ensemble of characters who tend toward the fantactical. The figures are robust, often depicted mid action, and sometimes combined with animal forms. Even if her work has certainly a dream-like quality, he is tinged with a tangible physicality, which locates at the border of the visible and the invisible.

Oana Farcas was born in 1981 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, where she currently lives and works.

After a Ph.D at «Universitatea de arta si design» (University of Art and Design) in Cluj- Napoca, Oana Farcas has been exhibited in numerous group shows as at Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark, or Plan B Gallery, Berlin, Germany. She also has had several solo shows as at the LARMgalleri in Copenhagen, Denmark and at the Francès Fondation, in Senlis, France in 2011.



Oana Farcas, *Hope (strange phenomenom)*, 2011, oil on wood, 21 x 30 cm

# CATALIN PETRISOR

Catalin Petrisor conducts his work with the tools of painting and drawing. On the top of his oil paintings, he comes with the tip of his pencil graphite. Consequently the canvases contain scenes and landscapes of a no man's land that appear to be located in a dreamed world but at the same time marked by the outward signs of a post-communist reality, hustled and metamorphosed by the waves of the globalization.

Catalin Petrisor was born in 1978 in Craiova, Romania where he currently lives and works. He studied at «Universitatea de arta si design» (University of Art and Design) in Cluj- Napoca and received his MA in painting at the same university in 2004.

Petrisor has been recently exhibited in numerous group shows like at the 4th biennale of contemporary art in Moscow, or at the Artist's house of Tel Aviv in 2011.



Catalin Petrisor, *Settlement*, 2011, oil and graphite on canvas, 75 x 70 cm



# LIU WEIJIAN

In his paintings and drawings Liu Weijian expresses his experiences of past years and of life in China, and experiences of education, work and of travelling workers. Charged of nostalgia, his work constitutes a form of critique of the present and seems to be tinged with a melancholy sadness for things that might have been or never were. Most of his works, painted in dark colours, seems in the same time close, far away and familiar, and create a feeling of constant movement and of un-finished business.

Liu Weijian was born in 1981 in Hunan Province, China. He currently lives and works in Shanghai. After having graduated of the « Shanghai Normal University College of art » in 2005, he has been shown in numerous group shows : at the Museum of Modern Art in Oslo in 2007, at the Pinacoteca Agnelli in Torino in 2010 or at Platform China in Beijing. He was exhibited in numerous solo shows, like at the Louis Vuitton Fondation in Hong Kong in 2010 and at the ShanghART Gallery in Shanghai in 2011.



Liu Weijian, *One Noon*, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 200 x 200 cm



Oana Farcas, *Closer*, 2012,  
oil on canvas, 205 x 145 cm



Catalin Petrisor, *There's nothing wrong with things ending*, 2011,  
oil and graphite on canvas 70 x 49 cm