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## PRESS RELEASE

# A ROMANIAN CYCLE

# AT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU

## STARTING FROM 28 NOVEMBER 2018

*A Romanian cycle at the Centre Pompidou* provides an opportunity to showcase an extraordinary laboratory of artistic creation which intimately and fully shaped the history of modern and contemporary art. The 2019 France–Romania cycle is an opportunity to take a fresh look at a key moment in the history of 20th-century international cultural dynamics, in which Paris has long been a key hub where the Central and East European art scenes emerged, asserted themselves and came to play a leading role. Through some of the founding figures of artistic modernity and the avant-garde, the Centre Pompidou presents and revisits the vast wealth of its collections through special exhibitions and installations.

As the owner of Brancusi's Studio, the Centre Pompidou possesses an absolute icon of modern art. It will form one of the key focus points of this cycle, with an installation by the visionary designer and charismatic performer Mihai Olos (1940–2015), in addition to a dialogue between Ciprian Muresan and Serban Savu which will transform the Studio into an observatory and echo chamber. A unique conversation will take shape in the Museum between Matisse and Pallady around *La Blouse Roumaine*; an exhibition devoted to Andre Cadere (1934–1978) will present some fifty of the artist's works from the permanent collection alongside the *Punctuations* themed tour, a journey through the works of Mircea Cantor, Victor Man, Bratescu, Brudascu, and Grigorescu, to name but a few.

*Héros-Limite*, in the Focus room of the Musuem, will present the work of Gherasim Luca (1919–1994) and the Galerie Zéro will host another dialogue between the artists Ciprian Muresan and Serban Savu as well as an installation by Adrian Ghenie. To finish, the Galerie du Musée will pay tribute in 2019 to the bold and ground-breaking work of Isodore Isou (1925–2007) with a major monographic exhibition.

STARTING  
FROM  
28 NOVEMBER  
2018

## MATISSE-PALLADY AND *LA BLOUSE ROUMAINE* TWO ARTISTS UNDER CENSORSHIP

MUSEUM, LEVEL 5, ROOM 7

Long-standing friends since their training in Gustave Moreau's studio, Matisse and Pallady pursued their correspondence during the Second World War, when the Romanian artist returned to Romania to organise his retrospective exhibition at the Romanian Athenaeum (2-30 May 1940). Pallady failed to obtain an exit visa from Romania. Matisse encouraged Pallady to resist and to carry on his work: it was during this period that he painted *La Blouse Roumaine* and *La Dormeuse (Le Rêve)*. Matisse sent Pallady drawings representing various steps in the creation of his paintings, in addition to portraits of his Romanian friend. Pallady, in turn, followed the advice of his friend and produced a portrait of Matisse, several self-portraits and paintings. The exhibition will present works produced by these artists and friends during that period and illustrated letters from the Matisse archives and the Romanian National Library, in addition to photographs depicting Matisse's working method.

Curator: **Doina Lemny** (Curator, Musée national d'art moderne)

## MIHAI OLOS

ATELIER BRANCUSI

In collaboration with the MNAC

National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest

A prolific creator, sculptor and painter, exuberant designer, visionary architect, poet, ingenious builder and charismatic performer, Mihai Olos (1940-2015) remains one of the major figures of Romanian art of the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Embracing the founding legacy of Brancusi, he created a universe that was both structured and conceptual, in which the steadfastness of traditional elements from his native region, Maramures, is projected into modern constructions integrating constructivist and kinetic principles. An essential complex structure in his vocabulary, the geometric module becomes a sign, a universal template, copied endlessly and encompassing the surrounding world into a type of "Olospolis". This showcase revisits, in the form of an installation, the powerful energies contained in the key signs and shapes expertly crafted by this complete artist.

Curators: **Doina Lemny** (Curator, Musée national d'art moderne), **Mica Gherghescu** (Head of Research, Kandinsky Library) and **Calin Dan** (Director, MNAC, Bucharest)

## ANDRÉ CADERE STEP BY STEP

MUSEUM, LEVELS 4 AND 5

This exhibition of a new kind evokes the personality of André Cadere (1934-1978). The project, in keeping with the nomadic lifestyle of the artist, is a stroll through the collections. A Romanian national, born in Warsaw, Cadere moved to Paris in 1967, where he met Isidore Isou, a decisive encounter for him, and then the Parisian avant-garde of the time, such as Le Gac, Boltanski and Sarkis. In 1972, he created his first *Round Bar of Wood*, a pilgrim's staff painted in vibrant colours according to a highly singular minimalist combination, that accompanied him in his peregrinations, incidentally inventing a new form of exhibition and artistic intervention. The works of Cadere are dispersed throughout the permanent tour of the collection, discreet, but ever-present.

Curator: **Frédéric Paul** (Curator, Musée national d'art moderne)

## GHERASIM LUCA HÉROS-LIMITE

MUSEUM, LEVEL 5, FOCUS ROOM

Born into a Jewish community in Romania, Gherasim Luca (1919-1994) was exposed to the French and German languages as of the 1930s. During this period, he met Victor Brauner, who introduced him to the surrealists. He left Romania for good in 1952 to live in Paris where he was a precarious stateless person. Ghérasim Luca was one of the greatest poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was also a fine artist, creating the "Cubomanies" series that broke down major works in art history by artists such as Holbein, Piero della Francesca, Zurbarán, and Ingres.

Curator: **Mica Gherghescu** (Head of Research, Kandinsky Library)

## CIPRIAN MURESAN AND SERBAN SAVU L'ENTRETIEN INFINI THE ENDLESS CONVERSATION

MUSEUM, LEVEL 4, GALERIE ZÉRO

Ciprian Muresan (born 1977) and Serban Savu (born 1978) graduated from the Visual Arts Academy in Cluj in 2001. A profound complicity binds them and they still share the same studio in Cluj. Despite appearances, their work has much in common. Muresan compiles art history in an indecipherable palimpsest. Savu creates an astonishing interweaving of Socialist Realism and religious iconography. Both artists observe their everyday surroundings with astronomical accuracy. Bringing them together reveals their contrasts and affinities.

Curator: **Frédéric Paul** (Curator, Musée national d'art moderne)

## ADRIAN GHENIE THE DARWIN ROOM, 2013-2014

MUSEUM, LEVEL 4, GALERIE ZÉRO

A major figure of the Cluj school, Adrian Ghenie (born 1977) is a painter and archaeologist of painting. He draws inspiration from art history and history in general, depicting ill-fated figures such as Hitler and Ceausescu, or great intellectuals like Freud and Darwin. One of Ghenie's most significant paintings, (Pie Fight Interior 11, 2014) was donated to the Musée National de l'Art Moderne in 2014 and is highly representative of the sophisticated technique of his expressionism, characterised by collages, overlaying and assemblage of matter. The artist's current installation is based on *Le philosophe en méditation* (The Philosopher in Meditation), 1632, a strictly composed painting by Rembrandt, which is housed in the Louvre. The original Rembrandt and its interpretation enter into a genuine dialogue at the Centre Pompidou.

Curator: **Bernard Blistène**  
(Director, Musée national d'art moderne)

## PONCTUATIONS A CIRCUIT WITHIN THE COLLECTIONS

MUSEUM, LEVELS 4 AND 5

The Romanian influence is present throughout the Museum's collections, particularly among avant-garde artists such as Brancusi, Tzara, Brauner, Lotar, Herold and Janco, but contemporary artists have also added to the wealth of this panorama, with younger artists such as Mircea Cantor, Adrian Ghenie, Victor Man, Ciprian and Muresan alongside their elders Bratescu, Brudascu, and Grigorescu, to name but a few. The permanent collections on exhibit will reflect this decisive presence.

Curator: **Nicolas Liucci-Goutnikov**  
(Curator, Musée national d'art moderne)

## IN 2019

### ISIDORE ISOU

6 MARCH – 20 MAY 2019

MUSEUM, LEVEL 4, GALERIE DU MUSÉE

As prolific as it was controversially excessive, the work of Isidore Isou (1925-2007) is that of an intellectual, a poet, a film-maker and an artist. The founder of Lettrism, Isou advocated a total renewal of the arts, before designing a system to revolutionise the entire field of science. Isou moved from Romania to France just after the war and rapidly built around himself the community which is now considered to be the last of the Parisian avant-garde.

Curator: **Nicolas Liucci-Goutnikov**  
(Curator, Musée national d'art moderne)

### CIPRIAN MURESAN ET SERBAN SAVU L'ATELIER SANS FIN THE ENDLESS WORKSHOP

3 APRIL – 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2019

ATELIER BRANCUSI

Ciprian Muresan and Serban Savu were both guests of Brancusi's studio and open this Cycle in a dialogue under the benevolent eye of the modern master, whose drawings and photos are interspersed with the artists' works in the Galerie Zéro. The juxtaposition is deliberate here and testifies to these artists' lively perception of what a museum should always be, i.e. a workshop, a laboratory, an observatory, a lever, a revealer and an echo chamber. In this regard, the Brancusi Studio cum museum becomes a sanctuary, the beating heart of modernity which is both a legacy and a living, ongoing project.

Curator: **Frédéric Paul**  
(Curator, Musée national d'art moderne)

**IN  
ROMANIA****BRAUNER RETROSPECTIVE****18 APRIL – 14 JULY 2019**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART OF ROMANIA, BUCHAREST

Curator: **Didier Ottinger** (Deputy Director, Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris)**THE NEW REALISTS****12 JULY – 29 SEPTEMBER**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, BUCHAREST

Curators: **Calin Dan** (Director, MNAC, Bucharest) and **Frédéric Paul** (Curator, Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris)**ELI LOTAR****18 APRIL – 14 JULY 2019**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LITERATURE, BUCHAREST

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ART COLLECTIONS MUSEUM

Eli Lotar, photographer and film-maker, was a key figure of Parisian avant-gardism. His decisive work is evoked in a new light here, via the Nouvelle Vision movement, documentary cinema, his explorations of the city, his portraits, shots of bodies in motion and of course his social and political engagement. Travelling exhibition presented at Le Jeu de Paume (Paris) in 2017.

Curators: **Pia Viewling** (Curator, Jeu de Paume, Paris) and **Damarice Amao** (Assistant curator, Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris)**GHERASIM LUCA****18 APRIL – 14 JULY 2019**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROMANIAN LITERATURE, BUCHAREST

Curator: **Mica Gherghescu** (Head of Research, Kandinsky Library)

**CURATORIAL TEAM**

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Curator,

Musée national d'art moderne

Curators

**Damarice Amao**

Assistant Curator,

Musée national d'art moderne

**Bernard Blistène**

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Deputy Director,

Musée national d'art moderne

**Frédéric Paul**

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**Pia Viewing**

Curator, Jeu de Paume

**A ROMANIAN CYCLE AT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU**

The Mihai Olos project and Ciprian Muresan-Serban Savu conversations are supported by

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**THE FRANCE-ROMANIA CYCLE 2019**

Curators

**Jean-Jacques Garnier**

General Curator for France

**Andrei Tarnea**

General Curator for Romania

Born out of a shared political will, the France-Romania Cycle 2019 will coincide with the Romanian presidency of the European Union and the centenary celebrations of both the creation of modern Romania (1 December 1918) and the end of the First World War. The aim of the Cycle is to renew the image and perception we have of each other's country and to strengthen the economic, scientific and cultural ties that have developed between our countries through history. A mirror of our societies, grounded in the 21st century but drawing on the roots of our shared French-speaking culture, the France-Romanian Cycle is also a testament to the vibrancy and imagination of our designers and businesses. It will reiterate our attachment to a Europe of peace, ideas and cooperation. Jean-Jacques Garnier and Andrei Tarnea, the General Curators, wished to create a Cycle of surprising encounters and discoveries, inviting us to overcome and forget our preconceptions of France and Romania.



Event organised as part of the France-Romania Cycle 2019



Patronage committee of the France-Romania Cycle 2019

Transporteur officiel



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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## ADMISSION AND PRICES

**Centre Pompidou, 75191 Paris cedex 04**

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**Access:** metro Hôtel de Ville and Rambuteau, RER Châtelet-Les-Halles.**Opening times:** every day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., except Tuesdays and May 1<sup>st</sup>.**Admission:** €14, reduced price €11

Free for those under 18. Young people under 26\*, teachers and students at schools of art, drama, dance and music and members of the Maison des artistes may visit the Museum for free and buy tickets for exhibitions at the concessionary rate. Free admission for Centre Pompidou members.

**Home printable tickets:** [centrepompidou.fr](http://centrepompidou.fr)

## AT THE SAME TIME AND UPCOMING AT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU

**IN PARIS****THE CUBISM**

UNTIL 25 FEBRUARY 2019

GALLERY 1, LEVEL 6

**VASARELY**

SHARING FORMS

6 FEBRUARY – 6 MAY 2019

GALLERY 2, LEVEL 6

**JOS HOUWELING**

6 FEBRUARY – 29 APRIL 2019

FOCUS ROOM, LEVEL 5

**MUTATIONS / CREATIONS 3**

ERIKA VERZUTTI

20 FEBRUARY – 15 APRIL 2019

GALLERY 3, LEVEL 1

**ELLSWORTH KELLY**

27 FEBRUARY – 27 MAY 2019

GALLERY ZERO, LEVEL 4

**HARRY SHUNK**

JANOS KENDER

27 MARCH – 27 JUNE 2019

GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHIES,  
LEVEL -1**STÉPHANE MANDELBAUM**

6 MARCH – 20 MAY 2019

GRAPHIC ARTS GALLERY,  
LEVEL 4contact [presse@centrepompidou.fr](mailto:presse@centrepompidou.fr)**In the Museum****MUSÉE EN ŒUVRE(S)**NEW PRESENTATION OF THE  
CONTEMPORARY COLLECTIONS

FROM 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

MUSEUM, LEVEL 4

**HISTOIRE(S) D'UNE COLLECTION**

NEW SERIES OF

EXHIBITION-DOSSIERS

IN THE MODERN COLLECTION

CIRCUITS

FROM 31 MAY 2018

MUSEUM, LEVEL 5

contact [presse@centrepompidou.fr](mailto:presse@centrepompidou.fr)**IN METZ****PAINTING THE NIGHT**

UNTIL 15 APRIL 2019

GALLERIES 2 AND 3

**THE ADVENTURE OF COLOUR**

MAJOR ARTWORKS

FROM THE COLLECTION

UNTIL 22 JULY 2019

GRANDE NEF

**LEE UFAN**

HABITER LE TEMPS

INHABITING TIME

27 FEBRUARY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

GALLERY 1

contact

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**centrepompidou-metz.fr****IN MÁLAGA****MATISSE**

6 MARCH – 9 JUNE 2019

**centrepompidou-malaga.eu****IN BRUSSELS****KANAL-CENTRE POMPIDOU**

A YEAR OF PREFIGURATION

UNTIL 10 JUNE 2019

**kanal.brussels**contact [presse@centrepompidou.fr](mailto:presse@centrepompidou.fr)

\* Nationals of Member States of the EU or the European Economic Area aged 18–25. Valid the same day for the Musée National d'Art Modern and all exhibitions.

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