

PRESS STATEMENT

CitiesMethodologies | Bucharest

The National University of Arts (UNA) in Bucharest together with Asociația Galeria Noua (Galeria Noua Association) and ATU - Asociația pentru Tranzitie Urbana (Association for Urban Transition) invite you to the exhibition **CitiesMethodologies** (28 October– 5 November 2010) as well as to **CitiesMethodologies Talks** (29-30 October), events organized in the framework of **CitiesMethodologies** | Bucharest.

October 28 – November 5 2010 - CitiesMethodologies Exhibition

Location: The **Scarlat-Ghica House** (near the National University of Arts, 19 General Budisteanu street) and **UNAgaleria** (10 General Budisteanu street)

The opening of the exhibition will take place **October 28, 18.00 h., in the Scarlat-Ghica House.**

Artists: Wesley Aelbrecht, Irina Botea, Margareta Kern, Anthony Luvera, London in Motion, Cosmin Nicolae, Mircea Nicolae, Rastko Novaković & Ger Duijzings, roArchive, Peter Sant, Alexandru Solomon, subREAL, Füsün Türetken, Eva Weber, CitiesMethodologies Workshop, and a selection of architecture projects.

Curators: Aurora Kiraly and Simona Dumitriu

29 - 30 October 2010, 10.00 – 17.00 hours - CitiesMethodologies Talks

Location: **UNAgaleria** – General Budisteanu 10 street

Participants: Gruia Badescu, Catalin Berescu, Liviu Chelcea, Phil Collins, Calin Dan, Madalina Diaconu, Simona Dumitriu and Raluca Ionescu, Celia Ghyka, Margareta Kern, Iwona Kurz, Anthony Luvera, Vera Marin, Vintila Mihailescu, Norbert Petrovici, Ștefan Tiron, Varinia Taboada, Miruna Tirca, Ioana Tudora.

Coordinator: Ger Duijzings

CitiesMethodologies Workshop

The interdisciplinary projects that were initiated and developed during the CMW urban exploration workshop (October 9-23 2010) will be part of the **CitiesMethodologies** exhibition.

Architects: Cristian Balan, Marius Mitran, Mihai Motcanu Dumitrescu, Mihnea Simiras, Sebastian Stan, Emilia Tugui

Artists: Marina Albu, Bogdan Bordeianu, Daniel Djamo, Ioana Gheorghiu, Andra Jurgiu, Andrei Radu, Stefan Sava, Zelmira Szabo

Anthropologists/Sociologists: Andra Mitia Dumitru, Marius Huza, Ionut Piturescu, Viorela Strat, Mihaela Tantas, Miruna Tirca

Coordinator: Vera Marin

On **October 29** the British visual artist **Phil Collins** will host a **workshop** with the CMW participants and art students of the UNA Photo Video Department.

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CitiesMethodologies | Bucharest project team: Aurora Kiraly (Galeria Noua Association, UNA), Ger Duijzings (UCL – University College London), Vera Marin (ATU), Simona Dumitriu (UNA – National University of Arts).

Project supported by: AFCN – Administratia Fondului Cultural National, UCL (University College London), Urban Laboratory – UCL, New Europe College, The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Romania, the Polish Institute in Bucharest, the Goethe Institute, HBO Romania, Fundatia de Arte Vizuale.

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The CitiesMethodologies programme summary:

The aim of **CitiesMethodologies | Bucharest** is to build a bridge of communication and a platform for exchange and reflection on new methods in urban research. The project wishes to create new synergies, bringing together different efforts, interests and competencies regarding the study and understanding of cities. The main goal is to compare and juxtapose methods of urban research, in order to develop a platform of debate and interaction, transgressing disciplinary borders (arts, architecture, urbanism, sociology and urban anthropology, human geography, literature, political studies).

The first Cities Methodologies took place in May 2009 in London, at University College London (UCL), based on a concept developed by Ger Duijzings, Co-Director of the UCL Urban Laboratory and Reader in the Anthropology of Eastern Europe at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Based on the success of the 2009 edition, the UCL Urban laboratory has made it into an annual event; the second edition of *CitiesMethodologies* took place 5-7 May 2010, and the third London edition is planned for May 2011. *CitiesMethodologies* Bucharest is the first such event held outside of UCL.

CitiesMethodologies | Bucharest includes:

1. The CitiesMethodologies Exhibition (CME)

Throughout the last decade, the city has become field of research for many contemporary art projects and this exhibition is a good opportunity to bring together artists that are concerned with this theme and with the social, cultural and political aspects that shape urban context. Photographs, visual/audio installations, video art or documentary films – the works included in the exhibition are examples of observation, reflection and analysis of urbanity and urban living spaces.

As the two London editions had a strong East European component (covering Belgrade, Berlin, Bucharest, Budapest, Warsaw, and Zagreb), exhibits presented in at UCL in London will be showcased in Bucharest as part of **CitiesMethodologies | Bucharest**, together with contributions from local architects, artists and researchers.

2. **CitiesMethodologies Talks (CMT)** - Two days of dialogue have been dedicated to the exploration of new and innovative methodologies of urban research, in the context of post-socialist cities and beyond that mainframe. There will be contributions from architecture and urbanism, visual arts, anthropology, as well as documentary approaches.

During **CMT**, for two days, visitors will be able to meet with some of the Romanian and foreign artists and participants, who will discuss the methods and dynamics of their own projects, and will take part in talks or performances.

We believe that new forums are needed for the critique and cross-fertilization of different methodologies in urban research across the range of relevant disciplines. Instead of looking at 'end products' of how cities are represented, the objective is to look at how urban researchers and other urban 'explorers' (artists, academics, practitioners, and others) make their hands dirty in terms of the practical choices (and mistakes) they make in the **process of data gathering**, and at the ways in which their practices intervene in the everyday life of cities.

3. **CitiesMethodologies workshop (CMW)** The Interdisciplinary workshop of urban research and exploration has focus on themes such as abandoned urban space, reflecting on issues of process and method, and gathering a combination of *visual* and *non-visual data*. The workshop included project presentations, lectures and the preparation of the participants' contribution to the CME. Duration: 8 – 23 October 2010, at UNAgaleria and in Bucharest.

4. **CitiesMethodologies | Bucharest blog** (<http://citiesmethodologies.wordpress.com>) is a platform for online communication between Romanian and European urban research projects.

5. **The project's publication**, in newspaper format, will be the first issue of a series of publications that will accompany future *CitiesMethodologies* events. It will be available online in December 2010 and in printed format at the beginning of next year.

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Attached Images:

Anthony Luvera

Assisted Self-Portrait of John Lowans

John Lowans / Anthony Luvera,

from Residency 2006-2008

subREAL

from the series *Interviewing the Cities*
Framing Bucharest, 2002

Mircea Nicolae

Glass globes
2010

roArchive_Bogdan Bordeianu

Drobeta Turnu -Severin
2008

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