

CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN GENÈVE

10, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers, 1205 Genève t +41 22 329 18 42 f +41 22 329 18 86 [www.centre.ch](http://www.centre.ch)

PRESS KIT

# Ciprian Mureșan

RECYCLED PLAYGROUND

24.02.2012 — 22.04.2012

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PRESS RELEASE

January 2012

## Ciprian Mureșan

(\*1977)

Recycled Playground

24.02 – 22.04.2012

Artistic and literary works are the starting point for the work of Ciprian Muresan (\*1977, Dej, Romania), who appropriates them for a reflective project that intersects with the recent history of Romania and other Eastern European countries and, more generally, ponders the realities of the contemporary world. For his first solo exhibition in Switzerland, Ciprian Muresan presents two new pieces: an installation, "Recycled Playground", from which the exhibition takes its title and its tone, and a companion video creation. A selection of other significant works is also presented. Juggling humour and critique, the artist highlights the structures and processes of all forms of power.

His works (videos, drawings and installations) reuse and hijack iconic modern and contemporary works of art, which are contextualized and sometimes assessed with an ironic, disenchanted eye (Klein or Kippenberger, for example). With frequent reference to literature, in particular Kafka and Ionesco, Muresan analyses power structures and conditioning by ideologies – whether political, religious or economic. In works that are often darkly humorous, he evokes the realities of present-day Romania: the ambivalent relationship with recent history, political and ideological changes (especially the end of communism), Eastern Europe's fascination with the cultures of the West and the loss of traditions and local products.

If the situation of the Eastern European countries is a starting point, it is one that is part of a broader reflection on a contemporary world characterized by the demise of utopias and dominated by entertainment – a globalized, consensual culture of consumption. In Muresan's remake of "Un Chien Andalou" the actors are replaced by Shrek and Fiona; contamination by Western mass culture in this film which profoundly subverts modernity, but also a reference to popular Romanian culture, notably puppet theatre.

The reference to forms of entertainment conveys the artist's singular way of seeing and allows a critical discourse – whose use of popular forms makes it all the more effective – to be expressed less directly. The puppets that feature in several films speak of social protest and torture. "Recycled Playground", the new work for the exhibition, reuses the form of the little train, but the wagons it pulls are Romanian trash cans; humour and play are vehicles for ideas.

At the centre of this recycled playground is the figure of the child: a little sponge conditioned by ambient ideologies who is the symptom of societies and at the heart of the construction of identity and of the standardization of thought.

Whether they address questions that are directly political or historical, or travel by more poetic, humorous or evocative paths, the works of Ciprian Muresan offer a reflection on the different realities of the contemporary world.

Born in Dej in 1977, Ciprian Muresan lives and works in Cluj-Napoca (Romania). His work has been shown recently at the Vienna Secession, the NBK in Berlin, the Wyspa Institute of Art in Gdansk, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Renaissance Society in Chicago, the Centro Cultural Montehermoso in Vitoria, the Witte de With in Rotterdam and the New Museum in New York. Ciprian Muresan also exhibited in the Romanian Pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale and took part in the 17th Biennale of Sydney. He is represented by Plan B in Cluj and Berlin, by Andreiana Mihail Gallery in Bucharest, by Nicodim Gallery in Los Angeles, David Nolan Gallery in New York and by Wilkinson Gallery in London.

As part of the mediation programme of the Centre, an ARTY NIGHT will take place on April 19 at 7pm. Discussing the topics of contemporary art and cinema in Romania, this round-table will feature Andrei Ujica (filmmaker) and Ciprian Muresan, and will be animated by Jean Perret, Head of the cinema department/cinéma du réel, HEAD - Geneva.

Exhibition curated by Katya García-Antón

This exhibition has been organised in collaboration with FRAC Champagne-Ardenne (France) and the Contemporary Art Gallery of Vancouver (Canada).

SAVE THE DATES:

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| Exhibition | 24.02 – 22.04.2012   |
| Press      | 23 Feb. 2012 at 4pm  |
| Opening    | 23 Feb. 2012 at 6pm  |
| Arty Night | 19 April 2012 at 7pm |

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES:

Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève  
Carole Haensler Huguet, +41 (0)22 888 30 42, [presse@centre.ch](mailto:presse@centre.ch)

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## IMAGE SHEET



CIPRIAN MUREȘAN, 'I'm Protesting Against Myself', 2011

Vidéo HD, 30mn, loop

Courtesy de l'artiste et Plan B Cluj / Berlin



CIPRIAN MUREȘAN, 'Leap Into the Void, After 3 Seconds', 2004

Photographie, dimensions variables

Courtesy de l'artiste et Plan B Cluj / Berlin

POUR LES IMAGES EN HAUTE RÉOLUTION ET LES VUES D'EXPOSITION (A VENIR) / FOR  
HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES AND EXHIBITION'S VIEWS (AVAILABLE SOON) :

Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève

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## BIOGRAPHY OF CIPRIAN MURESAN

Born 1977 in Dej, Romania

Lives and works in Cluj-Napoca, Romania

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2011

"Recycled Playground", Frac Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, France

2010

"Ciprian Muresan", n.b.k. - Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany

"How I Wonder What You Are", Plan B, Berlin, Germany

"The Unbelonging", Prometeogallery, Lucca and Milan, Italy

2009

"Luv", Plan B, Cluj, Romania

2008

"Auto-da-Fe", Andreiana Mihail Gallery, Art Statements, Art Basel, Switzerland

"Work an Travel", Andreiana Mihail Gallery, Bucharest, Romania

"A Turn to the Real", Apollonia, Strasbourg, France

2007

"Expulsion from Paradise", Raster Gallery, Warsaw, Poland

"I Believe I Can Fall", Kontainer Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2006

"Ciprian says", Prometeo Gallery, Milan, Italy

"Choose...", Plan B, Cluj, Romania

2004

"The End Of The Five Year Plan", Studio Protokoll, Cluj, Romania

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2011

"Historical Structures, New Existentialism Part 2", ALTEFABRIK, Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland

"Loophole to Happiness", Muzeum Sztuki Lodz, Poland

2010

"Where do we go from here", Secession, Vienna, Austria

"Over and Over Again", Wyspa Institute of Art, Gdansk, Poland

"17th Biennale of Sydney, The Beauty and the Distance", Sydney Biennale, Australia

"There is no alternative (TINA)", Storey Gallery, Lancaster, UK

"Les Promesses du passé", Musée National d'Art Moderne — Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

"The Seductiveness of the Interval", The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, USA  
"Colectia Mircea Pinte", Muzeul de Artă Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania  
"There Is No Alternative", Konsthall C, Hökarängen, Sweden  
"The First Haifa Mediterranean Biennale", The Haifa Mediterranean Biennale, Haifa, Israel  
"Monumento A La Transformación", Centro Cultural Montehermoso, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain  
"Morality Act III: And the moral of the story is...", Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

#### 2009

"CUE: Artists' Videos", Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
"Incorrigible Believers", David Nolan Gallery, New York, USA  
"4'33''", Cinemas Sture, Stockholm and Fyris, Uppsala, Sweden  
"From One Thing to the Other", Romanian Cultural Institute, Stockholm, Sweden  
"Communism Never Happened", FEINKOST, Berlin, Germany  
"The Punishment of Lust and Luxury", Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
"The Generational: Younger Than Jesus", New Museum, New York, USA  
"Nimic May de pret ca valoarea zilei", Andreiana Mihail Gallery, Bucharest, Romania  
"Track Changes", Wilkinson Gallery (Project Room), London, UK  
"The Seductiveness of the Interval", Pavillon RouMayn, 53e Venice Biennale, Italy  
"The 2nd Biennial Art Sector", Katowice, Poland  
"Try to make a simple gesture, no matter how small!", Trafo Gallery, Budapest, Romania

#### 2008

"TINA, The Drawing Room", London, UK  
"where the east ends", Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Germany  
"Monument to Transformation", Fragment #7: Communism Never Happened/ Vocabulary", Tranzit, Bratislava, Slovakia  
"Monument to Transformation", Fragment # 6: Labour Day, Labor, Budapest, Romania  
"OÙ ? Scènes du Sud – Volet 2", Carré d'art - Musée d'art contemporain, Nîmes, France  
"Like an Attali Report, but different - On fiction and political imagination", Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, France  
"3D Rubliov", Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Germany  
"Dada East?" Romanian Context of Dadaism, Zacheta - National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland  
"Signals: A Video Showcase – Mash Up", Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, USA  
"Schengen", Feinkost Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
"BERLIN SHOW #1", Plan B, Berlin, Germany  
"Fusion // Confusion", Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany  
"Salon Of The Revolution", HDLU – Mestrovic Pavilion, Zagreb, Croatia  
"Since We Last Spoke About Monuments", Stroom Den Haag, The Hague, Netherlands

#### 2007

"...not figments of a madman's imagination...", Florence Lynch Gallery, New York, USA  
"1st Athens Biennale", Athens, Greece  
"Dada East?" The Romanians of Cabaret Voltaire, Färgfabriken, Stockholm, Sweden  
"Friends, foes and collaborators", IG Bildende Kunst, Vienna, Austria  
"Ciprian Muresan and Adrian Ghenie", Kontainer Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
"Across the Trees", David Nolan Gallery, New York, USA  
"Prague Biennale 3", Karlin Hall, Prague, Czech Republic  
"Noutati", Andreiana Mihail Gallery, Bucharest, Romania  
"The State of Endangered Body", Trafo Gallery, Budapest, Hungary

2006

"Cluj Connection", Haunch of Venison, Zurich, Switzerland  
"Czeslaw Milosz "To Allen Ginsberg"", Dvir Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israël  
"Periferic 7, Focussing Iasi, Why Children?", Iasi, Romania

2005

"No Significant Incidents to Report", Galeria Noua, Bucharest, Romania  
"On Difference #1", Württembergische Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany  
"Textground", Display Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic

2004

"Formate / Moving Patterns", Kunsthalle project space, Vienna, Austria  
"The Way the World is", Turkish Bath, Iasi, Romania  
"The Violence of the Image / The Image of Violence", The Young Artists' Biennial, Bucharest, Romania  
"Supernova – Art for the Masses I", Studio Protokoll, Cluj, Romania  
"Supernova – Art for the Masses II", Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu, Romania

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

2011

Nick Currie, "Kommunist ? Ich auch !", Spike  
Nikos Kotsopoulos, Contemporary Art in Eastern Europe, ed. Black Dog

2010

"Er fliegt und fliegt und fliegt...", Monopol, November, p. 19  
Travis Diehl, "Ciprian Muresan", artforum.com, November  
Jens Hinrichsen, "Schloss mit lusting", Der Tagesspiegel, July  
"Gegen den Trend zum Heiligenbild", taz.de, July 15  
Roxanne Samer, "The Seductiveness of the Interval at The Renaissance Society", Chicago Art Magazine, May 15  
Marie Maertens, "L'école de Cluj", Artpress n°365, March, p. 58-64  
November Paynter, "Ciprian Muresan", Artforum n°6, February, p. 219-220  
1st Ural Industrial Biennial - Shockworkers of the Mobile Image, Yekaterinburg  
Art Always Has Its Consequences, Budapest - Lodz - Novi Sad - Zagreb  
Piotr Piotrowski, "Agoraphilia Art and Democracy", Post-Communist Europe, Wydawnictwo Rebis, Poznan  
Les Promesses du passé, MNAM - CGP, Paris  
Aneta Szy ak, Jan Sowa, Over and Over Again: 1989-2009, Wroclaw  
17th Biennale of Sidney, exhibition catalogue  
Walter König Verlag, Ciprian Muresan, n.b.k. Berlin

2009

"Project Space : Cyprian Muresan", Art Review.com, October 7  
"Romanian Pavillon", e-flux.com, September  
Jane Neal, "While no one was looking, Romania's thirtysomething artists seized control of their country's feeble gallery scene. Now, they're infiltrating the art world en masse.", Modern Painters, September  
Chris Fite-Wassilak, "Tina", Frieze, January-February, p. 155  
Mihnea Miran, artists book, Galeria Plan B  
Daniel Birnbaum, Making Worlds, 53e Biennale de Venise, The Seductiveness of the Interval, Romanian Pavillon, Alina Serban

2008

Younger Than Jesus - Artist Directory, The New Museum, Phaidon Press, New York  
Lauren Cornell, Massimiliano Gioni, Laura Hoptman, Brian Sholis, Younger Than Jesus.  
The Generation Book, New Museum, Steidl, New York  
OÙ ? Scènes du Sud — Volet 2, Carré d'art, Musée d'art contemporain, Nîmes  
Auto-da-Fe, Andreiana Mihail Gallery  
Destroy Athens - 1st Athens Biennale 2007, Futura Publications  
S Brent Plate, Blasphemy, Art That Offends, Black Dog  
Fusion Confusion, Museum Folkwang Essen

2007

Iris Dressler, Hans D. Christ, On Difference #3: Politics of Space, Württembergischer  
Kunstverein Stuttgart  
Adrian Notz, Dada East? The Romanians of Cabaret Voltaire, Färgfabriken, Stockholm

2006

Angelika Nollert, Marius Babias, Periferic 7: Focussing Iasi/Social  
Processes international biennial for contemporary art, Revolver

2004

Cristopher Knight, "Leaps : sober to sarcastic", LA Times