



The Floating Bee Garden | Vasile Rață

The Floating Bee Garden – solo show of the artist Vasile Rață, curated by Ana Daniela Sultana

Piccola Galleria

Romanian Institute for Culture and Humanistic Research

Palazzo Correr, Cannaregio 2211, Venice

22 June – 1 July 2024

Open daily, 16:00 – 21:00

Opening: Art Night Venezia, Saturday, the 22nd of June 2024, 16:00 – 23:00

The Floating Bee Garden of Vasile Rață will fill up the *Piccola Galleria* at the Romanian Institute for Culture and Humanistic Research in Venice, between the 22nd of June and the 1st of July 2024.

Derived from the exhibition “The Black Sea Bees”, opened at the Arbor.art.room gallery in the spring of 2023, “The Floating Bee Garden” is conceptualized as a site-specific installation that includes paintings, drawings, as well as found objects, an approach that is characteristic of his artistic practice. Taking as a starting point the current geopolitical situation marked by conflict and the inevitable migration, by the historical context (2024 is a year with multiple significations) and the artist’s disposition to the idea of habitation (of the individual, the community, the nation, or humanity?) symbolised by the bee garden, Vasile Rață chose the title and the concept of “the floating bee garden” to be presented in Venice.

The artistic practice of Vasile Rață is complex, influenced not only by his own life path, but also by specific moments or historical periods he has witnessed (Communism, the Fall of the Iron Curtain, the Post-Communist period, EU enlargement waves). His work reflects the geography in which he lived, both literally and metaphorically. Ranging from painting, drawing and graphic design, to objects, land art, video art, collage, and assemblage Arte Povera style, the artistic mediums he uses indicate a versatile and innovative personality.

The exhibition is organized by the Romanian Institute for Culture and Humanistic Research in Venice and The Arbor Association for Culture and Arts, in partnership with Venice City Hall, Ca’Foscari University, The Union of the Visual Artists in Romania and EuroCulturArt, with the auspices of the Veneto Region.

Vasile Rață (b. 1966) is an artist from the Republic of Moldova based in Bucharest. He studied in Chișinău, Moscow, Bucharest, and Milan. Aside from solo and group exhibitions, he has participated in biennials, fairs, festivals, and art salons both locally and internationally, such as the Asian Art Biennale (Dhaka, 2022), the International Biennial of Painting (Chișinău, 2021, 2019, 2017), the National Salon of Contemporary Art (Bucharest, 2022, 2020), and Art Safari (Bucharest, 2017, 2015), Seoul International Art Festival (Seoul, 2009, 2007), and International Artistic Flags Festival (Novi Sad, 2005). He also holds many honorary titles, awards, and distinctions for his accomplishments and contributions in the artistic field, the most notable of which is the title “Master of Art” that Maia Sandu, the president of the Moldavian Republic, awarded him. Museums and private collections around the world hold his works.

Ana Daniela Sultana (b. 1984) is a curator, art adviser, and columnist. After receiving her BAs in philology and communication sciences, she graduated with a master’s degree in curatorial studies from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Currently, she is writing a PhD thesis titled “The Poetics of the curatorial text” at the University in Bucharest. She publishes articles in ARTA magazine, Orizzonti culturali italo-romeni and agentiadecarte.ro. She collaborates with institutions such as the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, the RCI in Vienna, the RCI in Istanbul, the Austrian Cultural Forum in Bucharest, creart – the Bucharest Municipality Center for Creation, Art and Tradition, the National Museum of Romanian Literature Bucharest, The Museum of the Municipality of Bucharest, Timișoara Art Museum, Kunsthalle Feldbach, Aluniș Art Center and numerous contemporary art galleries.

The Arbor Association for Culture and Arts (<https://www.arborinstitute.eu/>) has come to the fore on the cultural and artistic scene through a wide program promoting the artistic production from the Moldavian Republic with the goal of developing cultural mobility between Moldavian Republic, Romania, and other European countries. Concentrating on several artistic directions, Arbor has organized over 35 art exhibitions, at its gallery based in Bucharest, Arbor.art.room (11 Transilvaniei Street), as well as in other galleries, cultural centres, libraries or museums from the Moldavian Republic and Romania. Moreover, Arbor initiated projects on education and projects dedicated to promoting the writing culture and the art of theatre, in partnership with important public and private institutions. Arbor has launched the first art platform in virtual reality (VR) from Romania and the Moldavian Republic, www.theopen-art.com, where art exhibition with works by some of the most relevant contemporary artists from Chișinău and Bucharest can be accessed.