

The entitlement thesis titled *From Tama to the Charts* is the visual journey that I have travelled since 1992 to the present. Although I graduated the Ion Grigorescu Institute of Fine Arts in 1983 (in the class of Prof. Paul Vasilescu) I will analyse the personal visual paths that I have been going through since 1992, when I became a university assistant in the Sculpture Department at The National University of Arts in Bucharest.

Since 1992 I had gone through all the academic degrees through competitions such as university assistant, university lecturer and currently associate professor. I held the position of Head of Sculpture Chair between 1994-2006. During this period, I worked intensively on the endowment and equipment of the Department with utilities and transposition workshops, as well as I was concerned with a number of exhibition projects and participations in both national and international cultural activities.

After supporting the PhD thesis entitled *St. George the Hero of Eastern Christian iconography*, (Unarte Publishing House, Bucharest, 2006), which I graduated with Summa cum Lauda, I concentrated more on the personal artistical development. In this respect, I participated in a series of symposiums in the country and abroad, from where I will mention the Generalitat Valencia Scholarship in Spain.

With this scholarship granted by the City of Valencia, I attended a specialization course in bronze casting technique in the ceramic shell technology at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Valencia. Also, in 2007 I participated in the exhibition *Hommage to Brâncuși*, which took place at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Mumbai, India, where I was part of the artists' delegation that went with the support of MAE and ICR.

From 2007 until 2010 I was part of the 8 art + group for which we received the Ministry of Culture Award in 2008, and the Union of the Romanian Artists Excellence Award in 2007. Meanwhile I participated in the International Painting Symposium in Patras, Greece in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and at the First Pedagogical

Symposium at the University of Patras in 2009. In 2011 I participated in the 22nd International Conference organized by the International Sculpture Center at St Martin's College in London, England where I had the opportunity to be part in a series of conferences supported among others by Anthony Gormley and Peter Noevers.

Because of these concerns I concluded the amount of sculptural works made by me until this time in the *Fragment or Tama* project with which I obtained the C Brancusi research grant awarded by ICR at Cites des Arts in Paris, France in 2013.

During this highly prolific research period, I have visited several prestigious Galleries in Paris, such as the Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery, Lambert Gallery, and the Contemporary Art Museums of Palais du Tokyo, etc., and I have reconsidered my visual track by then the Arbore project to graphs.

The result of this research done due to the Brancus Grant, in the period 2014-2016, during which I realized a cycle of four personal exhibitions on the theme of Axis Mundi, for which in 2016 I received the National Constantin Brâncuși Prize offered by the Center of Excellence and Promotion C Brancusi from Târgu Jiu and the UAP Sculpture Prize in 2017.

After a time of figurative sculptural works done in different kind of materials and techniques, I turned to a somehow more impersonal approach of plasticity, and decided it is time to take an attitude towards really essential things concerning life and living, like the problem of the forests and the accelerated cutting of the woods. This theme of the three came back to me, last year at Cites des Arts in Paris, where I had three month

“Brancusi” Grant offered by the Romanian Cultural Institute. I did however made some installations regarding this theme in 1996, but now, under the influence of the tremendous visual material in the modern and contemporary galleries; I had a new vision upon it.

So, it turned out this solo shows, Axis Mundi, or the Ax of the World, has a social aspect, which is related to the ecological problems of the forests and the

destruction of these, but it is also a moral aspect, which regards self-consciousness.

These serious issues from our lives I want to express with the most simplest geometry, like the circle, the square, con...so this way I unite basically a subject which is very present and alarming in our society, and the timeless issue of moral continuity.

Beside the ecological issue of the forest, the three has also a philosophical aspect being the link between heaven and earth, up and down, people and spirituality.

My main concern is, to give live to the fallen wood, to leave a sign, a non-approval toward destruction using the language of sculptural object.

I had personal exhibitions in 2011 and 2015 at the Kovalenco Gallery in Geldrop, the Netherlands at the International Fair of Contemporary Art CAR Contemporary from Essen, Germany in 2015, as well as international participation in the European Cuteness of Art in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sofia, Rome, Athens and Zagreb, in the group exhibition, Out of the Box, Hazelaar Gallery in Soest, the group exhibition Hiperconectivity at ICR Berlin, as well as the IV Intercultural Exhibition Romania - Korea at the Boryeong-Si Museum in the Republic of Korea. In 2017 we exhibited at the DADA group exhibition dedicated to the DADA movement organized by the City Hall of Bucharest through the Creator, the Center for Culture, Art and Tradition of the Municipality of Bucharest, under the aegis of the Swiss Embassy in partnership with Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich, Switzerland, Dada-on-Tour : Last stop Bucharest in 2017.

During these years I was a member of the National Commission of Specialty at the Specialty Committee for Public Monuments of the Ministry of Culture and National Identity. In this capacity of competences in the evaluation and realization of the monuments I was also co-opted in the Consultative Commission of the Administration of Monuments and Tourist Patrimony.

From the didactic point of view I continued to focus on the two major routes in the formation of students from sculpture: The route of acquiring skills and technical abilities, and the path of personal development and expression.

In this sense, we coordinated and led two workshops through the Erasmus program with guest professors in the Sculpture Department: The Pottery Blend Workshop with lecturer Ph.D. Carmen Marcos Martinez of the Universidad des Bellas Artes in 2010 and the workshop