

Maria Rus Bojan

Maria Rus Bojan is an Amsterdam based curator with extensive international curatorial and directorial experience. As a curator at the Art Museum of Cluj (1993-1999), she organized several large-scale museum exhibitions before becoming the director at the Sindan Cultural Foundation Bucharest/Cluj (1999-2003). As such, Rus Bojan has played a significant role in launching the careers of Romanian artists globally, exhibiting among others the work of Victor Man, Adrian Ghenie and Ciprian Mureşan within the Sindan Contemporary Art Program for Young Talent and the series of international exhibitions entitled *Re:Location & Shake* (*Re:Location 2* in OK Centrum, Linz, 2002, *Re:Location 4* in Casino Luxembourg, 2004, *Shake the Limits* at National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, 2004).

Since 2005, Rus Bojan has worked closely with the German performance artist Ulay, curating several international exhibitions such as Ulay's first major retrospective, *GEN.E.T.RATION ULTIMA RATIO* held at Centro Parraga in Murcia, Spain, 2005. She contributed to Ulay's retrospectives at the Nederlandse Fotomuseum in Rotterdam, 2016 and SchirnKunsthalle Frankfurt (2016). Together with the New York based writer Alessandro Cassin, she published Ulay's first monograph *Whispers, Ulay on Ulay* at Valiz Amsterdam, awarded with the Special Prize for Publications of the Dutch Section at the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) in 2015. In 2020, she provided her expertise for the large-scale, retrospective exhibition *Ulay was Here* at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

Maria Rus Bojan curated a number of large scale international exhibitions including the 2008 *Locked In* at Casino Luxembourg, involving major figures of the art world such as Anthony Gormley, Thomas Hirschhorn and Michael Borremans and *Performing History*, the Romanian Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale with Ion Grigorescu and the duo Aneta Mona Chisa and Lucia Tkacova in 2011. Beside her commitment for showing young talent from her native country Romania and Eastern Europe, Maria Rus Bojan has a specific interest for researching and exhibiting the work of several historical artists from this region, such as the Polish Magdalena Abakanowicz, and the Romanian artists Paul Neagu, Ion Grigorescu, Ana Lupas and Cornel Brudascu.

In 2017 she curated *Effigies of Life, A Tribute to Magdalena Abakanowicz (1930 – 2017)* in Wroclaw followed by the two consecutive large-scale retrospective exhibitions of the artist entitled *Presence, Essence, Identity* at The Centre for Arts and Science, Walbrzych, Poland, 2018 and at the Museum of Art Timisoara, Romania within the third edition of Art Encounters Biennial, 2019. In the same year, she curated

Anthropocosmos, the first retrospective in the Netherlands of the Romanian-British artist Paul Neagu, the former professor of Anthony Gormley and Anish Kapoor.

In the summer of 2019, Maria Rus Bojan was the curator of *From Where Comes Your Voice*, the fourth edition of the annual international exhibition *Art of the Treasure Hunt*, hosted by Luzzia Hennessy, which included works of an impressive number of artists displayed across 4 historical sites in Chianti region, Italy (Richard Long, Martin Creed, Raqib Shaw, Su Mei Tze, Yan Pei Ming, Mark Hendforth, Lucy Stein, Nathalie Pasquier, etc).

In 2020, she curated *Resurrected Matter: Postwar Expression in the works of Tadeusz Kantor, Shinkichi Tajiri and Jaap Wagemaker* at the Museum of Art Timisoara, Romania.

Since 1995, Maria Rus Bojan is a member of the International Association of Art Critics, AICA and since 1999, a member of the International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art, IKT. Between 2013-2018 she was a founding member the Russia and Eastern Europe Acquisition Committee (REEAC), at Tate Modern. Since 2018 she is a member of the Board of Trustees of Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague, as well as a member of the administration council of the Contemporary Art Museum, Wroclaw. She is also a member of the board of advisors of RIBOCA, the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art and currently she serves as chair of the European ArtEast Foundation, London, designing specific programs for supporting artists from this region within major contemporary art events.

Maria Rus Bojan is a graduate of the University of Art and Design, Cluj Napoca, Romania and UvA, University of Amsterdam. She is a regular contributor of Sinteza magazine and authored texts for many exhibition catalogues for artists such as: Ulay and Marina Abramovic, Anthony Gormley, Thomas Hirschhorn, Michael Borremans, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Tadeusz Kantor, Shinkichi Tajiri, Jaap Wagemaker, Ion Grigorescu, Ana Lupas, Cornel Brudascu, etc.