

PRESS RELEASE

Journeys of Love

Curated by Liviu Bulea

October 10 – November 9, 2024

Opening on Thursday October 10, at 6.00 pm

Exhibition venue

IAGA Contemporary Art

Cloșca Street, n. 9-11, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The exhibition can be visited for free from Tuesday to Saturday, from 2.00 to 6.00 pm and by appointment.

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IAGA Contemporary Art is pleased to inaugurate the first collective exhibition curated by Liviu Bulea, in the spaces of the gallery, with the title *Journeys of Love*.

In the upcoming exhibition, we join a diverse group of artists illustrating different aspects and nuances of the LGBTQ+ community, exploring the search for love and showing that it is a complex and universal experience, lived uniquely by each of us. From romantic and familial love to self-love and caring for one's community, the works on display explore the intricacy of this feeling. The central aspect of the exhibition is its emphasis on acceptance, highlighting that authentic love arises from the recognition and embrace of self and others, beyond the constraints of social conventions. ***Journeys of Love*** goes beyond idealized notions of love, focusing on the real and nuanced ways people experience love and connection, especially in adversity. The exhibition honors the struggles and triumphs of people living with HIV, LGBTQ+ seniors, transgender people, those coming out, etc., bringing their experiences to the forefront through moving and honest artistic representations.

The works on display reflect personal experiences, challenges and successes, emphasizing how each person makes their way in a society deeply rooted in tradition. These works highlight often overlooked journeys, portraying love not as a sterile ideal, but as a deeply human experience, layered with struggle, resilience and authenticity. This event is a place where these narratives are visible and celebrated, bringing out the beauty of love and triumphs in all its forms. Each chosen project tells a unique story, accentuating the importance of representation and inclusion in contemporary art. This approach becomes a platform for advocacy and celebration, sparking conversations about diversity and acceptance. Constraints do not limit the works presented, they transcend and reveal the diversity of identities through the ongoing changes and advances in human rights. Bold and provocative, they challenge preconceived notions, encouraging a deeper understanding of the complexity and beauty of the LGBTQ+ community. The exhibition creates a space where untold stories and unseen experiences resonate and find validation. The fusion of art and activism becomes a testament to the resilience and creativity of the people whose stories enrich the global cultural heritage. ***Journeys of Love*** includes historical voices such as Divine and Keith Haring and contemporary perspectives to underscore the universality of love, regardless of time or place. Each creation becomes a mirror reflecting the various facets of identity. From the courage to embrace one's self to the struggle between authenticity and conformity, the artists invite us to contemplate our identities and recognize the vast spectrum of human existence. Representing diversity in art helps us embrace the complexity of human experience and cultivate a deeper understanding of the world around us. Artistic achievements celebrate individuality, strength and acceptance, allowing viewers to explore the ever-changing identity landscape.

The LGBTQ+ community has a long history of resilience and triumphs that continue to resonate in today's society. The stories of perseverance, courage and strength throughout this exhibition illustrate a community united in its fight for recognition and equality. Whether silent or triumphant, each victory contributes to progress and social change. These triumphs represent the essence of the LGBTQ+ community's legacy: a firm commitment to be seen and heard.

As we celebrate these victories, we also recognise the challenges that persist. Through this acknowledgement, we renew our commitment to continue to fight for and promote an inclusive world for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Journeys of Love shows how love is evolving and the ongoing social change towards greater inclusion, inviting us to reflect on how we can contribute to this change.

ARTISTS: KEITH **HARING**, MIRON **ZOWNIR**, MARC **VALLÉE**, RAUL **BALI**, KURT VON **BLEY**, PAUL **MUREȘAN**, RALUCA ILARIA **DEMETRESCU**, ARIS **TUREAC**, JAMIESON **PEARCE**, RĂZVAN **ANDREI**

Liviu Bulea, the curator

Liviu Bulea (b. 1989, Turda) is a Romanian artist, curator, and cultural manager currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Arts and Design in Cluj. His artworks have been showcased at various prestigious venues and exhibitions, including the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg, Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, Urban Nation Museum in Berlin, Romanian Cultural Institute in Berlin, French Cultural Institute in Cluj, National Museum of Arts in Cluj, Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest, Bucharest Biennale, Parallel Vienna, MUMOK Vienna, Brukenthal Museum in Sibiu, Jurmala City Museum in Latvia, and several other esteemed institutions across Europe.

IAGA Contemporary Art

IAGA Contemporary Art Gallery was founded in 2014, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in the Transylvanian region, by Alberto Perobelli, entrepreneur and collector of modern and contemporary art: starting from the acquisition of the works of the great masters of the Italian post-war period after the Second World War, through his activity in Romania, began to deepen the research and languages of young local artists and founded the project of a gallery to give voice to their works, in a careful and original dialogue with artists from other Eastern European countries, without forgetting the young Italians and the middle-aged.

From 2014 until now, the result is an intense activity of the gallery, coordinated by Rosalba Di Pierro, Gallery Manager, and Vincenza Mascolo, hosting six exhibitions a year and with an active participation in art fairs in Northeast European countries, with a careful presence at Italian fairs.