

# RESHAPE INTENSIVE CLUJ

**11-15 November 2019**

Cluj-Napoca

ORGANISED BY  
AltArt Foundation within  
the RESHAPE project.





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VISIT CLUJ  
*The Heart of Transylvania*



# INTENSIVE CLUJ

**I**ntensive Cluj is a meeting of art practitioners interested in creating alternative organisational models for the arts.

It takes place in the framework of RESHAPE, a research and development project that brings together artists and art workers from Europe and South Mediterranean to jointly imagine how the arts will be created, accessed and experienced in the future. RESHAPE relies on the collective intelligence and creativity of the cultural workers on the ground. A bottom-up process, it gathers artists and activists who already have experience and expertise in imagining alternative practices and transforming them into concrete actions and policy recommendations.

Until now, in the framework of RESHAPE, art workers have been working in smaller groups and on specific topics. Intensive Cluj is the first occasion to come together to cross and share their findings, reflections, ideas and inspirations. It will provide a first glimpse of where this research might lead us to.

Moreover, Intensive Cluj connects the RESHAPE research to the Romanian artist and activist initiatives, sparking new conversations and ideas.

Intensive Cluj is also an opportunity to infuse the reflection on alternative models in the arts sector with ideas and practices from broader societal debates, movements and tendencies.

Finally, Intensive Cluj is an open invitation for sharing and reflecting: how can we make sure that future artistic practices are better adjusted to the values of the sector and the evolution of society? There are no ready-made solutions and the future is ours to imagine!

# RESHAPE

## MONDAY — 11/11/2019

- 14:00 - 14:45 ● **Welcome and introduction**  
Milica Ilić, Rarița Zbranca, Marijana Rimanić  
@Cinema ARTA, str. Universității nr. 3
- 15:00 - 18:30 ● **Intersected Trajectories: Updates and feedback on trajectory work**  
Reshapers & Facilitators.  
MODERATOR: Joris Janssens  
@ Cinema ARTA
- 20:00 ● **2 Women**  
Dance Performance  
@ Casa Tranzit, str. George Barițiu 16
- 20:00 ● **Invisible**  
Theatre performance  
@ Hungarian State Theatre, str. Emil Isac 28

## TUESDAY — 12/11/2019

- 10:00 - 12:00 ● **Performing the Under-performed. Performing arts spaces in Romania**  
SPEAKERS: Kinga Kelemen, Petro Ionescu, Vava Ștefănescu.  
MODERATOR: Miki Braniște.  
Panel discussion @ Cinema ARTA
- 10:00 - 12:00 ● **State of the Arts? Working in the cultural sector in Romania**  
Speakers: Iulia Popovici, Raluca Iacob, Rarița Zbranca.  
MODERATOR: Corina Bucea  
Panel discussion  
@ Casa TIFF, str. Universității 6
- 14:00 - 16:00 ● **Activist Aesthetics**  
Igor Štikš  
Lecture and discussion @ Casa TIFF
- 14:00 - 16:00 ● **Learning On The Go: On women's rights and activism**  
Soraya Bahgat  
Lecture and discussion @ Cinema ARTA
- 17:00 - 18:30 ● **Solidarity On The Planetary Scale**  
Oxana Timofeeva hosted by Joris Janssens  
Keynote lecture @ Cinema ARTA
- 19:00 ● **Artist Dinners**

## WEDNESDAY — 13/11/2019

- 10:00 - 13:00 ● **Art in Public Space: From temporary interventions to influencing decision making in the city**  
City walk with Lala Panait

- 10:00 - 13:00 ● **One Ring To Rule Them All - Political control and entrepreneurialism in culture**  
City walk with István Szakáts
- 10:00 - 13:00 ● **Toned Personal Histories**  
City walk with Flaviu Petean
- 10:00 - 13:00 ● **The Independent Performing Arts Scene**  
City walk with Kinga Kelemen
- 10:00 - 13:00 ● **Art Crawl - A tour of visual arts in Cluj**  
City walk with Helga Thies
- 15:00 - 18:00 ● **The DIY Session**  
MODERATOR: Davor Mišković  
@ Casino Urban Culture Center, Central Park
- 19:00 ● **OST - Organic Sound Twist**  
Dance performance @ National Theatre, P-ța Ștefan cel Mare 2-4
- 19:00 ● **Illegitimate**  
Theatre performance  
@ Hungarian State Theatre

## THURSDAY — 14/11/2019

- 10:30 - 12:30 ● **Feminisation of Politics and Activism**  
Laura Roth  
Lecture and discussion @ Casa Tranzit
- 10:30 - 12:30 ● **Memory of the World / Public Library**  
Marcell Mars  
Lecture and discussion @ Casa Tranzit
- 10:30 - 12:30 ● **Pits and Falls of Group Work**  
Đorđe Balmazović / Škart  
Lecture and discussion @ Casa Tranzit
- 18:00 - 19:00 ● **WhoreShop by Jean-Lorin Sterian**  
Book Launch  
@ Che Guevara Social Pub, Piața Unirii 10
- 19:00 - 21:00 ● **The Ballads of Memory**  
Theatre Performance  
@ Reactor, str. Petőfi Sándor 4
- 19:00 ● **Artist Dinners**

## FRIDAY — 15/11/2019

- 10:00 - 13:00 ● **Reshape Trajectory Meetings**  
@ various locations
- 16:00 - 17:30 ● **Wrap Up and Evaluation**  
@ Cinema ARTA
- 19:00 - 20:20 ● **Glory**  
Theatre performance  
@ Reactor, str. Petőfi Sándor 4
- 21:00 ● **Reshape Party**  
@ Colectiva Gazette, Calea Turzii 18

● For participants of the RESHAPE project only.  
Venues and other details to be announced separately.

● Public programme

● Artistic programme

# PROGRAMME

## Performing the Underperformed. Performing arts spaces in Romania

A brief radiography of the performing arts scene in Romania, with a focus on the independent art scene: its fragile structures, their restless struggle to establish and maintain spaces for creation and production and their taste for socially and politically engaged practice.

**Miki Braniște**, cultural manager and curator/ColectivA, **Kinga Kelemen**, cultural manager/GroundFloor Group, **Petro Ionescu**, playwright/Reactor, **Vava Ștefănescu**, choreographer, manager/National Dance Center of Bucharest

## State of the Arts? Working in the cultural sector in Romania

A conversation about the socio-economic conditions of cultural work and the policies and support structures for culture in Romania. We analyse the main challenges that artists and organisations face and explore the models and practices that enable their resilience.

**Corina Bucea**, cultural manager/Cluj Cultural Centre, **Iulia Popovici**, performing arts critic and curator, **Raluca Iacob**, cultural manager and public policy specialist/MetruCub, **Rarița Zbranca**, cultural programmer and researcher, AltArt/Cluj Cultural Centre.

## Activist Aesthetics

Igor Štiks

Igor Štiks will present cases of *activist aesthetics* in the artistic acts, practices and works related to contemporary political and social activism of progressive and left-wing movements and groups in the post-Yugoslav region.

In order to understand the variety of activist aesthetics, as well as the specific influence of Yugoslav socialist heritage, Štiks builds upon Hans-Thies Lehmann's distinction between the *aesthetics of resistance* and the *aesthetics of rebellion*. The aesthetics

of resistance is characteristic of the works exploring the actuality of past resistances, their memories and their (realised and non-realised) potentialities. The aesthetics of rebellion, on the other hand, remains in service of the movements and their actions in the context of the contemporary post-socialist crisis. In addition, he will show what happens when two aesthetics are combined and how engaged artistic practices influence the acts of activist citizenship we can observe over the last decade in occupations, protests and new social movements in the Balkans.

**Igor Štiks** is a writer and scholar. Earning his PhD at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris and Northwestern University, he worked for years at the University of Edinburgh. He is currently a professor of politics at the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade.

## Learning On The Go: On women's rights and activism

Soraya Bahgat

Soraya Bahgat will share her journey as an "accidental activist" and social entrepreneur. While working as Head of HR for a leading Egyptian real estate developer, she founded a volunteer movement to combat the pandemic mob-sexual assaults that had plagued Tahrir Square during the 2011 revolution. The movement intervened in over 100 cases and brought the pandemic to local and international media attention. This contributed to Egypt passing a landmark sexual harassment law in 2014.

After protests in Tahrir Square have ended, she shifted her attention to other forms of violence and discrimination against women, including female genital mutilation and is a committed and passionate advocate for women and girls.

In her talk, she will share what she has learned about launching grassroots movements, leadership and issues pertaining to gender equality. She will give a briefing on women's rights in Egypt and the Arab World and will share insights on women in

the workplace. She will also share what she has learned from pursuing less productive activism, setbacks and failure.

**Soraya Bahgat** is a career woman, consultant, advocate for women's rights, and campaigner for tolerance in Egypt. She started Tahrir Bodyguard, a movement of uniformed volunteers intervening to stop the brutal mob-sexual assaults on women in Tahrir Square in the wake of Egypt's 2011 revolution. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy, and Graduate Diplomas in Comparative Politics and Human Resource Management from the American University in Cairo.

## Solidarity On The Planetary Scale

Oxana Timofeeva hosted by Joris Janssens

A critical engagement of theory and the arts in a dialogue with natural and technical sciences is characteristic for the materialist turn in contemporary culture. It rethinks historical processes from the perspective of the posthuman turn: the history of humans has to be inscribed into the history of things and the history of the World – into the history of the Earth. Nonhuman forms of living and nonliving matter are included into the historical process, which has to be conceived not as a succession of stages of development of human societies, but as geological eras, whose definition is now a subject of debate. This brings us to a new understanding of politics. It must be not only international, but interspecies, including all subjects and matters – animals, plants, mountains, people, sounds, viruses, AI, etc. These cultural shifts transform traditional modes of the political – republic, democracy, socialism, communism, etc. Oxana Timofeeva will discuss a few concepts that can accompany this transformation, as well as the crucial role of contemporary art in reinventing these concepts.

**Oxana Timofeeva** is a Professor at the Department of Sociology and Philosophy at the European University in St. Petersburg, member of the artistic collective "Chto Delat?"

("What is to be done?"), and a deputy editor of the journal "Stasis".

## Art in Public Space: From temporary interventions to influencing decision making in the city

Lala Panait

A tour about a decade of art interventions in public space in Cluj. We talk about urban actors that re-shaped the city through their courageous statements towards political, social or cultural issues of our city, working together with communities to strengthen their voices. We visit some sites where temporary interventions are still present in the cityscape. Prepare for a journey where you will feel (and taste) the atmosphere of the biggest post-socialist neighbourhood of Cluj combined with a relaxing time on the green river banks of Someş.

**Lala Panait** is trained as an Urban Anthropologist. She worked with ColectivA Association for Temps d'Images festival, other events at the Paintbrush Factory or in the public space of Cluj, and coordinated the only neighbourhood initiative in Cluj – At the playgrounds-Common space in Mănăştur.

## One Ring To Rule Them All - Political control and entrepreneurialism in culture

István Szakáts

The declared ambition of the Cluj ECoC bid was "to engage the communities of the city in a common life-changing project, helping us to fulfil our potential to act as a community". So how are we performing? Can we save all the trouble, just say the default "ok-ish", do the group hug, and move on? Sure we can. However, for those who'd feel a pinch of hypocrisy in this exercise, there is a more nuanced menu to check, including: consolidation of power structures, reinforcement of the privileges of the already privileged, increasing social gaps, or the general

entrepreneurization of culture. Take heart. The group hug will feel even better in the end.

**István Szakáts** is an artist, curator and cultural producer. He is president of the AltArt Foundation and board member of Fabrica de Pensule. He has been advocating for empowerment through culture, socially engaged art and active citizenship.

## Toned Personal Histories

Flaviu Petean

Flaviu's tour Toned Personal Histories is crafted around the personal histories he has been collecting in these past few years around the streets of Cluj. He will bring some instruments, and would like to perform, as much as possible, the stories, creating a sound landscape that will show you a different Cluj.

**Flaviu Petean** is a radio producer, hosting two shows at a local station in Cluj. He likes to give tours of the city, even when nobody asks for one. His interests include: urban sociology, micro-communities, personal histories, urban ecology, social movements.

## Tour of Independent Performing Arts Venues

Kinga Kelemen

The cultural scene in Cluj is changing as we speak, structures disappear and new ones appear. Along our tour we will meet organisations and companies at different stages of development, get a chance to meet the people behind the exciting programming and get a glimpse of what the challenges are of making engaging, innovative and socially meaningful theatre in Cluj.

**Kinga Kelemen** is a cultural manager in performing arts. She worked for international theatre festivals and produced independent theatre/dance productions. She is a founding partner of GroundFloor Group.

## Art Crawl - A tour of visual arts in Cluj

Helga Thies

Discover the local contemporary art scene with a tailor-made guided tour of independent spaces. Wouldn't it be great if a local professional showed you the most interesting artistic and cultural spaces and events in town? Art Crawl Cluj is meant to encourage out-of-towners discover the diverse local contemporary art scene – a guide to the exhibition spaces, as well as the art.

**Helga Thies** works at the Paintbrush Factory as a cultural manager and art mediator. She is passionate about art and likes to spark the interest of others in this field as well, which is why she started a mediation project called ArtCrawl Cluj.

## The DIY Session

moderated by Davor Mišković

This session offers a simple and efficient framework to create your own meeting agenda. Propose and discuss issues that are relevant to you at this moment: the content, dynamics and conclusions are entirely up to you!

Take the questions that are keeping you busy or topics particularly close to your heart, and propose them as topics for discussion. All the participants will choose together which topics will be discussed and will self-manage the discussions. At the end of the session, hear more about where these talks led us to.

All participants of the RESHAPE microcosm (Reshapers, Facilitators, Partners, Advisors, Guests...) are invited to propose topics and/or participate in the discussions.

**Davor Mišković** is a Director of the non-profit organisation Drugo More from Rijeka. He is working as a researcher participating in the creation of cultural policies and the management of cultural institutions and networks.

## Feminisation of Politics

Laura Roth

Feminism seems to be gaining momentum in many countries, but most organisations and groups are still working based on patriarchal standards. The "feminisation of politics" includes different elements, which all aim to change the way activism and politics (in a broad sense) are done. A feminist way of organising includes considerations like gender balance, building power through cooperation, collective leadership, democratic decision-making, care (for peers, for dependent beings and for oneself), intersectional understanding of issues, and non-violence.

This talk will share some practical experiences of the municipalist movement in order to contribute to the discussion about how feminism can (and should) shape our work. How we do things is as important as what we are doing!

**Laura Roth** lives in Barcelona and has a PhD in political philosophy, in addition to two small children. She is obsessed with the promotion of a political culture based on democracy and care, from a feminist perspective. In order to do this, she is trying to connect her activism with her research and to make these compatible with life and care. She has recently been focusing on the relationship between the feminization of politics, democracy and municipalism.

## Memory of the World / Public Library

Marcell Mars

A public library is one of those almost invisible infrastructures that we start to notice only once they go extinct. A place where all people can get access to all knowledge that can be collected seemed for a long time a dream beyond reach – until the egalitarian impetus of social revolutions, the Enlightenment idea of universality of knowledge, and the exceptional suspension of the commercial barriers of copyright made it possible.

The Internet has, as in many other situations, completely changed our expectations and imagination about what is possible. The dream of a

catalogue of the world – a universal access to all available knowledge for every member of society – became realizable. A question merely of the meeting of curves on a graph: the point at which the line of global distribution of personal computers meets that of the critical mass of people with access to the Internet. Today nobody lacks the imagination necessary to see public libraries as part of a global infrastructure of universal access to knowledge for literally every member of society. However, the emergence and development of the Internet is taking place precisely at the point at which an institutional crisis – one with traumatic and inconceivable consequences – has also begun.

**Nenad Romić** (aka Marcell Mars), advanced internet user, <http://ki.ber.kom.uni.st>, one of the founders of Multimedia Institute and club MaMa in Zagreb (2000). He is conducting a research "Ruling Class Studies" which looks into corporate state-of-the-art digital innovation, adaptation, and intelligence. Since 2018 he joined the Centre for Postdigital Cultures at Coventry University as a Research Fellow.

## Pits and Falls of Group Work

Đorđe Balmazović

Đorđe will shortly present Škart activities: starting from the first decade, the 90's, and street actions, following 2000 – 2013 which were the years of forming new collectives, bigger than Škart itself, changing the focus from visual art to other disciplines. The main focus will be on work in and with the collective and why it is important to work in collective despite all the problems it might cause.

**Škart** was founded 1990 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia as a collective first engaged in doing little Samizdat objects and giving them away in street actions, and later it was engaged in founding other collectives, working in bigger groups, using visual art, poetry and music.

# IMPRESSUM

RESHAPE is a partnership of intermediary arts organisations who support the development of the arts sector in their countries or regions.

RESHAPE Intensive Cluj is organised by AltArt Foundation.

**PARTNERS:**

- ACT Association for Independent Theatre, Bulgaria
- Alt Art, Romania
- Artemrede, Portugal
- Arts and Theatre Institute, Czech Republic
- British Council, United Kingdom
- Bunker, Slovenia
- East European Performing Arts Platform, Poland
- Flanders Arts Institute, Belgium
- Goethe-Institut Barcelona, Spain
- Onassis Foundation & Onassis AiR, Greece
- Onda — French office for contemporary performing arts circulation, France
- Pogon — Zagreb Centre for Independent Culture and Youth, Croatia
- Pro Helvetia, Switzerland

**ASSOCIATED PARTNERS:**

- Danish Arts Foundation, Denmark
- Ettijahat – Independent Culture, Lebanon
- European Union National Institutes for Culture, Belgium
- Performing Arts Fund NL, The Netherlands
- Frame Contemporary Art, Finland
- Mondriaan Fund, The Netherlands

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**PARTNERS:**



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