

ALEXANDRU RĂDVAN

ISLAND FOR UMBERTO

4th May – 30th May 2020

For the last fifteen years, Alexandru Rădvan is known for his large works in which he examines ancient myths and mythologies through a contemporary approach. Alexandru Rădvan's work often has references in literature. The heroes of ancient legends become conversation partners with whom the artist identifies.

"Island for Umberto" has the literary source in the novel "Island of the Day Before" (Italian: "L'isola del giorno prima") written by Umberto Eco. Alexandru Rădvan envisions an island for his favorite writer. The artist confessed: "Sharp butterflies cut through the hot air. Dry reddish dirt crumbles under my sandals. I wish this was an island and maybe it is. I am the only masculine presence here, but I feel I am not the only human being on this piece of land. There have to be some women on these shores. Big, robust, with their heated skin smelling beautiful, totally unaware of my presence. I will watch them, hunt them down one by one, love them with delicate passion, make them feel beautiful under the most shining of the Sun's".

Rădvan's island creates the context for the search of love and the meaning of time. A time for inner search that reveals the power of desire. A somewhat truncated desire, in which the characters are formed following a mental puzzle. The artist almost completely abandoned the backgrounds, the vegetation is barely present and suggested parts of the human body barely make their presence felt. A personal island, full of warmth and strong colors. A torrid paradise in which colored butterflies fly incessantly.

Curator: Diana Dochia, PhD

ALEXANDRU RĂDVAN (b. 1977)

Lives and works in Bucharest

Alexandru Rădvan was born in 1977. He grew up in Bucharest and studied from 1996 to 2000 at the National University of Art Bucharest in the class of professor Florin Mitroi. He is a lecturer at the National University of Art Bucharest, the Painting Department. His Ph.D. thesis, "The fantastic image made by plastic means and literary means", is, like his entire creation, ample documentation and a fine commentary on ancient myths and mythologies. Alexandru Rădvan became a reference name in contemporary Romanian and international art, being interested in the way in which contemporary societies relate and interpret the mythical figures, the ancient characters and legends. His works have been presented over the years in numerous solo and group shows of which we will mention: "The Oldest Day", ARCUB, Bukarest, Romania (2019); "Partner for the Abyss", Bazis Contemporary, Cluj, Romania (2019); "The Sculptor's Studio", Museum of Art, Arad, Romania (2018); "Untouchable Love" Anaid Art Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2018); "Monuments on the Move - Barbar", French Cultural Institute, Bucharest, Romania (2018); "Divine decadence", Kasteel van Gaasbeek, Gaasbeek, Belgium (2016); "Bucharest Artistic Education and Romanian Art After 1950", National Museum of Contemporary Art (MNAC), Bucharest, Romania (2015); "Badly Happy", Marina Abramović Institute West (The Performance Art Institute), San Francisco, USA (2010); "Messiahs", Modem - Center for Modern and Contemporary Art, Debrecen, Hungary (2009). His works are in important public and private collections in Romania, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Israel, France, Italy, Greece and the USA. He works and lives in Bucharest. Since 2005 is represented by Anaid Art Gallery Bucharest / Berlin.