

## BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY



### Cristian Rusu

*Assistant professor, PhD*

#### 1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Contact information
  - **Email:** cristian.rusu@ubbcluj.ro
  - **Phone:** ++40 740083035
  - **Institutional address:** No. 4 Mihail Kogălniceanu Street, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

#### 2. RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Stage design:** as a stage designer, I always explore the possibilities to keep a dialog with the given performance space. More, I show interest in keeping my artistic research till the space that I am working with will reach, touch and comment – if possible - its own physical and emotional limits.

**Visual Arts** (From Art History to Contemporary Art): As a visual artist my main research focuses on the space, mostly through site-specific projects. By mixing architectural concepts with aesthetics, sensitivity, ideology, involving also sounds, my work is a meditation on the status of contemporary concept of the space in arts and art in public space.

#### 3. ARTISTIC STATEMENT

Stage design and visual arts are combined in my practice, both as stage designer and visual artist. In my art I do combine concepts of space (historical and contemporary) in order to realise a sort of conceptual and aesthetical fusion between stage design/scenography and site specific art installations. In my projects I discuss the sensitive relationship between the very presence of space and its concepts that defines it, with the public seen here as potential performers.

#### 4. EDUCATION

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2015 | <b>PhD in Theatre and Performing Arts.</b> Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania. Thesis: <i>The Project of the Total Theater, 1919-1970</i> . Coordinator: Prof.dr. habil. M. Măniuțiu. |
| 1997 | <b>MA in Visual Arts.</b> University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca, Dissertation: <i>The Canon of Human Body's Representation in P. P. Rubens' Art</i> .  |
| 1996 | <b>BA in Painting.</b> University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca, Dissertation: <i>The Saturn's Lovers</i>   |

#### 5. ACADEMIC POSITIONS & EMPLOYMENT

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2016 – now  | <b>Associate professor.</b> Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania.                                  |
| 2008 – 2012 | <b>Member of the Department Council.</b> Theatre Department, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania. |

1999 – 2016 **Research assistant.** Theatre Department, Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.  
2003 – now **Stage designer.** National Theater Lucian Blaga Cluj – Napoca, Romania  
1998 – 1999 **Stage designer.** Regina Maria Theater Oradea, Romania  
1996 – 1998 **Stage designer.** Puppets Theatre Oradea, Romania

## 6. PUBLICATIONS

### 6.2. Peer-reviewed journal articles

Rusu, Cristian. “*The Crisis of Artistic Forms after 1945; Abstractionism and the Theatre of the Absurd versus Abstract Theatre Dilemma*”, Colocvii teatrale nr. 31, Iași, Editura ARTES, p. 56-68.

Rusu, Cristian. “*The Abstract Cinema and Aesthetic Utopia in the Interwar Period*”, Caietele Echinox, vol. 29 - Utopia, Dystopia, Film (2015); Fundația Culturală Echinox, Cluj-Napoca, p. 53-64

### 6.3. Book chapters

Rusu, Cristian. “*Enhancing Visuals Through Acoustics in Contemporary Art Projects.*”

URI: <https://edit.elte.hu/xmlui/handle/10831/115361>

In History of Audio Drama in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe, edited by Hargiai, Henrik., ELTE University Budapest, 2025.

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/10831/115377>

DOI: [10.30866/eshad24](https://doi.org/10.30866/eshad24)

### 6.4. Other publications (reviews, essays, blogs, etc.)

Rusu, Cristian. “*The Proto-multimedia on the Interwar Theater Scenes*”, (2019), ARTA #34-35 / 2018 București, p. 9 – 16

Rusu, Cristian. “*Avant-garde Theatre Projects in Poland: 1923 – 1939. Andrzej Pronaszko and Szymon Syrkus*”, (2012), Studia Dramatica UBB Cluj - Napoca, 1/2012, p. 127-145”

Rusu, Cristian. “*The Bauhaus Dramatic Systems – A Critical Analysis*”, (2012), Studia Dramatica UBB Cluj - Napoca, 2/2011, p. 45-66

Rusu, Cristian. “*The Text of the Performance: from Literature to Image*”, (2010), Studia Dramatica UBB Cluj – Napoca, 1/2010, p. 145-152

Rusu, Cristian. “*Brief Digressions on Subcultures*”, (2016), IDEA #49, Cluj-Napoca, p. 118-123

Rusu, Cristian. “*Estonia has already unified through a national performance*”, (2015), IDEA #48, Cluj-Napoca, p. 88-93

## 7. ARTISTIC PRACTICE

### Stage and costume designer (a selection from over 50 productions):

**2025** *Schindler*, by D. Pop; director: D. Pop, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2025** *Electra*, (revival), after Sophokles and Euripides, director: M. Măniuțiu, National Theatre Radu Stanca Sibiu

**2023** *Stagehands*; by G. Lungoci, director: D. Pop, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2019** *The Earth's Most Beloved Son*, after M. Preda, director: T. Lucanu, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2019** *Il Nullafacente*, by M. Santeramo, director: R. Bacci, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2018** *Mutter Courage*, by B. Brecht, director: S. Militaru, Csiki Jatekszin, Miercurea Ciuc

**2016** *Call it Art!*, concept by: A. Băcanu and L. Popescu, director: L. Popescu, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2015** *The Emigrants*, by S. Mrozek, director: T. Lucanu, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2014** *The Comet*, by J. del Corte, director: R.A. Nica; Theatre Regina Maria Oradea

**2014** *Pandora's Box*, by K. Thuróczy, director: A. Măjeri, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2013** *Sânziana și Pepelea*, by V. Alecsandri, director: A. Dabija, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2012** *War of the Clowns*, text and director: E. Simon, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2011** *Wuthering Heights*, after E. Brontë, director: Ada Lupu, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2010** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by W. Shakespeare, director: S. Militaru, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2010** *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, by L. Pirandello, director: D. Zinder, National Theater Târgu-Mureș

**2009** *The Rake's Progress*, by I. Stravinsky, director: M. Bogdan, National Opera Cluj-Napoca

**2008** *Psychosis 4:48*, by S. Kane, director: M. Măniuțiu, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2008** *A Clinical Case*, by D. Buzzati, director: C. Goga, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2006** *Oedipus King*, by Sophokles, director: M. Măniuțiu, Hungarian State Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2005** *Electra*, after Sophokles and Euripides, director: M. Măniuțiu; National Theatre Radu Stanca Sibiu

**2005** *Pygmalion*, by G. B. Shaw, director: A. Dabija, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2004** *The Persians*, by Aeschylus, director: M. Măniuțiu, National Theatre Radu Stanca Sibiu

**2004** *Electra*, after Sophokles and Euripides, director: M. Măniuțiu, Theatre Regina Maria Oradea

**2003** *Alceste*, by Euripide, director: M. Măniuțiu, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2003** *The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus*, by C. Marlowe, director: M. Măniuțiu, Hungarian State Theater Cluj-Napoca

**2003** *The Job Experiment*, after Book of Job, director: M. Măniuțiu, National Theatre Radu Stanca Sibiu

**2002** *Exactly in the Same Time*, de G. Naum, director: M. Măniuțiu, National Theater Cluj-Napoca

**Visual artist (selection from over 90 exhibitions, personal and collective):**  
**(solo)**

**2023** *A Walk in the Park*, Romanian Creative Week / Manifest of Now; Piața Unirii, Iași

**2022** *Ghost Geometry*, Kunsthalle Bega Timișoara

**2020** *The Only Thing I Am Sure about in This Life Lies above My Head*, Galeria Plan B, Berlin

**2016** *The Black Cabinet*, Scena 9, București

**2016** *Ghost Geometry #5*, permanent installation in MNAC, București

**2009** *Space Itself* - Galeria Paln B, Berlin

**2009** *Fear Itself* – Galeria Paln B, Cluj

**2007** *Pavillon Tyrol* - Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen Innsbruck

**(group)**

**2024** *Reenactment. A Reconstruction for the Past – part II/ Ricostituire Il Passato*; Șerban Savu and Cristian Rusu; Academia di Romania, ICR Roma

**2024** *The Crossing/ Le passage*; Le Castelet, Toulouse; sound installation for Bogdan Rața's exhibition.

**2023** *after SCULPTURE / SCULPTURE after*, TRIADE Foundation, Attila Kim&Architects, The U Barracks; Timișoara

**2023** *Different Degrees of Freedom*, Kunsthalle Bega, Timișoara

**2021** *Invisible Cities / Imaginary Lands*; Contrasens Association, Timișoara

**2018** *Remembering Landscape*, MNAC, București

**2018** *Memory as Vision*, European Center for Contemporary Art Cluj, Paintbrush Factory, Cluj-Napoca

**2018** *Double Heads Matches*, Uj Budapest Galeria / New Budapest Gallery, Budapesta

**2017** *Life a User's Manual*, Art Encounters Biennale, Timișoara

**2016** *Walk & Talk Festival*, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azore Islands

**2016** *Ein Loch im Meer / A Hole in the Sea*, Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart, Stuttgart

**2016** *I am the Invisible Man*, MNAC, București

**2014** *Through the Collector's Eye – Works of the Generation 2000 from Cluj in Three Romanian Collections*, The Office, Cluj-Napoca

**2014** *A Few Grams of Red, Yellow and Blue*, Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw

**2013** *Open Monument*, Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien, Berlin

**2012** *Európai Utasok / European Travellers – Art from Cluj Today*, Mücsarnok Kunsthalle Budapesta

**2011** *Subtle Construction*, Transboavista / VPF / Art Edificio / Plataforma Revolver, Lisabona

**2010** *Romanian Cultural Resolution*, Club Electro Putere Craiova / Spinnerei Leipzig

**2010** *Überbauen / Overconstructing*, a.u.t. Innsbruck

**2008** *Berlin Show #1*, Galeria Plan B, Berlin

**2005** *Soho in Ottakring Festival*, Vienna

**2003** *Re:Location 2 Cluj-Linz*, UAP Galery Cluj-Napoca / OK Centrum Linz

## **7.2. Artistic Residencies & Workshops**

**2007** Residency at Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen Innsbruck, Austria

*During this residency, I explored the concept of ideology in the public space and the concepts of monumentality and sublime in historical and contemporary aesthetic conditions.*

## **8. GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

**2003** Prize for the best stage design in International Theater Festival Kisvárdá, Hungary for *The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus*

## **9. CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS**

**2024** Rusu, Cristian. “*Enhancing Visuals Through Acoustics in Contemporary Art Projects.*”

Paper presented at the *European Symposium of the History of Audio Drama 2024*; Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities, Budapest.

**2022** Rusu, Cristian. “*The Artist vs. Public Space*” in The International Symposium *Cultural Heritage and Innovation in Contemporary Society*; Universitatea de Vest Timișoara, Faculty of Arts, Timișoara

**2018** *Temporalities of Modernism*, CEMS Conference, nr.2; Babeș – Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

**2017** *Arts Meeting – Cours of Art Journalism*; ArtEncounters Biennale, Timișoara

**2016** *Urban Meetings*, Triade Foundation Timișoara, in Biennale of Architecture Timișoara (BETA 2016)

## **10. TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Art History.** BA Level. The course is a visual introduction in Art History, designed to immerse the student in the visual language of art. Thus, they will develop a certain sensitivity for the world of visuals in order to be educated as contemporary artists.

**Stage design.** BA Level. Along 3 years of study, the course initiates the students into the art of stage design, by different techniques and research themes. These include exploring the performance's text, making models, designing projects and scenographic installations for dedicated places (inner or outside public spaces) and also explore the new concepts of ecoscenography.

**Space in contemporary performance art.** MA Level. Led an advanced course focusing on developing expressive spaces for a designed performance, regardless the given space, through the means of light, colour, materials, thus creating a meaningful and particular atmosphere of the production.

## **11. THESIS AND DISSERTATION SUPERVISION**

**2025** BA thesis. Irina Caraula, “*Theatrical Ways of the Manifestation of the Performative Space*”. Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania.

## **12. SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

### 13. OUTREACH & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

#### 13.1. Public lectures, interviews, media appearances

**2024** Radio Moldova, interview in *Album de familie*, 8th of September

<https://radiomoldova.md/f/ro/7246#content>

**2023** TVR Cluj ; *Linii de dialog* (Lines of Dialog); *Erezii îmblânzite* (*Tamed Heresies*), with Oleg Garaz

**2024** TVR Cluj ; *Linii de dialog* (Lines of Dialog); *Îmblânzirea muzicii* (*The Taming of Music*), with Oleg Garaz

**2024** TVR Cluj ; *Linii de dialog* (Lines of Dialog); *Îmblânzirea imaginii* (*Taming of the Image*), with Oleg Garaz

**2024** TVR Cluj ; *Linii de dialog* (Lines of Dialog); *Îmblânzirea zgomotului* (*Taming of the Noise*), with Oleg Garaz

**2022** TeleUniversitatea Timișoara, „Destabilizarea spațiului public”, (*Destabilizing the Public Space*), interview; <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=soElPgqwCic>

**2017** ARTETV; *Metropolis Cluj-Napoca*; 28th of May, 2017,

<http://sites.arte.tv/metropolis/fr/cluj-napoca-metropolis>

**2016** art7 fm; radio interview, <http://www.art7.fm/conversatii-cu-cristian-rusu/>

**2007** Public conference “*The Alpine Paradise and its Regime of Representational Clichés*”, Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen Innsbruck

**2007** Public conference “*Public Space and teh Political Power- A Case Study: Eduard Wallnöffer Platz*”, Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen Innsbruck

**2007** “*Public Space and teh Political Power- A Case Study: Eduard Wallnöffer Platz*”, Seminary at University Innsbruck, Faculty of Architecture

**2007** Public conference “*The Cultural Clishé*”, University Innsbruck, Faculty of Architecture