

Monumental Mural Art And Ceramics Today

Elena Ramona Biciușcă*

Adrian Stoleriu (coord.), *30 de ani de artă murală la Iași: repere esențiale/ 30 Years of Mural Art in Iași: Essential Markings*, PIM, Iași, 2022, 304 pages.



The publication “30 Years of Mural Art in Iași: Essential Markings”, coordinated by Mr. Adrian Stoleriu, is the first Romanian synthesis study, which presents in detail the entire didactic, technological and aesthetic experience within the Mural Art specialization.

I confess that, during my student days, I would have liked to have had such an album. Instead, we found fragmentary approaches where art was presented in the public space. I have never found such a comprehensive study in the Romanian language, such a complex database that presents mural art, ceramics and the beautiful results of the teachers and students of the Faculty of Visual Arts and Design for the last 30 years. It is good that such a work was able to see the light of print and I recommend its re-editing in other international languages, as well.

* Lecturer, PhD, Faculty of Fine Arts and Design, “George Enescu” National University of Arts from Iași, ramonabic@yahoo.com

“30 Years of Mural Art in Iași: Essential Markings” represents the fruit of a valuable documentation, a real visual archive. Not only has someone done some real detective work, documenting and selecting most of the undergraduate and dissertation papers into a valuable database, but has investigated and shared a huge amount of information. In its pages you can find the activities of the professors who are part of the first generation of professors of this institution, from the 90s: Jenő Bartos, Ion Neagoe, Dimitrie Gavrilean, who outlined an educational program offering. Later, another generation of energetic teachers joined: Maria Urmă, Mihai Pamfil, Dan Acostioaei, Bogdan Maximovici and Ramona Biciușcă. Along with them, Adrian Stoleriu, currently dean of the Faculty of Visual Arts and Design, Daniel Sofron, Andrei Timofte, Irina Grosu and Nicu Oniciuc completed the teaching staff.

Since 2007, when professor Mihály Jenő Bartos, as head of the department, rebuilds the entire collective of the Mural Art specialization, gradually inviting artists such as Mihai Pamfil, Ramona Biciușcă, Ionela Mihuleac and Irina Grosu to become teachers, there opens an unprecedented experimental direction in the sense of monumental research in the field of Iași monumental ceramics.

Since the establishment of the Ceramics sub-specialization within the Mural Art section of the Faculty of Visual Arts and Design in Iași until now, the expressive potential of this field has been redefined through the reinvestigation of the means of expression, the novelty of the form, the spontaneous experimental nature of color and the randomness of the processes of combustion.

Currently, the Ceramics field of study is becoming remarkable as a domestic artistic activity, through research, contracts, international exchanges with contemporary art galleries and companies active in the field. In this sense, we mention the collaboration with the Spanish brand *Bussoga*, which defines the freedom to approach new processes and techniques in the field of ceramics, such as screen printing. The fourteen years of activity in the field of ceramics form new generations of ceramic artists, with a personal, recognizable artistic imprint. The creations of the graduates of the Ceramics department of study cover an unlimited subject and a series of interdisciplinary concerns. In this sense, we recall the *sculptural-monumental* approaches signed by the graduate Daniel Adăscăliței, the *real-superreal* object of Georgiana Grădinariu, Andreea Maximovici, Daniel Doboș and Cătălin Aprofirei, the *organic abstraction* of Luminita Avădana Trofin, Alexandra

Sofronia and Cătălina Aprofirei, the *organomorphic* sculpture signed by Andrei Alupoai, the *decorative expression* of Cristina Toma's *oversized* ritual jewel.

In this journey of research in the field, one of the most beautiful experiences was the one related to the establishment of the *Firekultur* group (Daniel Pop and Ramona Biciușcă) which approaches an interdisciplinary theme with monumental dimensions and proposes works intended for domestic and international public space, offering outstanding solutions, in line with contemporary ambient art trends.

In the current context, wall ceramics represents a contemporary practice of actuality, which is usefully included in the contemporary urban area. In this sense, ceramic artists, in collaboration with architects and interior designers, through ambitious projects, reconstruct the internal and external environment.

The dynamics and diversified approach of the fields of art but also the current demands of the market have opened new directions of study: ambient mural art, ceramics, sacred art. Workshop practice and student guidance often responded to their needs, and teachers sought to lead them in the direction of each person's passion. Practically, through the problems that the student encounters, the teacher promptly intervenes through guidance and direction. Thus, the student defines himself, and the teacher, through professional collaboration, discovers new educational offers and development stages, being constantly attentive to the changes that define the current period and professional needs of the student. Practically, this exchange of experience passes as mutual "modelling". In this sense, within the Ceramics Department, the permanent requirement of students to adapt the field of ceramics to the study of contemporary porcelain jewellery opens a new chapter of possible disciplines.

In fact, this publication is a celebration of the graduates of the Mural Art and Ceramics Specialization, of the professional efforts of the mentors, the teachers who contributed to the training of future artists, the generations of graduates, today in their turn teachers, entrepreneurs, designers, ceramists.

However, the most important aspect of this volume is its documentary value, quantifiable in valuable information and meaningful images, of the work of entire generations of graduates and professors, a starting point towards the freedoms of expression of today's students.