

## ***The City In The Distance***

Iulian Bisericaru

Opening January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 starting with 17.00h

Anca Poterașu Gallery

Spinnerei Leipzig ARAC Space

Anca Poterasu Gallery presents Iulian Bisericaru's first solo show in Leipzig following the 2016 Gallery weekend group show in Werkshau Spinnerei. The artist explores in his artworks the tensions arising between architectural projects and nature, a theme he has been ardently following in his PhD in painting at Cluj University of Arts and Design in Romania.

The artist's latest series focus on the urban environment. The city, with its metallic greys and heights and straight lines loosens on Iulian Bisericaru's paintings to the point of disappearance. The oil on canvas paintings make use of out-of-nowhere perspectives to render familiar yet alien landscapes where the natural environment confronts the artificial, the anthropic, the urban. The artist's latest series shift between implicit imageries of architectural projects and their surrounding nature, sometimes leaving vegetation to fully encompass the landscape.

Colourful and layered, the artworks attract our gaze, drawing us in the overwhelming greens, blues and unlikely yellows and almost violent magentas. The scene unravels at each detail we might take apart from the whole, a space of conflict between nature and architecture rendered in various techniques: faux-collage, spray-paint, late impressionist brushes, abstract visual passages...

Jean Luc Nancy writes "The city is without face, but not without traits [...]". We are made witness of these traits in Iulian Bisericaru's collections of everything from everywhere, a *neverwas* space. He is taking inspiration from utopian architectural projects of the 60s and 70s in the United States as well as Eastern European sights, creating uncanny visual alliterations. We see the significant, solitary buildings of architectural milestone side-by-side with the small, yet community-familiar gas stations and housing projects.

There is a strong presence of the Leipzig School of Painting influences in Iulian Bisericaru's works, but also a recurrent return to the Rousseau inspired vegetations, or the romantic influences of Caspar David Friederich and Carl Blechen. As a result of his artistic residency research in Aschersleben, the artist started integrating passages inspired by the American abstract expressionists into his works. He has been gradually developing his own abstract language, adding a layer of meaning between the different perceptions he adds into his heterotopia-like compositions.

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**Iulian Bisericaru(1987)** lives and works in Sibiu and Cluj-Napoca, Romania. His artworks offer a somehow neglected or hidden perspective on aspects of contemporary society, that the human eye willingly avoids. Ironic and playful at the same time, the artist demands the beholder to take a critical position towards environmental issues, be it by depicting the remains of industrial society or by approaching the controversial topic of city planning.

Early 2019, Iulian Bisericaru will be attending the prestigious artist residency programme at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (February – May). In the summer of 2017 he attended the International Summer Residency Aschersleben and in 2009 the artist received a scholarship from the Art Academy in Macerata, Italy. He was nominated for Start Point Prize and he was presented with the Expomaratón Award in 2012. In 2017 his work *Diebenkorn background* (2016) was featured in the Italian Journal *La Lettura - Corriere della Sera* (July, 2017).

**Solo shows:** 2018 – *The Place for Standing Still*, Ierimonti Gallery, New York; 2017 - *The Distance between Two Solitary Objects*, Anca Poterașu Gallery; 2016 – *Wide Open Spaces*, Calina Gallery, Timisoara; 2015 – *Influences*, Anca Poterasu Gallery, Bucharest; *Usonia Into the Wild*, Atelier Patru, Cluj-Napoca; 2014 – *The Backyard*, Bucharest Biennale 6 paralel event and special event for the White Night of the Galleries, Anca Poterasu Gallery, Bucharest, Romania; 2014 – *Meet the Artists*, The Ark, Bucharest; 2012 – *Asphyxia*, Casa Matei, Cluj-Napoca.

**Selected Group Shows:** 2018-2019 – Group exhibition, Anca Poterașu Gallery; 2017 – Group residency exhibition, International Summer Residency Aschersleben; 2017 - *The Map Is Not The Territory*, Romanian Cultural Institute, Lisbon; 2016 – *Uncanny Landscapes*, Artissima Torino, Italy; 2016 - Spinnerei Galleries Leipzig, with Anca Poterasu Gallery; 2016 – *Extension.RO* – Romanian Painters, Triumph Gallery, Moscow; *Expo Maraton RECALL*, Presentation of winning artists from 2011 – 2015, University of Art and Design of Cluj-Napoca in collaboration with the Museum of Art of Cluj-Napoca; 2015 – *System Error* – The National Museum of Art, Cluj-Napoca; 2015 – *Double Agency*, Cazarma Space, part of Art Encounters Biennale in Timisoara.