

Press release Essl Museum, November 2011

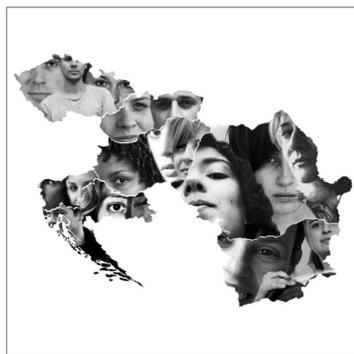
## >ESSL ART AWARD CEE 2011<

Young Art from Bulgaria // Croatia // Czech Republic // Hungary // Romania // Slovakia // Slovenia

powered by bauMax and Vienna Insurance Group

07.12.2011 - 12.02.2012

**Press Conference:** 06.12.2011, 10.30 a.m. (all artists will be present)  
**Exhibition Opening:** 06.12.2011, 7.30 p.m.  
**Exhibition management:** Silvia Köpf, Johanna Langfelder  
**Venue:** Exhibition Management, Essl Museum



From 7 December 2011 the Essl Museum is offering a pioneering overview of the works of young artists from central and eastern Europe. In an exhibition area of 1,000 sq. m, the Essl Museum is showing 18 positions from Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary, which were identified in the context of the Essl Art Award CEE. A comprehensive catalogue on the exhibition is being published. With the Essl Art Award CEE, which is being awarded this year for the fourth time, the Essls as a collector couple have established

a sustainable project for the promotion of young art students from central and eastern Europe.

### YOUNG ART AND BIG QUESTIONS

The exhibition offers a direct insight into current events at the art academies of seven different cultural landscapes in Europe. In the Essl Museum, however, the state boundaries are abolished and all 18 positions are presented together. What social, societal, political and economic themes are young students dealing with? Do the cultural identities of one's own country, ecological aspects or gender discourses play a role? What constitutes the artistic quality and originality of a work?

### CURRENT TRENDS: MORE VIDEO AND NEW MEDIA – LESS BUT STRONGER PAINTING

Video and new media are being used ever more often, classical painting and drawing more seldom. The fact that painting nevertheless plays an important role is shown for example by Teodora Axente (RO). She chooses unusual subjects: children or young people in dreamlike or nightmare-like scenes that are located between **play and brutality**. In a very different approach Suzana Brborović (SLO) also expresses her thoughts on brutality and cruelty. Her mixture of abstraction, figurative painting and drawing is an expression of the

violence of wars and the simultaneous **sensory overload through the modern media**, whose war reporting almost gives rise to indifference on the part of the viewers.

## CURRENT THEMES: WAR, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

The themes of **war and information** are also more strongly evident with the Croatian winners. Similar to Brborović, in the space installation *Dance to . . .* Martin Mrzljak also takes up the problem of news reporting in the present-day media. Live headlines are transmitted into a black box in which there are two disco balls scattering specks of light into the room. Mrzljak thereby refers to the fragmentary, contextless information and at the same time to its sensationalist character and entertainment value. The starting point in Sabina Mikelić's installation *376 House Number* is her grandmother's brother, who died in the Second World War. Touchingly, Mikelić sings a traditional Croatian love song with her family in order to cope with the death of a family member. Identity, **family and origins** are the themes that also play a role in the photo series *Alter Ego* by Emőke Bada (HU). Based on her own African and Hungarian roots, she goes into the question of the social and family construction of identity. Magdaléna Kuchtová (SK) should be mentioned as one of the few positions concerned with **public space** and how it is dealt with. A neglected part of the centre of Bratislava littered with billboards forms the basis of her project *Local Context*. In conceptual videos and animations Josef Bareš (CZ) investigates the differing structures of space and architecture, the relationship between the observer and the space and the perception of space. Milan Vagač (SK), too, analyses space itself in its most diverse variations – in the exhibition for example as an intimate peep-show, which can be seen through the hole of a false door. Elena Kaludova (BG) also plays with **illusion** in her work *Bones* consisting of video and painting. Screens with painted bones lie on the street and are greedily licked by dogs. Ana Duția (RO) works **interactively**. In her photo project *16 January 2009 – 00:00 GMT* she uses the internet to link 49 people scattered all over the world by having all of them take photos at the same time. Anett Hamori (HU) uses **modern media** as the basis for her outsized paper works. Pictures of Facebook friends serve as her starting point to bring people in different places together in new situations. Not virtually but in reality, Albena Stefanova Baeva (BG) also leads people to particular locations. In *Universal meeting* she puts a living-room chair in a public place in Sofia with an old-fashioned telephone next to it. As soon as a passer-by sits down in it, the telephone rings, and he can listen to a story. Roman Štětina (CZ) goes one step further in the video *Nocturne*, in which in an amusing way he gets unsuspecting listeners on the telephone on a live radio programme to react to well-known Czech films and radio plays. Maja Rožman (SLO) represents what is in a certain way also an interactive but nevertheless completely independent approach. In *The Invisible Happening* she concentrates completely on the **perception** of the noise of the pencil in the process of doing a drawing, without, however, actually showing the drawing. This is left to the observer's imagination.



## COLLECTOR'S INVITATIONS BY AGNES ESSL

New works by the 14 prize-winners will be shown as well as works from the "Nominees' Exhibitions". In addition the exhibition will be supplemented by the "Collector's Invitations", works that the collector Agnes Essl has selected for this show. Patrícia Jagicza (HU) and Pavle Pavlovic (HR) here represent **figurative painting** in very different ways. In a **poetic video work**, Larisa Sitar (RO) has her grandmother tell the touching story the *Tale of the Stork*. And with her playful, partly useable object installation, Martina Holá (CZ) attempts to track down the limits of **two- or three-dimensional space**.

## THE ESSL ART AWARD CEE – HOW IT WORKS

The Essl Art Award CEE was initiated by the collector couple Agnes and Karlheinz Essl in 2005 in order to support art students in the countries where bauMax operates. Since then, the prize has been awarded every two years. The jury, chaired by the internationally recognised expert for art from the CEE countries René Block, is composed of one member from each participating country and two votes from the Essl Museum. The prizes are endowed with €3,500, and additionally one winner per country receives a special invitation from the Vienna Insurance Group.

As well as in the exhibition in the Essl Museum, from late spring 2012 the prize-winners of the Vienna Insurance Group special invitations will be presented in their own exhibition at the group headquarters in Vienna, for which they receive a production fee of €1000.

---

## PRIZE WINNERS OF THE ESSL ART AWARD CEE 2011

Teodora Axente (RO), Emőke Bada (HU), Albena Stefanova Baeva (BG), Josef Bareš (CZ), Suzana Brborović (SLO), Ana Dužija (RO), Anett Hamori (HU), Elena Kaludova (BG), Magdaléna Kuchtová (SK), Sabina Mikelić (HR), Martin Mrzljak (HR), Maja Rožman (SLO), Roman Štětina (CZ), Milan Vagač (SK)

### Collector's Invitations

Martina Holá (CZ), Patrícia Jagicza (HU), Pavle Pavlović (HR), Larisa Sitar (RO)

### Jury

Vanja Babić (HR), René Block (D), Gábor Ébli (HU), Silvia Köpf (Essl Museum), Romelo Pervolovici (RO), Zora Rusinová (SK), Igor Španjol (SLO), Jiri Svestka (CZ), Maria Vassileva (BG), Eva Wirlitsch-Essl (Essl Museum)

---



## MAIN SPONSORS

### **bauMax**

As a family company in the construction and do-it-yourself sector, bauMax is active as a market leader in nine countries in central and south-eastern Europe – from the Swiss to the Syrian borders. With more than 150 sites, bauMax pursues the vision of “making living affordable”, and in the process helping people to design their homes according to their own ideas.

“We see art as an opportunity to reflect on themes that touch us as human beings, from social interconnections to the environment to the economy. At the same time, art encourages the creativity of our workers, which is good for us in commercial competition,” says KR Martin Essl (bauMax CEO).

### **VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP**

The Vienna Insurance Group is one of the leading international insurance companies in central and eastern Europe and is active in 24 countries in the region. The group is a reliable sponsor of cultural and artistic projects and a long-time partner of the Essl Museum.

“Support for art and cultural projects is deeply rooted in our company philosophy and has a long tradition in our group. With our commitment in this area we would like to contribute to the realisation of artistic projects in Austria and central and eastern Europe, and thereby to the preservation of the cultural heritage. At the same time we are helping to create space for artistic development and so are promoting young artists in the region,” says Dr. Günter Geyer, chairman of the board of directors of the main shareholders of the Vienna Insurance Group.



## SPECIALS

### Catalogue

A catalogue of 192 pages with a preface by Prof. Agnes Essl, Dr. Günter Geyer and texts by members of the jury will be published for the exhibition.

### Educational program

The art education team offers guided tours and workshops during the exhibition, every Sunday the >SPECIAL TOUR ESSL ART AWARD 2011< at 11 a.m. Please access the current calendar of events at [www.essl.museum](http://www.essl.museum) / Kunstvermittlung.

### Free bus shuttle

Visitors can reach the Essl Museum conveniently by free bus shuttle from Vienna city centre, Albertinaplatz 1 (Tues – Sun, 10 a.m., 12 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and return)

### Press photos

Press photos are available upon request at the Press Office or via download from [www.essl.museum](http://www.essl.museum) / press

The images embedded refer to the following artists (please find the numbers in the corner of every image):

1 Teodora Axente (RO) 2 Emőke Bada (HU) 3 Albena Stefanova Baeva (BG) 4 Josef Bareš (CZ)  
5 Suzana Brborović (SLO), Foto: Lucijan Prelog 6 Ana Duția (RO) 7 Anett Hamori (HU) 8 Elena Kaludova (BG)  
9 Magdaléna Kuchtová (SK), 10 Sabina Mikelić (HR) 11 Martin Mrzljak (HR) 12 Maja Rožman (SLO)  
13 Roman Štětina (CZ) 14 Milan Vagač (SK) 15 Martina Holá (CZ) 16 Patrícia Jagicza (HU) 17 Pavle Pavlovic (HR)  
18 Larisa Sitar (RO)

### Press and Public Relations Office:

Erwin Uhrmann (head), [uhrmann@essl.museum](mailto:uhrmann@essl.museum), +43 (0) 2243/370 5060

Regina Holler-Strobl, [holler-strobl@essl.museum](mailto:holler-strobl@essl.museum), +43 (0) 2243/370 5062

### ESSL MUSEUM – CONTEMPORARY ART

An der Donau-Au 1, A-3400 Vienna / Klosterneuburg

Opening Hours: Tue - Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wed 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. - Free Admission 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

[www.essl.museum](http://www.essl.museum)

### PARTNERS OF THE ESSL MUSEUM

A1 Telekom Austria / Arbor - Remira / Bank Austria Creditanstalt / bauMax AG / Café + Co International Holding / Donau Versicherungs-AG - Vienna Insurance Group / Energie Allianz Austria / Erste Bank Austria / Österreichische Post AG / Siemens AG Österreich / ZuklinBus Wien-Umgebung / Observer GmbH.