



## Contemporary Romanian Literature - A Bird's Eye View By Doris Mironescu

Thanks to the combined efforts of the publishers<sup>1</sup>, literature in Romania today is much more than just a row of books on a shelf or a salon pastime. Contemporary literature is alive, is read with interest, stirs public debate, and creates currents of feeling and opinion. What is certain is that in Romania it is no longer possible to write or read literature in the same way as twenty years ago. Not only the more intense rhythm of life but also a vital connection to the realities of the day obliges contemporary writers to problematise the world around them, from the political baggage of their personal memory to the miracles of everyday life, from sub-humanity to postmodernism. More recently, it has also been literature that has succeeded in imprinting an image of Romania's identity abroad. The national and international prizes won by Romanian authors, the numerous book fairs at which Romanian publishing houses have taken part and also numerous publications abroad, whether already in print or in press, have confirmed not only individual authors but also an entire literary wave.

<sup>1</sup> The original text refers to two main Romanian publishing houses: Polirom and Cartea Romaneasca.  
See <http://www.romanianwriters.ro/s.php?id=1>

### RCI in the Israeli press

הוליווד הצליחה להוציא סרט ראוי אחד, לצרפתים עדיין נותרה מספיק תחושת פוליטית-חברתית, הפסטיבלים הציגו כמה יצירות מרתקות, אבל הסרטים הטובים באמת של 2010 הגיעו ממדינה דיכאונית ומרוסקת: רומ-ניה [...] שניים מהם - "יום שלישי, אחרי החגים" של ראדו מונטיאן ו"שם תואר: משטרה" שכתב וביים קורנליו פורומביו - חוו הקרנה מסחרית רגילה, ואילו השלישי, "שחר" של כריסטי פויו, נחשף בכמה הקרנות במהלך פסטיבל חיפה. הקולנוע הרומני החדש, והדברים כבר נכתבו פעמים רבות בעבר, הוא סוג של תקווה בעבור יוצרים האוחזים עדיין באותה אמונה ישנה המשתייכת לרפרטואר המושגים של המודרניזם, והגורסת שניתן לשנות חברה באמצעות מעשה אמנות.

*Ma'ariv, 27.12.2010; Meir Schnitzer - Fax Romania: Review of the year in cinema*

Romania's rich musical traditions were on display Wednesday night at the Givatayim Theatre as some of the Eastern European nation's finest young talent performed before hundreds of guests in attendance in celebration of Romanian National Day (...) It was quite a privilege for those who attended The Romanian Cultural Institute's - in conjunction with The Embassy of Romania - sponsored orchestral performance honoring the country's heralded musical traditions of both past and present while also getting a glimpse at the the next generation of Romanian prodigies whom have gracefully begun to carry-on those traditions.

*www.diplomacy.co.il, 25.11.2010; Steve Rubin - Romanian musical talent graces Tel Aviv: National Day*

אחרי שהמלה "ביאנלה" הוצמדה בשנים האחרונות כמעט לכל אירוע חוצות שכלל גם אמנות, הביאנלה הים-תיכונית בחיפה מעוררת תקווה: ייתכן שנוצר פתח של ממש לביאנלה בישראל שתהיה לה נוכחות בשדה הבינלאומי ואולי תוכל לשמש זירה לדיון ודיאלוג מעניין. [...] מספר רב יחסית של אמנים ממזרח אירופה לוקחים את הדיון ב"בית" להתמוססות ולהתרסקות התרבותית של האזורים ההם, שעדיין ניכרת, כ-20 שנה אחרי השינויים הפוליטיים שהיו באזור. האמן הרומני צ'פריאן מורישאן מציג עבודת וידיאו של קבוצת חיילים מקלפים תפוחי אדמה, פעולה שמזוהה עם עבודות מטבח ורס"ר ועם הקיום הבסיסי ביותר (הקונטציה ל"אוכלי תפוחי האדמה" של ואן גוך בלתי נמנעת). בעבודה נראים קבוצת גברים שאין להם בית במובן המסורתי כשהם יושבים ומקלפים, פעולה ביתית שדומה שהם לבצח ימשיכו בה, אך שהיא נדמית חסרת תוחלת.

תחליפי בית זוכים לבחינה מעניינת בעבודה של מולדובאן סבסטיאן, גם הוא אמן רומני. אביו של סבסטיאן עבד בארץ כפועל באמצע שנות ה-90. היצירה במכולה משחזרת את מקום מגוריו של האב - על כל עליבותו מכמירת הלב, וגם את האופן שבו העביר למשפחתו מחווייתו בארץ, נקודת מבט שאינה מוכרת למי שחי כאן.

*Ha'aretz, Galeria, 19.03.2010; Smadar Sheffi - The Haifa Biennale: Dance of the containers*



Romanian Ministry of Culture and National Patrimony

# ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR, JERUSALEM 2011

With its central headquarters in Bucharest, the **Romanian Cultural Institute** evolved continuously over the past years and today it is represented in 18 major cities abroad: **Berlin, Brussels, Budapest, Szeged, Chisinau, Istanbul, Lisbon, London, Madrid, New York, Paris, Prague, Rome, Stockholm, Tel Aviv, Warsaw, Venice and Vienna.** On June 2010, Mr. **Horia-Roman Patapievici**, president of *The Romanian Cultural Institute* in Bucharest, became the president of **EUNIC** (European Union National Institutes for Culture) for the period 2010/2011.

With an experience of over ten years in promoting Romanian culture, the Institute has extended its activities, with special emphasis on stimulating local culture, young talents, promoting Romanian culture and civilization throughout the world, and integrating Romanian assets into the world cultural heritage.

For the **Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv**, established 6 years ago, 2010 represented a period of institutional consolidation and establishing strategic partnerships with some of the most renowned cultural institutions and professionals in Israel. Traditionally successful cultural fields such as cinematography, fine arts, theatre have been supported in 2010 too, while we were also developing new opportunities of promoting Romanian culture in Israel. We have also intensified our academic activity, organizing complex events – international conferences, workshops and master classes, dedicated especially to the young Israeli public. In 2011, we intend to focus on literature, visual & performative arts, cinematography and academic projects.

In 2011, the **Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv** is participating with its own book stand at the Jerusalem Book Fair, apart from the national stand, organized under the auspices of the *Romanian Ministry of Culture*. Our stand will be presenting around 100 titles from the RCI Publishing House and the National Book Centre.

The writers invited by the Romanian Cultural Institute are Filip Florian ("A Dark Chapter – An Enlightened Literature", literary café on February 22) and Andrei Oișteanu ("The Imaginary Jew", literary café on February 23).

[http://www.icr.ro/jerusalem\\_bookfair\\_2011](http://www.icr.ro/jerusalem_bookfair_2011)

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# Fair Program\_ROMANIA

**The Romanian Cultural Institute Publishing House** issues reference works in the fields of literature, art, and science, as well as literary works, alone or in partnership with specialized institutions in Romania or abroad. Among the titles the RCI Publishing House brings to this year's edition of the Jerusalem Book Fair are some of its most successful books and art albums, such as: Narcis Dorin Ion - *Residences and Families of the Nobility in Romania*, Tudor Banuş - *Parc(o)urs*, Erwin Kessler (editor) - *The Self-punishing One*. Ştefan Bertalan, Florin Mitroi, Ion Grigorescu. *Arts and Romania during the 1980s and 1990s*.

**The National Book Centre (CENNAC)** operates since 2007 as part of the *Romanian Cultural Institute*. It supports the translation and promotion of Romanian literature abroad, through its programmes: **TPS (Translation and Publication Support Programme)**, **20 authors, Publishing Romania** and the **scholarship programme for new and professional translators of Romanian literature**. The National Book Centre coordinates the participation in international book fairs, organizes meetings with publishers from various linguistic areas, meetings with authors and translators and ensures the presence of the Romanian writers at international cultural events. Among the titles CENNAC brings to this year edition of the Jerusalem Book Fair are: Filip Florian, *Little fingers* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, USA), Norman Manea, *Les clowns. Le dictateur et l'artiste* (Editions du Seuil, France), *Mircea Ivănescu, Lines poems poetry* (University of Plymouth Press, UK), Constanţa Vintilă-Ghiţulescu, *Liebesglut. Liebe und Sexualität in der rumänischen Gesellschaft 1750-1830* (Frank&Timme, Germany). More information available at: <http://www.cennac.ro/en/>

**The Romanian Ministry of Culture and National Patrimony**, which for the last 30 years has been organizing the national stand at the Jerusalem book fair, will therein exhibit books from various Romanian publishing houses, with more than 300 titles. More information available at: [www.cultura.ro/](http://www.cultura.ro/)

In the last years, Romania has been participating to major International Book Fairs all over the world, such as Frankfurt, Leipzig, Prague, Budapest, Bologna, Istanbul, presenting important works and leading Romanian authors. Romania was the guest of honour of some important international book fairs, latest in Leipzig, Warsaw and Budapest.

The Ministry of Culture provides the financial support for the International Bucharest Book Fair (Bookfest), organized by the Romanian Publishers' Association under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. Usually, the fair takes place in June. Spain was the guest of honour at the 2010 edition and it will be followed by Hungary in 2011.

Romanian guests invited by the Ministry of Culture are: Solomon Marcus (literary café on February 21) and Ioan Groşan (public reading on February 23). The Ministry invited also writers from Israel - members of the Israeli Writers in Romanian Language Association - to participate in the program with readings from their most recent literary works: Madeleine Davidsohn and Riri Manor.

## Monday, 21.02.2011

11:00 – 12:00

Open conversation: Does Today Literature Have Enough Imagination? A challenge by Eugene Ionesco. Meeting with Prof. Solomon Marcus (Romania) English. Literary Café

\* 15:00 – 15:30

Contemporary Romanian Theatre: "Stop the Tempo!" by Gianina Cărbunariu. Hebrew translation: Dalia Shilon-Stiglik. A dramatic reading. Introduction: Gabriela Ştefan (Romania). Hebrew. Teddy Hall D

15:30 – 16:30

Reading from the volume *Reverse Counting*, Vremea P.H., Bucharest, 2010. Madelaine Davidsohn (Romania/Israel) Moderator: Ioan Ştiubea-journalist (Israel), Ana Andreescu (Romania). Romanian, Hebrew. Romanian stand

16:30 – 17:30

Presentation of the volume "Hebrew Fairy Tales Anthology", edited by CNI Coresi, Bucharest 2010 Moderator: Laura Maria Albani (Romania). Romanian, English Romanian stand

## Tuesday, 22.02.2011

\* 11:00 – 12:00

"A Dark Chapter – An Enlightened Literature". The writers Filip Florian (Romania), Tomas Zmeskal (Czech Republic) and Petra Hulova (Czech Republic). Moderator: Noa Manheim (Israel). English. Literary Café

## Wednesday, 23.02.2011

\* 16:00 – 17:00

"The Imaginary Jew". Prof. Moshe Idel (Israel) meets Prof. Andrei Oişteanu (Romania) to discuss on Oişteanu's book "Inventing the Jew: Antisemitic Stereotypes in Central-East European Cultures" (University of Nebraska Press). English. Literary Café

18:00 – 18:45

Reading from the volume "Motley", Paralela 45, Pitesti, Romania, 2010 Riri Manor-writer, author of the book (Romania/Israel). Moderator: Zoltan Terner (Israel), Ana Andreescu (Romania). Romanian, English and Hebrew. Romanian stand

18:45 – 19:30

Reading from the volume "A Man from the East", Tractus Arte p.h., Bucharest, 2010. Ioan Grosan-writer, author of the book (Romania) Moderator: Zoltan Terner (Israel), Ana Andreescu (Romania). Romanian, English and Hebrew. Romanian stand

## Thursday, 24.02.2011

\* 13:00 – 14:30

Debate on the book "Narcotics in Romanian Culture. History, Religion and Literature". Andrei Oişteanu-author of the book (Romania). Moderator: Gina Pana (Romania). Romanian. Romanian stand

\* 19:00 – 19:45

Contemporary Romanian Theatre: "Aliens with Extraordinary Skills" by Saviana Stănescu. Hebrew translation: Anita Peri Sela. A dramatic reading. Introduction: Gabriela Ştefan (Romania). Hebrew. Teddy Hall D

\* Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv