

**STANDARD (OSLO)
PRESS RELEASE**

**SIMONA RUNCAN
"SILENT COHABITATIONS"
18.11.2021-18.12.2021 / PREVIEW: THURSDAY 18.11.2021 / 18.00-21.00**

*"We turn not older with years, but newer every day."
- Emily Dickinson, "Letter to Louise Norcross", 1872*

*"No anecdote, no event, nothing sensational, not even the smallest human presence, just the fascination of the trace left by it."
- Simona Runcan*

Simona Runcan's paintings still seem to come into being, even though they were started more than 30 years ago. They are still taking shape: the cones, the cylinders, and the other figures that keep on reappearing in her paintings, all seem to be changing as one is looking at them. Ever so slightly leaning or ever so slowly falling apart. Runcan would make these figures using various pieces of fabric – twisting them, turning them, and tying them up. Or by simply letting the fabric wrap around an object that she had made - hiding it and letting the outlines of it get blurred. She would arrange these figures on a horizontal line and photograph them prior to painting them. The painting ending up offering a matter-of-fact observation of what are not facts, but something that is concealed rather than revealed. The painting becoming as much about what can not be seen or the tension of the fabric that could come undone. The painting still holding onto the energy of instability that these figures initially were in possession of. They are neither firmly fixed to the ground nor entirely finding its place within the pictorial space. Their folds, their fine lines, and their shifting hues that provide them with plasticity, are set against a solid background that so willingly is collapsing any notion of depth or nuance. Then, as she was approaching the year of 1989 and became a witness to the Romanian revolution, these shapes would be returning but also shifting. Through the fabric one senses not so much the outline of a body, as one senses the movements of a body in pain. The way that the fabric now is twisted, turned and tied up, making for a different sort of distortion. Wreaths that are commemorating the dead are resting on the ground, while around them everything is coming to life.

Simona Runcan (1942-2007), lived and worked in Bucharest, Romania, and Paris, France. She received her education from the Nicolae Grigorescu Fine Arts Institute in Bucharest, where she graduated from the Graphics Department in 1966. She returned to the same school in 1989, then renamed as National University of Arts, as a teacher at the Fashion Design and Art Pedagogy Departments. Throughout her practice as an artist, she was taking part in exhibitions in Romania and abroad, including Simeza Gallery, Bucharest, Romania; Charlottenborg Kunsthall, Copenhagen, Denmark; Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands; as well as two exhibitions in Norway, at Galleri Norske Grafikere (1977) and the Norwegian International Print Biennale in Fredrikstad in Norway (1980). In 2016 the "Palatele Brâncovenesti" Cultural Centre in Mogoșoaia, Romania, hosted the very first retrospective exhibition dedicated to Simona Runcan's works and published a monograph on the occasion. Since 2016, Ivan Gallery has been representing the estate, putting on two solo exhibitions as well as a number of fair presentations. This exhibition is made possible by the support of Ivan Gallery and Ioana Măgureanu.

For further information please visit our webpage: www.standardoslo.no or contact Eivind Furnesvik at eivind@standardoslo.no or +47 917 07 429 / +47 22 60 13 10. STANDARD (OSLO) is open Tuesday-Friday: 12.00-17.00/ Saturday: 12.00-16.00. Sunday and Monday: Closed.

*Next exhibition: Samridhi Kukreja
04.02.-05.03.2022*

**STANDARD (OSLO) / Waldemar Thranes gate 86C / +47 22 60 13 10 / info@standardoslo.no
/ N-0175 Oslo / +47 22 60 13 11 /www.standardoslo.no**