

**Ion Grigorescu: „L’Homme – Centre de l’Univers”**

Opening: 8 April 2025, 6 pm

9 April 2025 – 31 May 2025

Gregor Podnar is pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Ion Grigorescu *L’Homme – Centre de l’Univers*, which features a dialogue between early pieces and new works by the artist. With a selection of photographs, collages, drawings, sculptures and paintings, the exhibition highlights the artist’s longstanding interest in depicting the body, quotidian life, and individual’s intimate endeavours as a foundation of his varied practice. Thereby pointing to the remarkable continuity of Grigorescu’s artistic preoccupations and his longstanding ethical engagement. In this exhibition context, the film [L’Homme - Centre de l’Univers](#) by Grigorescu is also being shown, which gives the exhibition its title: Here, the film goes beyond traditional storytelling and serves as an investigative tool that explores his bodily movements and reflects the artist's holistic understanding of the world.

Regarded as one of the most influential figures in Romanian art, Grigorescu began working during the 1960s in the privacy of his studio with only the camera bearing witness to his actions and performances. Using his own body as the main subject of his work much like his friend and peer Geta Brătescu, he explored the limits of the human body and quietly addressed the issues of gender and sexuality. Within the intimate surroundings of Grigorescu’s life, artistic practice and household chores often merged, giving new meaning to the elements of simple communal existence in acts of washing, sleeping and eating, while on many occasions also referring to the heritage of Romanian culture, to which he frequently returned in his later photographic works and works on paper. Grigorescu’s performances captured in photographs and on film attest to his non-conformist attitude to the political discourse of the time. Similar domestic form of ideological resistance can be noted in allusions to sacrifices, secrets and initiation, reminiscent of Orthodox iconography, seen in many of the works on display. Besides his experimental approach to performance and film, Grigorescu has disassembled photography and merged the medium with drawing and sculpture. Through such formal interventions, the artist has reassembled the narratives of his own and of the found photographs belonging to others. Deemphasising the visual and material importance of the artwork, he has given way in these works to the surrealist drive to expose the workings of the unconscious by resorting to psychoanalysis.

The exhibition is made in collaboration with the [Romanian Cultural Institute Vienna](#).

**Biography**

Ion Grigorescu (\*1945 Bucharest), lives and works in Bucharest, Romania. After studying at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bucharest, he worked as a drawing teacher and restorer of frescoes in Bușteni and Bucharest until 1979. Grigorescu has exhibited in the most prominent institutions worldwide, among others: Museum Tinguely, Basel (2024-2025), MARE/The Museum of Recent Art, Bucharest (2024), Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2023), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2018), Kunstmuseum Bern (2017), The National Museum of Art of Romania, Bucharest (2017), Tate Modern (2011), New Museum, New York (2011), Ludwig Museum, Budapest (2011), Warsaw Museum of Art (2009). He also represented Romania at the 47th Venice Biennale (2007) and participated at documenta 12, Kassel (2007), Berlin Biennale of Contemporary Art (2010), and Kathmandu Triennale 2077 (2022).

**Planned Events:**

Gregor Podnar Vienna, in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Vienna, hosts a **public conference program** to celebrate the 80th birthday of Romanian artist Ion Grigorescu. The program features lectures, discussions, film projects, and seminars with Romanian and international authors, academics, curators, artists.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**Wednesday 9 April 2025, 11AM**

Romanian Cultural Institute, Argentinierstr. 39, 1040 Vienna

### Guests

Ciprian Mureșan (Artist)

Cosmin Costinaș (Senior Curator Exhibition Practices [HKW - Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin](#))

Georg Schöllhammer (Curator and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine [springerin](#))

### Agenda

- Ciprian Mureșan in conversation with Cosmin Costinaș: different artist's generations in comparison;
- Georg Schöllhammer on Ion Grigorescu's diaries from the crucial years of 1970 to 1975;
- Round Table: Ciprian Mureșan, Cosmin Costinaș, Georg Schöllhammer.

The scientific program is made possible through the generous support of the [Romanian Cultural Institute](#) with financial sponsor of the [City of Vienna, Culture Department](#).



In-kind sponsoring is provided by the [Austrian-Romanian Society](#).

