

## Activity Report

December 15 2013 - 15 december 2014

"The Saint of Montparnasse. Between Document and Myth: A Century of Constantin Brancusi Scholarship" exploratory research project / Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research, CNCS-UEFISCDI, project number no. 20 / on 5/10/2011 code PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0200

Initially, in the current stage, we have as objectives, namely:

1. A documentation travel to Berlin (Irina Carabas-Olaru and Olivia Nitis)
2. Pre-press of the volume of articles and studies about Brancusi and modern sculpture (the proceedings of the international conference "After Brancusi") and the volume of correspondence received by Barbu Brezianu.
3. The publication of the volume containing articles and studies about Brancusi and modern sculpture (international conference "After Brancusi") and the volume of correspondence received by Barbu Brezianu.

Due to the reconfiguration of the initial budget the last objective has been modified -with the agreement UEFISCDI-, in such a way that the second volume publication (that is the correspondence received by Barbu Brezianu) was postponed for 2015. As regards to other objectives they were carried out in accordance with planning:

1. Irina Carabas-Olaru and Olivia Nitis had a documentation travel to Berlin.

This travel provided rich sources of research related to the history of modern and contemporary sculpture by means of many exhibitions, museums, public monuments, libraries, research institutes. They have met members of the community artistic actives in the field of the sculpture, interested in the evolution of the contemporary sculpture which Brancusi influenced so deep.

The main activities have included research and documentation at Kunstbibliothek in the Kulturforum, one of the most prestigious libraries of art history of European space.

The two researchers visited the 8TH edition of the Berlin Biennial displayed in three areas: KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Dahlem - staatliche Prüfung Museen zu Berlin, Haus am Waldsee.

The original curatorial concept pointing out the relationship between artistic practice and ethnographical representation, on one side, and the presentation in a recontextualised frame of the archaic object, on the other side, drew their attention. This theme as well as the problem of art's museification and artistic processes catalyzed by the active presence of viewer intersect with Brancusi's own concerns.

Significant for the researchers were their visits at the Museum Georg Kolbe, Neue Nationalgalerie, Hamburger Bahnhof, Pergamon, Neues Museum, Kathe Kollwitz Museum, Kunsthalle Deutsche Bank, the collection Scharf-Gerstenberg.

Irina Carabas travelled to Eisenhüttenstadt located in the former GDR that a place that offered her the occasion to examine relations between art, architecture, socialism and Post-socialist memory.

They have also visited Forum fuer Transregionalestudien which has a special program dedicated to art history and The Institute for Advanced Studies Kolleg Wissenschaft zu Berlin where the institution's administrative director Thorsten Wilhelmy presented them the research programs.

The dialogue with the director of Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Christoph Tannert gave the opportunity to visit studios artists in the program Open Studios. In these studios series of international artists develop their personal sculpture projects for a period of minimum 6 months.

2. Group of researchers formed by Ioana Vlasiu, Virginia Barbu, Ruxanda Beldiman, Olivia Nitis, Irina Carabas-Olaru and Corina Teaca has finalised the texts presented at the international conference "After Brancusi" (October 2013), texts intended to be published in a volume.

3. Publication volume of studies and communications about Brancusi and modern sculpture is in progress. "After Brancusi. Proceedings of the International Conference organized in the frame of the project the Saint oh in Montparnasse from document to Myth. A Century of Constantin Brancusi scholarship". Irina Carabas and Olivia Nitis, editors. Ed. UNARTE, Bucharest, 2014, ISBN 978-606-720-022-5.

## **Other activities**

a) articles published

The project team have published research folder "Barbu Geist's international research network: selected correspondence with art historians and institutions") appeared for the sake of editorial under the title Barbu geist'S ARCHIVE. LETTERS FROM CONSTANTIN ANTONOVICI, Alexandru Istrate, Ionel Jianu, Udo KULTERMAN, Herbert READ AND THAMES AND HUDSON publishing house in Revue d'histoire révisionniste as David Irving de l'art, tome LI, 2014.

Virginia Barbu has published in *Revue Roumaine d'Histoire de l'Art*, tome LI, 2014 the book review *Serra/Brancusi. Constantin Brancusi and Richard Serra. A Handbook of possibilities*, edited by Oliver Wick on behalf of Fondation Beyeler, Hatje Cantz, 2011.244 p. + 176 Him.

b) documentation and the organization of the data base regarding the correspondence between the art critic Ionel Jianu and Barbu Brezianu.

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