



A Conversation Piece, 1884. Solomon J. Solomon (1860-1927). Oil on canvas, 97.5 x 122.5 cm. Collection: Leighton House Museum, London. Image capture, caption, and formatting by George P. Landow (<http://www.victorianweb.org/painting/solomonsj/paintings/17.html>)

MAKING CONVERSATION PIECES

The Autumn School of Curating (1st edition) Cluj & Timișoara

European Centre for Contemporary Art Cluj (ECCA) / Cluj Cultural Centre & Art Encounters Biennial 2019 Timișoara

Course leader: **Joanna Warsza**

Guests and conversation partners: **Apparatus 22, Boris Buden, Alexandra Croitoru, Maria Lind, Andrea Phillips, Anca Rujoiu, Anton Vidokle, and many others**

20-27 October 2019, Cluj and Timișoara

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

Cluj Cultural Centre and Art Encounters Foundation in Timișoara are looking for participants for the first edition of The Autumn School of Curating, taking place in Cluj & Timișoara between 20 and 27 October 2019, marking the closing weekend of Art Encounters Biennial.

Proud to have curator and writer Joanna Warsza as a course leader, The Autumn School of Curating proposes the *conversation piece* format as a trigger for a dialog, knowledge exchange, and learning tool. Over the course of one week, participants will be engaged in the artistic context that both cities have to offer, participating in activities focused on the theory and practice of speech and dialogue.

"Conversation pieces" were traditionally historical landscape paintings depicting people engaged in a dialogue. The expression later started to denominate objects, which would spark a verbal exchange, as well as artworks that use talking and chatting as a medium. The etymological root of conversation is the Latin *convertere*: to turn around, to go back and forth spontaneously. The Autumn School of Curating is conceived as a platform to discuss the notion of the conversation in, around, for and against, art. We will talk about the social aspect of conversation pieces, we will network and have small talks, we will construct and deconstruct arguments, we will create intimate settings and large digital networks of voices, and finally we will engage in making podcasts with artists, artworks, small art organizations in Romania, Biennial visitors and others. Throughout the week, while meeting different artists, curators, art producers and journalists both in Cluj and Timișoara, we will think about how to use curatorial skills to become a good conversation partner and mediator, how to talk about art, how to "make things with words", and how to use words to reach outside our own bubbles into the public sphere. One of the main differences between the field of vision and performing arts or music is that art often enables a conversation in real time, an opportunity for walking and talking while encountering art. So, let's talk!

Joanna Warsza is a curator and writer in the fields of visual and performing arts and architecture. She was the artistic director of Public Art Munich 2018 and, since 2014, she has been running the curatorial program CuratorLab at Konstfack University of arts. She also worked as head of Public Programs for Manifesta 10 in St. Petersburg in 2014. In 2013, she was the curator of the Georgian Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale and was the associate curator of the 7th Berlin Biennale in 2012.

Cluj Cultural Centre is an organization for culture and urban development. The centre implements a comprehensive program addressing strategic challenges of society, building on the legacy of the city's candidacy for the European Capital of Culture 2021. One of its main ambitions is establishing in Cluj the **European Centre of Contemporary Art (ECCA)** as an art institution devoted to exhibiting, researching and documenting Romanian and international art productions, exploring a new institutional model and new connections between art and society. Through a multidisciplinary program including visual, new media and performing arts it aims to produce an important social impact in the local community, mobilizing contemporary arts as a channel and catalyst for education, knowledge and social networking.

Art Encounters Foundation is an independent cultural initiative, founded in 2015, oriented towards supporting the contemporary art scene in Romania. The Foundation's activities follow three main directions: organizing the Art Encounters Biennial and the program of permanent exhibitions, fostering education and development of audiences through these public programs, and developing a solid repertory of artistic and curatorial residencies. **The Art Encounters Biennial** is a cross between an experimental art festival and a contemporary art biennial. It focuses on a curatorial research program which encourages the dialogue between the local historical inheritance and the socio-cultural environment of the city of Timișoara.

Target participants: young professionals in the field of curating and writing, with at least 3 years of experience in the field, fluency in English is required.

How to apply:

Please fill this online form with your details (name, email, phone), a motivation letter (maximum 5000 characters) and a narrative biography (maximum 4000 characters), stating your interest in the topic of the autumn school:

cccluj.ro/autumn-school-call/

Deadline for sending applications: August 15, 2019

The selected participants will be announced by August 25, 2019.

Any further questions about the school can be sent to the same address.

The school is open to international candidates and the courses will be held in English.

The Autumn School of Curating is **free of charge** and will provide the selected candidates with support and information on the best deals regarding accommodation and travel options to Cluj and return from Timisoara back to their destinations. The transport between Cluj and Timișoara will be covered by the two hosting institutions, as well as all materials needed for the workshops.

The proposed structure of the school will follow different learning formats. The participants will meet different cultural workers in each city, they will take part at a performative dinner, will visit art spaces and meet artists, will engage in practical exercises and propose their own contribution, will enjoy a trip from Cluj to Timișoara, will participate at the last days of Art Encounters biennial and will publicly present their results in form of podcasts or conversations of various kinds.

For the third edition of The Art Encounters Biennial in Timișoara, a series of context-sensitive commissions will reflect on contemporary art as a form of understanding which, along with science, politics, literature, and philosophy, helps us tackle the complexity of life today. Curators Maria Lind and Anca Rujoiu will match artworks and practices with situations, locations, and questions, placing them alongside existing works that will be embedded in the landscape and history of Timișoara.

PARTNERS:

Cluj Cultural Centre:



Art Encounters Biennial 2019:

Organiser:



Co-organisers:



Mediation program partner:



Strategic partner:



Main sponsor:



Partners:



Sponsors:



Media partners:

