

ETNOVEMBER 2017

A Project of the Faculty of Wood Engineering,
supported by the City of Braşov and Transilvania University

The colorful Etnovember festival organized for the Braşov community by a dedicated team of students and a few teachers reached this year its 20th edition. It is good to remember that it is relatively easy to create a cultural event, but it becomes increasingly difficult to turn it into a durable tradition and to generate the appropriate public expectancy every year.



- 1. The team of 35 students who organized Etnovember 2017**
- 2. Dr. Alin M. Olărescu, their coordinator and Director of the festival**
- 3. Dr. Ioan Muscu, coordinating designer of the exhibitions**

Etnovember 2017 offered once again a cluster of events where arts, crafts and entertainment as related sides of human creativity were put together and the magic worked again. After 20 years, the festival has shaped a public of its own, whose diversity is stimulating, due to its great age variation. The opening day triggered more than 30 individual events arranged in the unique space of the University Aula, according to an invisible exploration and interaction map magically created by the exhibition designer dr. Ioan Muscu. This vast territory of the arts asked its visitors to turn into adventurous explorers, guided by a fabulous itinerary designed for the delight of discovery and dialogue. Various kinds of human creativity were on display, and the suspended blue owls suggested names of streets and corners of this city of the arts and crafts into which the Aula had been converted. The “streets and corners” were the names of the exhibitions and the exhibitors. Street musicians like the percussion ensemble Versus - 12 talented kids with ages from 11 to 18 years, street dancers, like the Latino dancers Eymi from Cuba and Razvan from Brasov, became events within events and created moments of delight.



- 4. The blue owl “street signs”**
- 5. The Percussion Ensemble Versus**

There was this unbelievable suspended sailing vessel, an installation that pointed out the paintings made in Chinese ink upon a twenty meters long strip of paper expressing airy visions of a misty lake, far away in the Danube

Delta. Images of water and sand were projected on the sails and the body of the slender vessel, evoking fishermen's rough evenings. Adrian Timar, the painter, told sailing stories (here in our mountain town with no lake and no river around!).



6. People and vibrations during the opening of the exhibitions
7. The suspended sailing vessel

One could then explore the slice of grand and regal history looking at details of the famous Bucharest building, the Triumphal Arch that recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. Through the maze highlighted by the blue owls one could have a look at the venerable buildings of Bucharest of an era when French architects of the Belle-Époque and their Romanian disciples shaped "le petit Paris", as Bucharest was called 100 years ago. Another "alley" displayed the history of the "Marktplatz", as it was called by its German founders, and the many meaningful houses built in the 16th - 19th century, shaping the most revered part of the city. To continue with the architecture theme well into contemporary times, winners of a fairly recent green architecture competition triggered by Kronospan company, had their projects beautifully displayed, as were the architectural studies and visions of the talented Brasov Art School students.



8. The Bucharest Triumphal Arch Anniversary Exhibition
9. Bucharest – the Little Paris
10. The Marktplatz Exhibition

Crafts and traditions were abundantly on display too: timeless pottery from the UNESCO Cultural Village 2017 Piscu, in Ilfov county, where there was orchestrated a strong revival of pottery crafts by Adriana and Virgil Scripcaru; pottery crafted during workshops with master potters in the village of Țibănești, Iași county, another crafts revival, stimulated by Pro Patrimônio Foundation, coordinated by architects like Serban Sturdza and Alexandra Mihailciuc; last but not least, modern ceramic art created by a young artist of Brasov, whose blue pots reminded us also of precious Transylvanian traditions.

The pots did not stand alone, they were accompanied by embroidery and weaving. However, the art of textiles was part of a Latin American crafts exhibition - a private collection of various hand crafted objects from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Chile, very attractive due to their exotic color and shapes. Of course Eymi the Cuban dancer and her partner were meant to add to this exotic flavor and to offer visual delight with their harmonious rhythms.



11. Historic pottery from Piscu Village, presented by Adriana and Virgil Scripcariu
12. Latin American crafts

Now – about design there is a lot to talk about. There were attractive and successful pieces of furniture, lamps and smaller wooden objects created by students of the faculty of Interior Architecture from Bucharest. There were also the much expected design visions of the students from Chişinău, Republic of Moldavia – they are our guests since many years and they never cease to amaze us. The students and graduates of the faculty of Wood Engineering had also their furniture on show, for example the Springtime Collection of Robert Niculescu, who has won this year the 1st and 2nd Prize at the National Furniture Design Competition, and nearby were the meaningful creations of Alex Neagu and Cătălin Grigoraş, made of recovered construction wood. A particularly beloved exhibition stand was showing restoration works of master students of our faculty who specialized in the painstaking art of healing old furniture, contributing at the recovery of their dignity.



13, 14. Furniture and lamp design from Bucharest
15,16. Product design from Chisinau, Republic of Moldavia



17, 18. Old Wood for New Furniture, presented by graduates of the faculty of Wood Engineering
19. People, Craft, Tradition

The elegant and meaningful exhibition called “People, Craft, Tradition” offered glimpses into the truly holistic approach of crafts and design, suggesting the atmosphere, visions and creations of an international group of students from Braşov, Bucharest and the New Design University St. Pölten, Austria, during a special workshop organized in Târgu-Lăpuş a small town in the rich Maramureş area.

There were also seven important photo exhibitions, with a substantial international participation. Among them: Cambodia, as seen by Claude Aubé from France, New-Orleans musicians photographed during ten years by the careful and dedicated Johann De Grande from Belgium, Details of Viennese Secession Architecture, by the romantic and precise Jacky Wielandts, also from Belgium, Tuscany as seen by the perfectionist Biborka Bartha, and The Danube Delta as seen by the delicate Antónia Czika.



20. New Orleans, as seen by Johann De Grande

21. Viennese Secession, as seen by Jacky Wielandts

22. The Danube Delta, as seen by Antónia Czika

Seven proud young debutant photographers displayed their works and competed for the Best Photo Award.



23, 24, 25. Best Photo Awards: Maria Şaramet, Dan Baciu, Alexei Lambarschi, students of our faculty

Two special events are now worth mentioning: firstly the donation of the extraordinary chair Bubico (named after the most popular doggie of classical Romanian literature), by its author, the artist Virgil Scripcariu. The fluffy little chair became famous at the 2008 Venice Biennale, where the Romanian Pavilion was much commented and admired. And secondly, the donation by the Belgian musician Norbert Detaeye and the music lover Jacky Wielandts of the spectacular Carbon chair, a 2004 creation of Design Studio Moooi from The Netherlands, specifically by Bertjan Pot and Marcel Wanders. This extremely light black chair, with its ghostly allure of a successful industrial experiment, is truly stunning. These two chairs are numbers 34 and 35 of the beautiful Modern Classics Collection belonging to the Faculty of Wood Engineering.



26, 27. The fluffy Bubico has arrived in Braşov. The artist Virgil Scripcariu has presented it as a gift for the Braşov students



28, 29, 30. The ceremony of "unveiling" the Carbon Chair
31, 32. Dr. arch. Biborka Bartha and the children painting owls

Children had their own entertainment within a painting workshop, lovingly coordinated by arch. Biborka Bartha. Every child had the joy of having his or her work of art on display – parents and grandparents were happy and proud.

In the evening, two outstanding concerts were programmed, to continue the journey of human creativity: Songs from all over the world, with Róbert Laczkó-Vass (Cluj) and András Szép (Budapest), and later on, a greatly acclaimed blues concert with the Maxwell Street Blues Band from Belgium.



33. Songs from all over the world, with Róbert Laczkó-Vass (Cluj) and András Szép (Budapest)
34. Chicago Blues from Belgium, with the Maxwell Street Blues Band

The second day was dedicated to the Medieval Market organized in the Weavers' Bastion, an excellent environment for outdoor entertainment. Although the weather seemed hopeless, the rain stopped one hour before the opening of the market. This way, there was a lot of fun and cascades of music and dances, splendidly performed by the ethnic communities of Braşov, Greeks, Germans, Jews, Hungarians, also by Romanian group of dancers and musicians. The Japanese Cultural Center was invited and showed spectacular dances.



35. At the Weavers' Bastion
36. German dances
37. Greek dances



38, 39. Japanese dances
40. The Greek choir



41. Romanian dances
42. Princess Beatrice, the Lady of the Market
43. Medieval Procession
44. Show Fireball, with Hypnosis Ensemble

Artisans were selling gingerbread, wooden toys, crafted dolls and embroidered jewelry, Japanese origami and green tea cakes, Christmas ornaments, knitted owls – the owl, this rather popular academic bird of wisdom, was the mascot of this year's festival.

Later in the evening from the Bastion a long and joyful procession lead by flashy heralds descended into the "Marktplatz", the Old City Hall Place, the heart of medieval Braşov, where a large audience awaited the Fireball Show of the famous Hypnosis Group, six young people who made a spectacular and graceful display of their complicated art.

The third day, as if to make the display of human creativity and art more complete, included a Marathon of Poetry, a visit the Albrecht Dürer engravings exhibition and a workshop in the Casa Mureşenilor Museum and also a theatre play - a delightful comedy with young and talented actors.

The next day the team of students and a group of guests went on a trip and enjoyed a lively good bye party.



45. Bibi the Owl, mascot of Etnovember 2017

One of the Belgian guests, Administrator at the European Commission, sent us a very beautiful message telling us that he understood and appreciated the hard work and respect for the tradition of the creative team of students. We loved his message. We love and respect our students and their work – they were a strong team of 35, coordinated by dr. Alin M. Olărescu, director of the festival, dr. Ioan Muscu and dr. Biborka Bartha.

We hear that they have already started to plan Etnovember 2018. We thank them and we wish them good luck!

Prof.dr. Marina Cionca