

# HENRI MAILLARDET

## GHEORGHE FIKL



**Gheorghe Fikl** (born 1968, Timisoara, Romania) is one of Romania's most original and thought-provoking contemporary artists, firmly established as a master of the neo-Baroque. Interestingly, his early artistic practice in the 90s focused on conceptual mixed-media installations, when he was working with found objects, photography and his own painting interventions. In what he calls *a natural inevitability*, he gradually moved into a powerful form of the figurative, exploring the imagery and symbolism of animals and decadent spaces. An artist of exceptional imagination and skill, he developed large-scale paintings, strange, Dadaist-type compositions, where the unexpected contrast of the visual narratives de-stabilize and fascinate the viewer. In Fikl's theatrical and disquieting universe, animals take centre-stage: arresting in their mysterious presence, these forceful and gentle creatures - bulls, peacocks, horses, dogs, sheep or butterflies – are the strange inhabitants of surrealist spaces, with aristocratic marble floors and decrepit peasant-house walls. Their underlying violent, disquieting power and hedonism offer just as many contexts for reflection about the inherent tension of our human condition, in historical and personal time.

This new aesthetics soon became Fikl's trademark and brought him to the attention of art critics and collectors in Romania, where he enjoyed tremendous success. This was followed by several solo shows in Luxembourg, New York, Lisbon and London, which began to open his work to a global audience. His 2017 exhibition at the Ajuda National Museum in Lisbon was a turning point, as it presented the artist in a high-visibility international context, in an art space which had shown work by Joanna Vasconcelos and, immediately after Fikl's show, a new exhibition by Joan Miro. Gheorghe Fikl's works have since become part of important private collections in Romania, the United States, Portugal, France, Italy, Andorra, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland and Great Britain – including those of the Prince of Wales Transylvanian collection, The Bonte Foundation, the Maria Nobrega Foundation and the Gordon Watson collection.

He lives and works in Socolari/Timisoara, Romania.

### Biography:

1968	Born in Timișoara, Romania
1990-1992	University of Arts and Design, Cluj, Romania
1994-1998	West University, Fine Arts Department, Timișoara, Romania

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## Selected Solo Shows:

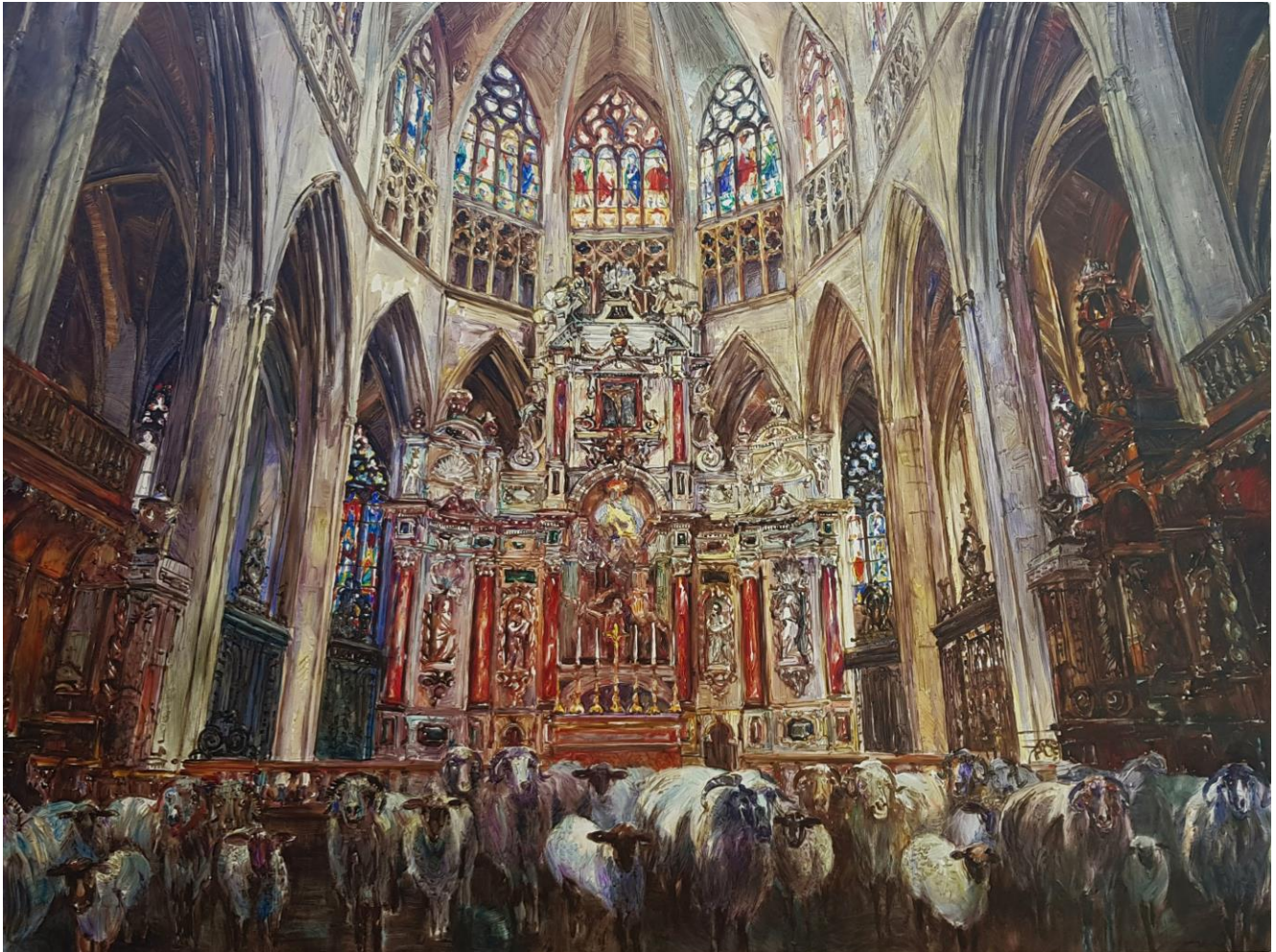
- 2019 *The End of History*, Brancusi Gallery, Romanian Cultural Institute, London, UK
- 2018 *Ceilings*, AnnArt Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
- 2017 *Portuguese Storylines*, Museum of the National Palace of Ajuda, Portugal
- 2017 *The End of History*, AnnArt Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
- 2016 *El Angel Exterminador*, Știrbey Palace, Bucharest, Romania
- 2016 *Baroc / Urban*, National Art Museum, Timisoara, Romania
- 2015 *Paintings & Photography*, Art Encounters, Casa Artelor, Timisoara, Romania
- 2014 *Baroque Resurrection*, Anaid Art Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
- 2012 *Paintings*, Schortgen Gallery, Luxemburg;
- 2011 *Pictura*, National Art Museum, Timisoara, Romania
- 2009 *Labyrinth*, Slag Gallery, New York, US
- 2008 *A Poetics of Ambiguity*, Calina Gallery, Timișoara, Romania
- 2005 *Bulls and Chandeliers*, Posibilă Gallery, Bucharest, Romania

## Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2011 *Fur & Skin*, Art Yourself Gallery, Bucharest, România;
- 2011 *The Heart of Things*, National Art Museum, Cluj, Romania
- 2010 *Anniversary 1990-2010*, Art and Design Faculty, Timisoara, Romania
- 2008 *Against All Odds*, Slag Gallery, New York, SUA;
- 2008 *Group 5*, Calina Gallery, Timisoara, Romania
- 1999 *Young Romanian Artists*, Romanian Cultural Institute, Paris, France



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### **Toulouse (Sheep, the Toulouse Series),**

2019

Oil on canvas, 204 x 270 cm

This work belongs to the *Toulouse* series which spans over 10 years, following the artist's 2005 visit to France. The cathedral space has since become a recurrent backdrop *and* protagonist of several of his paintings. The sheep are seeking shelter but also quite likely are taking over the space from where humans are ambiguously absent. Are the original innocent now turning into a disturbing menace?

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**GHEORGHE FIKL**

## **El Angel Exterminador**

2016

Oil on canvas, 340 x 312 cm

First shown in Bucharest in a one-night show which attracted a record 2,000 visitors, *El Angel Exterminador* is an echo of Luis Bunuel's famous 1962 film. The overwhelming presence of the Ram, ominous and unflinching, is an uncanny portrait of our human nature, vulnerable in our hidden secrets and unable to let go of our need for power control.

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## GHEORGHE FIKL

### **Bull**

2019

Oil on canvas, 150 x 230 cm

The painting is the artist's recent re-visit of his trade-mark 'power & dominance' series of animal paintings which he began around 2005. The novel element of the soft pink flowery curtain, which replaces the formidable heavy red velvet settings, introduces a sense of enjoyment and hope that the two conflicting sides, of our body and spirit, can co-exist and balance our complex life journey.

# HENRI MAILLARDET

## The Return to Exclusivity: Henri Maillardet

**HENRI MAILLARDET** is an exclusivist watches & jewellery brand, a unique combination between the classical value of gems, technology and the flamboyant self expression of an artistic ego. Henri Maillardet brand offers not mere objects, but undying pieces of art that transcend time through inherited value and unicity of expression.

Under its slogan "**Return to Exclusivity**", the very essence of the Henri Maillardet creations can be defined through their inspiration from art.

Henri Maillardet (1745-1830, born Jean Henri Nicholas Maillardet, in a village close to Neuchatel) was a Swiss vanguard mechanic and artist of the 18th century who worked in London producing clocks and other mechanisms. He created several singing birds, automated animals (the caterpillar, the frog) or the automated writer - The Juvenile Artist. Around 1800 Henri Maillardet built the extraordinary Automaton which has the largest "memory" of any such machine ever constructed—four drawings and three poems (two in French and one in English).

Automata, such as Maillardet's Automaton, demonstrates mankind's efforts to imitate life by mechanical means—and are fascinating examples of the intersection of art and science, beauty and material, invisible and touchable magnificence.

**HENRI MAILLARDET Art Society**, the art division of Henri Maillardet, has recently opened an Art Concept Space in Zurich, on the prestigious Bahnhofstrasse 43 / St. Peterstrasse 16. Its purpose is to support talented artists, allowing them to grow by providing a top platform to present their art, as well as to facilitate the dissemination of art to the general public by providing additional solutions to the customary purchase of art: renting, leasing or long term financing.

**HENRI MAILLARDET Art Society** combines the expertise in exclusive jewellery and watches with the passion for art and brings a new "Art meets Luxury" concept on the market. It promotes modern and contemporary artists in a beautiful environment, while contributing to the artistic and intellectual lifestyle.

Successful people in today's world have a great interest in art and in one of a kind objects (like jewellery and watches). They seek power, recognition and respect. They want a place where they can meet other people alike. They like an environment to which to identify themselves, a place where to drink a perfect coffee or a glass of the Henri Maillardet exquisite champagne, free of any pressure. Just enjoy and relax...

Our **mission** is to earn the trust of a refined audience by curating, assisting and guiding their choices in the fascinating world of Art, Jewellery and Watches.

Our **vision** is to become the reference point of the world market of those who are seeking the best in Art, Jewellery and Watches.

Our **values** are uniqueness, exclusivity, sincerity, power, emotion and permanence.

**Welcome to the Henri Maillardet Art Society!**

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RETURN TO EXCLUSIVITY

