



BOGDAN MOLEA

Bogdan Molea

Solo Exhibition

February 2013

CATTO GALLERY

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP
Tel: +44 (0)20 7435 6660 • art@cattogallery.co.uk



BEGINNING
40 X 50 cm

What's the difference between 'realistic' and 'abstract' painting? In the case of Bogdan Molea, you could argue there is no difference. His work manages to be both at once.

Molea closes in on his subjects to such an extent that the lines, shading and colour that form them become separated from the 'thing' itself. Here's how the artist himself describes it: "Reality and abstract painting don't exclude one another. You can reach a point where the actual studied material becomes an image of 'abstract sculpture'."

Molea began his lifelong artistic quest in Bucharest, Romania, where he was born in 1958. His talent was spotted at an early age and saw him gain admission to the renowned Nicolae Grigorescu Fine Art Institute.

He received a rigorous and traditional education here, graduating in 1984 with three majors in Monumental Art, Conservation/Restoration and Art Teaching. Molea's studies during this time laid the groundwork for his future career, exposing him to the high concept, monumental visions of 14th century Byzantine frescos, Romanian medieval architectural monuments and, of course, the Italian Renaissance masters.

On one level, Molea's work is far removed from these early influences. His art is often concerned with apparently 'meaningless' subjects – scrunched up paper, folded metal – rather than religion or myth. But on a closer reading, there's a good deal of similarity.

First of all, Molea shares with his medieval forebears a preoccupation with technical questions. The masters of 500 years ago dedicated themselves to unlocking the secrets of rendering the real world accurately in two dimensions, and today Molea is continuing this obsession. He says: "Putting a 3D reality on a 2D surface is exhilarating and it's arguably the most important achievement of western art from the Renaissance onward.

"People have tried to dismiss it for more than a century and yet today, even though we have advanced imaging technologies, it continues to sustain the foundation of painting."

Molea also has in common with his predecessors a willingness to take on the big questions in his work. There's a cosmic dimension to paintings such as *Beginning*, *Connectivity* and *Symbiosis*. It's clear from the titles he gives them that these images, though superficially based on everyday objects, are actually concerned with universality, and how the very small shares the same fundamentals as the super massive.

This is even more explicitly expressed in Molea's nature artworks such as *'Matrix'*, in which the logarithmic spiral of a seashell mimics the gentle curve of celestial galaxies.

The artist says: "Taking the study of real objects and then changing or adding elements within the established set of rules of visual perception lets you explore the endless possible faces of the visible universe."

In other work, Molea moves closer to traditional genres. Still lives such as *Gift of Nature* and the *Utopian Setting* series take the template used by Renaissance painters and re-work it with a mathematical hyper-realism.

Molea's unique painting style and the searching nature of his subject matter has won him fans all over the world. After the collapse of the Iron Curtain in Eastern Europe in 1990, he was able to take his work to international audiences, while also continuing his own artistic education.

In 1999, he re-located to Toronto, Canada, where he still lives. This will be his ninth year with the Catto Gallery, and a very welcome return.

PIONEER
101 X 152 cm



UTOPIAN SETTING II
76 X 91 cm





MATRIX 91 X 101 cm



CORNUCOPIA 91 X 101 cm

SAILING DEVICE
152 X 101 cm



RAM
91 X 132 cm



GIFT OF NATURE
76 X 101 cm

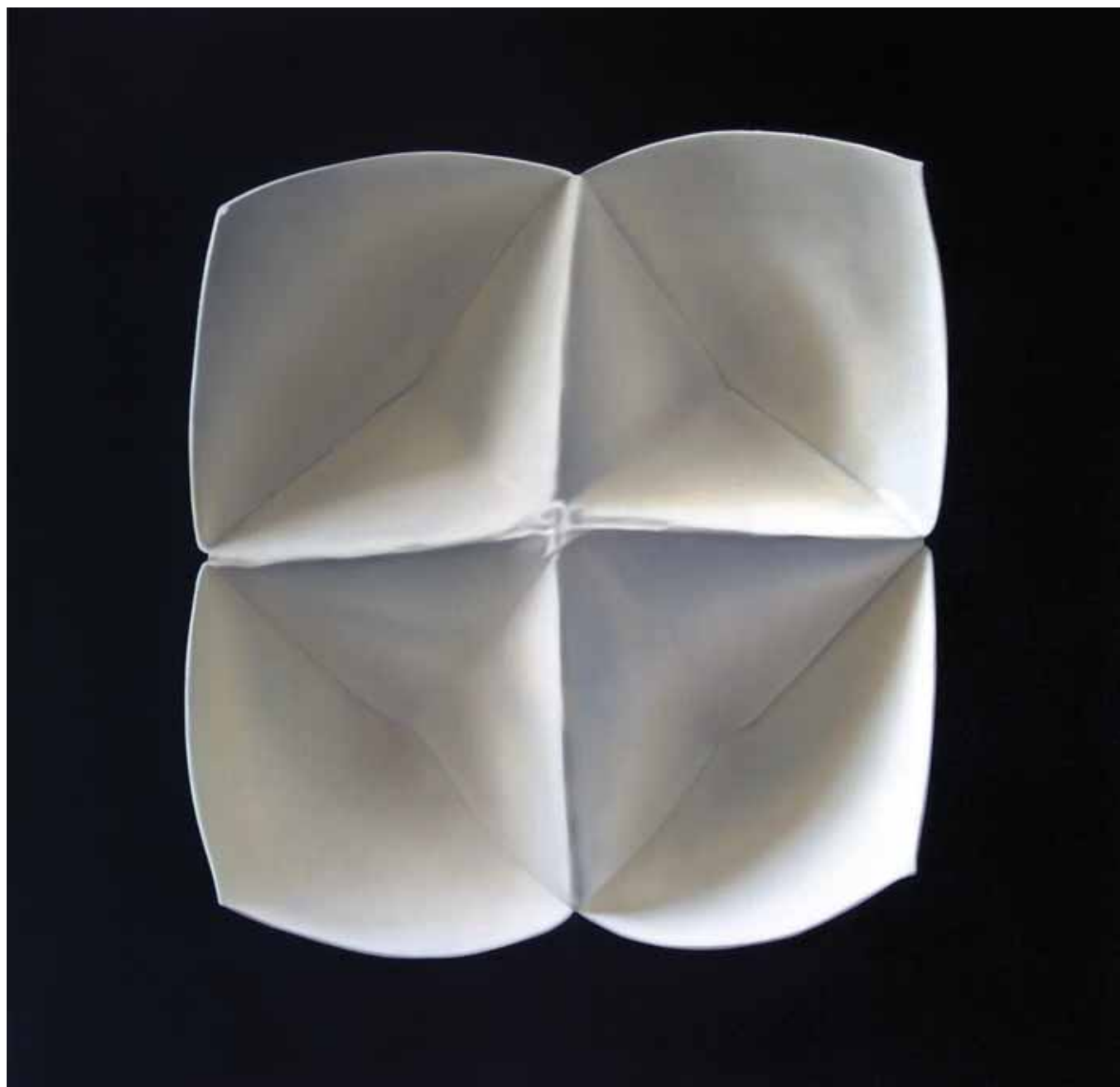


BLACK PEARL
91 X 121 cm



UTOPIAN SETTING I
101 X 152 cm





YIN 76 X 76 cm



YANG 76 X 76 cm

BLOOM
91 X 91 cm



SOFT GLIDER
101 X 152 cm



SYMBIOSIS
106 X 116 cm



SILVER BUFFALO
101 X 152 cm



RENAISSANCE
121 X 182 cm



Bogdan Molea

Solo Exhibitions:

- 2011 "GoldArt" Gallery - Bucharest - Romania
- 2010 "The Catto Gallery" - London - Great Britain
- 2009 "Loch" Gallery - Toronto
- 2007 "Loch" Gallery - Toronto
- 2007 "The Catto Gallery" - London - Great Britain
- 2006 "Whistler Village Art Gallery" - Whistler - Canada
- 2005 "Loch" Gallery - Toronto
- 2004 "The Catto Gallery" - London - Great Britain
- 2003 "Peterson Fine Art" Gallery - Toronto - Canada
- 2003 "Inselstuw" Gallery - Poel Island - Germany
- 2002 "Peterson Fine Art" Gallery - Toronto - Canada
- 1999 "Inselstuw" Gallery - Poel Island - Germany
- 1998 "Auf Zeit" Gallery - Wismar - Germany
- 1998 "Inselstuw" Gallery - Insel Poel - Germany
- 1998 "Kunst Stucke Grunewald" - Berlin - Germany
- 1997 "Inselstuw" Gallery - Insel Poel - Germany
- 1993 "Gijzenrooy" Gallery - Geldrop - Holland
- 1992 "Caminul Artei" Gallery - Bucharest - Romania

Group Exhibition:

- 2012 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Loch" Gallery
- 2012 "Best of Contemporaries" - Loch" Gallery
- 2011 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Loch" Gallery
- 2010 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Loch" Gallery
- 2010 "Best of Contemporaries" - Loch" Gallery
- 2010 "Olympics" - "Whistler Village Art Gallery" - Whistler - BC - Canada
- 2009 Introductory Show - "Arcadia" Gallery - New York
- 2008 "Best of Contemporaries" - "Loch" Gallery
- 2008 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Loch" Gallery
- 2007 "Best of Contemporaries" - Loch" Gallery
- 2007 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Loch" Gallery
- 2006 "Whistler Village Art Gallery" - Whistler - BC - Canada

- 2006 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Loch" Gallery
- 2005 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Loch" Gallery
- 2004 "Contemporary Realism" "Whistler Art Galleries" - Whistler - BC - Canada
- 2004 "Realism II" - "Robert Kidd" Gallery - Birmingham - MI - US
- 2003 "Caesarea" Gallery - Gallery Center - Boca Raton - Florida - US
- 2001 "International Art Fair Toronto" - with "Peterson Fine Art" Gallery
- 2000 "Caesarea" Gallery - Gallery Center - Boca Raton - Florida - US
- 1998 "FORMA(R)T '98" - Glinde (Hamburg) - Germany
- 1997 "Espace Terre-Paix" - Sheraton Hotel - Bruxelles - Belgium
- 1997 "Le Club" - World Trade Center - Bucharest - Romania
- 1996 "Espace Mitro" - Vernon - France
- 1996 "Graphic Arts Exhibition" - National Theater's Gallery Bucharest - Romania
- 1996 "Grafica" Exhibition - Parliament Palace - Bucharest - Romania
- 1995 "L'Art et la Culture Roumaine" - Vicherey - Vosges - France
- 1995 "South America's House" - Bucharest - Romania
- 1995 "Bucharest Fine Art Exhibition" - National Theater's Gallery - Bucharest - Romania
- 1994 "Tatarescu Centenary" - Tatarescu Museum - Bucharest - Romania
- 1993 "Erotica" - "Simeza" Gallery - Bucharest - Romania
- 1992 "Tirol" Exhibition - Austria
- 1991 "Crescent" Exhibition - Vien - Austria
- 1990 "Romanian Cultural Institute" - Paris - France
- 1990 "Botanique- Salle d'Animation" - Bruxelles - Belgium
- 1990 "Young Romanian Artists" - I.S.E.L.P. - Bruxelles - Belgium
- 1990 "Youth National Fine Art Exhibition" - Bucharest - Romania
- 1998 "National Art Exhibition - Mihai Eminescu" - "Dalles" Gallery - Bucharest - Romania
- 1988 "National Art Biennale" - National Art Museum - Bucharest Romania
- 1987 "National Fine Arts Museum" - Bucharest - Romania
- 1986 "Youth National Fine Art Exhibition" - "Dalles" Gallery - Bucharest - Romania
- 1985 "Dalles" Gallery - Bucharest - Romania
- 1984 "Pontica" - Fine Arts Exhibition - Constanta - Romania

Works in private, museum and corporate collections in: Canada, USA, Great Britain, Romania, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Turkey, Columbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Australia, India, Mexico and others.



CATTO GALLERY

100 Heath Street • Hampstead • London NW3 1DP

Tel: +44 (0)20 7435 6660 • www.cattogallery.co.uk • art@cattogallery.co.uk

Opening times: 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat • 12.30pm - 6pm Sunday • and by appointment

