

Geta Brătescu – L’art c’est un jeu sérieux

The Kunstmuseum St. Gallen is the first Swiss museum to dedicate a retrospective to Geta Brătescu (1926–2018). The title comes from a quotation by the artist: “L’art c’est un jeu sérieux.” With her oeuvre she engaged with the crucial theoretical and formal debates of her time and thus became a central artist between modernism and contemporary art. She is one of the most important Romanian artists of the 20th century and represented her country at the 2017 Venice Biennale.



Geta Brătescu, *Doamna Oliver în costum de călătorie* [Lady Oliver in Traveling Costume], 1980–2012, photo: Mihai Brătescu, courtesy of the estate of Geta Brătescu, Hauser & Wirth and Ivan Gallery, Bucharest

The spatial and ideological separation between East and West shaped her life and thus also her art. During the repression under communism, Brătescu’s small Bucharest studio, where she worked until her death, was a place of freedom. The exploration of the self in her studio has already been highlighted as an important aspect in several exhibitions.

The exhibition at the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen focuses on the aspects of photography, film, and performance in her work, which have so far received little attention. Here the artist shows particularly close connections to the international avant-garde. In addition to collaged works on paper, performances captured in photography and film, as well as representative series of self-portraits, the exhibition also features large-scale installations made of fragile materials. The focus is on works from the 1970s and 1980s that show formal similarities to central positions of Postminimal art.

As a pioneer of contemporary art, Geta Brătescu inspired the St. Gallen designer Albert Kriemler to create his celebrated spring/summer 2019 collection for Akris. The Geta Brătescu exhibition at the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen was realized in close cooperation with Kunstforeningen GL STRAND in Copenhagen, Ivan Gallery in Bucharest, and Hauser & Wirth, and will subsequently be shown in Copenhagen.

Exhibition dates

9 June – 15 November 2020
Kunstmuseum St. Gallen

Press conference

Virtual press tour
Friday, 5 June, 11 a.m.
Registration via
kommunikation@kunstmuseumsg.ch

Exhibition opening

From 9 June 2020

Opening hours

Tue. – Sun.: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wed.: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

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Fact sheet

Geta Brătescu

Exhibition dates	9 June – 15 November 2020	
Exhibition venue	Kunstmuseum St. Gallen	
Press conference	Virtual press tour on Friday, 5 June, 11 a.m. Registration via kommunikation@kunstmuseumsg.ch	
Exhibition opening for individual	Unfortunately, there will be no vernissage because of the current situation.	
Curator	Lorenz Wiederkehr	
Opening hours	Tuesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.	
Admission	Single admission, regular price	CHF 12. –
	Pensioners	CHF 10. –
	Vocational, school, and university students	CHF 6. –
	Members of the Kunstverein St. Gallen	Free
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