

Born in Oradea (Romania), 1977.
Lives and works on Planet Earth.

Short Biography

Mircea Cantor was born in 1977 in Oradea, Romania. He lives and works between Paris and Cluj, Romania.

His childhood, marked by the growth in a communist country, and his memories, are the starting point for many of his works. Cantor is positioned as an observer of different realities and cultures and in his works focuses on social differences and borders between countries. His videos and installations are highly poetic and evocative.

Attention to formal and aesthetic research overlap strong political meanings, translated into simple but universal values. Cantor makes work that centers around themes of cultural history, memory, and displacement, echoing his upbringing in Romania during its tumultuous transition from state socialism to liberal democracy.

Best known for his evocative, metaphorical videos and mixed-media installations, in his works, he examines competing ideologies, war, displacement, the self and the other, and multivalence.

Keenly aware of the multitude of meanings that a word or an object can contain, he deliberately mixes materials and uses language playfully, producing poignant, challenging works that defy neat categorization.

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

2023
Hands Adjectivating Work, Muzeul Textilelor, Baita (Romania)

2022
Fire Doina, Base/Progetti per l'arte, Florence (Italy)

2021
Artclub#32, Villa Medici Académie de France à Rome, Rome (Italy)

2020
STUK Art Centre, Leuven (Belgium)

2019
Art Unlimited, Basel (Switzerland)
Hangar Art Center, Bruxelles (Belgium)
Musée des Beaux-Arts, Nantes (France)
Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris (France)

2018
History is just a bullet in your timeline, VNH Gallery, Paris (France)
Adjective to your presence, Fondation Hermès, Tokyo (Japan)

2017
My Ruins are Your Flag, Fondazione Giuliani, Rome (Italy)

2016
La partie invisible de l'infini, Centre Pompidou, Atelier Brancusi (France)
SOLO SHOW Part I-II-III, Fondation Francès, Senlis (France)

2015
ART 45 | Unlimited, Art Basel, Basel (Switzerland)

5775, Dvir Gallery, Tel Aviv (Israel)

2014
Selected Works, Rennie Collection, Vancouver (Canada) *
Ti do la mia giovinezza, Magazzino, Rome (Italy) *

2013
Q.E.D., MNAC National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest (Romania)

2012
Sic Transit Gloria Mundi, Centre Pompidou, Paris *
Restless: film and other works - Museum of Moving Image, New York (USA)
Sic Transit Gloria Mundi - MACRO Museo di Arte Contemporanea, Roma (Italy) *

2011
More cheeks than slaps, le Credac, Paris (France)
Phishing, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg (Austria)

2010
Heilige Blumen, Kunsthalle Nurnberg (Germany)
Shooting, Dvir Gallery, Tel Aviv (Israel)
Wise as serpents and innocents as doves, Museum Abteiberg, Moenchengladbach (Germany)

2009
Which light kills you, The Commun Guild, Glasgow (UK)
Tracking Happiness, Kunsthaus Zurich (Switzerland) *
The need for uncertainty, Camden Arts Centre, London* (UK)

2008
Future Gifts, Mucsarnok/Kunsthalle, Budapest

(Hungary) *
The need for uncertainty, Arnolfini, Bristol (UK) *
The need for uncertainty, Modern Art Oxford (UK) *

2007
Magazzino, Rome (Italy)
A free smile, Galerie Yvon Lambert, New York (USA)
Ciel Variable, FRAC Champagne Ardennes, Reims (France) *
Deeparture, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (Mexico)

2006
Burn to be Burnt, GAMeC, Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo, Bergamo (Italy)

Collections (selection)

Centre Pompidou, Paris (France)
Museum of Modern Art, New York (USA)
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (Spain)
Rennie Collection, Vancouver (Canada)
Castello di Rivoli, Torino (Italy)
Museum of Israel, Jerusalem (Israel)
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (France)
Philadelphia Museum of Art (USA)
Hirschhorn Museum, Washington D.C. (USA)
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (USA)
Yvon Lambert Collection, Avignon (France)
Kunsthau Zurich (Switzerland)
Museum Abteiberg, Monchengladbach (Germany)
François Pinault Collection (France)
Magasin 3, Stockholm (Sweden)
Collezione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (Italy)
Museion, Bolzano (Italy)
21c Museum, Nashville, Kentucky (USA)
VAC - Victoria Art Foundation, Moscow (Russia)
Fondazione Giuliani, Rome (Italy)

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Group exhibitions (selection)

2023

Panorama - L'Aquila, a project by *ITALICS*, L'Aquila (Italy)
In the air, the flying machines, curated by Curated by Marie-Laure Bernadac, Hangar Y, Paris Meudon (France)
After Sculpture, Cazarma U, Timisoara (Romania)
Different degrees of freedom, curated by Diana Manrincu, Kunsthalle Bega, Timisoara (Romania)

2022

Es-senze, Museum of Palazzo Mocenigo, Venice (Italy)
KT 2077, 4th Edition of Kathmandu Triennale (Nepal)
Building and Dreaming, BY ART MATTERS
Tianmuli Art Museum, Huangzhou (China)

2021

[În]toarcem cânepa spre viitor - Hemp Back to The Future, National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, Bucarest (Romania)

2019

Mario Merz Prize, Fondazione Merz, Turin (Italy)

2018

Persona Grata, MAC VAL, Virty-Sur-Seine, (France)
Bridging the gap, Tsinghua University Art Museum, Beijing (China)
Line of sight, MUDAC, Lausanne (Switzerland)
Kétféjú gyufa / Double heads Matches | Új Budapest Galéria (Hungary)

2017

The Place To Be, Fondazione Maxxi, Rome (Italy)
Bivouacs / The Walks Academy - Le Magazin

CNAC, Grenoble (France)

The Electric Comma - V-A-C Foundation, Palazzo delle Zattere, Venice (Italy)
Artdoor, Teleky Castle, Gornesti (Romania)
Innocent Material - Galerie Dvir, Brussels (Belgium)
Punto de Partida. Colección Isabel y Agustín Coppel - Sala de Arte Santander - Fundación Banco Santander, Madrid (Spain)
Violenti/Confini, Pinacoteca Comunale di città di Castello, Castello (Italy)
Pallaksh Pallaksh (I don't know just where I'm going), Dvir Gallery, Tel Aviv (Israel)

2016

Da Fuga e do Encontro: Inversões do Olhar - Espaço Novo Banco, Lisbon (Portugal)
Wall to Wall: Carpets by Artists - Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (MOCA), Cleveland, OH (USA)
Macba Collection 31 - Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Barcelona (Spain)
Historicode: Scarcity and Supply - Nanjing International Art Festival, Nanjing, Jiangsu (China)
CHOICES, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (France)
Features- special project with Plan B, Cluj, Art Basel 2016, Basel (Switzerland)
DO DISTURB, Festival Non Stop, Palais de Tokio, Paris (France)
A History: Contemporary Art from the Centre Pompidou, Haus der Kunst, Munich (Germany)

2015

ArtLine Milano, Palazzo Reale, Milan (Italy)
Appearance and Essence, Art Encounters, Timisoara (Romania)
Now, at the latest - Kunsthalle Krems, Krems (Austria)

Là où commence le jour, LaM- Musée d'art contemporain et art brut, Lille (France)
Rastros Y Vestigios: Indagaciones sobre el Presente - Museo Amparo, Puebla (Mexico)
Reflexiones. Colección CGAC - CGAC - Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
Mapping Bucharest: Art, Memory and Revolution 1916 - 2016, MAK, Vienna (Austria)
Vita Vitale, The Azerbaijan Pavillion, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice (Italy)
Invitation au voyage - 15 years Marcel Duchamp Prize, La Centrale, Bruxelles (Belgium)
Fire and Forget. On Violence, Kunst Werke, Berlin (Germany)
Zero Tolerance, MoMA PS1, New York (USA)

2014

Menagerie, ACCA - Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (Australia)
Damage Control, Art and Destruction since 1950, Kunsthau Graz, Graz (Austria)
Manifest Intention. Drawing in all its forms and languages, Castello di Rivoli, Turin (Italy)
19th Biennale of Sydney - You Imagine What You Desire, Sydney (Australia)
The Red Queen, Mona - Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, TAS, Sidney (Australia)
Une histoire - Art, architecture et design, des années 80 à aujourd'hui - Centre Pompidou, Paris (France)
Neuromast: Certain Uncertainty and Contemporary Art. - Franklin Street Works, Stamford (USA)
A Few Grams Of Red, Yellow, Blue. New Romanian Art, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw (Poland)
La Science À L'oeuvre, Centre d'art contemporain

de Pontmain, Pontmain (France)
Me and You in a Living Room: Artists from the Ricard Foundation Award, SongEun ArtSpace, Seoul (South Korea)
Le Mur, La collection Antoine de Galbert, La Maison Rouge, Paris (France)
Ichihara Art MIX 2014 (Japan)
The Disappearance of the fireflies, Collection Lambert, Avignon (France)
Will Happiness Find Me? - Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)

2013

Oeuvres De La Collection Philippe Cohen Ans D'acquisitions, Passage de Retz. Paris (France)
Expo 1: New York, MoMA PS1, New York (USA)
0 Performance - The fragile beauty of crisis / Special projects 5th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow (Russia)
Desire Lines, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (Australia)
Le Pont, MAC, Marseille (France)

2012

Voices of Images, Palazzo Grassi-François Pinault Foundation, Venezia (Italy) *
TRACK, S.M.A.K. Gent (Belgium)*
I decided not to save the world, Salt, Istanbul (Turkey)*
Räume der Erinnerung, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (Germany)
European Travellers -Art from Cluj Today, Mucsarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest (Hungary)*
One Sixth of the Earth. Ecologies of Image, MUSAC, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León (Spain)

2011

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Group exhibitions (selection)

I decided not to save the world, Tate Modern, London (UK)
Our magic Hour - Yokohama Triennale', Yokohama (Japan) *
Rebus, Simon Lee Gallery, London (UK)
Prix Marcel Duchamp, LaM Museum, Lille (France) *

Salonul de mai, Galeria Plan B, Cluj Napoca (Romania)
Image to be projected until it vanishes, Museion, Bolzano (Italy)
The workers, MASSMoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts (USA)
How to disappear, The Luminary Arts Center for the Arts, Saint Louis, Missouri (USA)

2010
Les Promesses du passé - Centre Pompidou, Paris (France) *
Art for the world, World Expo Shanghai 2010, (China)
I Believe in Miracles, Collection Lambert, Avignon
Höhepunkte der Kölner KunstFilmBiennale, Kunst-Werke, Berlin (Germany)
Unsichtbare Schatten - Bilder der Verunsicherung, MARTa Herford, Herford (Germany) *
A Shot in the Dark, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (USA)
Romances sans paroles, La Kunsthalle Mulhouse, Mulhouse (France)
Over the Counter - Economy in Post-Socialist Art, Mucsarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest (Hungary)*
Linguaggi e Sperimentazioni. Giovani artisti in una collezione contemporanea, Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto (Italy) *
CUE: Artists' Videos, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver (Canada)

You-WE + Ablo. 25 Video della Collezione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Milan (Italy)
Indefinite Destinations, Depo, Istanbul (Turkey)
Fall Out – Desire and Disengagement in Contemporary Art, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö (Sweden)

2009
Barock, Museo MADRE, Napoli (Italy) *
The world is Yours, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek (Denmark)*
Universal code, The Power Plant, Toronto (Canada)*
Les Archipels reinventes, Centre Pompidou, Paris (France) *
2nd Tessaloniki Biennale (Greece)*
Transmission Interrupted, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford (UK) *
La force de l'art 2, Grand Palais, Paris (France) *

2008
28th Bienal de São Paulo (Brazil) *
Here is Every: Four Decades of Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern Art, New York (USA)
Can Art Do More? Art Focus 5, Jerusalem (Israel) *
Eurasia, Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (Italy) *
Shifting Identities - (Swiss) Art Now, Kunsthhaus Zurich (Switzerland) *
Locked In, Casino Luxembourg (Luxembourg) *
Artes Mundi 3, National Museum Cardiff, Wales (UK)
Mimetisme, Extra City - Centrum voor hedendaagse kunst, Antwerp (Belgium)

2007
Taking Time, Museo de Arte Contemporanea, Vigo

Stop. Look. Listen: An Exhibition of Video Works, Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell Univ. Ithaca, NY
Brave New Worlds, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
An Atlas of Events, Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon (Portugal) *
Numerica, Palazzo delle Papesse - Centro Arte Contemporanea, Siena (Italy) *
Critical Foreground, New Langton Arts, San Francisco
Power Play, Artpace, San Antonio, Texas (USA)
Airs de Paris, Centre Pompidou, Paris (France) *
Fairytale, Tirana Institute of Contemporary Art, Tirana (Albania)
Paranoia, Freud Museum, London (UK) *

2006
Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo de Sevilla (Spain) *
Contos Dixitais, CGAC, Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
Cluj Connection, Haunch of Venison, Zurich
Busan Biennial, Busan, (South Korea) *
Dada east? The Romanians of Cabaret Voltaire, Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich (Switzerland)
Voices of Silence, Herzliya Museum of Art, Herzliya
Printemps de septembre, Toulouse (France) *
Human Game – Winner and losers, Stazione Leopolda, Florence (Italy)
Paranoia, Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds (UK) *
Whitstable Biennale, Whitstable (UK)
Periferic 7: Focusing Iasi / Why Children?, Iasi (Romania)
La Force de l'art, Grand Palais, Paris (France) *
Czeslaw Milosz "To Allen Ginsberg", Dvir Gallery, Tel Aviv (Israel)
Marcher, Maison des Arts Georges Pompidou, Cajarc (France)

LESS ? Strategie alternative dell'abitare, PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan (Italy) *
Message Personnel, Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris (France) *
4th Berlin Biennial for contemporary art, Berlin (Germany) *
Notre Histoire, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (France) *

2005
Global Tour, Art Travel and Beyond, W139, Amsterdam (The Netherlands) *
May you live in interesting times, Cardiff Festival of Creative Technology (UK)
War is over, 1945 – 2005 The Freedom of Art from Picasso to Warhol and Cattelan, GAMeC, Bergamo (Italy) *
Modern Times, Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro (Italy)
Nach Rokytník - The EVN Collection, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Vienna (Austria) *
Generations of art-10 years at F.A.R., Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Como (Italy)*
On Difference, Wuertenbergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart (Germany)
Cosmopolis, State Museum for Contemporary Art, Tessaloniki (Grecia) *
e-flux video rental, Project room of KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Berlin (Germany)
Revolution is on hold, Isola Art Center, Milan (Italy)
Theorema, une collection privée en Italie, Musée d'art contemporain, Collection Lambert, Avignon (France) *
The need to document, Kunsthhaus Baselland, Basel (Switzerland) *
Works from the collection, Magasin 3 Konstahall, Stockholm (Sweden)
Universal Experience: Art, Life, and the Tourist's Eye, Museum of contemporary art, Chicago (USA)

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Group exhibitions (selection)

*

Irreducible, contemporary short form video, 1995–
2005, CCA Wattis, San Francisco (USA)

2004

Cetinje Biennale, Cetinje, Montenegro Nine Points
of the Law, NGBK, Berlin (Germany)*

Mediterraneo, MACRO, Rome (Italy)

Quick-sand, De Appel, Amsterdam (Netherlands)*

New Video, New Europe: A Survey of Eastern

European Video, Renaissance Society, Chicago /

Tate Modern,

London (UK)

2003

Tirana Biennale 2, National Gallery of Arts, Tirana
(Albania) *

In the Gorges of the Balkans, Kunsthalle

Fridericianum, Kassel (Germany) *

Poesis. The Everyday Differently, Kunsthalle/

Mucsarnok, Budapest (Hungary)*

Displaced, Ucla Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

(USA)

50th La Biennale Di Venezia, « Clandestine »

Venice (Italy) *