Oistat Romania

Bucharest Scenography Biennale

October 18-27, 2024





I am convinced that delving into the intimacy of the creative process, revealing the decisive stages in the artistic making of a performance, provides excellent material for analyzing the aesthetic phenomenon and at the same time constitutes one of the most effective and spectacular ways of aesthetically educating the public, shaping their criteria for understanding quality, and developing their capacity to understand and think about theater from the inside. And such a foundational revelation about theatrical thinking, about the journey from idea to scenic action, **cannot be better encompassed and revealed than through a scenography exhibition**.

Paul Bortnovski, 1967



History

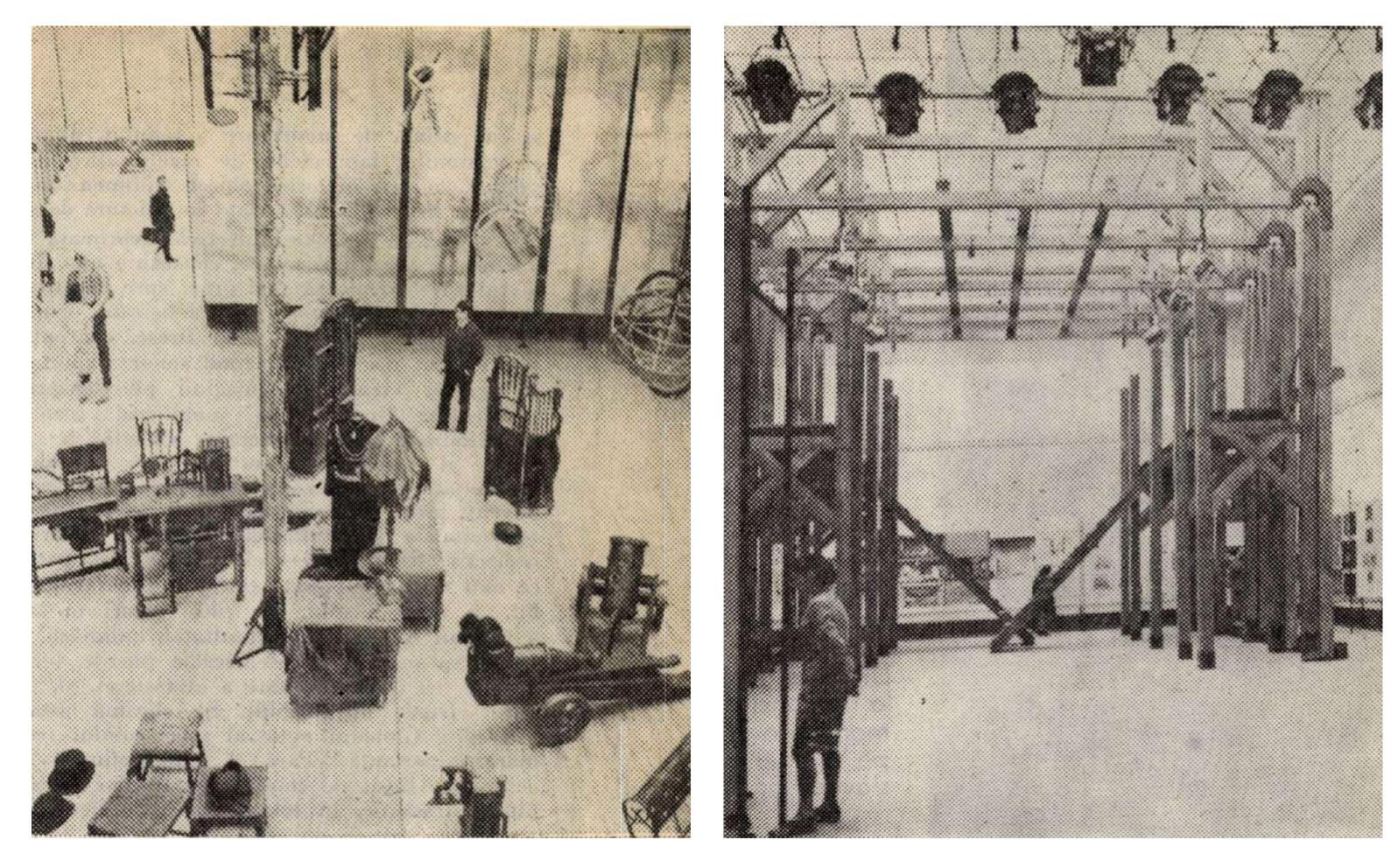
The **Bucharest Scenography Triennial** was held for over 9 editions, from 1967 to 1992 when, sadly, it was discontinued. Over the years, it was a landmark event, a broad exhibition of sketches, models, and actual sets that brought together the works of over 150 professional artists from theater, opera, puppet theater, cinema, and student scenographers at each edition. Organizers of these exhibitions were prominent figures in Romanian scenography, including **Liviu Ciulei**, **Traian Niţescu**, **Pavel Bortnovski**, and **Nic Ularu**. Even today, the few materials that have been preserved are the most important source of documentation for the debut or early creations of artists who have made their mark in the field, not only in Romania, but also internationally, such as Helmut Sturmer, Radu and Miruna Boruzescu, and many others.



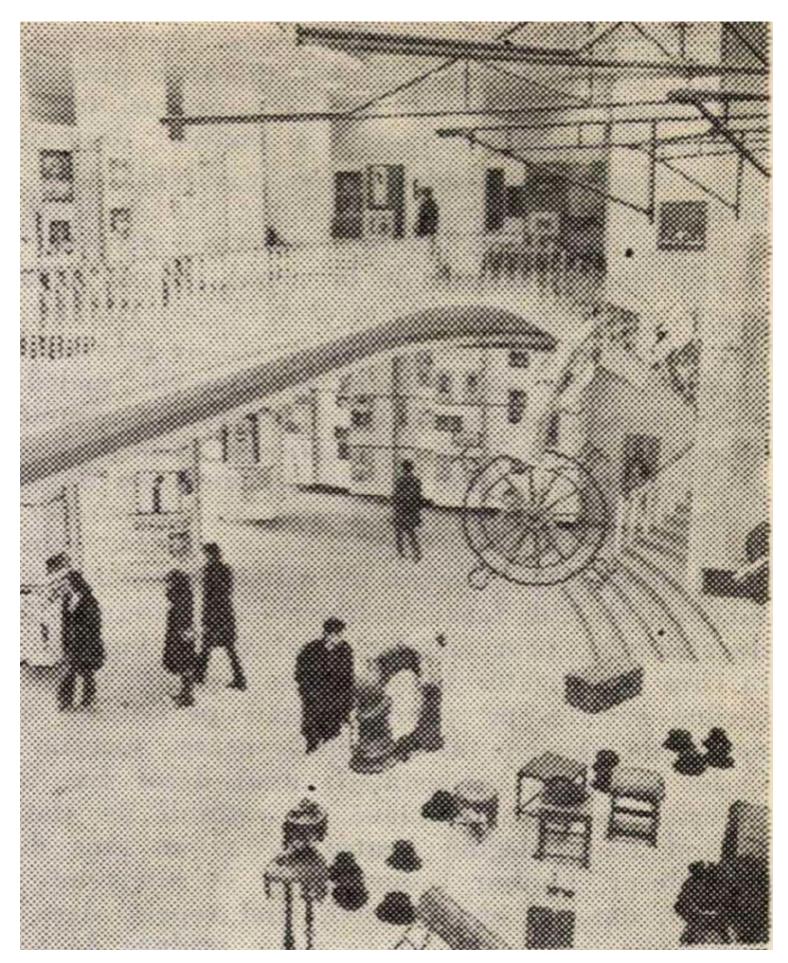




Archive images



Second Edition 1971, DALLES HALL







In an effort to recover as much of the history and values of the event as possible, the **OISTAT Romania Center** is organizing the tenth edition of the triennial in a new format:

Bucharest Scenography Biennale.







Mission

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The **Bucharest Scenography Biennale** aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas and innovations and to promote international collaboration among performing arts professions. It provides a vibrant and inspirational space for both professionals and the public, thus granting access to the understanding of the processes underlying scenography and theatrical creation in general.



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Structure

The activities within the Biennale, the exhibited works, the structure, and the entire program are based on 4 pillars:

- 1. National and International Exhibition Pillar;
- 2. Educational Pillar;
- 3. Conferences, Debates, Keynote Lectures Pillar;
- 4. Commercial Pillar;

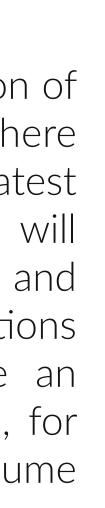


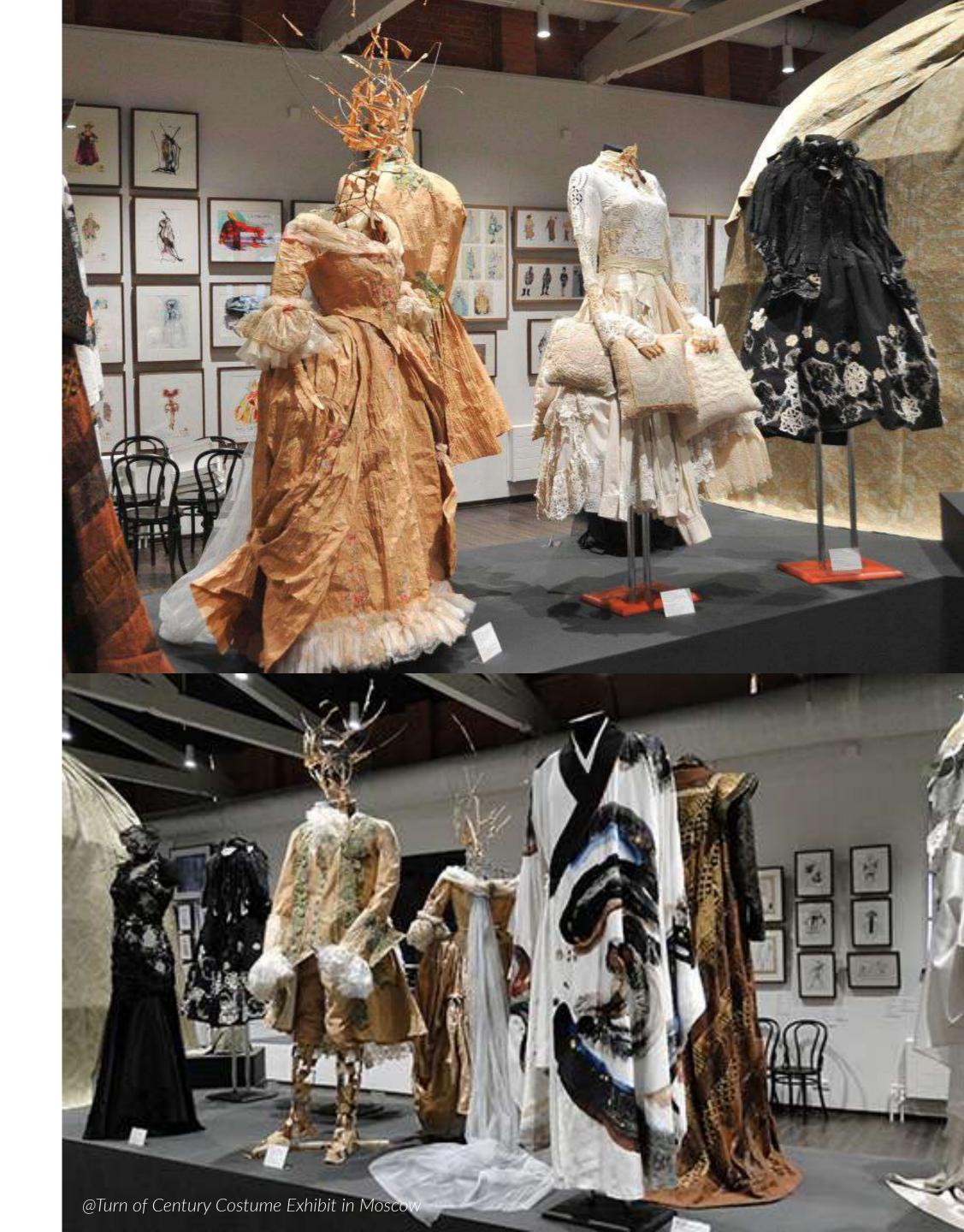
INTERNATIONAL **Exhibition Pillar**

A significant segment of this pillar will be the organization of the International Theatre Costume Exhibition, where scenographers from over 30 countries will present the latest trends in theatre costume creation. The exhibition will consist of costume sketches, performance photographs, and authentic costumes from representative theater productions from the participating countries. There will also be an international open call evaluated by established artists, for projects in scenography, theater architecture, costume design, lighting design, sound design, or media design.











NATIONAL **Exhibition Pillar**

The exhibition will feature landmark works from recent years by remarkable Romanian scenographers. The Biennial Exhibition will contain sketches, models, costumes, and real elements from sets. The means of display will vary from original works to digital reproductions or transformations of these into multimedia installations.













Sections:

Theatre Opera Choreography Puppet and Animation Theatre Multimedia Installations Cinema Architecture





Educational Pillar

In keeping with the tradition of the event, scenography education is a fundamental concern, and this section will organize an **exhibition of student scenography works** and a comprehensive program of **workshops** and **thematic conferences**, dedicated to students from the three Romanian universities with academic programs in this domain: National University of Arts in Bucharest, National University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest, and University of Arts in Târgu Mureş, alongside students from several universities abroad.









Conferences, Debates, Keynote Lectures Pillar

In the last three editions of the National Theatre Festival, OISTAT Romania organized the **Next on Stage** conferences, structured in thematic communication sessions that aimed to highlight aspects of the scenographer's collaboration with other artists contributing to the scenic image. Under the Next on Stage banner, international meetings of the commissions within the International Organization of Scenographers, Technicians, and Theatre Architects will take place during the Biennale. This year is dedicated to the meetings of the **Costume Design** and Architecture commissions. These meetings ensure a consistent international presence of landmark names in world scenography. Among these, we mention only a few who have already accepted the invitation to join us, such as: Pamela Howard (author of the iconic book What is Scenography), Rosane Muniz (Chair of the OISTAT Costume Commission and author of the book Dressing the Naked - The Costume on Stage), Aby Cohen (President of OISTAT), Jean-Guy Lecat (20-year collaborator of legendary director Peter Brook), Sean Crawly (Dean of the Design Faculty at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama), and many others.





Jean-Guy Lecat Pamela Howard





Commercial Pillar

Given that scenography is an art at the intersection of various fields and fundamentally relies on technology and technical possibilities, the **Bucharest Scenography Biennale** will include a section dedicated to international producers of sets, costumes, equipment, and stage technologies. Its purpose is to facilitate dialogue and the international exchange of knowledge, benefiting Romanian theater artists and technicians, thus contributing to a possible renewal of technical equipment in Romanian theaters and their alignment with international standards in the field.







Target

The exhibitions and events within the Bucharest **Scenography Biennale** are specially designed for the general public, thereby facilitating access and understanding of not only the processes underlying scenography but also theatrical creation in general, familiarizing the public with what happens behind the curtain. We are counting on high participation as is the case with other similar events such as the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space, the World Stage Design, the Novi Sad Scenography Triennial, or the Tbilisi Biennale of Stage Design. At the same time, the large number of international guests will bring benefits to both the National Theatre Festival and Romanian culture by presenting international guests with the values of Romanian theatre and the possibility of establishing new international collaborations.



Bucharest Scenography Biennale



Duration:

October 18-27, in conjunction with the **National Theatre Festival**

Proposed Locations

Arcub Gabroveni Dalles Hall (the historical location of the event) ICR Large Hall









Thank you!



Bucharest
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