

O fata imposibila

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About Felicia Letitia Marinca and Letitia Gaba

Felicia Letitia Marinca was born on December 17, 1928 as Felicia Letitia Crisan in Bicz/Ardeal, Transylvania/Romania. She studied philosophy and philology, worked for years as a journalist and published several novels and poetry books. For her novel "O fata imposibila" ("An impossible girl") she was awarded with the "Ion Creangă" Prize by the Romanian Academy and for her poetry volumes she gets the "Grand Prix de l'Papstenklave poetry Valréas".

After the public presentation of her poem "Beliti-ma tovarasi" ("Pluck me out, comrades") in 1975, the communist regime imposed a 12-year ban on her profession. Felicia Marinca began, secretly at first, to paint pictures with all imaginable materials that she could find in the extremely limited planned economic offer in the communist Romania: she painted with school pencils, oil paints, acrylics, but also pens and charcoal on wrapping paper, on the backs of old photos, old envelopes, on newspaper, cardboard and fabric leftovers or on walls.

Her pictures initially had the function of diaries, in which one could "write" in a painted manner, without being censored. She painted her fears and hopes, as well as an unreal, free world of her imagination into which she escaped during her physical and mental isolation. At the same time she designs and cuts textile objects and clothes, which she sells on commission in various galleries and boutiques to earn her living with it.

Since she had never studied art, her paintings are free from academic style and perfectionism, and in Romania her artistic work was initially called "folk", "traditional" and "naive art", because the term "outsider art" or "raw art" was not yet known there.

Her artistic works have been exhibited since 1974 in various galleries in Romania and outside: 1984 Hanul cu tei Gallery, 1988 "First International Romanian Art Exhibition" Melbourne Australia, 1988 participation in Sala Dalles, 1993 Romanian Museum of Literature, since 1995 sales exhibitions in the galleries Humanitas, 1997 group exhibition Eurocentres Köln, 2006 "Painting of writing" gallery Dialogues, 2008 personal exhibition "Mini Art from Draculas Country" Millbrooks gallery Köln.

Felicia Marinca died in February 2012. In November 2017, her works were shown at the Outsider Art Fair 2017 in Paris.

Letitia Gaba was born in Bucharest in 1969 and emigrated to Germany in 1979 with her father. First she studied Italian and French and later Art and Textile Art at the University of Köln with a focus on graphics. Since the 1990s she has been working with various materials such as drawing, linocut, fabric collages, photography and machine seams, usually combining the several techniques. Since 2000 she participates in various exhibitions, biennials and triennials, international group and solo exhibitions, f.e.: 2016-2017 Interdisciplinary project "Dialogue in Agora" Köln-Cluj, 2017 "European Biennial of Contemporary Prints" Art Museum Ploiesti Romania, 2016 "Estampadura" Graphic Triennale Toulouse France, 2015 "Split Graphic" Graphic Biennial Split Croatia, 2015 "Graphics from Romanian collections" National Museum D. Gusti Bucharest, 2012 "Romanian graphic from private collections" SCAR National Museum Cotroceni Bucharest, 2009 "Grafiek Plus" International Graphics Manifest Ilse Frankenthal Foundation Brunssum NL, 2008 "15th International Graphic Arts Triennale" Kunstverein Frechen, 2001 "EXIL" Literary Museum Bucharest, 2000 "Second European Biennale for Drawing" Pilsen CZ.

Letitia Gaba has her studio in Köln and her artistic focus is on large-format graphics, mixed media and textile art. In 2015, and 30 years after the publication of the book "O fata imposibila" by Felicia Marinca, Letitia Gaba writes her own book about a similar "impossible girl", which was completed in late 2017 but has not yet been published.

www.LetitiaGaba.de