

## Botond Gagyi

Botond Gagyi (b. 1992) is a Transylvanian contemporary artist living and working in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, acclaimed for his enigmatic portraits of fictitious people.

Characterised by solitary, introspective figures within muted-tone environments, Gagyi's oil paintings are imbued with hidden stories, inviting viewers to reflect on the nuanced nature of an individual's microcosm.



The figures in Gagyi's paintings are often depicted in states of quiet apprehension, suggestive of a mysterious apparition. Cast within shadowy interiors, the figures in Gagyi's paintings diffuse into abstracted layers of impasto paint to suggest a sense of movement and presence that constantly evolves on the canvases, inviting viewers to complete the image with their own vision and read a personal narrative into each work.

Often inspired by a micro story, a randomly found tale of an average person or by classical painting references, Gagyi works from art historical motifs and found photographs that resonate with his own personal memories and collective trauma to construct painted realities of contemporary life. Through processes that are simultaneously constructive and deconstructive, the found and transformed digital image becomes alienated from its original content, springing into its own existence to be filled with new narratives. In choosing images of 'ordinary' people to paint from, Gagyi's ethereal portraits demonstrate the transformative potential of oil painting and its capacity to imbue the mundane with wonder and mystery.

Having exhibited across Europe and America, Gagyi's recent solo and group exhibitions include *Splinter*, Casa Matei Gallery, Romania; *FUTURE PRESENT*, Ryan Graff Contemporary, USA; *6.P-C*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Romania.

## **Botond Gagyi CV**

b. 1992 in Tîrgu-Mureş, Romania  
Lives and works in Cluj, Romania

### **Education**

2017-2022 PhD in Visual Arts, University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

2015-2017 MA in Painting, University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

2012-2015 BA in Painting, University of Art and Design, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2022 *Gagyi Botond Private Viewing Room*, Zorzini F Gallery, Cluj, Romania

2020 *Kunsttage Ehrenbreitstein*, Theater am E'stein, Koblenz, Germany

2018 *Solo Exhibition*, Transylvanian Art Center-Arcade House, Sfântu-Gheorghe,  
Romania

2017 *Splinter*, Casa Matei Gallery, Cluj, Romania

2015 *Solo Exhibition*, Artful Gallery, Bucharest, Romania

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2023 *FUTURE PRESENT*, Ryan Graff Contemporary, San Francisco, USA

2023 *6.P-C*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sibiu, Romania

2022 *(Re)constructing Visions*, Lucrări din patrimoniul Muzeului de Artă  
Cluj-Napoca și din colecții ale artiștilor, Museum of Arts Cluj-Napoca, Romania

2022 *Pulzus Art Camp*, Haáz Rezső Museum, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania

2022 *Under the same sky*, RIANA RAOUNA Gallery, A+ Multipurpose event space,  
Nicosia, Cyprus

- 2022 *DREAM ON DREAMER*, RIANA RAOUNA Gallery, Aphrodite Amathusia Cultural Centre, Limassol, Cyprus
- 2021 *PARALLEL*, Transylvanian Art Centre (TAC), Sfântu-Gheorghe, Romania
- 2021 *INSTINCT*, Transylvanian Art Centre (TAC), Sfântu-Gheorghe, Romania
- 2021 *Annual Art Exhibition*, Galerie Laik, Koblenz, Germany
- 2021 *Abstract Mood*, Estopia Art Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
- 2021 *Neo-Manifest Romantic*, Galateca Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
- 2021 *Szárhegy 2020*, Haáz Rezső Museum, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania
- 2020 *Autumn Art Camp Lăzarea*, Cultural and Art Centre of Lăzarea, Lăzarea, Romania
- 2020 *Noaptea Albă a Galeriilor Cluj-Napoca 2020*, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 2020 *Neo-Manifest Romantic*, Museum of Arts Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 2020 *275 Group Show NYAFAIR Exhibition 2020*, "TriBeCa's Contemporary Art Fair", New York Art Center, New York, USA
- 2020 *L'Art s'invite dans l'industrie 2.0*, Energom, Uzinaj, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 2019 *Alchemic Body/Fire Air Water Earth*, THE LINE Contemporary Art Space, London, United Kingdom
- 2019 *RE:START*, Museum of Arts Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 2019 *The Night Watch*, Sala dei Templari, Molfetta, Italy
- 2019 *Antisistem Integrat*, NAG, Uzinaj, Cluj, Romania
- 2019 *Abstract*, Museum of Arts Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania
- 2019 *The Night Watch*, Museum of Arts Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania
- 2019 *Plein Air International Painting Art Camp*, Casa Matei Gallery, Cluj, Romania
- 2019 *L'art s'invite dans l'industrie*, Ceremonie des voeux, Energom, Cluj, Romania

- 2018 *Confluences*, Palace of Culture, Târgu-Mures, Romania
- 2018 *Sottobosco*, Museum of Arts Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania
- 2018 *Hit és szabadság*, Transylvanian Art Center, Sepsiszentgyörgy, Romania
- 2017 *Painting/Now*, Museum Complex from Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița-Năsăud, Romania
- 2017 *Ending Session*, Urania Palace, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 2017 *Art in the Park*, University of Art and Design, Painting Department, Cluj, Romania
- 2017 *School from Cluj-Painting and Sculpture*, Pécsi Gallery, Pécs, Hungary
- 2017 *Start Point Prize 2017*, Victoria Art Center, Bucharest, Romania
- 2017 *Confluence*, Palace of Culture, Târgu-Mures, Romania
- 2017 *Start Point Prize 2017*, Prize for European art graduates, Trade Fair Palace, Prague National Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2017 *Breaking Rules*, Museum of Arts Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania
- 2017 *The School of Cluj*, Painting & Graphic Arts, Neon Gallery / Academy of Arts Wroclaw, Poland
- 2016 *Group Exhibition*, Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts Krakow, Poland
- 2016 *Art Safari Bucharest*, Focus Art Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
- 2016 *Group Exhibition*, Gara Mica Group, Cluj, Romania
- 2016 National Student Festival - Vizualia, Cluj, Romania
- 2015 *Art in the Park Painting*, University of Art and Design, Painting Department, Cluj, Romania
- 2013 *The Crivelli's New Read*, Monte San Martino, Italy

**Awards**

2019 Prize of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, Cluj, Romania

2017 Jury Prize, Expo Maraton, Cluj, Romania

2017 Prize of the Goethe Culture Center Cluj-Napoca, Cluj, Romania

2015 Prize of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, Cluj, Romania

2012 2nd Prize, National Olympiad of Visual Arts, Architecture and History of Arts, organized by the Ministry of Education, Painting Department, Targoviste, Romania

2010 1st Prize, International Painting Competition, Sigismund Toduta, XV Edition, Deva, Romania

2009 1st Prize, International Painting Competition, Hans Herman, XI Edition, Sibiu, Romania

2009 Honourable, 9th International Painting Competition, Velasquez - The King's Painter and the Painters' Prince, Rybnik, Poland

**Selected Works**



**Botond Gagyi**  
*Inner Shades, 2024*  
Oil on linen  
78 3/4 x 63 in  
200 x 160 cm



**Botond Gagyi**  
*Gleaming Shadows, 2024*  
Oil on linen  
16 7/8 x 15 in  
43 x 38 cm