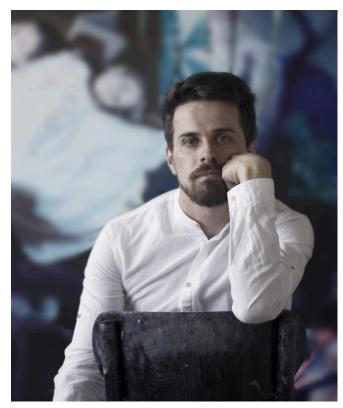


Marcel Rusu

Marcel Rusu (b. 1989, Mediaș, Romania) is a contemporary artist living and working in Romania known for merging traditional and digital media to create hyperreal, socially engaged works that often reflect on architectural space, identity, and the socio-political landscape of Eastern Europe.



Having completed his BFA, MFA, and

DA studies at the renowned University of Art and Design in Cluj-Napoca, his artistic language skillfully merges the boundaries between oil painting, photography, and digital image rendering. He begins by digitally constructing his compositions, often employing photography and computer-generated imagery as the foundation for his scenes. These manipulated visuals serve as blueprints that he then translates onto his canvases with oil painting and acrylic airbrushing.

At the beginning of his artistic career and oscillating between abstraction and figuration, Rusu started exploring surfaces and materiality, entering into direct and mechanical competition with photography through painting. His visual grammar is shaped by the collision of modernist ambition and Soviet-era architecture, the rise of

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consumerism following the collapse of Communism, the mundanity of Black Sea

holidays, and the psychological weight of political transition. Intrigued by how

imagery is perceived in a world overflowing with visual content and through his

manipulation and mixing of media, Rusu investigated how he could best record

reality whilst questioning the presumption that such a record is objective, accurate,

or even "reality".

Rusu grows his aptitude for blurring the distinction between the synthetic and the

authentic by depicting Los Angeles in his latest series Mirage City (2025). These

pieces transport viewers to the sun-soaked city where both global fantasy and

personal fiction converge. Rusu presents the city as a simulacrum: a place he has

never visited but that has been filtered to him through the alluring worlds of cinema,

music, video games, and mass media. Rusu creates eerily familiar yet distant realms

— a visual echo chamber where dream and experience coexist.



Marcel Rusu CV

b. 1989 - Romania Lives and works in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Education

2013-2020 Doctor of Arts, Universitatea de Arta și Design, Cluj-Napoca, Romania 2011-2013 Master of Arts, Universitatea de Arta și Design, Cluj-Napoca, Romania 2008-2011 Bachelor of Arts, Universitatea de Arta și Design, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2025	Mirage City, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
2023	A Hard Rain is Gonna Fall, The H Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
2023	Unpredictable Horizon, Adrian Sutton Gallery V-space, London, UK
2018	Personal Metonymies, Sector 1 Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
2015	No Man on the Moon, Visual Kontakt Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2013	Expo Maraton Contest, Casa Matei Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025	Unfolding Natures, AnnArt Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
2024	Crossing borders, Brukenthal National Museum, part of Sibiu Contemporary Art Festival, Sibiu, Romania
2024	Here & Now, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK



2024	The Cluj Collective, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
2023	Alive in Sight only for a Second, Sector 1 Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
2022	Engrame, Cosmic House Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2021	Mirror, Mirror? Contemporary Selfhood in Romanian Art, CFHill Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
2020	Neo-Manifest Romantic, The Museum of Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2019	Restart, The Museum of Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2019	Bluebird, Sector 1 Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
2018	SOTTOBOSCO, The Museum of Art, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2017	The Exquisite Corpse Drinks the New Wine, Sector 1 Gallery, Bucharest, Romania
2017	Haiku. Poems by emerging Romanian Artists, Boccanera Gallery, Trento, Italy
2016	The Cutting Edge III, The Art Museum, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
2016	Throwing Balls in the Air - Academiae Youth Art Biennale 2016, Fortezza, Alto Adige, Italy
2016	Group Exhibition, Accademia di Belle Arti Perugia 1573, Perugia, Italy
2015	Black and White Biennial, The 4th Edition, The Art Museum from Satu Mare,
	Romania
2015	Group Exhibition, Accademia di Belle Arti Macerata, Italy
2015	Around Drawing, Rosenfeld Porcini Gallery, London, United Kingdom
2014	Latin Love. Pittura tra Bari e Cluj-Napoca, Fortino S. Antonio, Bari, Italy
2014	Latin Love. Pittura tra Bari e Cluj-Napoca, Casa Matei Gallery. Cluj- Napoca,
	Romania
2013	Universitatea de Arta și Design - Master's Degree Group Exhibition, Expo
	Transilvania, Cluj- Napoca, Romania



2012	Group Exhibition, Ecole Nationale Superieure d'Art de Nancy, France
2011	Universitatea de Arta și Design - Bachelor's Degree Group Exhibition, Expo
	Transilvania, Cluj- Napoca, Romania
2010	Group Exhibition, Sibiu City Hall's Gallery, Sibiu, Romania
2010	Group Exhibition, Palazzo Ricci, Macerata, Italy
2010	Group Exhibition, Mirionima Gallery, Macerata, Italy

Residencies & Collaborations

- 2011 Work Residence at Intact Cultural Space from Paintbrush Factory, Cluj-Napoca,
 Romania
- 2007 Decoration for Faust by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, directed by Silviu Purcarete,Radu Stanca National Theatre, Sibiu, Romania

Selected Art Fairs

- 2019 Volta, Art Basel, Sector 1 Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2018 Contemporary Istanbul 2018, Sector 1 Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey

Awards

2016 Second Prize, FRASE GOT TALENT. POST INTERNET PRIZE, 2016 edition



Selected Works



Marcel Rusu
Fame in the Rearview,
2025,
Acrylic and oil on linen
17 3/8 x 21 1/4 in
44 x 54 cm



Marcel Rusu
Self Portrait on a daily light,
2025,
Acrylic and oil on linen
65 x 57 1/8 in
165 x 145 cm