

**Press release**

# PAST PRESENT

## Fragments of memory: Bucharest-Pompeii-London

**Ioana Marinescu with Smaranda Găbudeanu and Iulia Mărăcine**

Beaconsfield, 22 Newport St, London SE11 6AY

22 July-12 August 2023 | Admission free

Opening event: 18:00 Friday 21 July 2023 with performance at 19:00



Photo: Ioana Marinescu, *PAST PRESENT. The Archive and the Body*, 2022. SAC gallery Bucharest.

**London, UK:** Beaconsfield announces **Past Present**, a new exhibition from London-based Romanian artist **Ioana Marinescu** (b. Bucharest, 1973). Exploring the recuperation of cultural memory, the project works with the destruction of ancient Pompeii caused by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, alongside events in 1980s Bucharest, when a historic residential quarter of the city was razed to make way for Ceaușescu's Palace of the Parliament or 'People's Palace'.

Working with Bucharest-based choreographers Smaranda Găbudeanu and Iulia Mărăcine and using archival image, video, soundscape, testimony and live performance, Marinescu traces both events and finds parallels in the sudden displacement of both populations. Whilst the spaces left by the bodies in Pompeii were cast in plaster by archaeologists, the erasure of Uranus Hill in 1980s Bucharest leaves only witness statements.

The artists say *"Past Present proposes a back and forth movement between forgetting and remembering, erasing and restoring. Past spaces, objects and stories are brought into the present. Their reconfiguration produces new experiences, which in turn become new archival sources. What remains when seemingly there is nothing left? What is the potential for generating new perspectives on a challenging historical past?"*

Photographic traces of events separated in time and place, are architectonically exhibited in the galleries of Beaconsfield (also the historic site of a radical demolition when the former Ragged School was cut in half in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century due to the extension of the railway) to be animated by the choreographic, live research of Smaranda Găbudeanu and Iulia Mărăcine.

Marinescu, Găbudeanu and Mărăcine are joined by other collaborators – film maker **Laurențiu Calciu**, performers **Andreea David**, **Hennie Lee** and **Eliza Trefaș**, actress **Katia Pascariu**, choreographer **Hanna Gillgren**, dramaturg **Phoebe von Held**, architect **Thomas Goodey**, and sound artists **Doru Apreotesei** and **David Crawforth** – to collectively sculpt and install images that allow the audience, and participants to inhabit an imaginary space, connecting past with present, remembering with forgetting.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### Performances at Beaconsfield

Friday 21 July, 19:00

Saturday 22 July, 15.00

### Additional events

Wednesday 19 July, 10.00-17.00 symposium: *Dreams and Guilt: exhibiting counter-narratives*.

Sunday 24 September, 18.00-21.00. *Past Present* research lab: CNDB, 80-82 Bd Mărășești, Bucharest

**Ioana Marinescu** is an architect and photographer who works with large images in public spaces, with projections and live actions. Her PhD by practice from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, focussed on the activation of archival imagery in urban contexts and through the body. Marinescu has delivered numerous lectures and workshops on her doctoral research as well as lecturing at Greenwich and Kingston Universities; with recent exhibitions at Space for Contemporary Art Bucharest, Kunsthalle Exnergasse Vienna, Helsinki Contemporary, Architectural Association London and Swiss Architecture Museum Basel.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/slade/project/ioana-marinescu-writing-the-erased-space>

**Smaranda Găbudeanu** is an interdisciplinary artist and founder of PETEC. Her work reflects her training at Bucharest's National University for Theatre and Film as a puppeteer and at CNDB Academy of Dance and Performance: movement and the body/bodies stand at the core of all her projects. As an international dancer, performer and choreographer for theatre and film, Găbudeanu has participated in numerous productions staged at the National Centre for Dance and collaborated with a variety of public theatres, independent companies and contemporary art museums. An increasing interest in the visual arts has led her to an MA in the Theory and Practice of Image at CESI, University of Bucharest. <https://petec.ro>

**Iulia Mărăcine** is a performer and co-founder of Ludic Collective, collaborating with visual artists, choreographers, musicians, theatre creators and filmmakers. Within the collective, Mărăcine co-creates and organises participatory performances, audiovisual installations and somatic workshops in art galleries, theatres, and schools. Her work was shown at Battersea Arts

Centre, London; 13Festivalen, Gothenburg; KyivDanceResidency, Kiev; Cloud@Danslab, Den Haag; Seoul Dance Centre; Re-Generators Festival, Iași, RO; Geumgang Nature Art Biennale, South Korea; ARTHUB, WASP, National Dance Centre, The Institute (Bucharest). She performed in venues including Opéra National de Paris, National Museum of Contemporary Art Bucharest, Cărturești Verona, Art Safari Bucharest and Centrul de Interest (Cluj, RO).  
<https://www.facebook.com/ludiccollective/>

**PAST PRESENT** is a Beaconsfield commission co-produced with PETEC.

### About Beaconsfield

Since 1994 Beaconsfield has been a laboratory dedicated to the exploration and evolution of experimental art. It is an uncompromising space where open-minded artists and audiences come to challenge themselves and their understanding of what art can be, and supportive space for taking risks and exploring new ideas.

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**Past Present** at Beaconsfield | 22 July-12 August | Wednesday - Sunday, 12.00 - 17.00

### About PETEC

Founded in 2013 in Bucharest, PETEC is an interdisciplinary platform for production, research and education in contemporary dance. The company's productions are rooted in the exploration of unconventional themes and performative languages, constantly pushing the boundaries by testing new methods and forms of work.

**In partnership with:** H2DANCE, CNDB (The National Center for Dance Bucharest), /SAC @Malmaison (Space for Contemporary Art), Cartierul Uranus, CESI (Centre for Excellence in Image Studies), Radio România Cultural (Romanian Radio Broadcasting Corporation), Igloo.

**Special thanks to:** MiC - Pompeii Archeological Park.

*In 2021, PAST PRESENT was commissioned by Beaconsfield, supported by Cultural Recovery Fund UK and London's Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR). The work was further developed by PETEC in collaboration with /SAC (Space for Contemporary Art, Bucharest) in 2022. The current phase is supported by funds raised in Romania and Beaconsfield's own reserves.*

*The London project is co-financed by Romanian Cultural Institute through the Cantemir Programme — a funding framework for cultural projects intended for the international environment. The Romanian Cultural Institute cannot be held responsible for the content of this material.*

*The ongoing project 'PAST PRESENT. Moving archives' is co-financed by the National Cultural Fund Administration (AFCN). The project does not necessarily represent the position of the National Cultural Fund Administration. AFCN is not responsible for the content of the project or how the results of the project may be used. These are entirely the responsibility of the beneficiary of the financing.*

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