

Through the Bucharest exhibition halls George Dumitrescu and his universe

by Eugenia Chira

(an exhibition of oil and graphic paintings on show at the National Theatre Exhibition Halls over Aug. 8- Sept. 6th)

As the painter himself admitted in the forward to the lovely catalogue printed on the occasion of the varnishing of his personal exhibition later this month in Bucharest, his art is a mere dive into his own universe of questions and meditation, an expression of his fascination with the impalpable and the immaterial - an adventure up to the far limits of the tangible. It is a mirror reflecting contrasting directions of an apparent

"Art is not a canonical imitation, a conventional structure or an immovable contemplation; it is rather a conquest, a labyrinth of irresistible orchestration of feelings, a freedom of expression, a journey into an imperceptible game of paradoxes, a voracious passion and an act of courage"

incoherence. Perhaps the main feature of this exhibition - a real journey into a passionate interior universe of a doctor and painter at the same time who after 23 years of exile is now back in Bucharest with a

personal exhibition - is an invitation to a glimpse of his personal seekings.

For some visitors, such a journey seems quite novel but for others (perhaps a little older) that may be an occasion for recollections since they could thus remember the main features of his art as seen during his last personal exhibition in Bucharest in 1969 before he left for the West.

By that time a famous Romanian art critic, Petre Comarnescu noted down in a newspaper article published in the *INFORMATIA*: Doctor G. Dumitrescu proves to be very inventive both in his technique and in his vision. He uses coloured China ink and oil on glass techniques which are sometimes in the monotype style. He is equally a painter and a graphic artist with an impressive imagination."

Born in 1922 in Bucharest in a family where art was well - appreciated - his uncle Stefan Dumitrescu was the rector of the Iasi Academy of Fine Arts - Georges Dumitrescu shows a propensity for art quite early, at 10, when he was awarded a national prize for drawing. But he was also attracted by literature and he started writing poetry in the style of Romanian traditional poetry represented by Goga or Pillat.

Being a strong artistic personality who constantly polished and refined his own original artistic language, capable of depicting a universe full of miracles and everyday emotions, Georges Dumitrescu was noticed by Romanian critic Petre Comarnescu whose authority prompted the painter into the artistic world.

(cont'd on pg. 15)



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