



Romanian Festival

21ST JANUARY – 4TH FEBRUARY 2025



AT THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL
INSTITUTE

1 BELGRAVE SQUARE LONDON SW1X 8PH

*Celebrating 20 Years of ADEPT &
25 Years of Pro Patrimonio*





Gail Sturgis, The Black Mare, Miclosoara, watercolour, 38 x 30.5 cm



Gideon Summerfield, Golden Hour in Viscri, pastel on paper, 30 x 42 cm

Programme of Events

Tuesday 21st January

6pm

Introductory talk by Dr John Akeroyd:
*Transylvania's Flowers &
Countryside*

6.30pm – 8.30pm

ADEPT reception: wine and canapés
Private view: *British Painters in
Transylvania*

Wednesday 22nd January

6pm

Doors open & exhibition viewing

6.30pm

Talk by Jeremy Musson:
*The Role of Beauty in Cultural
Heritage & Conservation*

7pm

Drinks reception

7.30pm – 8.30pm

Alexandru Tomescu & Dragos Ilie
Live in concert



Clare Inskip, Coming Home, oil on linen, 30 x 35 cm

Exhibiting Artists

Katharine Alecse, Richard Foster, Joana Galego, Felicity House,
Clare Inskip, Jeremy Musson, Richard Pikesley, Tobit Roche,
Tim Scott Bolton, Gail Sturgis, Gideon Summerfield

For the past two years, British artists have been travelling to Transylvania to paint and these works are the result. One third of all sales from the exhibition will be generously donated to ADEPT



*Katharine Alecse, The Viscri Shepherd,
acrylic on canvas, 152 x 122 cm*

Katharine Alecse (BFA, Pratt Institute, NYC) is an American painter living in Viscri. After moving to Transylvania from London following one of these painting excursions to the country, she raised her Romanian 5-year-old while pursuing her artistic career. She specialises in large-scale realism, often depicting people and animals. Katharine has founded artistic groups in New York and London and has recently started Viscri Arts, which hosts an annual exhibition in the village. Instagram: @katharinealecseart



Richard Foster, The Old Cart, watercolour, 15 x 22 cm

Richard Foster was brought up in Norfolk, and still has a house there, but lives mostly in London. He studied art at Simi's in Florence and then at the City & Guilds in London. He paints portraits, figures and landscapes and exhibits his work at various mixed exhibitions including the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, of which he was Vice President from 1991–94 and President from 2017–22. He frequently paints abroad and has his own one-man show roughly every four years, where he exhibits a mixture of landscapes, portraits and figurative work. www.richardfoster.co.uk

Joana Galego was born in Portugal in 1994. She completed a BA in Painting at the University of Lisbon in 2016 and the 'Drawing Year' at the Royal Drawing School in 2017. She has exhibited in the UK, Portugal and elsewhere, including the solo exhibitions *Jardins* at Galeria Belard, Lisbon in 2024 and *mole lunar sinal* at Soho Revue, London, in 2023. Joana was awarded the Sir Denis Mahon Award



*Felicity House, Mariela's Vegetable Garden,
watercolour & pastel, 63 x 47 cm*

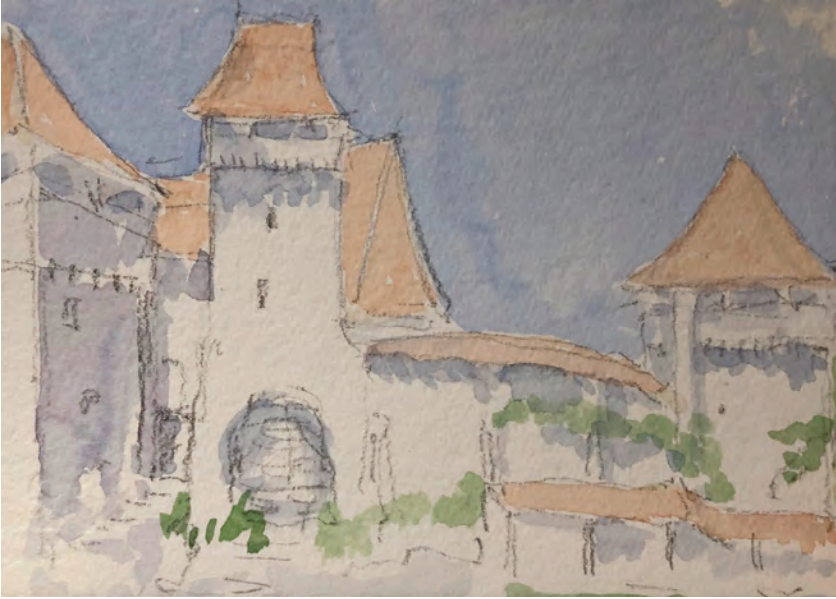
from the Royal Drawing School in 2017 and short-listed for the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize in 2019. She has recently participated in artistic residencies at Palazzo Monti in Italy and IIFA in India. www.joanagalego.com

Felicity House works directly from the motif with spontaneity and freshness. Sound drawing is fundamental to her work; she uses watercolours, pastels and oils with a certain fluency. Inspired by travelling, Felicity enjoys painting new places, both landscape and architecture. Equally, she responds to domestic subject matter – intriguing arrangements and complex

interiors. Her studio works are developed from sketchbook drawings. Felicity is a member of the New English Art Club and the Pastel Society. www.felicityhouseartist.co.uk

Clare Inskip, despite no formal art training, has had 12 solo shows in London as well as other group exhibitions and her work is in many private collections. Working almost entirely on the spot, she likes to encapsulate the moment in time, especially on trips to Sri Lanka, India and, most recently, to Transylvania. She enjoys cap-

turing local life and rural scenes. She travels with groups to faraway places, encouraging other artists, and is always inspired by the colours and movement of her subjects in the local landscape. Clare also runs art courses at her studio in Wiltshire.
www.clareinskip.com



Jeremy Musson, Viscri Fortified Church, watercolour, 18.4 x 14.8 cm

Jeremy Musson, born in London in 1965, has drawn and painted as long as he can remember, although his career has been in architectural history, curating, writing and heritage assessment. Taught art at school by the influential Graham Drew, he continued life drawing classes in London in the 1980s and is now a member of the ‘P.O.S.E.R.S.’ art circle in Cambridge. Jeremy has also been coached in painting by Tim Scott Bolton and has exhibited works in the Mall Gallery, London. Life drawing is important to him, as well as explorations in watercolour and, occasionally, oils.

www.jeremymusson.com

Richard Pikesley considers painting a conversation with the visual world and starts with working in front of the subject. It is always a matter of finding equivalents, in paint, for light and space and seeing the world 'in paint' continues to be an obsession. He is a member of the Royal Watercolour Society and former President of the New English Art Club. Richard's work starts with an immediate response. Seeing, perhaps, an effect of light which really grabs his attention, the first step will usually be a painting - made fast enough to get the moment down. The next stage will often be to make a more considered drawing, which might take many hours.

<https://www.newenglishartclub.co.uk/artists/91-richardpikesley/overview/>



Richard Pikesley, Botanical Cat, Transylvania, oil on board, 28 x 32.5 cm

Tobit Roche was born in Manchester in 1954 and his early years were spent in Hong Kong, Canada and then India, which became a spiritual home. After starting at the Royal Ontario College of Art, in Toronto, he continued his training at Camberwell, in London. Tobit was a regular visitor to Charleston, the home of Bloomsbury artist Duncan Grant, a close family friend, and there spent a very formative period shortly before Grant's death in 1978. Though mainly a landscape painter, Tobit's work includes abstractions and symbolist landscapes. He shows regularly at the Art Stable, in Dorset, as well as the Maas and Grosvenor Galleries and Indar Pasricha in London. www.tobitroche.com

Tim Scott Bolton, a trustee of Fundatia ADEPT, frequently travels to Romania, where he finds inspiration in the country's rich cultural heritage and idyllic rural landscapes. His artwork often reflects the charm of local architecture and captures the essence of Romania's countryside. Tim is widely travelled and undertakes commissions and other projects. Notably, he has accompanied the King and Queen on three Royal tours as official tour artist. In addition to painting, Tim has published two books, *A Brush with Brown* and *A Brush with Rivers*. Tim and his wife, Trish, live on an organic farm in Wiltshire, where they run the Summerleaze Gallery. www.timscottbolton.co.uk

Gail Sturgis discovered a hidden love for sculpting and drawing after recovering from cancer. With no formal art training, she has produced a collection of powerful pieces, working from sight and en plein air. It is her ability to capture movement and character in animal sculpture that has gone from strength to strength, employing various techniques and a love of pencil, pastel and watercolour. She has pursued her passion by attending courses both at home and abroad, with guidance notably from the late Vince Tutton. Gail is based in north Wiltshire. www.gailsturgis.com



Tim Scott Bolton, Viscri Fortified Church, watercolour, 38 x 60 cm

Gideon Summerfield completed the postgraduate ‘Drawing Year’ course at the Royal Drawing School in 2017 and, since then, has enjoyed numerous exciting opportunities. These include commissions from contemporary gallery, Hauser and Wirth, for its hotel, the Fife Arms, and ‘Fish Shop’ restaurant. Last year, he was privileged to be chosen by HM King Charles III to capture the Coronation and has produced a large painting, due to go on display this year. Gideon was the official artist of Royal Ascot 2024, displaying a series of works that captured the drama, energy, and excitement of racing. www.gideonsummerfield.com





Wednesday 22nd January
PRO PATRIMONIO
Romania's 'National Trust'

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6pm

6.30pm

7pm

7.30pm – 8.30pm

Doors open & exhibition viewing

Talk by Jeremy Musson:

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Heritage & Conservation*

Drinks reception

Alexandru Tomescu & Dragos Ilie

Live in concert



Jeremy Musson is an architectural historian, author, *Country Life* contributor and heritage consultant. He worked as a junior curator for the National Trust in the 1990s before becoming architectural editor for *Country Life* magazine from 1998 to 2007. Between 2007 and 2008, he was presenter of BBC2's *The Curious House Guest* and he is the author of over 20 books on historic houses and heritage, including *English Country House Interiors*, *English Ruins* and *Secret Houses of the Cotswolds*. His most recent publication is the new guidebook for Kelmscott Manor, the country home of William Morris. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Jeremy is also a trustee of the Historic Houses Foundation and travels widely as a writer. He visited Transylvania in 2023 and 2024. www.jeremymusson.com

Wines have been kindly donated by Prince Stirbey Wines, offering two whites, Cramposie and Tamaioasa, and two reds Novac and Merlot.



*Joana Galego, Viscri (1), watercolour, soft pastel and oil pastel
on khadi paper, 20 x 20 cm*

In Concert

Alexandru and Dragos will be performing a selection of Paganini's sonatas for violin and guitar from *Centone di Sonate*, a collection of six sonatas, which Alexandru describes as 'miniature operas' and 'very spectacular'.

Alexandru and Dragos performed *Centone di Sonate* on the 2022 Stradivarius Tour, to great public acclaim.

There will be no interval

DRAGOS ILIE trained at the National College of Arts and the National Music Conservatoire in his native city of Iasi. After receiving the prestigious ‘Woodruff Award’, Dragos went on to complete his Bachelor studies at the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University, and has since attained a doctoral degree at the University of Austin, Texas.

He has received awards in over 40 international competitions and has taught and performed in some of the most prestigious guitar events across the United States, Europe and Asia.

In 2021, he joined the Austin Guitar Quartet and is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Arts in Iasi, Romania.



ALEXANDRU TOMESCU is concert soloist with the elite National Radio Orchestra, in Bucharest.

After studying in Switzerland with Tibor Varga and the US with Eduard Schmieder, he has enjoyed a hugely successful worldwide career, appearing with conductors such as Valery Gergiev, Kurt Masur and Christoph Eschenbach.

He was named ‘Goodwill Ambassador’ by the South Korean Ministry of Fine Arts for several years and was involved in numerous cultural events in that country.

In his native Romania, Alexandru has undertaken to demonstrate classical music is open to everyone by organizing national tours to towns where there are no philharmonic orchestras.

He received the 1702 Stradivarius Elder-Voicu violin in September 2007 and November 2023.



Transylvania, a Special Place

Transylvania is a special place. Visitors have long been drawn to its mountains, glens and rolling hills, its wealth of nature and traditional rural life and culture. In recent years, this beautiful region has captured the imagination of many people in Romania, Britain, Western Europe and further afield, not least King Charles III, who is a regular visitor. The King has frequently drawn attention to what he has termed Romania's 'remarkable rural civilization', her agrarian heritage and precious resources of plant and animal life, both in wilderness areas and on farmland. Visitors increasingly seek out the flower-rich hay meadows, at their peak of colour in early to mid-summer but attractive from early spring to autumn.

This extensive meadowland is not some vestige of lost richness but a significant landscape element and one threatened by modern agriculture. These wildflower meadows comprise an iconic image of



Dr John Akeroyd



Farmed Romanian Landscape at Angofa Valley

a countryside that, managed wisely, well combines natural beauty and a productive ecosystem.

Nature lies at the heart of so much Transylvanian and Romanian traditional village life, art and culture. However, the survival of these farmed landscapes and their biodiversity is as precarious as any ecosystem on Earth, even though they appear substantially intact. Future economic development has to incorporate the legacy of the historical farming communities and combine best traditional farming practices with innovative technology. Not only must we not lose an intangible sense of place, but also there is no reason why the rural economy cannot again provide a livelihood linked directly to landscape, incorporating sustainable food production and biodiversity conservation.

Dr John Akeroyd, Fundatia ADEPT



Tobit Roche, View of Viscri, (2) oil on board, 21 x 27 cm (unframed size)

ADEPT *An Unconventional Conservation Organisation*

Reflecting on the last 20 years of Fundatia ADEPT, I see our success as a blend of good fortune and an alertness to seize opportunities. We began our work as Romania prepared to join the EU and were, therefore, in a position to influence early policy-making. Our collaboration with the Romanian Ministry has supported over 200,000 farmers and 1.2 million hectares in nature-friendly farming for two decades.

This early success has been followed up by an unrelenting innovative and flexible approach to conservation, covering a range of activities: grassland management research; developing economic support for small-scale farmers; promoting the appreciation of the national and European importance of farmland biodiversity; and diversifying income through nature tourism and traditional crafts. In recognition of its work, ADEPT has won top prizes at EU level three years in a row for its innovative approaches.

In 2016, ADEPT acquired a 200 hectare farm in the Angofa Valley. ADEPT has developed a unique demonstration farm combined with a grassland research facility at its field study centre (the former village school) which also doubles as a nature study centre for local schools and overseas students. New initiatives include working with award-winning innovators, Mosaic Earth and KANOP, to analyse changes in land use, and with RePLANET, to develop Europe's first grassland carbon and biodiversity credit schemes, which will revolutionize support for nature-friendly farming and Transylvania's small-scale farming communities.

ADEPT has become one of Romania's leading agri-environment advisory services, with a high impact at national level and a strong European reputation. Our success is due to our energetic Romanian staff (most early members are still with us after 20 years), support from Romanian universities and the active co-operation of Romanian farmers. We would like to express our profound gratitude for the powerful and visionary partnerships we have enjoyed over the years with a range of corporate and philanthropic funders, on whom our activities and results absolutely depend – an important source of ideas and stimulus as well as of essential funding.

You can learn more about our projects and how to support them by visiting www.fundatia-ADEPT.org

Nathaniel Page, Director, Fundatia ADEPT, 2024

The Pro Patrimonio Foundation

The Pro Patrimonio Foundation is an international non-profit NGO, with branches in Romania (Bucharest), Great Britain and France. The Foundation is Romania's National Trust and its establishment in 2000 aimed to alert Romanians to their architectural cultural heritage, neglected by 43 years of communist rule. The Foundation both restores and finds a purpose for these buildings and community participation plays an important role. The following are some of the Foundation's current and future restoration projects.

The 18th century wooden church in Ursi is part of the *60 Wooden Churches Project*. Its restoration began in 2010 with an emergency intervention, initiated by the Romanian Order of Architects, and



The 18th century wooden church in Ursi

was financed by the Pro Patrimonio Foundation. The project won the Conservation category at the 2021 European Heritage Awards and also received the Public Choice Award at the same event.

The wooden church in Sirineasa is a distinct case study under the umbrella of the research programme run by the Foundation.

One of Pro Patrimonio's fundamental objectives is to educate owners and communities of the importance of their heritage buildings and historical sites. Their restoration work involves a diverse programme of hands-on activities, employing and teaching skills which involve the local community as much as possible.

With the completion and restoration of the George Enescu House, birthplace of Romania's most celebrated composer, the Academy of Music and Sound Studies has set up a music study programme for local children. The restored house hosts music workshops, concerts and artists' residencies. The Enescu House is a flagship for supporting cultural architecture, traditional building techniques and the visual arts.

Neamtu Manor in the village of Olari, Pârscoveni, Olt county, is one of the few examples of civil architecture preserved in southern Romania. Due to a long period of neglect, the Manor requires extensive and urgent conservation and consolidation works and needs significant funding to complete the project, much of which is being carried out by volunteers working alongside professional restorers.

Pro Patrimonio's Golescu Villa and the dendrological park in Câmpulung Muscel is an exceptional example of architectural and landscape integrity. In the Foundation's strategy to conserve this special heritage landscape, the space hosts annual creative residencies, landscape and craft workshops, open days and activities for children.

Since 2006, Pro Patrimonio has organised cultural programmes at the Petre P. Carp mansion in Tibanesti. It runs a series of workshops on traditional crafts and experimental techniques, with volunteers and professionals sharing insights, experiences and ideas on



Interior of the 18th century wooden church in Ursi

the best ways to restore buildings on a limited budget without jeopardising the character and integrity of the original fabric.

Donations, large or small, are vital to the Foundation's work: propatrimonio.org/donate/. Support the core activities of the Foundation by paying the annual minimum fee of 300 lei / 60 EUR which will cover the period 1 January – 31 December 2025. Please send us an email to propatrimonio.romania@gmail.com so that we can thank you and keep you informed of our activities.

There is a unique opportunity to enjoy access across the International National Trusts Organisation Places network, taking advantage of our Pro Patrimonio membership rate discount. Eg: if you are a member of the UK National Trust, you can use your membership to explore our places in Romania and vice versa.

<https://www.into.org> www.propatrimonio.org



LGT Wealth Management is one of the leading wealth managers in the UK. When we launched in 2008, it was with a simple plan: to put our clients first and provide a personalised, transparent investment service tailored around their goals and needs.

Investing is both a science and an art: financial analysis and portfolio construction are rational processes, but financial decisions are also driven by hopes, fears and a deep sense of responsibility. With our private ownership by the Princely Family of Liechtenstein providing stability and financial strength, our clients become part of a distinguished legacy at LGT that helps them to build their wealth for generations. A long-term outlook and an entrepreneurial ethos are at the heart of our firm.

LGT Wealth Management has offices in London, Jersey, Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, Birmingham and Manchester and has over £30 billion in assets under management.

We are delighted to support Fundatia ADEPT on their 20th Anniversary.



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Painting Travels to Special Places



www.clareinskip.com

Supporters:

The Romanian Embassy and the Romanian Cultural Institute for
hosting the exhibition & concert at No 1 Belgrave Square
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Prince Stirbey Wines for generously donating wine
from their vineyards
Aqua Carpatica for kindly supplying their bottled water
Humphrey Stone for designing the catalogue
Liisa Steele for helping to put it all together
and all the artists, who are giving 30% of their sales
in support of ADEPT

Front and back covers: Frieze by Felicity House

Back cover: Horse by Gail Sturgis



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