

CATINCA TABACARU GALLERY

Ioana Mincu

***București*ul e un Biscuite Sfărâmicios**

(Bucharest is a Crumbly Cookie)

Ioana Mincu

București e un Biscuite Sfărâmicios/ Bucharest is a Crumbly Cookie

In *Bucharest Is a Crumbly Cookie*, Ioana Mincu approaches the city through its material vulnerability: cracked façades, exposed brick and bundles of cables, improvised repairs, waste; animals, insects and weeds taking over the spaces in between. The city appears as a porous body, continually penetrated and transformed by the human and non-human lives it holds.

A city of visible interventions.

Buildings carry successive architectural and political histories alongside contemporary additions; surfaces are perforated and adapted without fully concealing what came before.

Mincu takes this condition of patching as both a material reality and a way of thinking about her work. In the new ceramic and watercolor works, a cracked dumpster stitched together with wire becomes an image of its particular logic: the damage remains visible, while an improvised gesture keeps the object in use–care and injury coexist. This proximity permeates the exhibition.

Mincu describes it through the idea of tender violence.
Slightly raised on rough building bricks, her dog, Franj, gives birth to a litter of five. In reality she is sterilized, because the vet said, “it’s better this way.”

The birth image offers an impossible future. Human intervention—to achieve what we believe to be right—assumes the authority to supersede another being’s biological course: to “repair” something while unsure whether it is broken, altering it and determining what form its destiny will take.

A quiet unmaking.

An abandoned building is not empty. Its new occupants embrace the opportunities offered by its rot, roots split masonry making room for new growth, water eats slowly at metal until it rusts into something else entirely. Through whimsical, hand-painted motifs on clay and paper, Mincu conjures a vision of the sublime and fragile world she encounters on her daily journey from home to studio. Roosting pigeons and wandering strays settle into forgotten human spaces.

In the middle of the darkened gallery space stands a ceramic air-conditioning unit. Our need to adapt to a rapidly changing climate has led to a lack of regulation surrounding the exterior placement of these units, allowing them to invade the cityscape, clinging like ticks to historic façades. Removed from the building and placed in the gallery, the air-conditioning unit remains an awkward presence: as visually intrusive here as it is on the city’s architecture. The idea of patching reemerges.

In Mincu’s dark fairy tale world of accumulated decay, it is the insects, snails, worms, and parasites who take on the role of protagonist. They are our agents of metamorphosis.

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Bucharest is a Crumbly Cookie, 2026
watercolor on paper, ceramic
100 x 40 x 32 cm



Accidental Brutality, 2026
watercolor on paper, ceramic
74 x 42 x 5 cm



Pentru că magia Bucurestiului nu vine neapărat din supranatural.
Vine dintr-un mod de a privi materia banală.
Un gunoi devine bijuterie.
Un AC devine organism.
Un cablu devine vierme.
Un tomberon cusut devine corp rănit.
O clădire devine insectă.
Un parazit devine aproape creatură mitologică.





The insides of an Air Conditioning, 2026
ceramic, 70x 40 x 22 cm



Swarming, 2026
watercolor on paper, ceramic frame, 46 x 50 x 6 cm







Common pigeon, 2026
Ceramic, 172 x 60 x 7 cm







Franj, 2026
ceramic, 77 x 40 x 26 cm



Franj, 2026 (detail)



Franj, 2026 (detail)

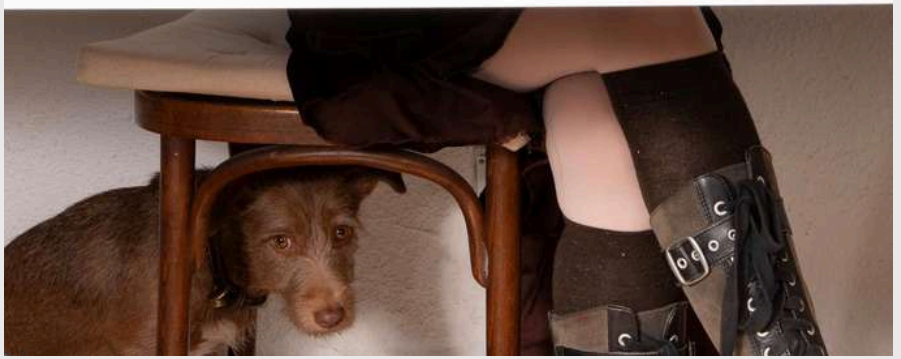
IOANA MINCU

Ioana Mincu (b. 2001) is a visual artist whose practice navigates a universe of personal mythologies, shaped by an unfiltered, at times naive, fascination with the world. Her work unfolds across multiple media, ranging from drawing and traditional painting to ceramics, video, and installation.

Rooted in the animist beliefs of childhood, nature, folklore, and animation, Mincu employs fantasy and escapism not as a means of detachment from reality but as a way to cultivate deeper connections with environmental, social, and mental ecologies. Her magical creatures quietly emerge from the realm of imagination, manifesting within everyday settings as symbols of the invisible interconnectivity that surrounds us.

Mincu began her artistic training at the Nicolae Tonitza High School of Fine Arts in Bucharest (2011–2019) before specializing in Illustration at the University of the Arts London (2019–2023). Over the past year, her work has been exhibited as part of the STOL Collective at Suprainfinit Gallery in Bucharest and in a group exhibition at the Museum of Recent Art (MARe) in Bucharest. She also presented her first solo exhibition at Out House Gallery in London.





Ioana Mincu

(b. 2001, Romania)

EDUCATION

2023 BA Illustration, University of Arts London

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Bucuresti e un Biscuite Sfarmancios* (*Bucharest is a Crumbly Cookie)*, Catinca Tabacaru, Bucharest
2025 *What Knots Knot Knots,* Atelier 35, Bucharest
2024 *Sleeping Through the Cracks*, Out House Gallery, London

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Home*, Goodbuy Gallery, Bucharest
Steaua, *Young & Innocent Days,* Ivan Gallery, Bucharest
Violence in My Heart, Muzeul Tehnic, Bucharest
2024 *After the Orgy 003,* Pharmakon Gallery, Bucharest
Cei Noi / Graduate Curated, Muzeul de Arta Recenta /MARe Museum, Bucharest
2023 *Housewarming*, Peckham Levels, London
Prop Room, Safehouse, London
Had a Dream You Won't Understand, Goodbuy Gallery, Bucharest

RESIDENCIES

2025 Watermelon, Bechet, Romania

STOL COLLECTIVE INSTALLATIONS

2025 Caravaggio Photo Booth
2024 *Earthcake*, Curated by Living Content / Adriana Blindaru, Ocna Saltmine, Targu Ocna, Romania
Cultura Obiectelor, Suprainfinit, Bucharest
Garage Sale Utopia, RAD, Bucharest
2023 *Aici a fost odată câmp / Here Was Once a Field*, Suprainfinit, Bucharest (pre-formal Stol Collective with Mara and Marco Verhoogt)

HORA DUO EXHIBITIONS (w/ Mara Verhoogt)

2023 *Candle Burning Ritual, Avalon* Café, London
2022 *Visions of the Unseen,* Art Hub Studios, London

CURATORIAL W/ STOL COLLECTIVE

2026 Clasa A35 Series, Atelier 35, Bucharest
Snowflakes
Up and Down the Accelerator
Mihai Dumitiru & Dimitrie Luca Gora: *everything I want wants me more*
Ioana Gemanar: *Distance Superb*

SCREENINGS

2023 *Aici a fost odată câmp / Here Was Once a Field,* w/ STOL Collective, FIASCO, Bucharest
2022 *Visions of the Unseen,* w/ HORA Duo, Entrance Gallery, Prague