CHRISTIAN JANKOWSKI
THE PROMISE
Curated by Mihaela Mincă
Witnessed and facilitated by Margaux Bonopera
09.10 - 16.11.2026

The exhibition **The Promise** is the first major exhibition in Romania by German artist Christian Jankowski (1968, Göttingen). At once a retrospective and a presentation of new works, the project unfolds within the monumental space of Casa Scânteii, the former printing hall of the Romanian Communist Party's press organ. Jankowski has chosen to develop his project from this very location, which continues to function as a printing house but also hosts private television networks. By focusing on the concept of communication, its production and evolution of the media, the artist brings us back to the fundamental question: when and how does belief in an idea begin?

In an attempt to answer this question, Jankowski decided to undertake this project, not with an exhibition curator or a philosopher, but with one of the country's most powerful witches, Mihaela Mincă, together with her coven. By entrusting her with the selection and display of the works and asking them to cast various art-specific spells for a new series of photographs, the artist engages with a new system of belief: magic and ritual. Stages of the magical process were live broadcast on Romanian television covered by Realitatea TV, and later assembled to become the new video work presented in this exhibition. In this way, it is the function of art and everything associated with it that Jankowski is disrupting: the role of the various players in the art world, the artist's place in society and the systems of categorisation and value of artworks.

This challenge to art and its driving forces seems to be a way for the artist to push his own limits but, above all, to question what keeps us coming back to exhibitions. Perhaps one of the main reasons would be our shared belief in the promise and the power of art.

Margaux Bonopera

CREDITS

Witches: Mihaela Mincă, Anda Mihaela, Casanndra, Ana, Ayana, Kalyandra
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