

# Simona Nastac

---

## PROFILE

Curator, critic and poet with extensive knowledge of contemporary art, arts management and cultural diplomacy. Former Head of Arts at the Romanian Cultural Institute in London.

## KEY EXPERTISE AND SKILLS

- Advanced research, planning and organisational skills
- Experience of working with a range of art forms, budget, resource management
- Experience of working closely with artists, galleries and various other art specialists and institutions
- Analytical, strategic and creative thinking
- Highly organised and impeccable attention to detail
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal

## CAREER HISTORY

### April 2004 – Present: Arts Curator

I have been curating high-level individual and group exhibitions, as well as live poetry events, managing all aspects from research, proposal writing and budget management to artists liaison, logistics, exhibition design, press and PR. Projects in London, New York, Seoul, Prague, Cluj, Craiova and Bucharest featured leading contemporary artists Anish Kapoor, Tony Cragg, Hito Steyerl, Guy Ben-Ner, Jordan Wolfson, Christian Bök, Jaap Blonk, and Dan Perjovschi, as well as emerging international talents Larissa Sansour, Ciprian Muresan, and Tomomi Adachi amongst others.

Highlights include: [metaMorph ~ a dot that went for a walk](#), multimedia poetry show featuring ten performers at Bucharest International Festival of Poetry (May 2017); [NeXus: Open Fusions](#), group exhibition and live performances at the Museum of Art, Craiova (August – October 2016); [DADA 100: Poetry Without Verse](#), live performance of avangarde, sound and experimental poetry at the International Poetry Festival Bucharest (May 2016); [Cut With the Kitchen Knife](#), group exhibition of ten international artists at Intact Space Gallery, Cluj (May – August 2016); [Rain Doesn't Fall for Nothing](#), group show of five Korean artists at Kingston College, London (August 2015); and [Pocket Revolutions](#), exhibition of nine Romanian artists at Korea Foundation, Seoul (April 2015).

**Past exhibitions selection:** [Under the Radar](#), Pitzhanger Manor Gallery, London (2011); [Romanian Pavilion](#), HotShoe Gallery, London (2010); [How To Build A Universe That Does Not Fall Apart Two Days Later](#), Documenta Festival, Regensburg (2007); [If You Think This World Is Bad You Should See Some of the Others](#), Prague Biennale 3 (2006); [Through Popular Expression](#), National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest (2006).

### July 2006 - December 2013: Head of Arts, Romanian Cultural Institute London (ICR)

- I curated and delivered over 200 cross-arts projects from initiation, management, press and PR to payment and review. Highlights of the arts programme included: group exhibitions of seminal works from museum collections in Romania; architecture and design displays within the British Council's International Showcases at London Fashion Week and the London Festival of Architecture; an exhibition of modern prints from Brancusi's original photographs; and a retrospective of celebrated artist Paul Neagu's sculpture, drawing and painting.
- I also created and led the artist-in-residence programme *Attic Arts* that produced successful collaborations with the V&A Museum, Camden Arts Centre and Tate Modern.
- I initiated and delivered an innovative programme of five specially commissioned public art projects for the Cultural Olympiad, including: the permanent installation of a sculpture by renowned British-Romanian artist Paul Neagu in Islington; large-scale hay sculptures in Victoria Park; original pieces of urban furniture in Trinity Square Gardens; and an award-winning architectural sculpture in King's Cross.

### October 2002 – August 2004: Curator and Manager, Nemtoi Gallery, Bucharest

I curated monthly gallery and venue exhibitions and events, featuring Ioan Nemtoi's glass sculptures. Managed artworks, budgets, shipping, installations, collector viewings, sales, staff and publicity. Delivered large-scale exhibitions at Oxo Tower (London), McLaren Centre (Woking) and Cotroceni Museum (Bucharest), and wrote and edited associated catalogues and publicity materials.

**June 2002 – Present: Independent Art Critic**

I published over 150 reviews and essays on diverse contemporary art scenes, exhibitions and artists in Flash Art International, Springerin, Eikon Vienna, Hart Brussels, Praesens Budapest, IDEA Cluj and ARTA Bucharest. From 2002 to 2004, I also covered major contemporary art exhibitions in Romania and Europe as Art Columnist of the Cultural Observer weekly magazine, Bucharest.

**September 2001 – June 2002:** Editor and host of a 30min cultural talk show at the Romanian Radio Broadcasting Company

**Volunteer Work:** Secretary of the [Rimbaud and Verlaine Foundation](#) from July 2014 to the present.

**AWARDS**

**2008:** Gulliver Connect Grant awarded by the Felix Meritis Foundation

**2004 and 2006:** Harald Szeemann Grant awarded by IKT

**2004:** The National Award for Art Writing awarded by the Romanian Union of Visual Artists

**2004:** Rațiu scholarship awarded by the Rațiu Family Charitable Foundation

**EDUCATION**

**2004 - 2005:** MA in Creative Curating Contemporary Art, Goldsmiths College, University of London

**1997 - 2001:** BA in Art History and Theory, National University of Arts, Bucharest

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**2006 – Present:** member of The International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art (IKT)

**LANGUAGES:** English (fluent), Romanian (native)

**IT SKILLS:** Microsoft Office (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Mail Chimp

**INTERESTS:** poetry, language, sound, social justice, human rights

**CONTACT:** [snastac@gmail.com](mailto:snastac@gmail.com) | <http://simonanastac.com>