

# **IGOR ZABEL** **AWARD FOR** **CULTURE AND** **THEORY 2022**

**Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2022**  
**Grant recipient**

**Alina Șerban, art historian, art writer, curator, and editor, Bucharest**

## **Jury's statement**

The jury has awarded the 2022 Igor Zabel Award Grant to **Alina Șerban** in recognition of her exceptional ability to create self-managed organizations and platforms that bring together Central and Eastern European researchers, practitioners, and cultural workers, and develop new transnational and transcultural perspectives and terminologies for issues that have previously been underdeveloped or marginalized.

Alina Șerban is an independent art historian, art writer, curator, and editor. She holds an MA in the history and theory of art from the National University of Art in Bucharest and completed two years of her PhD research at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. She is currently finishing her PhD at the National University of Arts in Bucharest. Her research addresses issues of horizontality in postwar Eastern European art and architecture, different regional constructions of conceptualism, and exhibition practices of the 1970s and 1980s. In 2008, she created remarkable monographic exhibitions on Ana Lupaș and Geta Brătescu at the Galerie im Taxispalais in Innsbruck (in collaboration with Silvia Eiblmayr), and, in 2009, curated the Romanian Pavilion at the 53rd Venice Biennale. Recently she curated a landmark exhibition entitled *24 Arguments: Early Encounters in Romanian Neo-avant-garde 1969–1971* at the National Museum of Art of Romania in Bucharest (2019). She also (co)curated a series of exhibitions that offered introspection on the complex interrelations between art, architecture, collective culture, and the dynamic of public spaces in Romania during the 1960s and 1970s, and also after the 1990s, among them *Enchanting Views: Romanian Black Sea Tourism Planning and Architecture of the 1960s and 1970s* (Sala Dalles, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, 2014).

Alina Șerban's outstanding curatorial practice often reflects on and polemicizes terminological issues in art historical narratives throughout diverse activities she is developing: symposiums, film screenings, public art commissions, exhibitions, academic presentations, and publishing. Not only does she reposition Romanian cultural figures in the international field, but she has also been influential in internationalizing cultural life in Bucharest. Șerban's work methods entail a unique combination of curating from both independent and institutional perspectives.



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Șerban has accumulated valuable experience founding self-managed organizations over many years, the most recent being *IP – The Institute of the Present* (<https://institutulprezentului.ro/>) founded in 2017 in Bucharest (with Ștefania Ferchedău). *IP* is a research and artist resource platform that has contributed to a major shift in the understanding of visual and performing arts in Romania within the local, regional, and international contexts. Publishing and editorial activities are another important aspect of Șerban's practice. In 2013, she founded the independent publishing program P+4 Publications in Bucharest. Dedicated to Romanian contemporary photography, art, and architecture, the program explores the book medium as a point of encounter between theoretical research, graphic design experiment, and the ideas and subjects tackled by artists in their practice.

With this grant, the jury aims to provide additional support for **Alina Șerban** to continue the legacy of her work and research as well as to contribute to the continuity of *IP*.

## **2022 jury members**

**Marta Dziewańska**, philosopher and curator, Kunstmuseum Bern

**Ahmet Ögüt**, artist, Berlin/Amsterdam

**Tomáš Pospiszl**, art historian and curator, Prague