



The Roosevelt Island
Visual Art Association
527 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044
www.rivaa.com

Opening September 7, 2019
Reception: 6:00-9:00 pm

RIVAA Gallery is pleased to present Bogdan Matei's exhibition:
Poses and Imaginary objects



The so-called "still life" has been the focus of my work for many decades. In the beginning I was fascinated by the materiality of inanimate objects as subject matter and embarked into a contest with the grand masters I admired and emulated.

What an artistic epiphany it was for me when my paintbrush refused to replicate the well-known and gave new life to the world around. My journey was transformed into a carnival of the imaginary. I became Pygmalion, creating vibrant life in unmovable things. This collection captures for me the ambivalence of life, of soul and matter, as the objects depicted move aimlessly in time and space. They are always in flow, guided by the eternal optimism for the future and whispering *tales* of multifaceted and metamorphic lives, liberated towards the never-ending quest for aesthetic immortality.

In **Dancing, Running, Mirrors**, I explore a *pas de deux* of energetic contours and traces of thin air that fall behind. The dance carries echoes of Hayao Miyazaki manga, and an homage to the art of ukiyo-e prints.

In **Nirvana** I try to reach complete, floating stillness by compressing objects and poses in time capsules.

Originating from a sketch at a live drawing session, the half lotus pose in the **Desire of Full Lotus** series, creates a portrait of artistic struggle: the bone breaking hardship, the perfectionist obsession, adorned by gut feeling, tearing sentiments and exploding, heartfelt emotions.

My works combine acrylic with rare oil interventions, collage, monotype, electrography...all connected by my love for color and equilibrium.

About the artist: Born in Romania, Bogdan Matei received his BFA in painting from the Institute of Fine Arts in Bucharest, Romania. While settling in Boston, through the way of France, he organized many solo exhibitions in Romania, Poland, but also at Carroussel du Louvre, Barm's Gallery and "AA" Gallery in Paris, Marius Gallery Copenhagen, Art Addiction in Stockholm, Museo Internacional de Electrografia Spain, World Bank Art Society in Washington, Alliance Francaise Boston. He participated in group exhibitions at Salon d'Automne and Salon Comparaisons at Grand Palais, Paris, international art fairs Art Expo New York, Dallas, Sydney, Tokyo, Taipei and Marche d'Art Contemporain Paris, Berlin.

Gallery Hours:

Sun. 11 am - 5 pm, Mon. & Tues. - Closed, Wed. 6 pm - 9 pm, Thurs. 1pm - 5 pm, Fri. 6 pm - 9 pm, Sat. 11am - 5 pm