



Proiect 1990.

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Art is a fascinating thing because it calls forth questions and associations, more often than not unwittingly. Looking at the statue “Oestridae Dominant” by Ștefan Radu Crețu confirms this statement. Is it really a helicopter (which may be the first thing that comes into your mind), the symbol of an instrument that watches the world from above? Or is it a caterpillar with wings, a commonplace creature that constitutes no danger but is not really attractive either?

The pedestal bearing the statue is a former symbol, now abandoned, of usurped power. After all, it was Lenin who used to watch the world – here – from above and who entranced the Romanians... Power is relative and temporary. This was easily demonstrated when the bronze Lenin was toppled by an infuriated crowd, symbolizing the end of their own dictator’s abuse of power. The void it left behind offered the possibility of a new, creative interpretation of the empty space.

The statue “Oestrídae Dominant” , which adorned, in May 2013, what used to be Lenin’s pedestal, is perfectly in tune with the notion behind Proiect 1990, which is to leave the old world of repression behind and give substance to a new time. Ștefan Radu Crețu’s work is, above all, equivocal because it provides images with recognizable features, but it is not what one initially assumes. It is complex and as such may symbolize the new society we can’t describe because we don’t know what the future has in store. What we know is that Crețu seems to imply its construction requires vision - from above. But if the instruments at hand are deployed in the same manner as in the past, they will inevitably turn against us in time and will then transform themselves into vermin and parasites.

Someone once said: *“It is only art that will demonstrate the flourishing of a society.”* After the Revolution of 1989, art in Romania is now facing different challenges to which Crețu’s work gives new meaning, with its great power of expression and good appreciation of the spirit of the present Romanian society. It demonstrates that artists have the ability to be on the cutting edge and give food for thought to others - wittingly or unwittingly.

- **Cees Hendrikse, contemporary art collector**