

The logo for the European Museum Academy (EMA) consists of the letters 'EMA' in a stylized, handwritten font.

European Museum Academy



### The 2015 Kenneth Hudson Seminar

Friday, 20 November 2015

National Museum of Romanian Peasant, Bucharest

## Totalitarian regimes heritage and European narratives.

### Experiences and ideas on the role of museums.

After the first cycle of Kenneth Hudson Seminars focused on digital interpretation and communication in museums, EMA has developed together with three other permanent partners (The Micheletti Foundation – Italy; The Forum of Slavic Cultures – Slovenia; The “Reteaua Nationala a Muzeelor” – Romania) the program of a new cycle, dealing with the heritage of totalitarian regimes.

Totalitarianism is part of the history of contemporary Europe. The birth of Fascism, Nazism and Communism marked the first half of the XX Century and the heritage of contemporary Europe. The end of the Second World War can be assumed as the end of one historical cycle and the opening of a new one, which in symbolic terms started with the famous speech by Winston Churchill in 1946: *"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."*

Our point of view is to examine the traces of this period in European cultural heritage (in museum collections and archives as well as architecture, especially monuments) and to discuss the possible use of such materials for the growing of historic awareness about this period in European civil society.

The general objective - to interconnect people from European civil society and museums, archives, NGOs, together with their experiences, practices and collections, for a better understanding of our Cold War cultural heritage.

The social history and the importance of selected study cases and how their stories illustrate life in the post-war period will focus on record debates, reflections, and critically comparisons of different national points of view - lessons to learn, the importance of European contemporary democratic values.

The project intends to develop a strong awareness , particularly among the young generation, on memory and common values of peace and freedom in modern Europe. What is the best solution to do this? By 'facing' and representing the traumatic and complex moments and manifestations of the Cold War (learning by comparison) in its dualism - Communism versus anti-Communism - and investigating the tangible signs of its traces (shape the history to understand better).

The project's approach is transnational in essence, since it interrogates recent European history across national boundaries.

As usual, the Seminar will gather around a table for one day from 10 to 15 experts of different background in terms of nationality, profession and age group, for a full immersion and open discussion stimulated by some key note speeches and visual materials.

Participation is free and by invitation.

The working language will be English.

The Seminar will be held at the National Museum of Romanian Peasant, Bucharest.

## ***Morning session***

***10am-1pm***

### ***Heritages of totalitarianisms: concepts, stones and films***

Opening speech: Virgil Nitulescu, *President of the National Network of Romanian Museums*

Chairman: Virgil Nitulescu

#### **- Totalitarianisms as Dissonant Heritage:**

Katarina Zivanovic (Serbia), *Cultural Heritage Specialist*

#### **- Communicating the Cultural Route of Architecture in Totalitarian Regimes: Towards a European narrative:**

Sandra Nauert, *Atrium* (Italy)

#### **- Mapping the Red Heritage:**

Viviana Iacob (Romania), *Rețeaua Muzeelor*

#### **- Alessandro Blasetti and the Imaginary of Fascism:**

Michela Zegna, *Cineteca di Bologna* (Italy)

## ***Afternoon session***

***2.30pm-5pm***

### ***Cold War in Europe, today***

Chairman: Wim van der Weiden, *European Museum Academy Chairman* (The Netherlands)

#### **- The Berlin Wall Memorial – From a Cold War object to a symbol of freedom:**

Günter Schlusche, *Berlin Wall Foundation* (Germany)

#### **- The other side of Cold War:**

Andreja Rihter, *Director of the Forum of Slavic Cultures and European Museum Academy President* (Slovenia)

- The Romanian case:

Simina Badica, *museum expert* (Romania)

- Europeana 1989. Memorabilia and stories after the fall of Iron Curtain:

Ad Pollé, *Europeana Foundation* (The Netherlands), Cristina Ioana Roiu, *Romanian Academy Library* (Romania)

Comments by:

- René Capovin, *Micheletti Foundation* (Italy)

- Elia Vlachou, *Director of the Piraeus Bank Cultural Foundation* (Greece)

- Laura Diamanti, *European Museum Academy Communication and Special Projects* (Italy)

Closing speech: Dragos Neamu, *Manager at National Network of Romanian Museums*

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*On occasion of the seminar, it will be held also a meeting of the EMA 2020 taskforce as a side event.*

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