



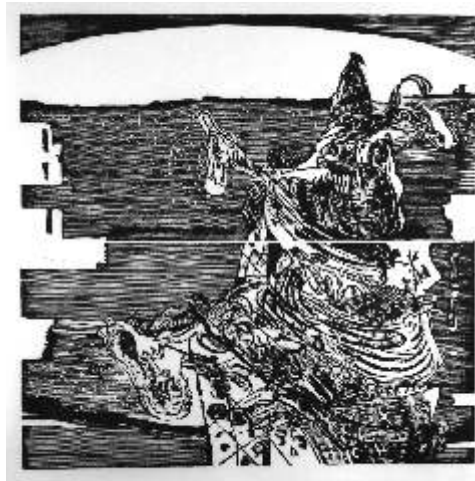
# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

**Ortansa Moraru**

Abstract (B&W)

September 8 - October 4, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'Ortansa Moraru - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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Telephone/Facsimile: 416-465-7352 Email: [info@headbonesgallery.com](mailto:info@headbonesgallery.com)  
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## **Ortansa Moraru**

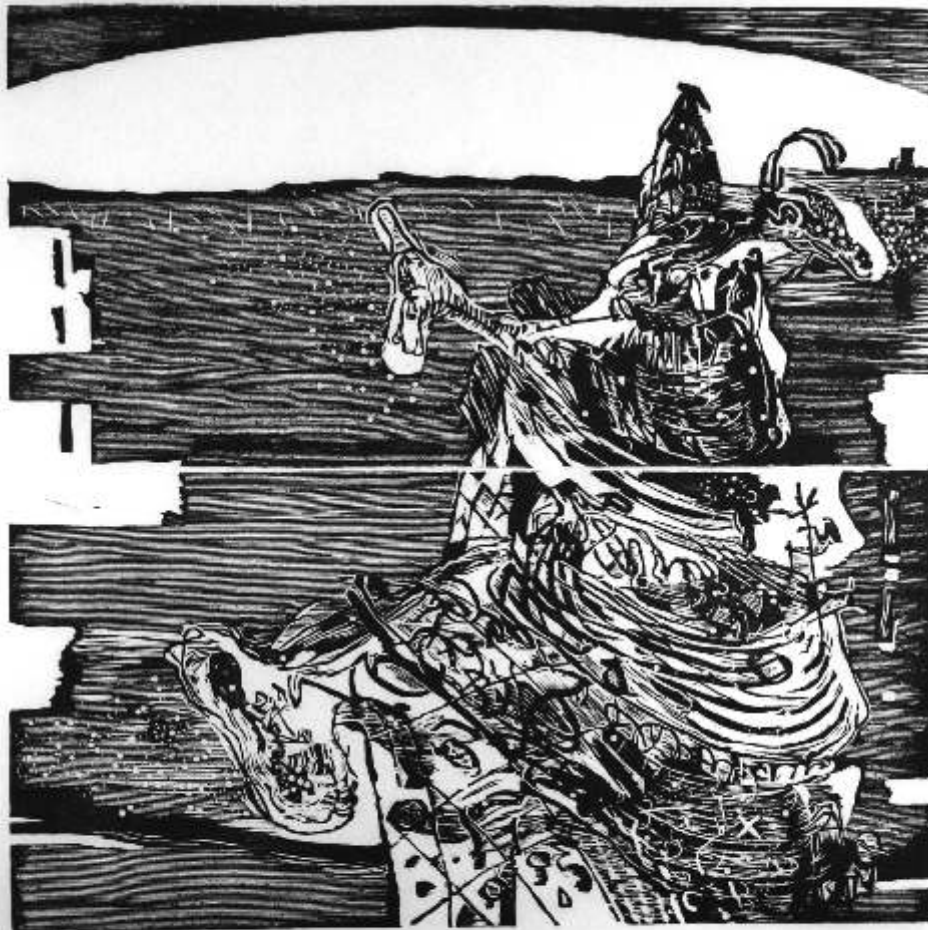
*Julie Oakes*

Ortansa Moraru's descriptive spaces are not worlds of complete freedom, but tangled and embroidered flights of fancy that imply existences other than those from which we have learned to escape. We are confronted by a maze-like frequency of turns and barriers that interrupts our expectations with a jag in an unexpected direction.

Consider the grain. When a perfect curve is unfolding and it hits the grain, the intrinsic path of the wood - the life lines and indications of history trip the wandering line and shift the pathway. It is similar to building a nest when the grasses and branches are woven into place by an intelligence that is unaware of mathematics and engineering, like a bird's, yet understands how to build the nest from the inside of it's being. The nest building gene is a part of their make-up. So it is with Ortansa Moraru's detailed woodcuts. They map an inner dimension that translates into marks familiar yet unique.

There is a subterranean feeling to the habitats. The stripes of wood with dots appear to be thicker dimensions from which the cartoon-like images are trying to free themselves, sending up air bubbles, as in "The Hearing Sense" or as the title suggests letting dancing sounds into a receptive ear.

Whether as a single image or in the multiple woodblocks, Ortansa Moraru's woodblock prints are striking, complicated linear messages. She has successfully utilized the traditional play between the stark black line, printed from the wood left raised as the area around it was gouged away, and the snowy white paper. The tones between the black and white relying on lines, fine to thick and constructed in reverse, reveal the mental dexterity required. Moraru's tangled layering, alongside the deep lushness of perfect inky blacks, presents us with a dynamic field of tension and relief.



The Hearing Sense  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 54 x 46 cm  
9/20 ed., 2006



Passing By I  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 66 x 46 cm  
3/20 ed., 2006



Passing By II  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 66 x 46 cm  
4/20 ed., 2006



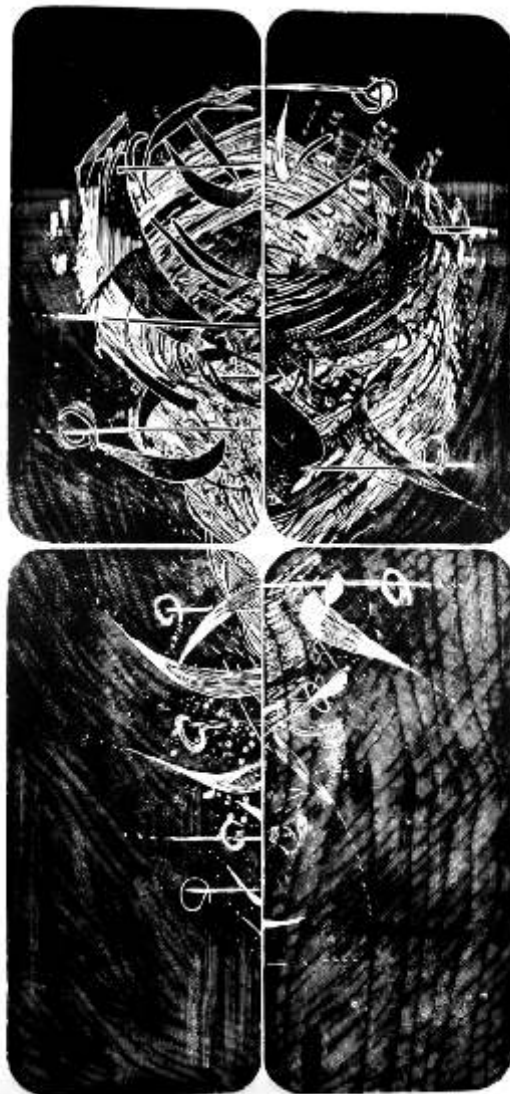


Passing By III  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 75 x 46 cm  
7/20 ed., 2006





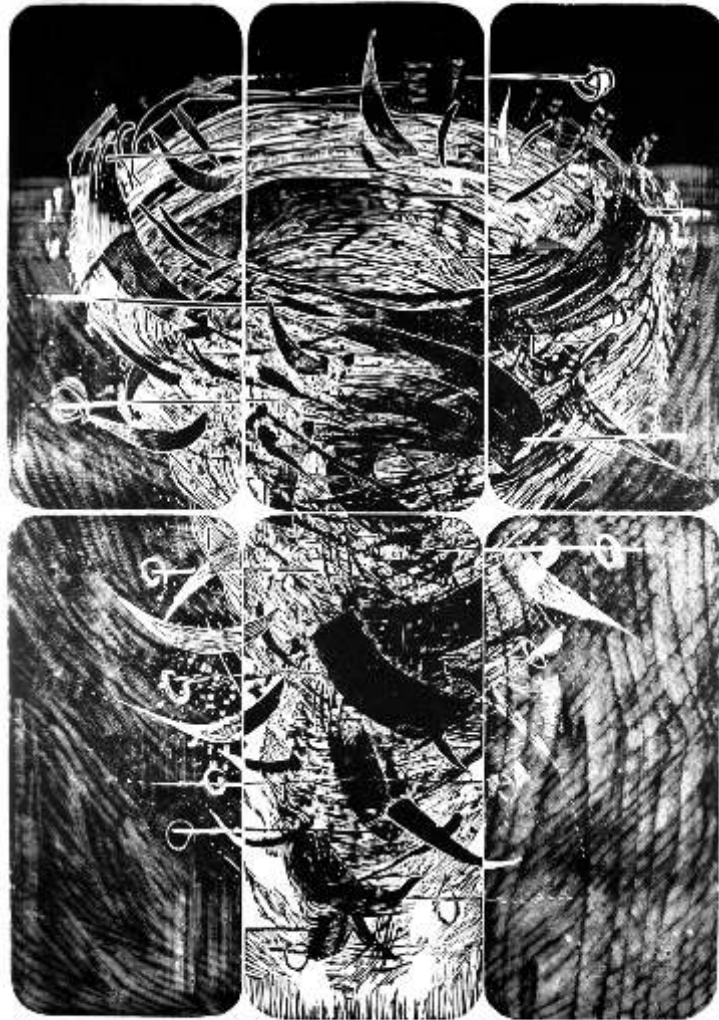
Passing By IV  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 75 x 46 cm  
unique, 2006



Nest II  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 75 x 120 cm  
3/20 ed., 2006



Nest III  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 75 x 120 cm  
2/20 ed., 2006



Nest IV  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 90 x 120 cm  
2/20 ed., 2006





Nest V  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 90 x 120 cm  
2/20 ed., 2006



Nest VI  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 89 x 120 cm  
4/20 ed., 2006



My Way 1  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 46 x 21 cm  
12/20 ed., 2003





My Way 2  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 46 x 21 cm  
12/20 ed., 2003

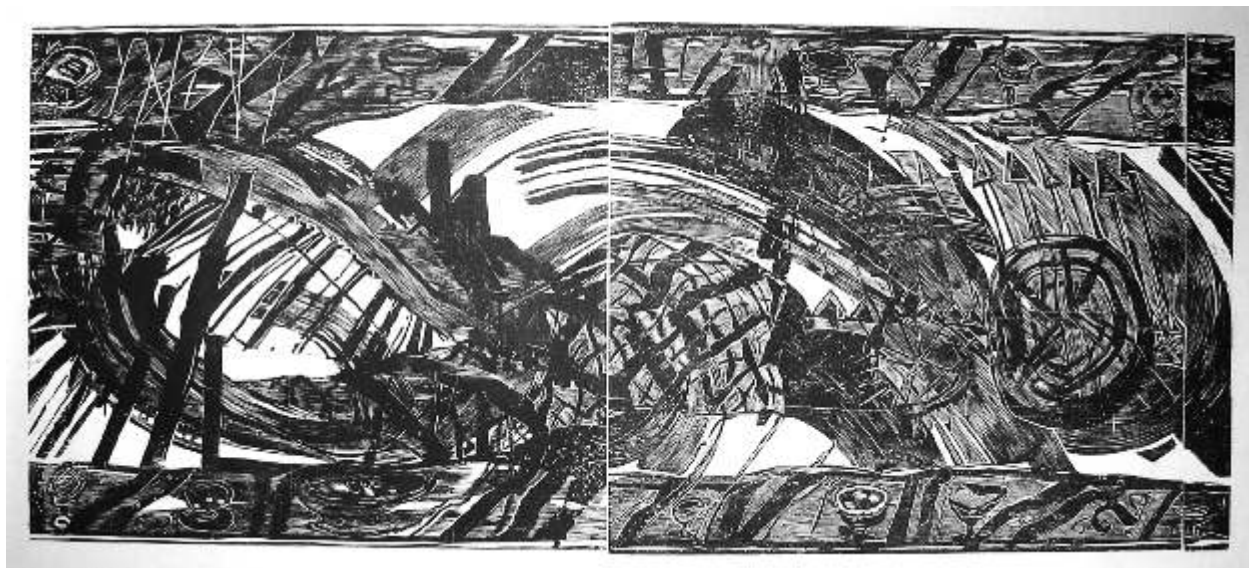


My Way 3  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 46 x 21 cm  
12/20 ed., 2003



Island  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 53 x 46 cm  
17/20 ed., 2003

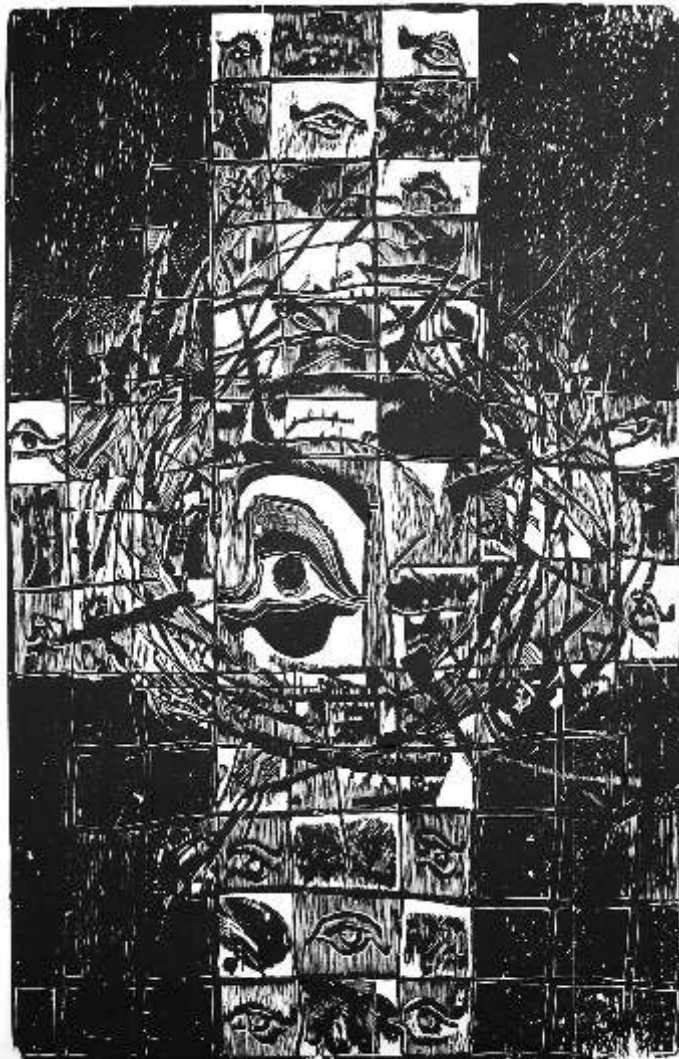




Ark II  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 85 x 138 cm  
5/20 ed., 2002



Soul of My Garden II  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 51 x 83 cm  
7/20 ed., 2002



The Eye  
woodblock print on Japanese paper, 107 x 80 cm  
7/20 ed., 2002

# Ortansa Moraru

## Areas of Expertise

Lithography, chromolithography , intaglio, xylography (woodcut and wood engraving), linocut, mezzotint, drypoint, monotype.

## Education

- 1991-1997 Faculty of Fine Arts, The Western University of Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania  
University Graduate in Fine Arts, MFA, B.Ed.  
Graduated as class' Top Academic Achiever (highest overall average)
- 1985-1988 Cornetti School of Arts, Craiova, Romania
- 1985-1987 Fine Arts High School, Craiova, Romania

## Scholarships

- 1998 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Rome, Italy  
Italian Language and Culture Study.
- 1996 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Rome, Italy  
Italian Language and Culture Study.
- 1993 The 4-th Biennial of Fine Arts Academies, Maastricht, Holland  
Master class section - Prof. Luciano Fabro, Milano

## Member of

- 2003 Society of Canadian Artists
- 19972001 Romanian Artists Society  
President of the Young Artists Circle, Craiova, Romania
- 19921997 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society
- 19902001 Romanian Ex Libris Association

## Awards

- 2006 Third Prize Award IV International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Francavilla al Mare, Italy
- 1996 The Youth Prize Award The Fine Arts Museum, Craiova, Romania
- 1994 Small Prints Award, Vulcan, Romania
- 1992 First Prize Award for Graphics "Dante Alighieri" Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
- 1989 "Gheorghe Sincai" Association Award, Oradea, Romania
- 1988 Third Prize Award (xylography) "Ion Creanga" Exhibit, Bacau, Romania



### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2004 Ontario Club, Toronto, Canada
- 2003 Time Just Passing By - Out/Aut Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1999 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1998 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1997 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
- 1996 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1995 Dante Alighieri Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania

### **Group Exhibitions (selection)**

- 2007 Home/Acasa Project, with the support of The Art Council England and The Romanian Cultural Institute - London , England
- 2007 5th International Small Engraving Biennial, Cremona, Italy
- 2007 5th Kiwa Exhibition, Japan
- 2007 Acqui Biennale Internazionale dell'Incisione, Acqui Terme, Italy
- 2007 2nd Interantional Ex-Libris Competition, Ankara, Turkey
- 2007 Internationale d'Art Miniature, Ville de Levis, Quebec
- 2007 SCA 50th Anniversary - Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, Toronto
- 2006 International Triennial of Graphic Art, Macedonia
- 2006 5<sup>th</sup> Egyptian International Print Triennial, Egypt
- 2006 IV International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Francavilla al Mare, Italy
- 2006 "Romanian Modern Artist's Exhibition", Koga City Museum, Japan
- 2006 First International Miniature Print Competition, Ottawa School of Art, Canada
- 2006 Elected Member's Spring Exhibition, Art Gallery of Northumberland, Cobourg, Canada
- 2005 Prise Jean Chieze, Paris, France
- 2005 11<sup>th</sup> International Biennial of Small Graphics, Ostrow, Poland
- 2005 3a International Biennial Gravura Douro, Alijo, Portugal
- 2005 6th "Iosif Iser" International Biennial, Ploiesti, Romania
- 2005 International Artexpo, New York, USA
- 2004 General Consulate of Romania, Toronto, Canada
- 2004 International Miniprint Salon GRAPHIUM, Timisoara, Romania
- 2004 International Small Engraving Salon, Baia Mare, Romania
- 2004 Iowa Biennial Exhibition Contemporary Prints, Iowa, U.S.A.
- 2004 Women's Art Association, Toronto, Canada
- 2004 Open October Salon Out/Aut Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 2004 International Artexpo, New York, USA

### **Group Exhibitions (cont'd)**

- 2004 4th Printmaking Festival, Évora, Portugal
- 2004 SCA Show - Heliconian Club, Toronto, Canada
- 2004 3rd International Miniature Exhibition "little m", Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2003 4th International Exhibition Ex-Libris, Rijeka, Croatia
- 2003 SCA Show - Hummingbird Centre, Toronto, Canada
- 2003 Open October Salon - Out/Aut Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2003 Still Life - Praxis Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2003 4th International Graphic Triennial, Bitola, Macedonia
- 2003 Museo Civico di Grafica, Brunico, Italy
- 2003 Small Prints - State Museum of Fine Arts, Ankara, Turkey
- 2000 Groupe Art '999 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 2000 The Fine Arts Museum (Jean Mihail Palace), Craiova, Romania
- 2000 "Oltenia" Museum, Craiova, Romania
- 2000 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 2000 Group 6872 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1999 Cranach und Dürer in Ex-Libris Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
- 1999 The Small Printings Biennial, Cluj, Romania
- 1999 Groupe Art '999 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1999 Fine Arts Teachers Group "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1998 C.I.A.C. Palazzo del Esposizione, Rome, Italy
- 1998 The First Small Printings Works Exhibition, Beijing, China
- 1998 First Art Addiction Annual, Venice, Italy
- 1998 Group 6872 - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1998 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1998 The Southern Exhibit, Rm. Vilcea, Romania
- 1997 The 19<sup>th</sup> International Independent Exhibition of Prints Prefectural Art Gallery, Kanagawa, Japan
- 1997 C.I.A.C. Bramante Hall (Piazza del Popolo), Rome, Italy
- 1997 Professional Artists Annual Exhibit - The Fine Arts Museum, Timisoara, Romania
- 1997 "Oltenia" Annual Exhibit The Fine Arts Museum, Craiova, Romania
- 1997 "Iosif Iser" - Contemporary Printmaking Biennial, Ploiesti, Romania
- 1997 National Fine Arts Exhibit, Resita, Romania
- 1997 Drawings Biennial, Arad, Romania
- 1996 Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
- 1996 F.I.S.A.E. Congress, Prague, Czech Republic

### **Group Exhibitions (cont'd)**

- 1996 "Paul Verlaine" Ex-Libris Exhibit, Metz, France
- 1996 "Oltenia" Annual Exhibit The Fine Arts Museum, Craiova, Romania
- 1996 "Color Print" Biennial Exhibit, Iasi, Romania
- 1996 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1996 "Tristan Tzara" Ex-Libris Exhibit, Bacau, Romania
- 1995 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
- 1995 The 18<sup>th</sup> International Independent Exhibition of Prints Prefectural Art Gallery, Kanagawa, Japan
- 1995 The Small Prints Triennial, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 1995 The Annual Exhibition of Miniature Art, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1995 KIWANIS Club Auction, Maastricht, Holland
- 1995 Annual Prints Exhibit The National Theatre, Bucuresti, Romania
- 1995 The Fine Arts Museum, Constanta, Romania
- 1995 "Graphium" Biennial Prints Exhibit, Timisoara, Romania
- 1995 The Fine Arts Museum, Tulcea, Romania
- 1995 "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1994 The Annual Exhibition of Miniature Art, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1994 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
- 1994 "Dante Alighieri" Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
- 1993 International Exlibriscentrum Stedelijke Musea, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium
- 1993 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
- 1993 The 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Fine Arts Academies from, Europe MECC Congress Palace, Maastricht, Holland
- 1993 The Annual Exhibition of Miniature Art, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1993 The Watercolour Biennial for Youth Fondazione SINAIDE GHI, Rome, Italy
- 1992 Small Prints Exhibit - Heffner Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 1991 "Dante Alighieri" Cultural Society, Timisoara, Romania
- 1990 International Exlibriscentrum Stedelijke Musea, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium
- 1990 The Watercolour Biennial for Youth Fondazione SINAIDE GHI, Rome, Italy
- 1990 "Atelier 35" Group - "Arta" Gallery, Craiova, Romania
- 1989 Ex-Libris Exhibit - Kreisbibliothek, Kronach, Germany
- 1989 "Gabriele D'Annunzio" International Museum, of Ex Libris and Prints, Pescara, Italy

## **Professional Experience**

1998-2001	Marin Sorescu Fine Arts High School, Craiova, Romania
2000-2001	Cornetti Arts School, Craiova, Romania
2000	Virgil Madgearu University, Craiova, Romania
1998-2000	AIUS Publishing House, Craiova, Romania
1996	"Madona Duda" Orthodox Church, Craiova, Romania
1996	"Vlad & Vlad" Publishing House, Craiova, Romania
1995	"Editura de Vest" Publishing House, Timisoara, Romania
1990-1991	"Universalia" Publishing House, Craiova, Romania

## **Bibliography**

- Magda Bratu, "Prima Ediție a Salonului anual de grafică și desen", Cuvântul Libertății, Sept. 25, 2000
- Catalin Davidescu, "Debut 2000", Mozaicul, Nr. 4-5, 2000
- Magda Bratu, "Expoziție Atelier 35", Cuvântul Libertății, Feb. 23, 2000
- Floriana Vulpe, "Ortansa Ilie (grafică)", Cuvântul Libertății, July 4, 1999
- Catalin Davidescu, "Ortansa Ilie", Ramuri, Dec. 12, 1999
- Veronica Marinescu, "În artă, și provincia e capitală", Curierul Național, Sept. 28, 1998
- Catalin Davidescu, "Ortansa Ilie între cerebral și afectiv", Ramuri, April 19, 1998
- Catalin Davidescu, "Ortansa Ilie", Ramuri, Nr. 4-5-6, June, 1996

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