

Cătălin Tăvală



Cătălin Tăvală is a contemporary Romanian artist born in 1996 in Raul Sadului, a small village near Sibiu, Romania. He graduated from the theoretical high school "Octavian Goga" 2015, in the biochemistry department and later pursued a BA and MA in Graphics, a part of the University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca's Fine Arts faculty. At present, Cătălin is studying for a PhD in visual arts at the Art and Design University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Tăvală uses traditional figurative painting as his main outlet of expression, portraying ominous and unsettling compositions that unearth the darker and honest truths of contemporary life. Employing iconographical and figurative symbolism, Tăvală harnesses themes of freedom, the soul, and our moral value system, and integrates them with his style of stark and empirical painting. Through this process, he creates a ruinous atmosphere that captivates the viewer in a raw and unforgiving manner. Coalescing empiricism with self-expression, Tăvală uses drawing as a means to document and analyse his experiences, creating a visual language that borders the temporal and psychological realms. Using representational elements in his work, he portrays animalistic hybrids, isolation, motion, stagnancy, and figures in manufactured settings, all acting as metaphors for the modern man's attitude towards the challenges of the contemporary world.

"In a reality full of challenges, where human freedom is increasingly thin, ignorance and misinformation become tools of destabilization of being. In this attempt to relativize the fundamental values of life and of art, the man, the artist, can resist, only through courage, dignity and faith". - Tăvală Cătălin

Tăvală Cătălin has exhibited his work extensively in Romania as well as Europe, he has also received numerous accolades, which include the Award of the French Institute in the Expo Marathon Cluj-Napoca competition, in 2019, and the Grand Prize of the Expo Marathon Project, 2017.

Cătălin Tăvală CV

b. 1996 - Raul Sadului, Romania

Education

2023 PhD Visual Arts, The University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca

2020 MA Graphics, Faculty of Fine Arts, The University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca

2018 BA Graphics, Faculty of Fine Arts, The University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca

Solo Exhibitions

2019 *Overtuned*, Casa Matei Gallery, Cluj Napoca, Romania

2017 *Halena*, Casa Matei Gallery, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

2014 *Corrosive Impulses*, Habitus Space, Sibiu, Romania

Group Exhibitions

2019 *Young Blood*, Supercontemporary Pavilion, Art Safari, Bucharest

2019 *Group Exhibition Confluences*, 3rd edition, Balassi Institute, Bucharest

2019 *Confluence Group Exhibition*, 3rd edition, Art Nouveau Gallery, Târgu Mureş, Romania

2019 *Tragedy in Three Acts*, Casa Trantz, Cluj Napoca Exhibition, Romania

2019 *Il Castello del Destini Riscontrati*, art gallery Accademia di Romania, Rome, Italy

2018 *HUNGER*, Terra del Pane Festival, Fondazione Sassi, Matera, Italy

2018 *Conflunce Group Exhibtion*, 2nd edition, Art Nouveau Gallery, Romania

2018 *Graphic Art Biennial of Szeklerland*, 5th edition, The Transylvanian Art Center in Sfântu Gheorghe, Sfantul Gheorghe, Romania

2018 *Exhibition of Graduates of the University of Art and Design*, Cluj-Napcoa, Romania

2017 *Engraving*, Bistrița-Năsăud Museum Complex, Romania

2016 *Bucharest International Print Biennale (BIPB)*, Museum of Romanian Literature, Bucharest, Romania

2016 *Vizualia National Student Festival*, 2nd edition, House of Culture Cluj-Napoca, Romania

2014 *ASU Summer School*, ASUAD, Cluj Napoca

2014 *Urban Autobiographies*, Ilie Micu Popular School of Art and Crafts, Sibiu, Romania

2013 *From nature to art and vice versa*, Ilie Micu Popular School of Art and Crafts, Romania

2012 *Hibernal States*, Astra Count Library, Sibiu, Romania

Artists Awards

2019 Award of the French Institute in the Expo Marathon Cluj-Napoca competition

2019 The Audience Award is based on the general media Expo Marathon Cluj-Napoca, a documentary visit within the Venice Biennale

2018 Award in the Art-Culture category in the "Winners" Lions Club Brukenthal Sibiu Awards, 8th edition, Sibiu, Romania

2017 Grand Prize of the Expo Marathon Project, Cluj-Napoca

2013 Second Prize in the Arts Category of the Gala of Sieben Students First Prize

2013 drawing contest within the project "Be selective, choose life", Sibiu, Romania

2012 Second prize at the International Fine and Decorative Arts Exhibition, Popular Arts and Crafts School, 18th Edition, Arges

Selected Works



Cătălin Tăvală
AEROB VS ANAREOB, 2023
Oil on canvas
31 1/2 x 31 1/2 in
80 x 80 cm



Cătălin Tăvală
ROOM, 2021
Oil on linoleum
15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in
40 x 30 cm