

Ortansa Moraru

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 28, 2015

NEW ALLEGORIES

HEADBONES GALLERY

Artist Catalog: Ortansa Moraru - New Allegories Copyright © 2015, Headbones Gallery

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New Allegories commentary by Julie Oakes

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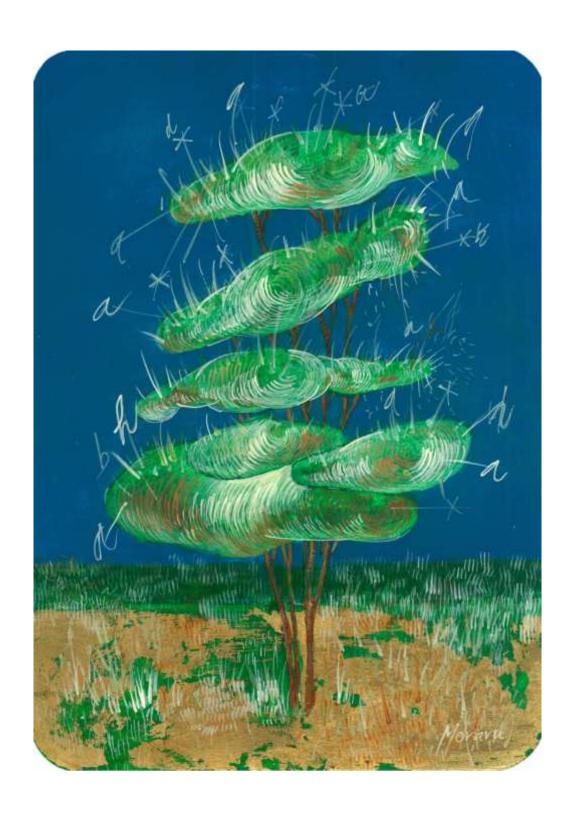
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Ortansa Moraru

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The Alphabet Tree I - 2009, Egg tempera on embossed paper, 22" x30", 56cm x 76cm



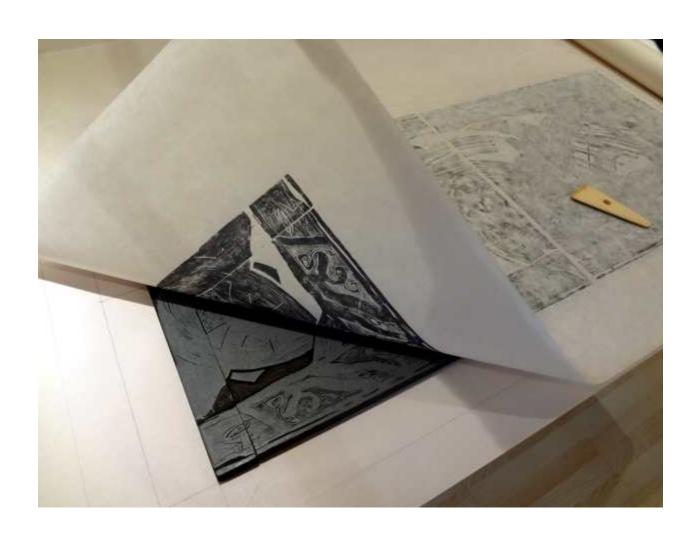
New Allegories: Ortansa Moraru

Ortansa Moraru at Headbones Gallery Vernon, BC - 2012

Ortansa Moraru's approach to philosophy is couched in a format that can be light and serendipitous, calling to mind childhood illustrations. Born in Corabia, Romania, she now lives and works in Toronto. She received her PhD from the Western University of Timisoara, Romania in 2013, an accomplishment that necessitated returning to Romania for periods of study. The ongoing immersion in European and Canadian culture has resulted in a unique visual vocabulary.

Moraru's work is based in printmaking, woodblocks being her specialty, a medium that was once used in early book production for illustration. There is a European air to her imagery as if it is fueled by tales from her origins. The baroque nature of fairy tales where the bad is acknowledged emerges much like the twisted thorns that accompany a rose. Within earlier series titled *Roots,* Nests, *At Home, Ark*; she defined the experience of immigration. The nests, although woven in splintered lines which woodblock printing is perfect for the capture, are friendly spaces evoking the wonder of Nature's achievements rather than her primitiveness.

With *New Allegories*, she has used images that relate to the earth within the environs of a structural solidity. The roots have now been securely planted. While her work is still magical and whimsical in aspect the intricate interwoven lines leave little room to doubt the structural complexity of her visual meanderings.





The first series of *Alphabet Trees* (egg tempera on Somerset paper) brought the sense of a supernatural world to the fore while maintaining a reference to culture through the use of letters from the alphabet. Having had to conquer the intricacies of a second language - perhaps we could say a third for the visual language is also one in which she has great articulation and range – her interlacing of the knowledge of her homeland with that of her Canadian life is set within allegory. A keen treatment of the subject under the guise of a playful rendition brings complex notions of language and cultural rejuvenation into a pleasurable contemplative range.

The new series of prints use the same tree imagery but now the tree stands confidant, framed by an arch at the top that is reminiscent of the framing used in medieval paintings concerning religious subject matter. Under this stylised canopy, the tree exudes markings and whether from a real alphabet or an imagined, the brilliance of the utterances is clear for the emissions are exemplified by sparkles. Like the twinkle-talk of a star-dusted story brought about by a fairy's wand, the message radiates positivity.

The three images for the *Fire Island* prints also have a reference point towards the top, but this time it is like a horizon line. This gives the overall image the appearance of a cross section of earth and yet there is an airiness to the nether-land as if vacuous holes in a twisted, woven matter give breathing room for floating things. There is a square, a triangle and a circle within which a woman drives a chariot which leads to the idea of a sun Goddess traversing the sky. These sections have great depth of field so that the background seems infinitely far away. This time the letters have a more three dimensional quality yet the visual vernacular still defies translation. The way that Moraru has carved the original wood block creates outlines and shadows so these letters against the surface of the printed paper seem gouged in low relief. Often enclosed by areas of cross hatching they are held in place yet interrupted by organic shapes with mythological, mathematical, symbolic associations. Fire whips through, strange fish swim, huts are built, architectural geodesics link. It is as if Moraru has recorded the process of civilisation as it happened while an overlord scribed the divine chaos with notes pertaining to the process.

Ortansa Moraru has printed the allusion of an implied philosophical narrative, like pages from a book of allegorical history. And because her technique is impeccable she has managed to tell of the maturation of change within a resounding visual statement.





Blue Tree I - 2014



Blue Tree II - 2014



Blue Tree III - 2014



Blue Tree IV - 2014



My Blue Tree II - 2014

Hand printed woodcut, pearl ex lustres, Charbonnel ink on Kiraku hand made paper Plate: 60×43 cm, Paper: 64×100 cm, Edition 1/1



 $ABSTRACT\ I\ -\ 2014$ Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment $60.5\ x\ 50\ cm$



 $ABSTRACT\ II\ -\ 2014$ Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment $60.5\ x\ 50\ cm$



 $ABSTRACT\ III-2014$ Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment $60.5\ x\ 50\ cm$



 $ABSTRACT\ IV\ -\ 2014$ Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment $60.5\ x\ 50\ cm$



 $ABSTRACT\ V\ -\ 2014$ Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment $60.5\ x\ 50\ cm$



 $ABSTRACT\ ON\ BLUE\ I\ -\ 2014$ Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment $60.5\ x\ 50\ cm$



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} ABSTRACT ON BLUE II - 2014 \\ \begin{tabular}{ll} Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment \\ 60.5 \ x \ 50 \ cm \\ \end{tabular}$



 $\label{eq:abstract} ABSTRACT\ ON\ BLUE\ III\ -\ 2014$ Hand made Japanese paper, pastel, acid free hinges, embossment $60.5\ x\ 50\ cm$



 $\label{eq:thm:condition} The \ Fire \ Island \ I-2006$ Hand printed woodcut, Charbonnel ink on Shoji paper

Plate: 54.5 x 30.5 cm, Paper: 79 x 50 cm, Edition 18/20



THE FIRE ISLAND II - 2006 Hand printed woodcut, Charbonnel ink on Shoji paper Plate: 54.5×30.5 cm, Paper: 79×50 cm, Edition 18/20



THE FIRE ISLAND III - 2006 Hand printed woodcut, Charbonnel ink on Shoji paper Plate: 54.5×30.5 cm, Paper: 79×50 cm, Edition 15/20



 $\begin{array}{c} \text{BLUE LEAF I-2014} \\ \text{Pastel, pencil, acid free hinges on Canson paper, embossment} \\ \text{76 x 56 cm} \end{array}$



 $\begin{array}{c} \text{BLUE LEAF II - 2014} \\ \text{Pastel, pencil, acid free hinges on Canson paper, embossment} \\ \hline \textbf{76 x 56 cm} \end{array}$



 $\begin{array}{c} \text{BLUE LEAF III-2014} \\ \text{Pastel, pencil, acid free hinges on Canson paper, embossment} \\ \hline 76\,\text{x}\,56\,\text{cm} \end{array}$



 $\begin{array}{c} ABSTRACT\ I\ -\ 2014 \\ Monotype,\ oil\ pastel,\ Charbonnel\ ink\ on\ Japanese\ paper \\ 73.5\ x\ 54.5\ cm \end{array}$



 $\begin{array}{c} ABSTRACT\ II\ -\ 2014 \\ Monotype,\ oil\ pastel,\ Charbonnel\ ink\ on\ Japanese\ paper \\ 73.5\ x\ 54.5\ cm \end{array}$



THE TACTILE SENSE I – 2014 Hand printed woodcut, Charbonnel ink, pearl ex lustres on Shoji paper 29.5×18 cm, Edition 2/10



THE TACTILE SENSE II - 2014 Hand printed woodcut, Charbonnel ink, pearl ex lustres on Shoji paper 29.5×18 cm, Edition 4/10



THE TACTILE SENSE III - 2014 Hand printed woodcut, Charbonnel ink, pearl ex lustres on Shoji paper 29.5×18 cm, Edition 2/10



 $$\rm ARK\mbox{-}2014$$ Wood engraving, Charbonnel ink, pearl ex lustres, acid free hinges, embossment on Shoji paper 60.5~x~50~cm





ORTANSA MORARU

1968 Born in Corabia, Olt, Romania

Education

2010-2013 PhD, Western University of Timisoara, Fine Arts Department, Timisoara, Romania 1991-1997 MFA, B.Ed., Western University of Timisoara, Fine Arts Department, Timisoara, Romania 1985-1988 Cornetti School of Arts, 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

Awards

- 2011 Premio I, Apocalisse Oggi, Galleria d'Arte ARIPA, Turin, Italy
- 2011 Honorary Diploma, 9th "losif Iser" International Contemporary Printmaking Biennial, Romania
- 2009 Arts / Social Justice Award of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- 2009 Third Prize, Abstract, The 41st Open National Juried Exhibition, Papermill Gallery, Toronto
- 2009 Nica Petre Prize, The Observatorul Magazine, Toronto, Canada
- 2007 Juror's Award, Glenhyrst Art Gallery, Juried Drawing Exhibition, Brantford, Canada
- 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 & Two Person Exhibitions

- 2015 New Allegories, Ortansa Moraru & New Mythologies, Anna Glyn, Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC
- 2014 Down on the Danube II, General Consulate of Romania in Toronto
- 2013 Drawn and Incised, Doctoral Exhibition, Mansarda Gallery, Timisoara, Romania
- 2012 Hammer & Spoon, Doug Alcock and Ortansa Moraru, Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC
- 2011 Homer Watson Home and Gallery, Kitchener, Curator Sandu Sindile (Video)
- 2011 Joseph D. Carrier Gallery, Curator Teodoro Dragonieri
- 2009 Consulate General of Romania, Toronto, Canada
- 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

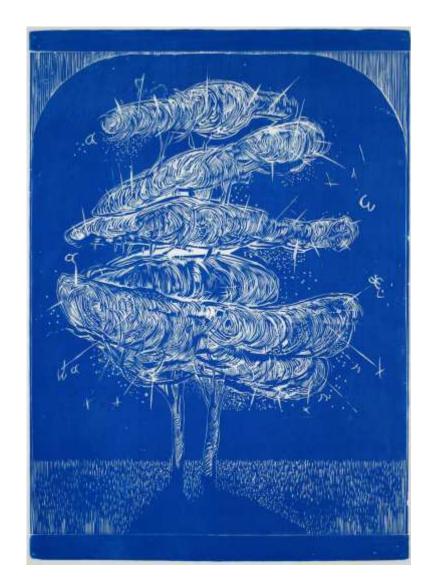
- 2016 8th International Printmaking Biennial Douro 2016, Portugal (Invited artist)
- 2014 Oltre il Segno, Oltre Il Segno, Associazione Donna Sommelier, Spazio Arte Castello, Turin, Italy.
- 2013 Salonus Papyrus, Headbones Gallery, Vernon BC. Curator, Julie Oakes
- 2013 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
- 2012 Int'l Printmaking Exhibition Mezzotint 2012, EDUCONS University- Novi Sad
- 2012 L'Eccezione e la Regola, Aripa Gallery, Turin, Italy, Curator Mariana Paparà and Ivan Fassio
- 2012 The "Xylography-Stylistic Matrix VI" Visual Art Museum, Galati, Romania.
- 2012 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
- 2012 Imitare il Caso, Giocarsi la Ragione. Aripa Gallery, Turin, Italy. Curators: Ivan Fassio and Mariana Paparà
- 2012 Artists of the Gallery 2012, 6th Annual AGO Staff Show, Hang Man Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2012 Casualita Mediate, Aripa Art Gallery, Turin, Italy, Curator Mariana Papara and Ivan Fasio
- 2012 Lonsdale Gallery, Toronto, ON, Curator Stanzie Tooth
- 2011 | Cavalieri dell' Apocalisse, Aripa Art Gallery, Turin, Italy, Curator Mariana Papara and Ivan Fasio
- 2011 The National Show of Contemporary Art, Ramnicu-Valcea, Romania
- 2011 Apocalisse Oggi-Eterno Ritorno, Aripa Gallery, Turin, Italy. Curator Mariana Papara
- 2011 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
- 2011 The "Xylography-Stylistic Matrix V" Durango, Mexico. Curator Cristina Sandor
- 2011 Apocalisse Oggi-Aripa Gallery, Turin, Italy. Curator Mariana Papara & Silvana Nota
- 2011 Artists of the Gallery 2011, 5th Annual AGO Staff Show, Hang Man Gallery
- 2010 The "Xylography-Stylistic Matrix IV" Durango, Mexico. Curator Cristina Sandor
- 2010 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
- 2010 Fourth International Printmaking Juried Exhibit. Monterrey, Mexico
- 2010 Artists of the Gallery 2010, 4th Annual AGO Staff Show, Hang Man Gallery
- 2010 Pulled (A Print Show) Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Curator Julie Oakes
- 2009 Whodunit, Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto
- 2009 Paper Salon, Headbones Gallery Toronto. Curator Julie Oakes
- 2009 DIN A4, Sala del Archivo Municipal, Malaga, Spain. Curator Ernst Kraft
- 2009 Back to the Garden, Headbones Gallery, Toronto, curator Julie Oakes (Video)
- 2009 The 41st Open National Juried Exhibition, SCA, Papermill Gallery, Toronto
- 2009 Open Studio 100 Prints, Toronto
- 2009 The "Xylography Stylistic Matrix" Group, Pod Gallery, Timisoara, Romania
- 2008 Aligning with Beauty, Varley Art Gallery of Markham, curator Julie Oakes
- 2008 V International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Francavilla al Mare, Italy
- 2008 The 1st International Printmaking Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2008 Artist Proof and Sale Group Exhibition, Open Studio, Toronto
- 2008 International 400 Prints Exhibition, Engrame, Quebec
- 2008 Xylography Stylistic Matrix II, Timisoara, Romania
- 2008 Second International Mini Print Exhibition, Ottawa School of Art
- 2008 Naestved International Exhibition of Contemporary Mini Square Prints, Denmark
- 2008 The Americas Biennial Exhibition
- 2007 Juried Drawing Exhibition, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford
- 2007 Abstract (B & W), Headbones Gallery, Toronto,, ON curator Julie Oakes
- 2007 Home/Acasa Project, London, England
- 2007 5th International Small Engraving Biennial, Cremona, Italy
- 2007 5th Kiwa Exhibition, Japan
- 2007 Acqui Biennale Internazionale dell'Incisione, Acqui Terme, Italy

Group Exhibitions continued

- 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 5th 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 Prize Jean Chieze, Paris, France
- 2005 11th International Biennial of Small Graphics, Ostrow, Poland
- 2005 3a International Biennial Gravura Douro, Alijo, Portugal
- 2005 6th "losif 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
- 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 Trieenial, 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 Pallazo del Espozitioni, 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 19th International Independent Exhibition of Prints Prefectural Art Gallery, Kanagawa, Japan

Group Exhibitions continued

- 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
- 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 18th 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 4th 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



HEADBONES GALLERY PRESENTS ORTANSA MORARU

NEW ALLEGORIES FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 28, 2015

OPENING RECEPTION
6-9 PM - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

6700 Old Kamloops Rd., Vernon, BC V1H 1P8 Tel: 250-542-8987 WWW.HEADBONESGALLERY.COM - INFO@HEADBONESGALLERY.COM Hours: Tue-Sat 12-6pm

