

O N C U S O R I N

ISOMORPHISM



Coordinator: Mihai Zgondoiu

Curator: Olivia Nitis

Graphic design and press:

Quattro Print

Isomorphism is a project focused on the principle of diversity. Cultural diversity, social and religious diversity should be the basis for admitting the various aspects of otherness involving gender representation, skin color, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Yet these are the basis for sustaining prejudice and, as a consequence, different forms of discrimination that function against democratic principles provided by the Constitution. The principle of human rights equality is contradicted by the current Romanian Civil Code in which inequality for sexual orientation and expression is legalized as the obvious norm often justified by religious dogma. When political decisions are influenced by traditional mentalities some based on interpretations of Bible texts and on the Church's position, in our case the Orthodox Church, this proves that politics and religion is still a powerful combination in running the state, although in Romania, according to the Constitution, the church and the state are separate. Still, before the revolution, the Orthodox Church was constantly used by the communist regime as an instrument of control, a fact that determined a long-lasting relationship of loyalty of the church with the state. In the conscience of the population church is trusted more than any other state institution and supporting the church is a priority of the state. In rural areas church representatives advice people whom to vote for. In this context, missing a critical attitude towards the church, a laic and protesting tradition, the church remains an important element in the power of the state. The Romanian Civil Code doesn't permit



Isomorphism, 2010, plastic frames, paint,
50 x 28 cm

same sex couple marriages and the marriages allowed in other states are not recognized as valid. This creates a break in the status of citizens: some who are allowed to marry whom they wish and the others who don't. The civil partnership between two people is an act of commitment to which the state is

only taking a legal account and is not supposed to interfere as in determining who is fit to do it.

Sexual minorities in the context of the ex-communist countries are confronted with a negative mentality throwing them to the periphery of society. The effects of these exclusions and marginalization on artistic level are different in Eastern Europe. While in Romania LGBT iconography is almost invisible, in Poland has a considerable impact in the last decade, an interesting phenomenon taking into account the



Isomorphism, 2010, plexiglass, plastic frames, paint, 65 x 80 cm

influence of the fundamentalist Catholic Church. This art, constantly confronted with homophobic reactions, creates a specific aesthetics placed within the reactionary context of Polish contemporary art in general.

In Romanian art practice gay culture doesn't have a history. The representation of masculine nudity, for instance, considered taboo before 1989, as nudity in general, interested a few Romanian artists after the revolution, but only as an exploration of the forbidden subject. Gay artists seem not to exist. It might be a matter of fear of expression in the public sphere. Nonetheless, one artist, Sorin Oncu brings forth a possibility, a field of open debate on what is legal, human and democratic. He uses simple and ordinary iconographic elements of every day reality in ironic connections.

The old and the new, the tradition and the modern perspectives, the bold and the beautiful, the kitsch and its opposing features, the mechanical approach of ideas, these are all analyzed by Sorin Oncu, by trying to understand how the shape of things still affects their content in collective conscience. Isomorphism is a project about looking at otherness and about the constant possibility of each of us being the other in the contemporary social dynamics. This is a project about defining the norm, an invitation to intelligent and ironic meditation and to accepting the other not as opposed to you, but more as the possibility of you.

Olivia Nițiș



Tata, Tata, 2010, mixed media, 190 x 185 cm



Miha and Ila, 2010, mixed media, 81.5 x 29 x 29 cm



Two Brides, 2010, mixed media, 25 x 31 cm



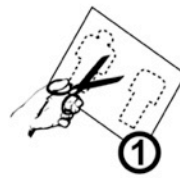
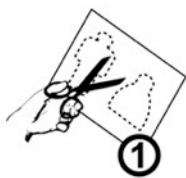
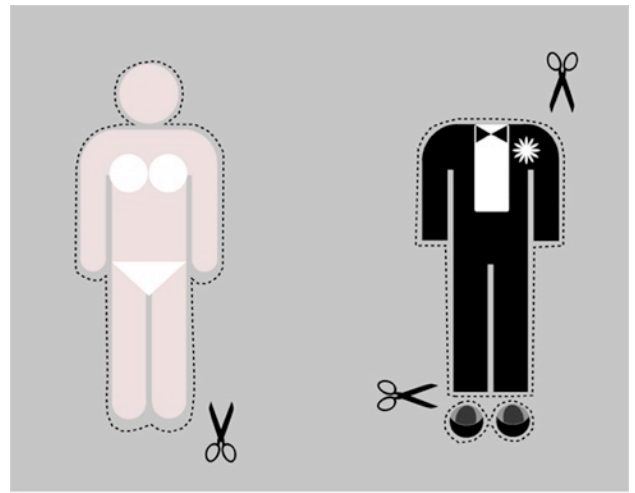
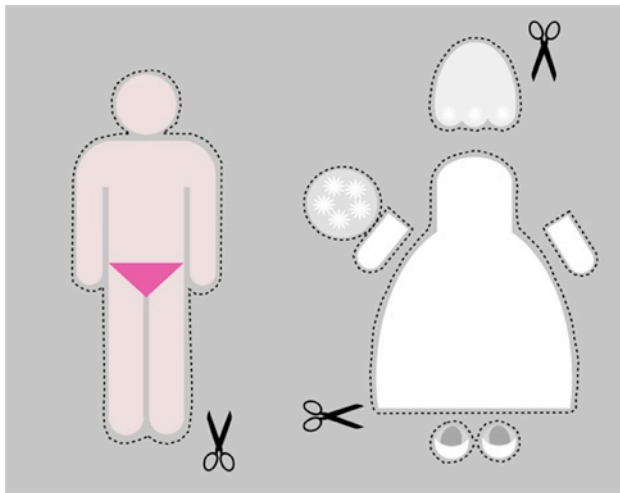
The New Romanian Civil Code, 2010, Bible cover, new civil code pages with mixed media, 4 x 15.5 x 22.5 cm



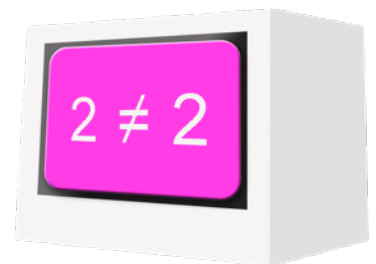
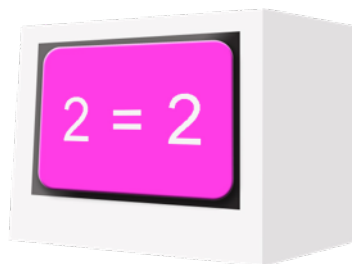
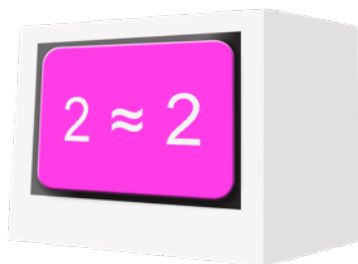
Deviant Behavior, 2012, mixed media, 20 x 20cm



Product - Deviant Behavior Cleaner, 2011, cleaning sponge with razor blades, 8 x 5 x 5.5 cm



For Her & For Him, 2010, print, 30 x 21 cm



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