OPEN CALL: RAD Curatorial 2027 | Bucharest, Romania

RAD Association is pleased to announce the Open Call for RAD Curatorial 2027, a five-day curatorial program taking place in Bucharest, Romania, April 20–25, 2027.

We invite curators with at least three years of professional experience and a demonstrated interest and/or expertise in the Romanian and/or Central and Eastern European art scenes to apply.

- Application Deadline: **December 4th, 2026 (23:59 EET)**

About the Program

RAD Curatorial is an annual program dedicated to curatorial exchange, bringing international and Romanian curators together in Bucharest for five days of dialogue, research, studio and exhibition visits, and direct engagement with the local art scene.

Since its launch in 2023, RAD Curatorial has brought together more than 90 curators from over 23 countries across four continents. Through sustained encounters between curators, artists, galleries and institutions, the program has become an important part of RAD Art Fair and of its broader mission to strengthen the Romanian art scene and its connections within regional and international contexts.

Purpose

RAD Curatorial creates the conditions for curators to encounter the Romanian art scene directly: its artists, galleries, institutions, histories and current conversations.

The program is conceived not simply as an introduction to the scene, but as a space for exchange—between local and international perspectives, between Romania and the broader Central and Eastern European region, and between curators working across different institutional and geographic contexts.

Its aim is to generate relationships that extend beyond the five days in Bucharest, leading to future research, exhibitions, institutional collaborations and other forms of long-term exchange.

RAD Curatorial 2027 conceptual framework

SHIFTING GROUNDS

We are living through a period of profound geopolitical, economic and social change. International alliances are shifting, global power is being redistributed, and established cultural hierarchies are increasingly being questioned. At the same time, political polarisation, economic precarity and declining trust in institutions are reshaping the conditions in which culture is produced and encountered.

Within this changing landscape, questions of cultural authority and representation become increasingly urgent: who shapes and legitimises cultural narratives? Whose perspectives are made

visible? And how can artistic and curatorial practices respond to changing structures of power without simply reproducing them?

Shifting Grounds explores these questions through the context of East-Central Europe, taking the Romanian contemporary art scene as its primary point of reference. For decades, the international visibility of art from the region has been shaped to a significant degree through its relationship with Western European and North American institutions, markets and curatorial frameworks. Artists and cultural histories from East-Central Europe have often entered international circulation through structures of recognition situated elsewhere.

Today, that relationship is becoming less straightforward. As geopolitical and economic power becomes more dispersed, new cultural centres and networks are emerging, while the authority of established Western institutions is itself being questioned. This creates an opportunity to reconsider not only how Romania and East-Central Europe are represented internationally, but from where cultural narratives are produced, who legitimises them, and in which directions knowledge and influence travel.

How does the Romanian art scene position itself within a changing Europe and an increasingly multipolar global order? What happens when the movement of cultural authority is no longer understood primarily as travelling from West to East? Can institutions and practitioners in the region move beyond seeking inclusion within established cultural hierarchies and participate instead in constructing different networks, narratives and centres of exchange? And how do nationality, citizenship and mobility continue to influence artistic selection, exhibition-making and cultural representation?

The programme also examines the evolving role of the curator within these changing structures. Curatorial practice today extends well beyond exhibition-making and the care of artworks to encompass research, mediation, negotiation, institutional critique and the production of public discourse. Curators navigate tensions between artistic autonomy and institutional expectations, local contexts and international networks, and artistic intentions and political or economic constraints. Within this expanded field, exhibitions can do more than present artworks: they can articulate cultural positions, challenge established narratives and create spaces for public dialogue.

Beyond the exhibition format, *Shifting Grounds* asks what kinds of cultural infrastructures can be built in response to these changing conditions. Independent institutions, research platforms and collaborative networks offer possibilities for producing and circulating knowledge differently—building alliances across regions, sharing resources and developing forms of exchange that do not depend exclusively on established cultural centres.

Bringing together an international and intergenerational group of curators and cultural practitioners, RAD Curatorial 2027 places perspectives from Romania and East-Central Europe in dialogue with experiences from elsewhere. Through three interconnected public discussions, site visits and informal encounters, the programme explores how cultural practitioners are responding to changing structures of power, redefining their roles and developing new forms of institutional collaboration and public engagement.

Over five days in Bucharest, participants will visit private and public collections, galleries, institutions and artists' studios, while engaging directly with the wider RAD Art Fair programme. This includes **RAD Talks**, **Sculpture Park**, **RAD Design**, **RAD Editions**, **RAD Performance**, and a citywide programme of **Collateral Events**.

Program Overview

- **April 20 – Arrival & Welcome Dinner**
- **April 21 – Bucharest Spaces Tour**
- **April 22 – RAD Art Fair VIP Preview**
- **April 23 – Introductory Panel & Bucharest Art Circuit**
- **April 24 – Curatorial Panels & Guided Tours**
- **April 25 – Reflection & Departure**

A detailed schedule will be shared with selected participants closer to the programme.

Eligibility

Curators and art writers with at least three years of professional experience, as well as curatorial collectives, are invited to apply. Applicants should demonstrate an existing interest, research focus and/or expertise in the Romanian and/or Central and Eastern European art scenes.

The final group will bring together selected applicants and invited guest speakers, representing a range of professional, institutional and geographic perspectives.

Participants must be available to attend the full programme in person in Bucharest from April 20–25, 2027. All activities will be conducted in English.

Application Guidelines

Applications must be submitted via the online form **here** by **December 4, 2026, at 23:59 EET**. Results will be announced in **early January 2027**.

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- Personal and professional information
- Responses to a set of application questions
- CV/resume

Additional materials, including documentation of curatorial projects or relevant published writing, are encouraged and will be considered as part of the selection process.

Please note: Applications are reviewed on a **rolling basis**, so early submission is recommended.

Financial Support

RAD Association is committed to making the programme accessible to visiting curators. Participation in RAD Curatorial is **free of charge** for both Romanian and international participants.

Accommodation will be provided with the support of RAD Association, cultural institutes and strategic partners. A limited number of **travel grants** are also available for the 2027 edition.

Applicants requesting financial support should clearly indicate their need and provide thoughtful and detailed responses in their application.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of the **RAD Directors and RAD Curatorial team**.

Selection will consider the strength of the applicant's curatorial practice or research, their demonstrated engagement with the Romanian and/or Central and Eastern European art context, and the potential for meaningful exchange between their practice and the programme.

For applicants requesting a travel grant, financial need will also be taken into consideration.

For more information, visit: https://radartfair.com/2026/curatorial-2026

For inquiries, please contact: **curators@radartfair.com**

RAD Curatorial is made possible with the support of **Banca Transilvania** and the **Institut Français de Roumanie à Bucarest**. Additional partners will be announced.

RAD Art Fair is a collaborative initiative dedicated to strengthening Romania's contemporary art scene, creating greater visibility for its artists and galleries, expanding the audiences and communities around art, and building the foundations for a healthy and sustainable contemporary art ecosystem over the next decade.