

Andreea Ilie , *Laboratoriya*

Opening: Saturday, February 28, 2026, 18:00

Exhibition period : 28 February - 4 april 2026

Visiting hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Location: Jecza Gallery Bucharest – Piața Presei Libere 1

Jecza Gallery is pleased to announce *Laboratoriya*, Andreea Ilie’s first solo exhibition with the gallery. Presented at Jecza Gallery in Bucharest, the exhibition will open on February 28, at 18:00, at Casa Presei Libere, Building 2A (in the inner courtyard, adjacent to the contemporary art space Scânteia+) and brings together sculptural works that investigate the ways in which the communist regime approached the child as a supreme project—a living material to be shaped with scientific precision.

Guided by the metaphor of the child as soft wax, Soviet ideology transformed the entire world of childhood into a total pedagogical environment. Through extensive research and travels across the former Soviet space, Andreea Ilie demonstrates that this “laboratory” extended beyond theoretical metaphor into a concrete architectural reality—a network of physical structures in which political goals were translated into matter and space.

“As an artist, I am not necessarily interested in simple condemnation or extreme nostalgia. I am interested in building an archaeological and poetic relationship, a deeply dialectical one. I seek to reveal the overlapping layers: the utopian layer of projection, the layer of historical wear, and the layer of contemporary reappropriation.”

(Excerpt from the interview “*Laboratoriya: The Ruins of a Future Imagined as Eternal*”, published in *Igloo*, February 2026)

The artist’s engagement with this legacy of a failed utopia takes the form of an archaeological and dialectical investigation carried out with critical rigor. The works in *Laboratoriya* function both as replicas and reflections: forms extracted from their original contexts and reconstructed by the artist in metal and ceramic. Through this process of essentialization and recontextualization, the formal lines

and geometric rigor of the original structures are amplified, allowing the viewer to experience the tension between the aesthetic of pure form and its ideological function.

The opening event will be followed the next day (Sunday, February 29) by a guided tour in the presence of the artist, starting at 15:00. Access is available exclusively by prior registration at: [link HERE](#)

The 2026 exhibition program at Jecza Gallery Bucharest is supported by Saint-Gobain Romania and Policolor. Jecza Gallery events are made possible with the support of MUSO, Bere Normală, Mellow Drinks, and Fritz Cola.

About Jecza Gallery

Jecza Gallery is a contemporary art gallery with spaces in Timișoara and Bucharest, dedicated to artistic practices from the 1960s to the present.

Specializing in contemporary art and representing a carefully curated portfolio of established and emerging artists, Jecza Gallery has established itself as one of Romania's leading galleries. Founded in 2011 by Sorina Ianovici-Jecza and Andrei Jecza as a family initiative, the gallery entered a new phase of development in 2018, strengthening its visibility and international presence through a coherent program connected to the European art scene, while remaining attentive to the specificity of the Romanian cultural context.

In recent years, Jecza Gallery has expanded its activity nationwide, operating exhibition spaces in both Timișoara and Bucharest. This expansion has enabled the development of a diverse program of solo exhibitions, curated group projects, and experimental initiatives. Internationally, the gallery regularly participates in major fairs and platforms such as Paris Photo, Untitled Art Fair, Basel Social Club, and Vienna Contemporary, supporting the integration of its represented artists into a global network of collectors, curators, and institutions.