

Andreea Ilie

Andreea Ilie (b. 2001, Romania) is a visual artist who draws inspiration from the inherent connection between architecture and the human psyche. Her work captures the essence of social buildings and common spaces, emphasizing their profound influence on the modern individual. Through her compositions, she tries to unveil the true purpose of these spaces and underline the vital importance of collective experiences.

She believes that the structures and systems of society, including architecture, are not mere entities existing in isolation, but rather intricate products of prevailing economic conditions and social relations. She seeks to combat the profound sense of alienation that can permeate our lives when we feel disconnected from ourselves and others. By advocating for buildings that foster community and social interaction, she strives to instill a greater sense of unity, purpose and meaning in our shared environments.

Andreea's work serves as a reminder of the transformative power of architecture, embracing the significance of interconnectedness in our modern world.

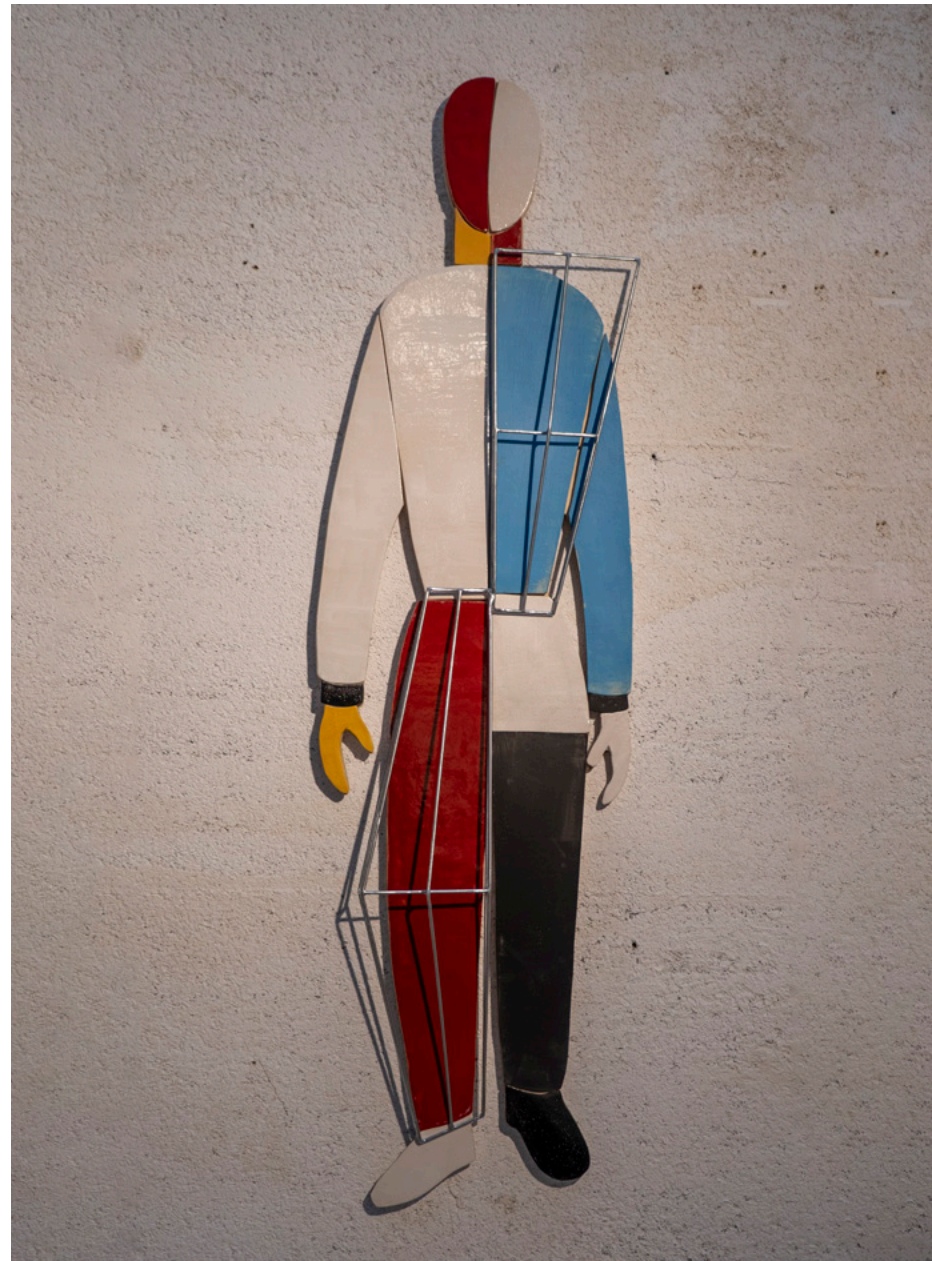
Within the Soviet cultural landscape, circuses functioned as vital public spaces, fostering inclusivity and communal engagement. Throughout the second half of the 20th century, circus art was immensely popular in the USSR, becoming a cultural calling card beyond the Iron Curtain and a cherished domestic spectacle. Between 1960 and 1980 alone, more than 50 permanent circus buildings were constructed — all state-owned and centrally operated. Their performances were meticulously designed to appeal to diverse audiences, reinforcing state narratives while cultivating a sense of collective pride.

The architecture of these circuses was as striking as their cultural role, distinguished by a bold, expressive style that defied the constraints of conventional cultural buildings. Often attributed to “cosmic communist architecture”, their designs reflected the USSR’s aspirational competition with the West, particularly in the realm of space conquest. The long anticipation for the circus represented, for many children of the time, the wait for the arrival of total entertainment. Now, many of these once-futuristic structures stand dormant, their spaceship-like forms caught in an unlikely limbo — no longer day-to-day gathering places, yet still in a wait for communal spectacle.

KNO | KIO



Kovyornyy Kloun, 2025
130 x 35 cm, glazed ceramics, metal
€1300



Kanatokhodtsy, 2025
130 x 35 cm, glazed ceramics, metal
€1300



Ryzhiy Kloun, 2025
130 x 35 cm, glazed ceramics, metal
€1300



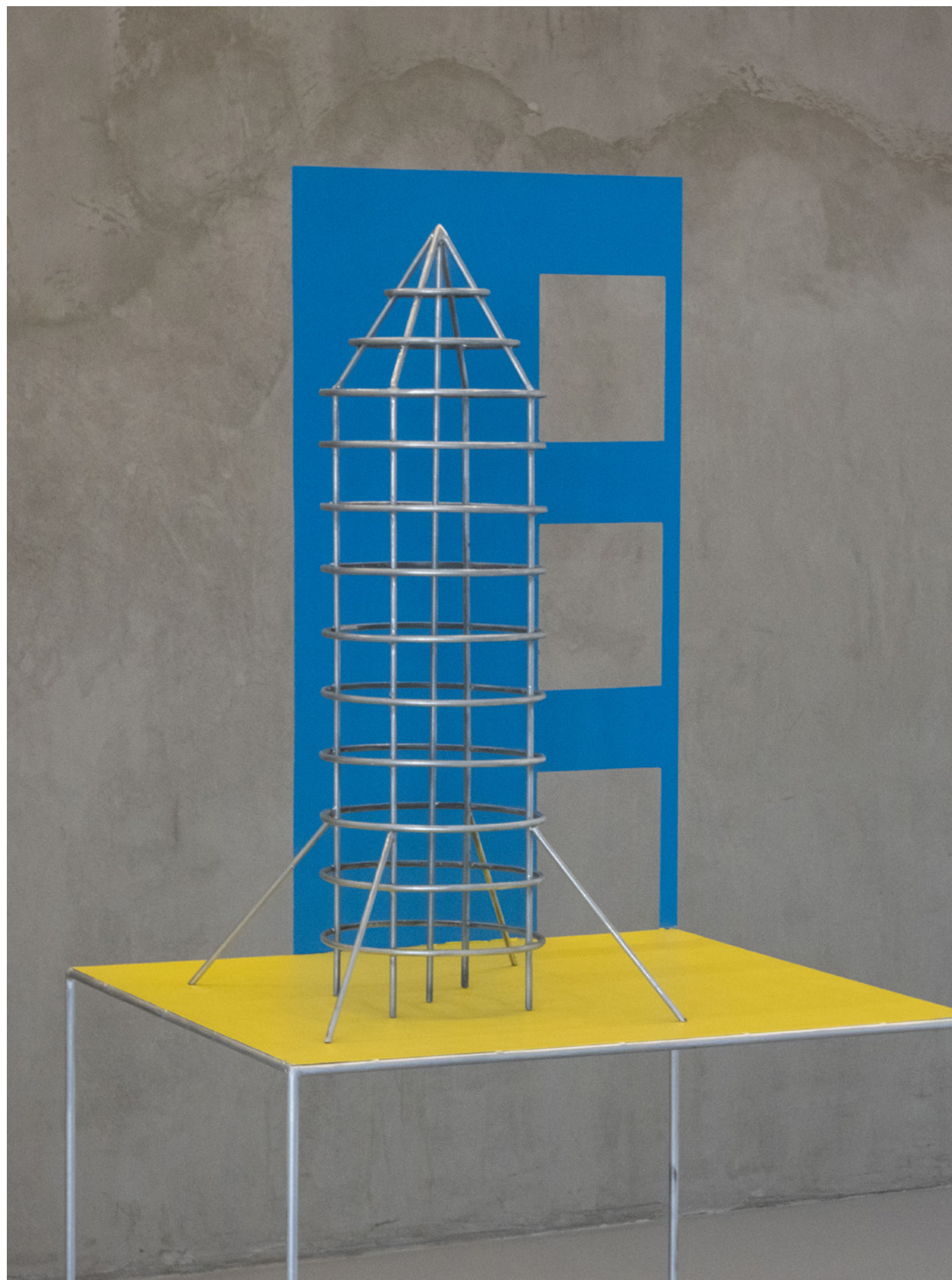
Akrobatika, 2025
160 x 155 x 40 cm, metal
€1500

Frequently abstract, space-age, and industrial, the Soviet playground designs combined the aesthetics of futurism with the ideals of collectivism teaching. These were not neutral spaces. Their shape was predetermined. These structures were experiments in design and function that combined state ideals with avant-garde aesthetics, in contrast to the Western playgrounds that were uniform and safety-driven.

A rocket was always more than just a rocket - it was a metallic echo of Sputnik, a promise of cosmic victory. A climbing dome was more than just a pastime - it was a symbol of group cohesion, with each child serving as an individual component of a larger whole.

These structures, which were once emblems of innovation and communal joy, now sit in varied states of deterioration, their utopian promise subtly rusted by time.

Play State

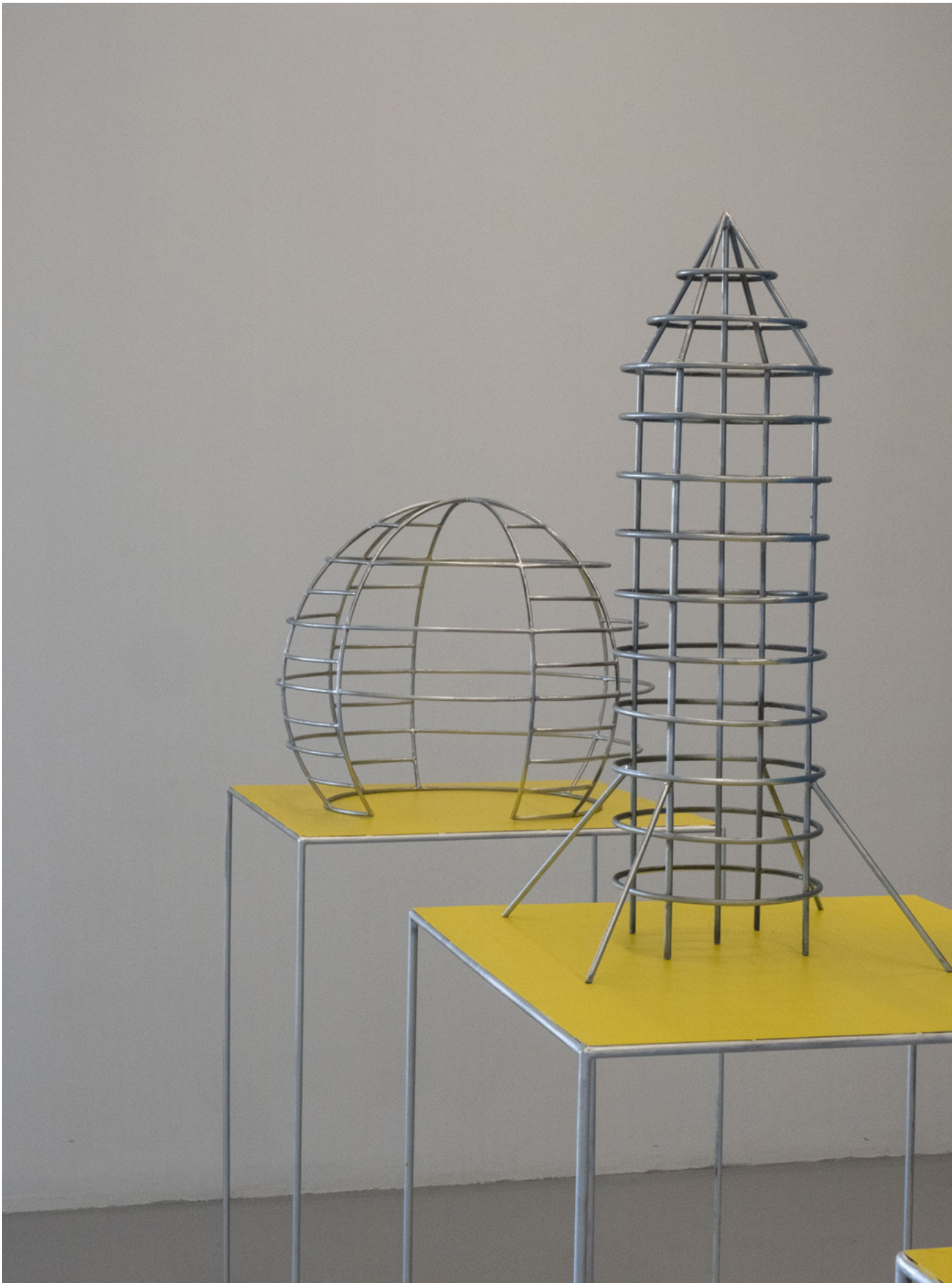


Raketa, 2025
60 x 70 x 190 cm, metal
€1500





Kupol, 2025
60 x 60 x 145 cm, metal
€1200



Andreea Ilie

b. 2001 Romania

Education

2020 - 2022	BA Computer Science, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, NL
2023 - 2026	BA Photography and Moving Image, UNArte, Bucharest, RO
2023	Internship Slavs and Tatars, Berlin, DE

Solo Exhibitions

2024	Human Extensions: Living Cell, Calciu Space, Bucharest, RO
2025	KIO KIO, Cdrf, Bucharest, RO

Selected Group Exhibitions

2025	Stone Flower, Romanian Creative Week, Iasi, RO
2025	Play State, Catinca Tabacaru Gallery, Bucharest, RO

Publications

2023	Human Extensions, artist photography book
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Employment

2021	Photography, NXT Museum, Amsterdam, NL
2025	Researcher - the project for the Romanian Pavilion at the Architecture Venice Biennale 2025

Collections

Geanina and Tudor Grecu Collection