

# CLAMP

## Ion Zupcu

b. Romania, 1960

Ion Zupcu first explored his interest in photography by working in a studio in Romania when he was a young man. A few years later, after getting married and having his first child, Zupcu found himself spending long hours caring for his daughter. With a desire to continue pursuing his interest in photography, he began shooting still-life compositions at home with vases and flowers. It was during this time that he also began researching the work of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Modernist photographers in depth, which ultimately influenced his aesthetic a great deal.

In 1991 Zupcu moved to New York City to start a new life for himself. His first job was driving a yellow taxi, and it was one his customers, an owner of a black-and-white printing lab, that got him back into the world of photography. Zupcu was hired by the lab owner and quickly learned the tools of traditional darkroom printing. However, it was not until 1993, when he first visited the International Center for Photography in Manhattan and later discovered three Ansel Adams books (*The Camera*, *The Negative*, and *The Print*), that he seriously devoted himself to producing new work.

It took seven long years for Zupcu to be reunited with his wife and daughter when, in 1998, they finally were permitted to enter the United States to live in New York City. Their arrival awakened in the artist a fresh sense of purpose and new-found motivation. Up to that point he had been producing primarily landscape photography. However, he now went back to his initial interest in still-life work, and began spending long hours shooting, studying, and mastering the subject matter. His first fully-realized series of photographs in this genre was in 1999 with a group of images simply titled, *Flowers*. Several other bodies of work soon followed, including photographs depicting bottles, fabric, and eggs, among other objects. To this day Zupcu insists on printing and toning all of his work himself.

Since his first solo exhibition in 2000, Zupcu's photographs have become part of numerous private collections throughout the world, and his work is already represented in such prestigious public collections as the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Detroit Institute of Art, Michigan; and the University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor; among others.

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

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| 2021 | "Etudes on Glass," CLAMP, New York City  |
| 2019 | "Sculptures," CLAMP, New York City (Online)  |
| 2016 | "Architectural Intersections," Lehman College Art Gallery/City University of New York, New York City   |
| 2015 | "Kazimirs," Miller Yezerski Gallery, Boston  |
| 2014 | "Second Sight: The David Kronn Photography Collection," Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin   |
| 2011 | "Hybrid: A mix of abstraction and representation," BYRDCLIFFE Kleinert/James Center for the Arts, Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild," Woodstock, New York |
|      | "Plane Speaking," McKenzie Fine Arts, New York City  |
| 2010 | "Painted Cubes," CLAMP, New York City  |
|      | "Discoveries of the Meeting Place," FotoFest, Houston (Curated by Madeline Yale)   |
| 2009 | "Works on Paper," Gallery 339, Philadelphia  |
| 2008 | "New Works on Paper," CLAMP, New York City   |
|      | "Regional Triennial of Photography and Related Media," Center for Photography, Woodstock, New York (Curated by Beth E. Wilson)                     |
| 2006 | "Photo Miami," CLAMP booth, SOHO Building, Miami, Florida  |
|      | "Photo NY," CLAMP booth, Metropolitan Pavilion, New York City  |
|      | Ialomita County Museum of Art, Romania   |
|      | "Photo LA," CLAMP booth, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, Santa Monica, California   |
| 2005 | "Ion Zupcu: Works on Paper," CLAMP, New York City  |
|      | "9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Friends Photography Auction," Friends Without a Border hosted by Phillips de Pury & Company, New York City      |

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- 2004 "Photo NY," CLAMP booth, Metropolitan Pavilion, New York City  
"The Flower Show," West Main Gallery, Chatham, Massachusetts  
Studio391, Gualala, California  
Tulla Booth Gallery, Sag Harbor, New York  
Lexington Art Gallery, Lexington, Virginia  
Hoopers Gallery, London, England  
"Still Life," Candace Perich Gallery, Katonah, New York  
Metroforum Gallery, Tucson, Arizona
- 2003 Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
John Cleary Gallery, Houston, Texas  
Tulla Booth Gallery, Sag Harbor, New York  
The Photography Room Gallery, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Edward Carter Gallery, New York City  
White Room Gallery, West Hollywood, California
- 2002 Candace Perich Gallery, Katonah, New York  
Van Brunt Gallery, Beacon, New York  
Tao Design Gallery, Hong Kong  
John Cleary Gallery, Houston, Texas  
Sag Harbor Picture Gallery, Sag Harbor, New York
- 2001 Beacon Gallery, Bellport, New York  
Mercedes Benz, New York City
- 2000 Romanian Cultural Center, New York City  
SoHo Photo Gallery, New York City

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

*Punctum* (2010) pp. 65-79, illus.  
*The Photo Review Newsletter* (March/April 2009), cover illus.  
*Chronogram Magazine* (January 2008)  
*Photo Magazine* (September 2007)  
*The L Magazine* (May 25 – June 7, 2005), p. 46, illus.  
*Black & White Magazine*, Issue 11 (February 2001)  
*LensWork #38* (November/December 2001)  
*Blue Sand Magazine* (Fall 2002)  
*The Photo Review Newsletter* (June/July 2005), illus.

## SELECTED REVIEWS:

"Ion Zupcu," *The New Yorker* (May 11, 2010)  
"Ion Zupcu: Painted Cubes @ClampArt," DLK Collection (May 11, 2010)  
"On Site: *Painted Cubes* Ion Zupcu, ClampArt, NYC," BWGalleriest.com (May 10, 2010)  
"Photo of the Day," *Photo District News—pdnphotooftheday.com* (April 23, 2010)  
"Best of Show: Ion Zupcu, FotoFest," BWGallerist.com (April 5, 2010)  
Ben Davis, "Spring Art Picks," *The Village Voice* (March 24, 2010)  
Susan Burnstine, "American Connection," *Black + White Photography* (August 2009)  
Harris Wallmen, "Ion Zupcu: Un Brâncui al fotografiei contemporane," *Photo Magazine* (December 2005), No. 10, pp. 32-42, full color illus.  
*The New York Times* (July 15, 2001)  
*The Southampton Press* (April 18, 2002)  
*East Hamptons Star* (April 25, 2002)

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas  
The Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, Michigan

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The Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, Ohio  
University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky  
University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan  
Dennos Museum Center, Traverse City, Michigan  
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin  
Ialomita County Museum of Art, Romania  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
O'Melveny & Myers, LLP  
Various private collections in the United States, Romania, and Norway

**EDUCATION:**

1982-1983      Professional School of Photographers, Bucharest, Romania