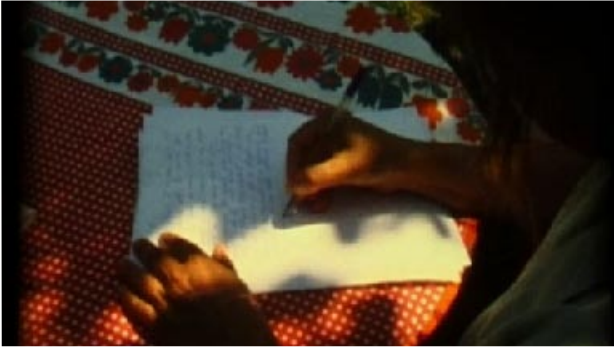


**August**  
**(Imposibila iubire / Impossible Love)**  
by Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor

## August (Imposibila iubire / Impossible Love)

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by Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor



### Film data

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**Year:**

2004-2007

**Format:**

Super 8 and Mini DV transferred on DVD

**Duration:**

16:20 minutes

**Language:**

Romanian - English subtitles

### Synopsis

The project is a fictional continuation of a Romanian film from the '80s, questioning the meanings of love during communism (Imposibila iubire, directed by Constantin Vaeni, protagonists played by Tora Vasilescu & Serban Ionescu, script based on the novel Intrusul/ The Intruder, written by Marin Preda). 25 years after the original film was made, T.O Bobe, a writer from our generation, constructed textually a new situation in which the two protagonists exchange letters, telling what happened to them during these years of political changes in Romania. The fact that the novel was inspired by a real event and then the film had an open end, led us to the idea to try to reconnect these stories to present life, in an attempt to reflect on what happened to us as community.

August has been produced with the prize in money conferred by Fine Arts Unternehmen to Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor, winners of the 2006 edition of FAIRPLAY.

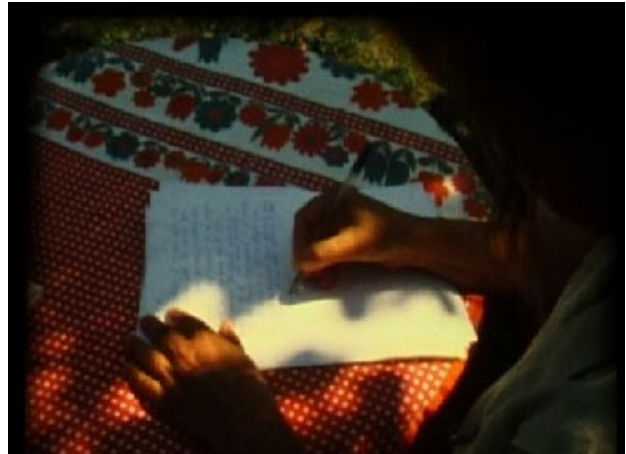
## August (Imposibila iubire / Impossible Love)

by Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor

### Review by Mihnea Mircan

Ghosts return in Mona Vatamanu and Florin Tudor's latest film project, 'August', and they return as ghosts. 'August' revisits Constantin Vaeni's 'Impossible Love', a film made in 1983, a time of propagandistic apotheosis in Romania ('Impossible Love' was made after the novel 'The Intruder' by Marin Preda, a statement about the confrontation between the individual and the mechanisms of history). There is an oscillation at the very narrative heart of 'Impossible Love', as it sketches an ill-fated love story that is interspersed with the grand fable of national construction, overwhelmed and obliterated by the communist discourse of building the future.

Deprived of narrative substance and not given the right to interiority, the protagonists of the love story come across as figments of propaganda, agitated victims of circumstance, their reactions preconditioned and politically over-determined: what is described as their affectivity is a texture of ideological conditioning and collectivized privacy. Scripted by the young writer T.O. Bobe, 'August' is the protagonists'/ actors' exchange of letters after their separation, but also after the 1989 Revolution, and a new episode in their inability to develop any meaningful ties to the world. Only language has changed – TV stardom, the fixtures that symbolize prosperity, drug abuse and ensuing violence make hasty appearances -, but this remains a disquieting world, inhabited by people not afforded the 'technology' to explore what their lives might be or turn into, evacuees looking for points of insertion and contact.



Decades after the breakup and a change of political paradigm later, the two reproduce the false start the original film – true commedia dell'arte of industrial times -, unwittingly presented. The barriers to collective meaning are in place. People love, hate and are afraid, but they do so as schematic embodiments of inauspicious times, snapshots of historical symptoms. As opposed to a 'historical drama', where sentiment and conflict unfold on the background of societal transformation, here historical shifts tear apart the possibility of communication. This is the artists' microscopic exploration of the destruction of solidarity, while previous projects have looked at its desolate architectural landscapes.

Mihnea Mircan

## August (Imposibila iubire / Impossible Love)

by Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor

### Artists' info

Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor  
1968 Constanta, RO / 1974 Geneva, CH, work together since  
2000

### Shows (selection)

#### 2007

52th Venice Biennial, Romanian Pavilion, Low-Budget  
Monuments

The Building Show, Exit Art Gallery, New York

Prague Biennale 3, Der Prozess, Collective memory and  
social history

"... not figments of a madman's imagination...": the Uncanny  
in Contemporary Romanian Video, Rewind, Florence Lynch  
Gallery, New York

October. Exit, Memory and Desire. Artra Gallery, Milano

Procesul, Progr, videokunst.ch, Bern / solo

Dada East? The Romanians of Cabaret Voltaire, Fargfabriken,  
Stockholm

Obsessions, Sabrina Raffaghello Gallery, Ovada, Alessandria  
Coded Cinema, SMART Project Space, Amsterdam

Transforming Memory. The Politics of Images, 24 Nadezda  
Petrovic Memorial, Cacak

#### 2006

How to Do Things? - In the Middle of (No)where, Kunstraum  
Kreuzberg Bethanien, Berlin

Re-animating the city, Cooper Gallery, Dundee / solo

AWOL, Young Artists Biennial, Bucuresti

Urban Contact Zone, sharing areas - using places, Westwerk,  
Hamburg

Fair:Play, Play Gallery, Berlin

Accidentes, Associação Cultural Videobrasil, Sao Paulo

Liquid Matter, Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien, Berlin

De/re/constructii, Galeria Noua, Bucuresti

#### 2005

Art-chitecture of Change, Isola Art Center, Milano

Breakfast / Persepolis / Consuming the City, Artbug Gallery,  
Bassano / solo



Procesul / The Trial, Private Investigations, Stadtturm Galerie,  
Innsbruck / solo

Nu au fost semnalate incidente deosebite, Galeria Noua,  
Bucuresti

Motion Parade, Fotogalerie Wien

Continental Breakfast, Ljubljana Castle

A Warlike People, Monorchid Gallery, Phoenix, Arizona

Unitati de locuit, CIAC, Bucuresti / solo

Longtime, Trafo Gallery, Budapest

#### 2004

Terrorvision, Exit Art Gallery, New York

Revolutions Reloaded, Artra Gallery, Milano; Play Gallery,  
Berlin

Orase de Consum, Galeria Vector, Iasi / solo

Media-Space 04, Micro Utopia Re-Utilisation and Shifts in  
Urban Space, Stuttgart

Romanian artists and not only love the palace?,  
MNAC, Bucuresti

Formate / Moving Patterns, Kunsthalle Karlsplatz, Wien

Consuming the City, Buchsenhausen Labor, Innsbruck / solo

#### 2003

Living Units, Project Room, Ludwig Museum, Budapest /  
solo

Border Device(s), Border Counter / Multiplicity Collective,  
Utopia Station, the 50th Venice Biennial; Roomade Gallery,  
Bruxelles

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by Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor

## Artists' info

### 2002

5 Senses, CRCA, San Diego

### Screenings

#### 2007

After Architects, film programme, Kunsthalle Basel, Architekturmuseum

Bucuresti-Berlin - Aktuelles Kino aus Rumänien, Kino Babylon, Berlin

London Festival of Europe, Courtauld Institute of Art

Cinema Bucharest, 36th Film Festival Rotterdam

#### 2006

The other City, Trafo Gallery, Budapest

Elektronenstrome, Videonale, Kunstmuseum Bonn

Cover Story, Forum Stadtpark, Graz; Display Gallery, Prague (2005)

e-flux video rental, Extra city, Antwerp; Mucsarnock Budapest

#### 2005

Festival Rencontres Internationales Paris-Berlin

e-flux video rental, Portikus, Frankfurt; KW Institute for Contemporary Art

#### 2003

Cybersonica 03, ICA, London

Arcipelago, 11th International Festival of Short Films and New Images, Rome

Stuttgarter Filmwinter Festival for Expanded Media, Stuttgart

#### 2002

ISEA, Orai, Nagoya

Coop Festival Kalinderu Medialab, MNAC Bucharest

Backup Festival, Weimar

### Artist in residence

#### 2006

How to Do Things? - In the Middle of (No)where, Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien, Berlin

#### 2005

AIR Vienna

USF Verftet, Bergen

#### 2004

Kunstlerhaus Buchsenhausen, Innsbruck

#### 2003

Project Room, Ludwig Museum Budapest

### Lectures

#### 2007

A-61, Cologne

Cabaret Voltaire, dada haus, Zurich

#### 2006

Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee, Scotland

#### 2005

How to Do Things? - In the Middle of (No)where... Colloquium, Bethanien, Berlin

Living Units, Khib, Bergen

After the Happy 90es, Goethe Institut, Bucuresti

#### 2004

Living Units, Consuming the City, Buchsenhausen Labor, Innsbruck

Post Communist Architecture in Bucharest, workshop, Institute of Architecture Ion Mincu, Bucharest in collaboration with Columbia University NY

#### 2003

SHORT BREATH - Experiencing Architecture in Time of Displacements, International Symposium, CIAC, Bucharest

### Awards

Fair:Play 2006 Video Festival, 1st prize, Play Gallery Berlin

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