

FUNDAȚIA LÖWENDAL

## Ariadna Löwendal-Dănilă

### George baron Löwendal - The Recovery of an Exceptional Destiny



Ariadna Löwendal-Dănilă was born in Bucharest on January 2nd 1964. His mother, actress Irina Dall, is one of the two daughters of George baron Löwendal - painter, scenographer, and founding member of the Romanian Union of Artists. Isolated and eventually almost exiled from the country's artistic life, on account of his aristocratic origins, George baron Löwendal, an artist blessed with so many talents, including an extraordinary capacity to create and channel energies, continued to live just as intensely even after his death, throughout the stories of his two daughters.

They understood that keeping his legacy from slipping into oblivion is very important. It is in this very spiritual family environment that Ariadna spent her childhood, feeding herself on fabulous stories about her grandfather.

Growing up with the few paintings that were left in the house as well as with other important documents, scenography and costumes blueprints, notes about shows, events, and people, Ariadna Löwendal-Dănilă gradually learnt to understand the value of all these objects.

At the same time, she acknowledged that she wanted to bring to light a cultural treasure as this, which was out of the question during the communist era and remained a very difficult to do even after the Revolution in December 1989.

While being a valuable scientific researcher and running a successful pharmaceutical business, Ariadna Löwendal-Dănilă succeeds in translating the dream of her family that she's the sole representative of.

She managed to create The Löwendal Foundation. Placing it in an amazing building, she provided it with an effervescent life, with rich evocative and challenging programs, searching for and gathering proofs from across the country and around the world that would complete the image of an artistic character that was exceptionally complex.

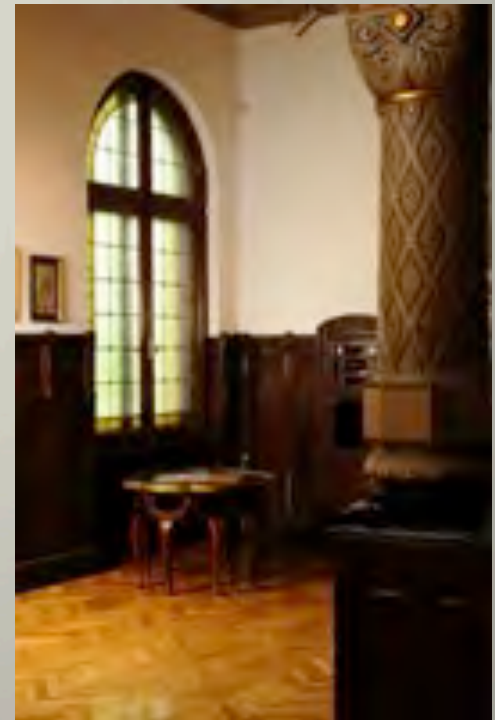
The main objective of this foundation is reinstalling George baron Löwendal's work in the evolution of Romanian and European art during the first half of the 20th century.

"I bought the house, had it arranged and turned into the Löwendal Foundation, which takes the name of my family. It was founded in 2010 for the popularization of my grandfather's work, George baron Löwendal. My mother and her sister had wanted to do this for a long time. They waited for the authorities to give them a memorial house that would shelter my grandfather's art collection, but time passed by in vain. I was lucky enough to have the financial resources for that," Ariadna continued.

At the same time, the artist's niece bought a domain near Urziceni that she will include in Löwendal's heritage. Ariadna Löwendal-Dănilă is the owner of Manasia Domain and is currently having the location restored so that it can host cultural events.

"The neo-Romanian style villa, near Ioanid Park, in the heart of Bucharest, seemed to me the ideal place for the cultural foundation that I created in 2010. From then on, all of my projects were linked together and naturally acquired their own life".

Ariadna Löwendal-Dănilă, president of Löwendal Foundation,  
daughter of actress Irina Dall (Löwendal)



## Ioanid Park division

The Löwendal Foundation building is part of the urban plan for Ioanid Park.

The Ioanid Park division into lots was designed in 1909 -1910 by the Technical Department of the Bucharest City Council, inspired by the Parc Monceau in Paris.

The Ioanid Park is still built on a different scale but it takes up the idea of dividing the lots of land around the park.



# Löwendal Foundation

**The Löwendal Foundation** proposes to promote the oeuvre of George Löwendal, as well as the support and encouragement of contemporary art.

Situated in Bucharest, in the immediate vicinity of the Ioanid Park and the Icon Garden Park, Löwendal House hosts the projects of the Foundation of the same name, opened in 2010.

The Löwendal Foundation is dedicated to the promotion of the work of painter and scenographer George Löwendal, an important figure in the Romanian inter-war and post-war art world, and the production and organization of curatorial, editorial and educational projects in the visual and performing arts.



Löwendal House is emblematic of the Neo-Romanian architectural style. The creation of architect Petre Antonescu, the building stands out for its elegance, its refined asymmetrical volumes and the vertical accent of the tower on the main façade. The galleries with trilobed or semicircular arches call to mind towers and traditional houses.

Built at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the building even today retains the discreet, aristocratic charm of that era. The interior decoration borrows some Neo-Romanian elements and harmoniously integrates them into eclectic compositions. The rooms with wooden ornaments, wall paneling and coffered wood, the elaborate stucco and the braided belt model, which recur as a unifying element throughout the entire house, give the interior space a refined and yet friendly atmosphere. Building with two levels, has a total area of 225 square metres.

The museum includes an art collection of more than 500 works of oil painting, graphics, scenographic blueprints, memoirs, and stories of George baron Löwendal about his paintings. Like the artist's niece says, "it is an impressive archive for Romania."

Beginning in 2010, together with the launching of the Löwendal Foundation, the building has hosted cultural projects of its own and realised in partnership with various public and private institutions (exhibitions, conferences, book launches, art contests, etc.)

# Löwendal Foundation

## *International Exhibitions*



Vienna (RCI) – 2007  
*Schönthaler Haus*



Paris (RCI) – 2011  
*Béhague Palace*



Prague (RCI) – 2011



Chernivtsi – 2013  
*Art Museum*

2007 - Romanian Cultural Institute in Vienna

2011 - Romanian Cultural Institute in Prague and Quadrennial of scenography

2011 - Romanian Cultural Institute in Paris and Béhague Palace

2013 – Art Museum, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

2017 - Romanian Cultural Institute in Berlin

2018 – Art Museum, Kishinev, R. Moldova



# The George Löwendal National Scenography Competition

The Löwendal Foundation is the organizer of the George Löwendal National Scenography Competition, a unique project in Romania and an exclusive brand of the Löwendal Foundation.



2010 Theme: The Night Asylum



2012 Theme: Volpone  
Constantin Chiriac, President of the International Theater Festival in Sibiu, Romania and Ariadna Löwendal-Dănilă



2011 Theme: Marriage  
Marcel Freydefont, scientific director of the Scenography Department at the National Higher School of Architecture in Nantes, France.



2013 Theme: Hamlet  
First prize - Arnaud Behety (France),  
second year student Bucharest University of Architecture



**GEORGE BARON LÖWENDAL**

painter and scenographer

(1897-1964)

## The family Blazon

Ulrik Frederik Gyldenløve, son of Frederick III King of Denmark, was married to Sofia von Urne. In 1660 they had a son - Woldemar Baron de Löwendal, who was Active Intimate Advisor and President of the Polish Royal Chamber and Kingdom of Saxony, hereditary owner of Mückenberg estate in Meissen, General in chief, Grand Marshal of the Court, Intimate Minister of Cabinet and Knight of the Order of the Polish Eagle and the Order of the Danish White Elephant. He died in 1740. With his wife Dorothea von Brockdorf of Holstein, they had two son: Ulrik Frederik Baron de Löwendal, Chambelain Royal Poles and the Electorate of Saxony and Woldemar Count of Löwendal; appointed General Royal Pole in 1734. He entered service Russian military as Chief General, Imperial Count, Governor of Estonia and knight of several orders. On his death in 1755 he was Marshal in France. He graduated from Imperial Count June 18, 1740.

Follows the family of Baron Löwendal.





Frederic III  
King of Denmark and Norway  
(1609-1670)



Ulrik Frederik Gyldenløve  
Viceroy of Norway  
(1638-1704)



Woldemar Count of Löwendal  
(1700-1755)



The Löwendal family, from Denmark to France and Russia



Grand father paternal,  
Nicolai (II) baron  
Löwendal (1840-1910)  
General Major of the  
Russian Admiralty in  
St. Petersburg



The artist's parents,  
Laurence (II) baron  
Löwendal and Liubov  
Gavrichova baronnese  
Löwendal, ten months  
later the birth of their  
first son, George.  
St. Petersburg, 1898



George (foremost), with his brothers,  
parents and grandfather maternal,  
Lev Osipovici Gavrichov. Khotyn, 1903



Lydia Löwendal-Pape, August 25, 1980, Copenhagen.  
At the XIV International Congress of Genealogy and Heraldry Sciences.



George Löwendal,  
painter and scenographer, from  
St. Petersburg in Bucharest

*Biographical references*  
1897–1964

Cities where George Löwendal  
lived and worked



## 1897

George Löwendal is born on 10th May, 1897, in St. Petersburg, first of four sons of Laurence II baron Löwendal, officer in the Tsar's Army. According to the scarce genealogical information included in the family blazon, the Löwendal barons were descendents of Ulrik Frederick Gyldenløve, born in 1638, son of King Frederic III of Denmark and Norway. George's mother, Liubov Gavrichova, is the daughter of Lev Osipovici Gavrichov, hero officer of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.



The Löwendal couple will still have three boys: Lev, Nikolai and Boris.

George Löwendal, 1900



The Löwendal spouses, their four boys (George, second from left) and the paternal grandmother, Aleksandra Vasilievna Orehova-Löwendal. Tarascia (60 km south of Kiev), 1906 (?)



The Löwendal couple (center) surrounded guests in the garden of their house de Tarascia, 1906 (?)



The mother (third on the left) and the father of the artist (right, in the place of honor), with their hosts. Tarascia, 1906 (?)



The Löwendal spouses with their four children (George in the foreground) and family guests. Tarascia, 1906 (?)



Liubov, the artist's mother (second plan, right) and family guests.  
Tarascia, 1905 (?)



George (second from left) with his mother and brothers. Soroca, 1914 (?)

## 1914-1917

George Löwendal completes high school lessons in Kiev. Then, he went to St. Petersburg (Petrograd) for fine art lessons, including those of the painter Saveli Moiseevici Zeidenberg. His mentors are the peredvijnitchi (itinerant painters) Aleksandr Vladimirovici Makovski and Aleksandr Petrovici Aleksandrov.

From time to time he worked as an actor, dancer, painter and decorator, and in 1915 as a scenographer at the Opera Theater of Prince Oldenburg.



The student of Fine Arts George Löwendal and his colleague, Baron Nikolai Elsner. St. Petersburg, 1918.

# Kingdom of Romania, 1918



April 9 1918: Following the Act of the Union voted by the Country Council in Kishinev, the province of Bessarabia between in the composition of the Kingdom of Roumanie.

November 28 1918: In the Synodal Hall of the Metropolitan Palace of Chernivtsi, the General Congress of Bukovina decides the Union of Bukovina in the Kingdom of Romania.

## 1918-1921

The artist's father, Laurence (II) baron Löwendal is said to have died in action to save the family from Tsar Nicolai II (who was to be executed in summer 1918). In the same period, his mother, Liubov Gavrichova, is deported to Uzbekistan.

George follows his mentor, the professor Aleksandrov, in Bessarabia. In Soroca he discovered his passion for animation theater: he made dolls, writes plays with Ariadna Ambrozieva, her fiancée, and stages shows for children. In Kishinev, he collaborates with various theater companies as painter set designer; he creates sets with patterns inspired by Russian folklore (*Iubok*). It also makes decorative panels for the Pavilion of the Assembly of Nobility.



George and his fiancée, Ariadna Ambrozieva (foreground, right), with a few friends. Soroca, summer 1919.



**1921**

He married in Kishinev with Ariadna Ambrozjeva, from Toula (Russia), a student at the Odessa Faculty of Law. Poet, writer, soloist-concertist and, later, professor of foreign languages and canto, she will be all lives a support for him, being at the same time his critic and a wise adviser.



Ariadna and George.  
Soroca, 1919



George Löwendal and  
Aleksandr P. Aleksandrov

## 1921-1925

The new family settles in Bucharest where the artist is learning the Romanian language.

He works as a set painter and director at a few summer gardens and review theaters: Cărbuș, Grădina Blanduziei, "Carol cel Mare" (Eforie). He is asked to work with important representatives of the interwar scene: at the "Regina Maria" Theater (Company "Bulandra") and at the Central Theater, where there was the famous Vilnius troupe, established for a few seasons in Bucharest - it collaborates mainly with the director Iacob Sternberg, a follower of the "Synthetic theater," author of anthological experimental montages.

On October 28, 1923, his first daughter was born, Lydia (d. 2006).

On June 13, 1925, his second daughter was born, Irina (d. 1995).



Irina at eight months, Bucharest



Lydia at two years old, Bucharest



Lydia and Irina Löwendal, Chernivtsi, 1931



Postcard dated August 21, 1927, sent from Paris by V.I. Popa to G. Löwendal who him had asked for information on the theaters visited in his European journey.

Chernivtsi National Theater, built in 1905 by renowned architects Ferdinand Fellner and Hermann Helmer (now the headquarters of the Musical-Dramatic Theater “Olga Kobâleanska” from Chernivtsi).



George and Ariadna Löwendal.  
Chernivtsi, 1933

## 1926-1935

Participation in the first collective exhibition of inter-war scenography - organized by art critic Ștefan Nenițescu at the Hasefer Bookstore in Bucharest - made him one of the most valuable Romanian decorative painters. Next to Löwendal, exhibit works by Theodor Kiriacoff-Suruceanu, Marcel Iancu, M.H. Maxy and others.

He accepted a job as a set painter and technical director at the National Theater in Chernivtsi (at the time, the youngest subsidized company in the country). He left the Capital and, with his family, settled in the cosmopolitan city of Bukovina. During the same period, other important artists of his generation worked there: Victor Ion Popa (appointed artistic director of the institution), Aurel Ion Maican, George Mihail Zamfirescu - animators of the theatrical life of the interwar period with whom he shares the same innovative vision of the performing arts.



The decor for the room  
*Crime and punishment*, adaptation  
according to Dostoevsky  
Chernivtsi National Theater, 1927

Thanks to his collaboration with them,  
Chernivtsi's stage is propelled into the  
vanguard of the Romanian theatrical  
movement.

He makes an unprecedented montage for  
the room *Crime and Punishment*, adaptation  
according to Dostoevsky, which offers technical  
innovation - sliding rail scene.





The *Bastien and Bastienne* dolls

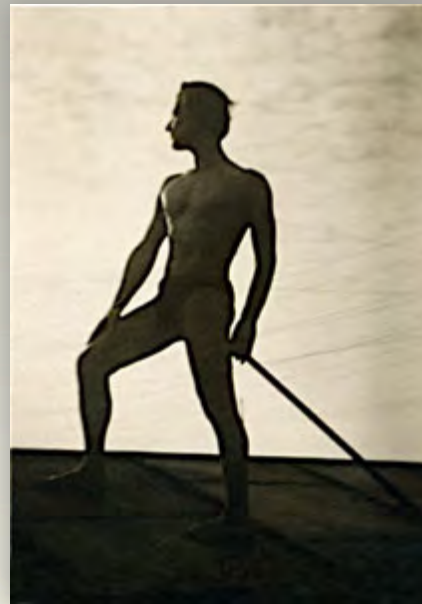
He played a decisive role in the creation of the first puppet and puppet theater in Romania, inaugurated as a section of the Chernivtsi National Theater on May 1, 1928; for the cut show presented on this occasion - *The Theater Director* and *Bastien and Bastienne*, comic operas in an act by W.A. Mozart -, he creates dolls, costumes, sets, as well as the painted curtain of the small animation theater.



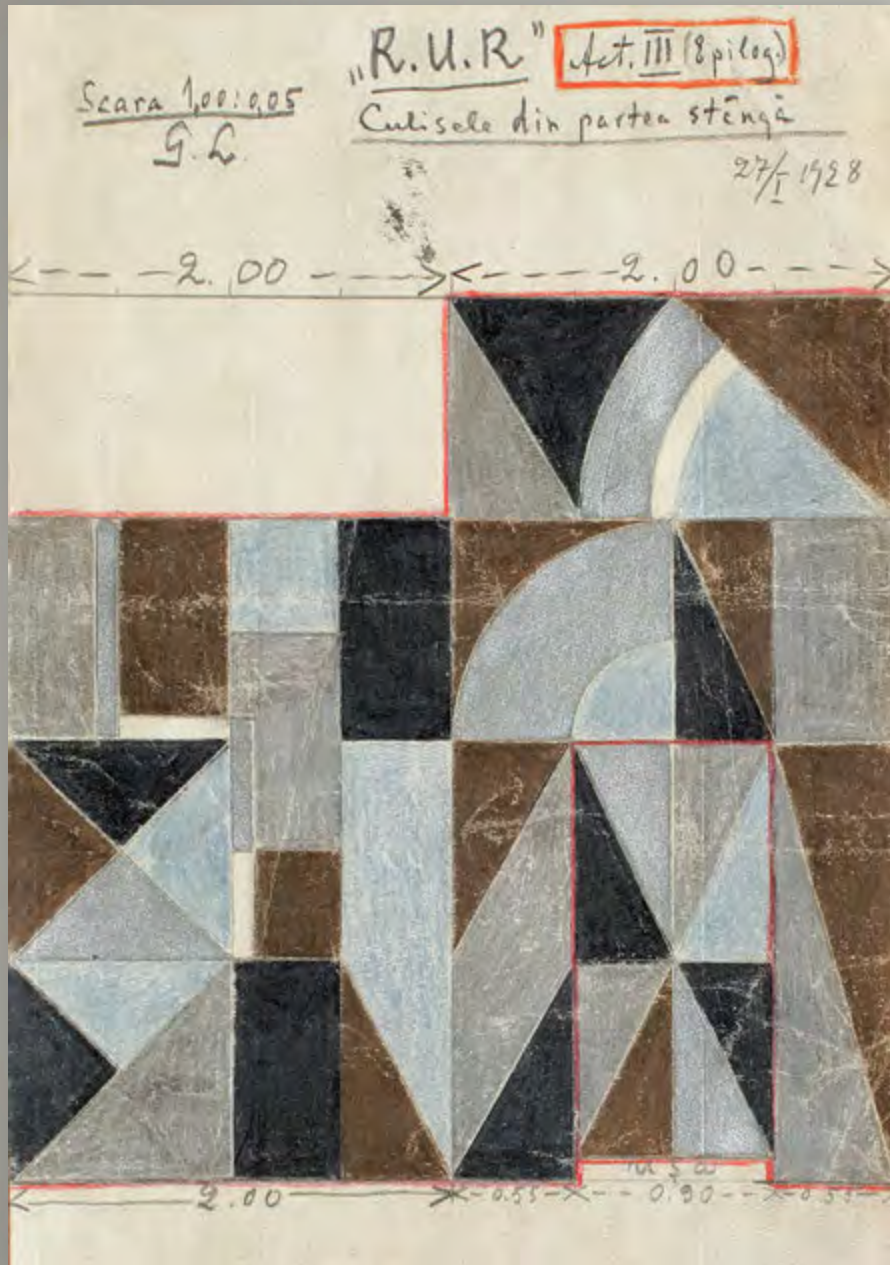
Doll heads for the *The Theater Director* of W.A. Mozart



George Löwendal and Irina. Devil's Valley,  
Chernivtsi, June 1935



George Löwendal cleaning the deposited  
snow on the roof of the house. Chernivtsi,  
1933



In the 1927–1928 season, he made the sets for *R.U.R.* by Karel Čapek, the first Romanian montage of a SF play and builds the country's first revolving stage.

In parallel, he does easel painting. These are mostly farmers and the monasteries of Bukovina which attract him and become the preferred and characteristic motif of his plastic creation.



Panels and scenery photographed on stage for Act III / Epilogue. *R.U.R.* by Karel Čapek, Chernivtsi National Theater, 1927





Ariadna Löwendal

## 1931-1933

In 1931 he founded the Society of Plastic Artists of Bukovina, called "The Friends of Art".



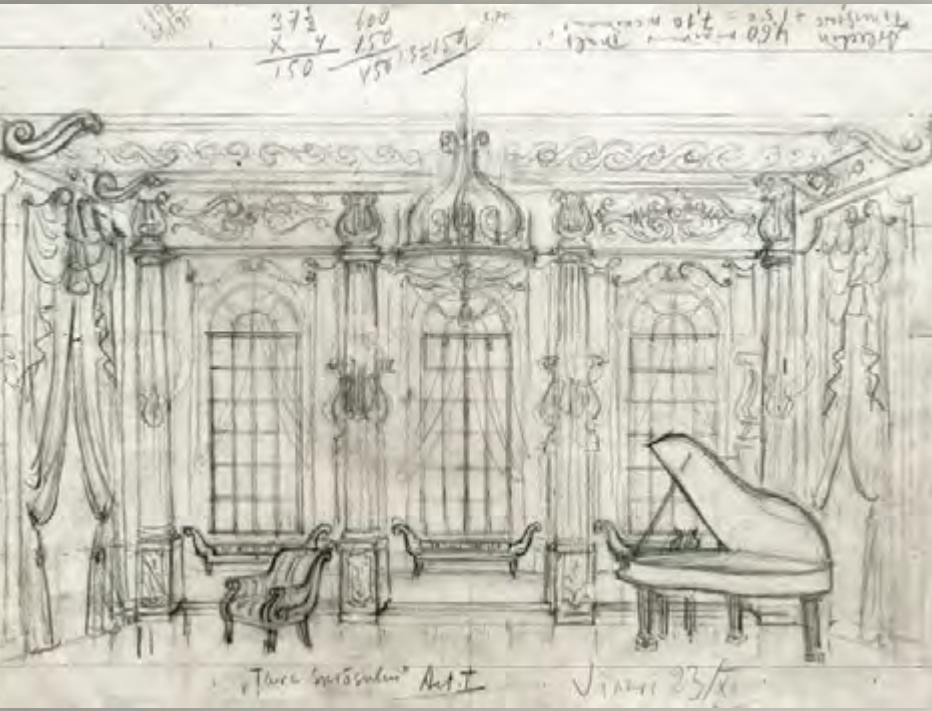
Ariadna and her daughters.  
Tchernivtsi, 1934



George Löwendal with his eldest daughter, Lydia, and Ariadna Löwendal with her youngest daughter, Irina. Chernivtsi, September 1934

1934

He achieved triumphant success in Timișoara with the operetta sets *The Land of Smiles* by Franz Lehár. As a tribute, the city authorities offer him one of the bullets preserved in the Banat History Museum - a testament to the participation of his ancestor, Ulrich Frederick Woldemar Count of Löwendal, in the liberation of Timișoara from Turkish occupation (1716).



*The Land of Smiles*, operetta by Franz Lehár - Sketch of decor



The "Franz Josef" Theater in Timișoara, designed, like that of Chernivtsi, by architects Fellner and Helmer, was inaugurated in 1875.



The artist in front of the easel,  
1935

## 1935-1940

September – October 1935: The first major solo exhibition at the Mozart Hall in Bucharest (oils, drawings, watercolors).

The specialist critic consecrates him as a leading representative of Romanian plastic art.



George Löwendal, in his solo exhibition  
at the Mozart Room. Bucharest, 1935



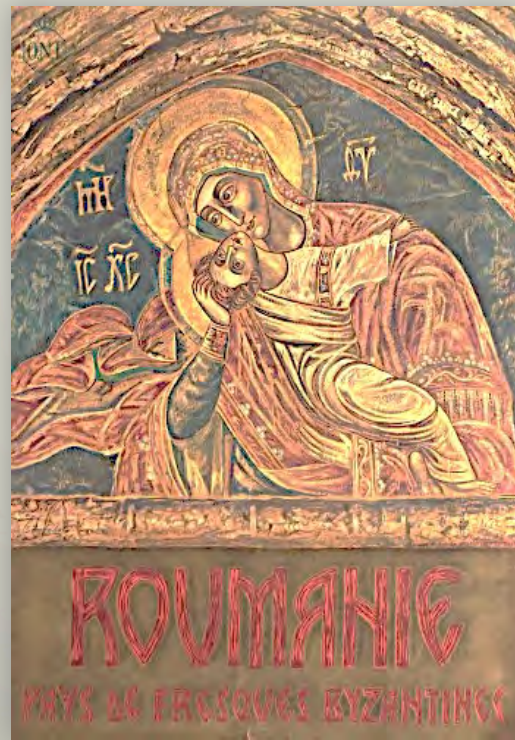


In 1936, Leo van Puyvelde, president of the International Committee for the History of Art, acquired from him the painting *The Peasant with the broken Hat* (1935) for the Museum of Modern Art in Brussels.

The Peasant with the broken Hat (1935)

In 1937 he stayed permanently in Bucharest with his family.

He participates with graphic works (posters) in all the exhibitions of the National Tourist Office of the country and abroad.



The posters "Romania, a country of Byzantine frescoes" for the National Tourist Office, Romanian Pavilion in Paris 1937 and 1939



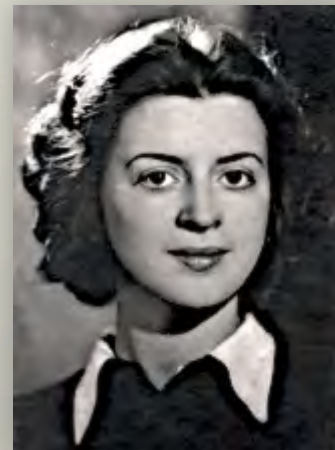
Ariadna Löwendal.  
Bucharest, 1938 (?)



The Löwendal family and their housewife Marishca,  
near their house in the Regina Maria Circle.  
Bucharest, May 1939



Irina Löwendal.  
Bucharest, 1940



Lydia Löwendal.  
Bucharest, 1946



## 1942-1945

For a short time, George Löwendal collaborates as a set designer with the Craiova National Theater.

In 1943 he painted in Bukovina and then opens a highly successful exhibition hosted by the Universul Hall in Bucharest.

All 80 paintings on display were sold.



Exhibition in the Parliament building,  
June 24 – July 10, 1945, Bucharest





The Löwendal couple, on Omu Peak. Bucegi Mountains, Romania, September 1943



## 1945-1946

He contributed by donating models and sketches, at the creation of the Țândărică Theater from Bucharest, the first professional puppets theater in Romania.

He organized - an unprecedented event for the cultural landscape of the time - a painting exhibition in the Ghelari mine, Hunedoara county.



## 1947-1948

In 1947 Mihai I, King of Romania conferred on him the Order of "Cultural Merit" as an officer.



Mihai I, King of Romania,  
former prince of Hohenzollern





Sighisoara Town

## 1950-1957

It is a period during which he works as a university professor at the “Nicolae Grigorescu” Institute of Visual Arts in Bucharest.

During the summer of 1954, he gave open lessons for his students in the medieval city of Sighișoara.

On November 11, 1954, his wife died.

In subsequent years, the artist will be preoccupied with the writing of Ariadna Löwendal's literary creation, as well as his own writings. In periodicals of the time, he published some autobiographical stories.

From August 1955, he signed his works of plastic art *GLA* (by adding to his own initials the letter A of the first name of his wife).



## 1957-1964

Every summer, he paints numerous landscapes and portraits of peasants in Bukovina.

## 1964

On January 2, her granddaughter Ariadna, Irina's daughter, was born in Bucharest.



The painter at the Voroneț  
Monastery Bukovina, Romania

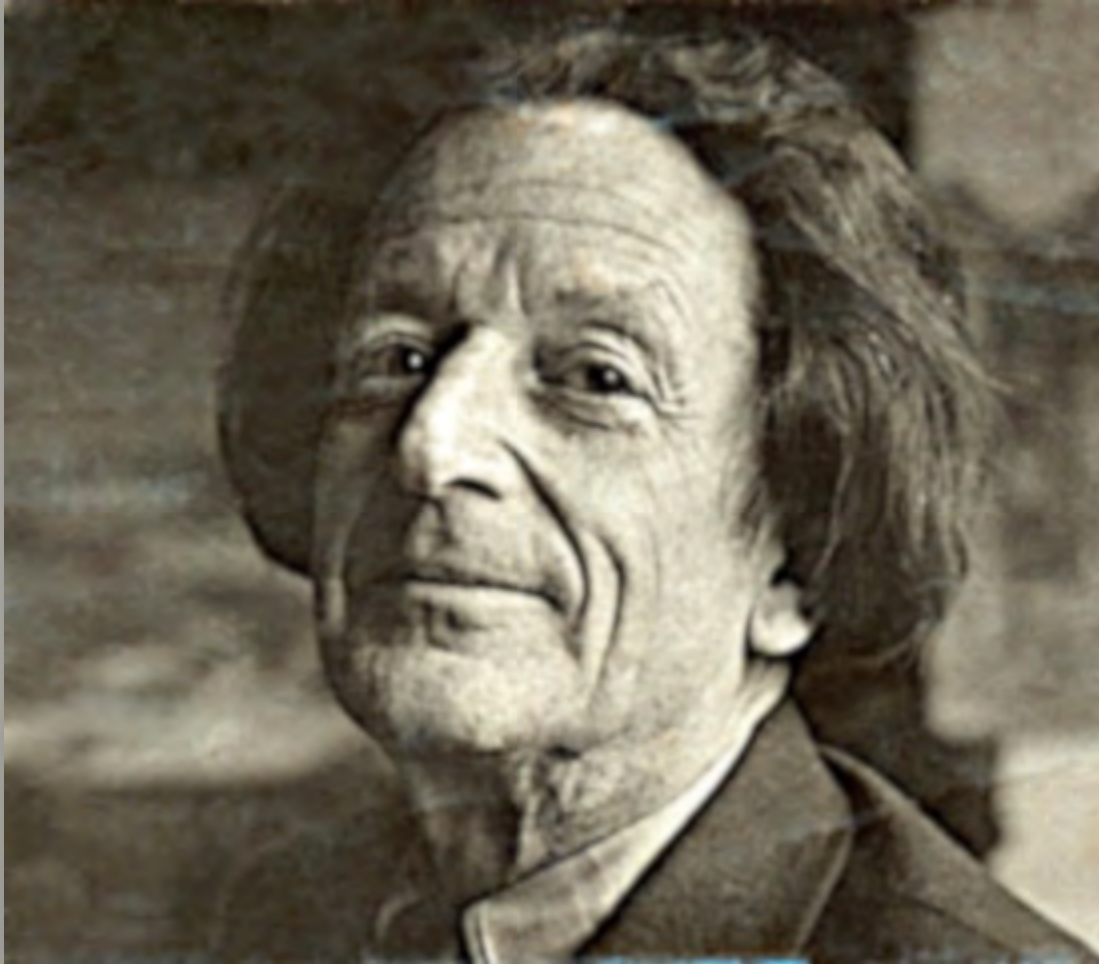


Irina Löwendal with her daughter Ariadna.  
Bucharest, May 1964

**February 18, 1964**

George Löwendal suddenly dies.

He is buried in the "Sfânta Vineri" Cemetery in Bucharest.



The last picture, 1964

George Löwendal



George Löwendal's watercolors; characters from series "At the Market"





George Löwendal Pencil character sketches

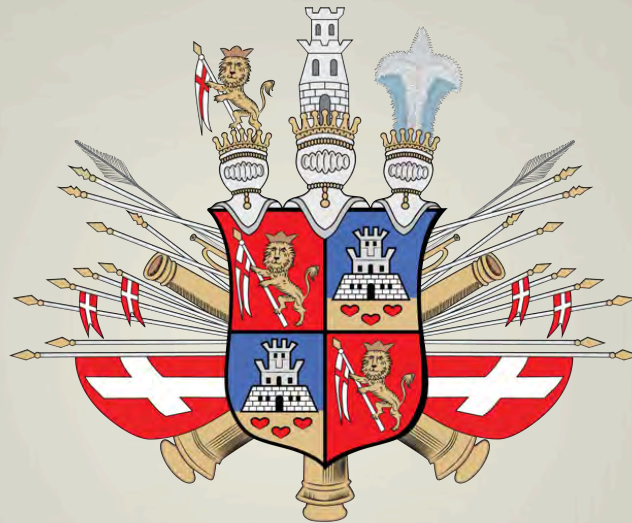


George Löwendal ~~Ä~~ Mixed technique; sketches and costumes for theater plays



George Löwendal ~~Ä~~oil; portraits of romanian peasants





# FUNDAȚIA LÖWENDAL

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