

# IFPDA PRINT FAIR

## AIDA TOMESCU

### *TORN THROUGH THE WHITE*

Park Avenue Armory  
643 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10065  
28 - 30 March 2025  
Booth B17

28th - 30th March, 2025

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Flowers Gallery is delighted to participate in this year's edition of the IFPDA Print Fair with a special solo presentation by celebrated artist Aida Tomescu. The booth will highlight her ever evolving process through etching, drawing and painting. This exhibition centres on Tomescu's high-energy series of new drawings 'Torn through the white', completed in 2025, presented alongside a selection of Tomescu's editioned aquatint and intaglio etchings and her recent major painting 'With the crimson word' with its intense, raptured surface, echoing the unpredictable construction of her collages. The presentation invites dialogues between media and emphasises the ways in which Tomescu's drawings are becoming progressively layered, expansive and informed by colour, like the paintings, while drawing is increasingly entering Tomescu's larger paintings.

One of Australia's foremost abstract painters, Aida Tomescu's work projects a compelling presence with a powerful sense of scale and fearlessness. Throughout her career spanning over 40 years, she has been developing and enlarging the themes and content of her work, to arrive at 'live structures' forming from within. Tomescu says, Ultimately nothing is fixed in painting, etching or collage. Even though you break through with a line deeply into an etching ground, the aim is for the image to lift off that surface, have a pulse.



*Torn through the white V*, 2025, Mixed media on paper, 121 x 80 cm, 47 5/8 x 31 1/2 in.

'Torn through the white', takes its title from Thomas Bernhard's early volume of poetry 'Under the Iron of the Moon'. Tomescu's works have long incorporated literary references, generating their rhythm during the journey of their making. They develop connections between multiple sources, always charged by the present. Tomescu describes Bernhard's verse as "the poetic frame" of her new collage & mixed media series.

*I turn to something very specific, at times to literature and poetry. It triggers new material that is incorporated and has to be constructed. One source, one theme, generates associative thinking and connections that give me entry into the work, ignites a new direction, multiplying the potential. The surface slowly discards what is unnecessary, sheds what doesn't clarify my construction. Gradually the work becomes more and more complex and gives me a lot to consider, to reflect on—a lot to do.*

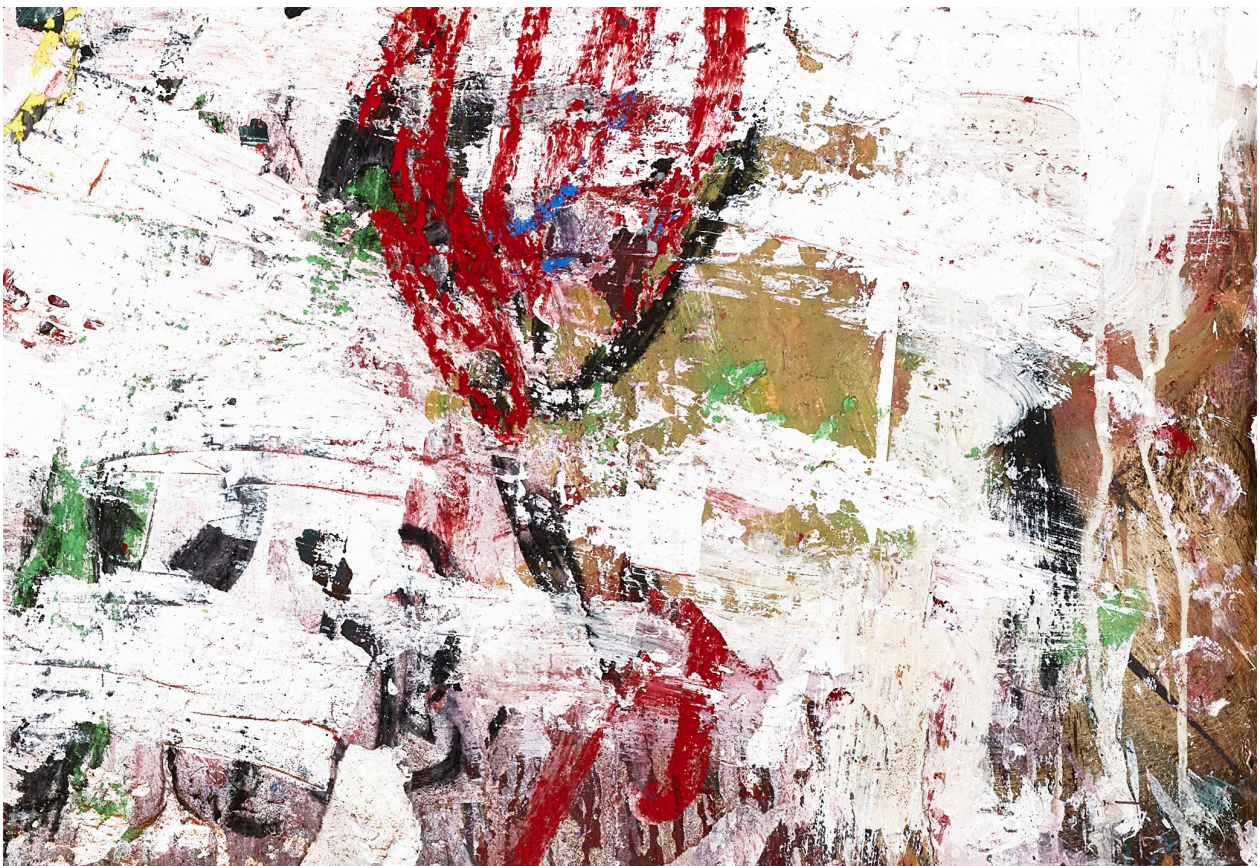
Drawing is central to Tomescu's thinking. It exists alongside her paintings, in the service of form and structure. It is never preparatory and has become a welcomed intrusion in her larger paintings. While the works from this series preserve a look of utmost spontaneity, they are the result of a coordinated, gradual construction, and a rigorous critical appraisal of the overall, and of the resolution of each image.

In each new series, regardless of media, there is a persistent interplay between intensity and lightness of touch, a nerviness of gesture, along with an impulse to blow predictable configurations sky-high, unsettle the work's structure and recast in a new complex and surprising way.

*Drawing keeps my work in the midst of discovery, allows me to find and retain a purer voice in the course of the work, and let the image whistle in an unexpected tune.*



*Torn through the white I - VI, Install, 2024 - 2025*



*Detail, Torn through the white IV, 2025*



*Ithaca I-X*, 1997, Unfolding Presence Installation image 2021, Orange Regional Gallery.  
Photography by John Daly.

## About Aida Tomescu

Born in Bucharest, Romania in 1955, Aida Tomescu has been living and working in Sydney, Australia since 1980. Tomescu studied at the Institute of Arts, Bucharest, was awarded a Diploma of Visual Arts in 1977, and shortly after her arrival to Australia completed a postgraduate degree at the City Art Institute in 1983. Tomescu has exhibited regularly since 1978 with over forty solo shows to date and has participated in national and international exhibitions and events including Know My Name, (2020-22), National Gallery of Australia; Touring exhibition (2023-2025). Abstraction, National Gallery of Australia touring exhibition, (2017-2018); The Mind's Eye, Art Gallery of South Australia, (2013); Out of Australia: Prints and Drawings, The British Museum, London, (2011); and Contemporary Encounters, Ian Potter Centre: National Gallery of Victoria, (2010). In 2009, a major survey exhibition of Tomescu's works was held at the Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra. Tomescu is represented in all major art museums in Australia and in international collections including the National Gallery of Australia; the National Gallery of Victoria; the Art Gallery of New South Wales; the Art Gallery of South Australia; Queensland Art Gallery; Heide Museum of Modern Art; Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand; and the British Museum, London, UK. Tomescu is the winner of many prestigious art prizes including; 1996 Sulman Prize; the 2001 Wynne Prize; and the Dobell Prize for Drawing, awarded by the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 2003.

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