

CANTONPROJECTS

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PRESS RELEASE

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Leonard Ursachi's *Unmoored: A Family Portrait* Opens February 24, 2022

BROOKLYN, New York -- Leonard Ursachi's installation, *Unmoored: A Family Portrait*, will be on view from **February 24 through April 9, 2022** at Canton Projects. **Hours are 11:00 am – 4 pm, Thursday through Saturdays, and by appointment.**

The central element of *Unmoored* is a 7 ½ foot tall bollard. Suspended around and reflecting it are seven framed mirrors. Bollards have been used for centuries as mooring posts to which ships' ropes are tied. Ursachi's *Unmoored*, based on a nineteenth-century bollard on a Brooklyn pier, speaks to our country's slave and immigrant history and to its present, when squat, fat bollards stand sentry before the doors of post offices, banks, and religious buildings, set so close together that no vehicle can make it through. Bollard as protector; bollard as deflector.

Leonard Ursachi is a Romanian-born American artist and the founder of Canton Projects. He grew up in a dictatorship, from which he defected, and spent years border-hopping before settling in New York. He was granted political asylum by France, as well as a scholarship to study art history and archaeology at the Sorbonne.

Ursachi's art reflects our contemporary world of porous borders, vulnerable shelters, and mutating identities. Leitmotifs throughout his work are lost or buried histories; the repercussions of environmental choices; the impact of borders on cultures and individuals.

Ursachi has exhibited internationally, including a solo show of his art in 2008 at MNAC, Romania's National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest. Elisabeth Sussman, curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, has called Ursachi's work "thought provoking and quite moving . . . dealing with an important aspect of our culture and . . . both sensitive and intelligent."

Canton Projects is an exhibition space in DUMBO, Brooklyn, NY. Modest in scale and ambitious in scope, Canton Projects showcases original projects by diverse artists and designers.