

**BOOK PRESENTATIONS**



A Cinematic Kitchen. The Scenotope of Kitchen Scenes in the New Romanian Cinema („O bucătărie ca-n filme. Scenotopul bucătăriei în Noul Cinema Românesc”)

by **Mircea Valeriu DEACA**  
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*A Cinematic Kitchen. The Scenotope of Kitchen Scenes in the New Romanian Cinema* (Cluj: Mega 2017) represents an essay about how the film "speaks" and "thinks" with the help of what we can label the kitchen scenery. Its main focus is on the cinematographic manner of construing human drama in the setting of the kitchen decoration in Romanian films made after 1990. At first glance the "kitchen" is a diagnostic space for the social condition of the characters and a bail of the realism of the film. We started the investigation from the intuitive hypothesis that a specific setting is a trademark of a type of fictional world and cinema genre. Thus, the *western* film is recognized by the viewer starting from cues like the American West's natural landscapes, the typical saloon or the main street where the final confrontation will be staged. The *science fiction* genre includes typical elements such as the interstellar ship, the cosmological background decor, or futuristic costumes. A distinctive feature of post-1990 Romanian films is given by drama and character conflict unfolding in the setting of a typical and easy-to-use cinematic space: the pauper kitchen evoking urban post-communist space. The spectator recognizes an East European film and, in particular, a Romanian film, following the screening of this narrative and dramatic arena. This space has the value of a symptom of a particular way of life and a specific mentality and, on the

other hand, it allows the investigation of an intimate emotional drama concealed from the public view of society. It is, from this perspective, the place where the spectator can have access to the hidden affections and reactions of the characters, but also to a toy model of the Romanian society in transition.

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