

## WORKSHOP "HAND-SEWN MĂRȚIȘOARE ON A PERFORATED WOODEN BASE"

As part of the series of events dedicated to Transylvania University Day in Brașov, celebrated on March 1, the "Norbert Detaeye" Media Cultural Center organized and hosted a creative workshop in the Auditorium dedicated to making hand-sewn mărțișoare on perforated wooden supports. The activity brought together students from the faculties of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering and Product and Environmental Design, in an endeavor that combined tradition with contemporary design expression.



The mărțișor is a small decorative charm attached to a cord made by twisting together white and red threads. It is part of the traditional customs of Romanians and several neighboring cultures. When offering a mărțișor, people often include early spring flowers, especially the snowdrop, which is considered the most symbolic of the season. In 2017, the mărțișor tradition was inscribed on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity under the title "cultural practices associated with the celebration of March 1." The nomination was submitted jointly by Bulgaria, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, and Romania. The term "mărțișor" comes from Marț, an old folk name for the month of March, and is its diminutive form, meaning "little March."

Participants explored the decorative possibilities of the mărțișor by using colored threads to outline simple stitches, inspired by traditional textile ornamentation techniques. The simplicity of the materials and the accessible method of execution transformed the workshop into a space for experimentation and creativity. The process of sewing on the perforated wooden supports required attention and perseverance, cultivating students' patience, hand-eye coordination, and enjoyment of handcrafted work.



The symbol chosen for the sewn măștișoare was the ladybug, a motif commonly found in European folk culture, associated with good luck, protection, and the arrival of spring. In tradition, the appearance of the ladybug is considered a good omen, and the small objects created at the end of the workshop thus carried this symbolic value, reflecting the collaborative spirit and artistic sensitivity of the participating students.



The workshop was prepared and coordinated by students Aida-Ioana MINCIU and Ioana PANAITÉ, together with the author of this material.

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