



**Nichita Stănescu** (31 March 1933 – 13 December 1983) was a Romanian poet and essayist.

Nichita Stănescu finished high school in Ploiești, then went on to study Romanian language and literature in Bucharest, graduating in 1957.

His editorial debut was the poetry book *Sensul iubirii* ("The Aim of Love"), which appeared under the *Luceafărul* selection, in 1960. He made his literary debut in the *Tribuna* literary magazine. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his verse, the most important

being the Herder Prize in 1975 and a nomination for the Nobel Prize in 1980. The last volume of poetry published in his lifetime was *Noduri și semne* ("Knots and Signs"), published in 1982.



**Mihai Eminescu**; 15 January 1850 – 15 June 1889) was a Romantic poet, novelist, and journalist, generally regarded as the most famous and influential Romanian poet, as well as the first modern poet in Romanian literature. Eminescu was an active member of the *Junimea* literary society and worked as an editor for the newspaper *Timpul* ("The Time"), the official newspaper of the Conservative Party (1880–1918). His poetry was first published when he was 16.

Nicolae Iorga, the Romanian historian, considers Eminescu the godfather of the modern Romanian language, in the same way that Shakespeare is seen to have directly influenced the English language. He is unanimously celebrated as the greatest and most representative Romanian poet.

His poems span a large range of themes, from nature and love to hate and social commentary. His childhood years were evoked in his later poetry with deep nostalgia.

Eminescu's poems have been translated in over 60 languages. His life, work and poetry strongly influenced the Romanian culture and his poems are widely studied in Romanian public schools.



**Ion Creangă** (March 1, 1837 – December 31, 1889) was a Romanian writer, raconteur and schoolteacher. A main figure in 19th century Romanian literature, he is best known for his Childhood Memories volume, his novellas and short stories, and his many anecdotes. Creangă's main contribution to fantasy and children's literature includes narratives structured around eponymous protagonists ("Harap Alb", "Ivan Turbincă", "Dănilă Prepeleac", "Stan Pățitul"), as well as fairy tales indebted to conventional forms ("The Story of the Pig", "The Goat and Her Three Kids", "The Mother with Three Daughters-in-Law", "The Old Man's Daughter and the Old Woman's Daughter"). Widely seen as masterpieces of the Romanian language and local humor, his writings occupy the middle ground between a collection of folkloric sources and an original contribution to a literary

realism of rural inspiration.



**Nicolae Tonitza** (April 13, 1886 – February 27, 1940) was a Romanian painter, engraver, lithographer, journalist and art critic. Drawing inspiration from Post-impressionism and Expressionism, he had a major role in introducing modernist guidelines to local art. Tonitza was largely inspired by Impressionism but he equally admired the discoveries made by Post-impressionist artists (their revolution in composition and Belle Époque splendor). Most of his works are serene in tones, They proposed a classical aesthetical ideal, viewing art as a treasurer of spiritual values.



**Nicolae Grigorescu** (15 May 1838 – 21 July 1907) was one of the founders of modern Romanian painting. At a young age (between 1846 and 1850), he became an apprentice at the workshop of the painter Anton Chladek and created icons for some Orthodox churches. In the autumn of 1861, young Grigorescu left for **Paris**, where he studied at the École des Beaux-Arts. Under the influence of the Barbizon School movement, Grigorescu looked for new means of expression and followed the trend of en plein air painting, which was also important in Impressionism. In 1877 he was called to accompany the Romanian Army as a "frontline painter" in the Romanian War of Independence. After he returned to Romania, he started depicting pastoral themes, especially portraits of peasant girls, pictures of ox carts on dusty country roads and other landscapes.



**Ștefan Luchian** (1 February 1868 – 28 June 1916) was a Romanian painter, famous for his landscapes and still life works. He studied for two semesters at the Munich Fine Arts Academy and at the Académie Julian, in Paris. Through his work, Luchian turned out to be an original artistic personality, affirming himself with a generous, vibrant painting, which, through the colorful palette of light, the new artistic position, and a sparkling exposure of the language, succeeded to convey to the viewer a humanistic message of great quality. Luchian's great innovative contribution to Romanian painting in those times is represented by the way of translating the light effects, which erupts to every color in the painting.



**Theodor Pallady** (11 April 1871 – 16 August 1956) was a Romanian painter. Pallady first studied engineering at the Polytechnic of Dresden (1887-1889), then joined the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 1892 he enters Gustave Moreau's studio where Henri Matisse has his colleagues, with whom he has a close friendship. Pallady's predilection for dead nature denotes the desire to reproduce in a painting a fragment of universal reality, in all its poetry and harmony. Theodor Pallady is undoubtedly one of the most prestigious Romanian modern artists, preserving his ambition to be a

painter "of all time".