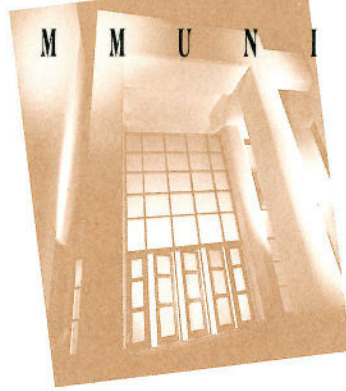




MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL

C O M M U N I Q U É



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1992

**A DRAMATIC AND IRONIC VISION
AT THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN:
HUNGARIAN ART OF TODAY**

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Montreal, October 29, 1992. From October 29 to January 3, the Musée d'art contemporain offers a unique contact with the strength and vitality of today's Hungarian visual art. With the recent political upheavals in Eastern Europe, new interest in these countries has arisen and great curiosity has developed due to the emergence of these new democracies. In the past few years, the opening up of the Eastern block countries to the West has made it possible to discover and explore many aspects of a cultural reality that until now has been very poorly understood, if not ignored. *Free Worlds: Metaphors and Realities in Contemporary Hungarian Art* provides a very special opportunity to become acquainted with today's artistic milieu in Hungary and to gain an appreciation for its dynamics.

Conceived by the Ontario Museum of Fine Arts, it unites 36 of the most significant recent works of contemporary Hungarian art. This is the first major show of contemporary Hungarian art in North America.

Free Worlds: Metaphors and Realities in Contemporary Hungarian Art

The title of this exhibition (original title: "Free Worlds, by the curators Roald Nasgaard and Clara Hargittay) refers to Gabor Bachman's architectural sculpture "Free World". Bachman, a participant in the exhibition, worked within the context of political opposition. For the two curators, "the title also evokes the forces which allowed Hungary to transform itself into a democratic society. However, the plural in the title puts aside all strictly confined nationalist perspectives to embrace other more universal worlds..."

Seven artists at the heart of the Hungarian experience

Shown in two of the halls reserved for temporary exhibitions, *Free Worlds* presents the paintings of: Ákos BIRKÁS, László FEHÉR, Sándor PINCZEHELYI, Tamás SOÓS and the installations of Gábor BACHMAN, Imre BUKTA, and El KAZOVSKIJ. Each was selected by Hargittay and Nasgaard because his or her strong and distinct personality stands out on the Hungarian art scene. The work of these mature artists matured through the 70's and 80's, at the same time as Western

Europe was regaining its place on the international scene and took part in the same aesthetic questioning and critical imperatives as western artists, carrying with them dynamic forces which have diverged with the recent political and social changes.

The exhibition also includes a program of videos prepared by Miklos Peternak of Hungary and Nina Czegledy of Canada. These videographic highlight the importance of interdisciplinarity in the work of Hungarian artists.

Educational Activities and Shows

Within the framework of this exhibit, the Musée has conceived various activities. Among them will be a *Concert of Contemporary Hungarian Music*, performed by the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec (SMCQ) under the direction of Walter Boudreau, December 16 at 8 p.m. in the Cinquième Salle of Place des Arts.

Three Identical Little Pigs, an art workshop, is offered from Tuesday to Sunday beginning November 3 and invites participants to create pictures inspired from the works *Pigs in the Landscape* and *Small Olympos IV 1990* by Imre BUKTA and El KAZOVSKIJ, two of the artists participating in the exhibition.

Curator Réal Lussier is responsible for the co-ordination of this exhibition in Montreal. A 147-page illustrated catalogue comprising texts by the two curators, specialists on Hungary, and comments from the artists themselves is available.

Organized and circulated by the Ontario Museum of Fine Arts and presented in Toronto in collaboration with the Budapest exhibition centre "Mücsarnok", and the Toronto Hungarian Festival for the Arts, this exhibition is sponsored by the Andrew Sarlos Foundation and the Reichmann family. Financial support was also provided by the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education, the Hungarian Ministry of External Affairs, and the Canada Arts Council.

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