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PARIS-B

GROUP SHOW

Constellations: Contemporary Positions from Hungary

Curated by Róna Kopeczky

May 15th — June 25th 2025

Opening on Thursday May 15, 6pm—9pm

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Conceived by Róna Kopeczky, curator of the Hungarian pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2024), this group show plunges visitors into the heart of the contemporary Hungarian art scene.

Bringing together artists who have made their mark on the international scene – some of them winners of the prestigious Esterházy Prize, others who have exhibited at previous editions of the Venice Biennale the project aims to promote dialogue between artistic territories and sensibilities. Painting, sculpture, installation, video... these are just some of the mediums explored to grasp the aesthetic and conceptual issues that run through young Hungarian creation.

The exhibition features the selected works of 18 emerging and mid-career artists from Hungary working individually or in duo. They use a great variety of media and deal in a personal, sensitive, eerie or poetic manner with environmental, existential topics,

notions of cultural history, identity and hybridity, or actual societal phenomena. Experimenting with bold combinations of materials or evolving within the boundaries of traditional art forms, the artists voice eco-critical approaches of nature representation, question the relation between individual and society, mankind and its environment, or explore concepts of collective memory, remembrance and bodily experience.

The exhibition conveys an unsettling and ambivalent atmosphere that balances between lush and deadly rot, sensuality and virtuality, figuration and abstraction, analogue and digital, real and surreal, archaic and contemporary.

Ádám ALBERT, Róbert BATYKÓ, Dániel BERNÁTH, Veronika CSONKA, József CSATÓ, EJTECH (Judit Eszter KÁRPÁTI and Esteban DE LA TORRE), Ákos EZER, Gideon HORVÁTH, Zsófia KERESZTES, Katalin KORTMANN-JÁRAY & Karina MENDRECZKY, Bence MAGYARLAKI, Mira MAKAI, Tamás MELKOVICS, Eszter METZING, Zsolt MOLNÁR, Luca Sára RÓZSA, Rita SÜVEGES and Kata TRANKER.

CURATOR: RÓNA KOPECZKY

Róna Kopeczky is a French-Hungarian art historian and curator specialised in contemporary art. She worked as curator of international art at the Ludwig Museum in Budapest between 2006 and 2015, then joined the city's leading contemporary art gallery, acb, as artistic director. In 2024, she curated the Hungarian pavilion at the 60th Venice Biennale. Her curatorial practice also includes contributions to international projects that enhance the visibility of the Hungarian and Central-Eastern European Contemporary art scene such as the first and second editions of OFF-Biennále Budapest in 2015 and 2017, Manifesta 14 in Prishtina in 2022, and Secondary Archive (2021-ongoing).



ÁDÁM ALBERT

(Born in 1975 in Veszprém, Hungary)



Map, stainless steel, antler, marble, marble inlay, dimensions variable, 2023

An in-depth exploration of cultural transmission and knowledge production mechanisms defines Ádám Albert's artistic practice. He creates immersive installations that question power relations, biopolitics, and the geopolit-ical foundations of social realities. His work often incorporates historical and personal elements. What distinguishes his approach is his ability to weave together historical narratives, artisanal techniques, and contemporary sociopolitical concerns, offering a critical reflection on how knowledge and culture are constructed and conveyed.



Ádám Albert lives and works in Budapest. He earned his MA from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2003 and completed his doctoral degree (DLA) at the same institution in 2010. In parallel, he also obtained an MA in History from Károli Gáspár University in 2000. Since 2020, he has been the head of the Department of Artistic Anatomy, Drawing, and Geometry at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, where he also serves as the director of the College for Advanced Studies in Art and Theory. He has received several distinctions, including the ACAX Leopold Bloom Young Visual Art Award in 2019 and the ESSL Art Award in 2007. His works are held in the permanent collections of major institutions such as the Hungarian National Gallery and the Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art.

RÓBERT BATYKÓ

(Born in 1981 in Miskolc, Hungary)

Batykó's work is informed by themes such as consumer culture and its visual appeal, the production and manipulation of digital imagery, and what he refers to as the "technological subconscious". His practice lies at the intersection of abstraction and realism, the digital and the physical. He transforms digital images into often large-scale paintings that, at times, recall software interfaces. The artist incorporates found materials such as packaging waste, old VHS tapes, magazines, and step-by-step vector drawing manuals. He is particularly drawn to form, recontextualizing these materials by removing them from their original function. His signature technique involves mechanically scraping the paint across the canvas during the final stage of the process, resulting in an ultra-thin painted surface. To achieve this, Batykó uses a custom-built machine—a press and blade hybrid. The final outcome is partially left to chance, resisting full control by the artist.



Róbert Batykó is a contemporary artist based in Budapest. He graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2005, where he studied under Károly Klimó. He has received numerous recognitions for his work. Between 2007-2010 he was awarded the Derkovits Scholarship the Strabag Art Award and in 2011 he received the Leopold Bloom Visual Arts Award. He lived and worked in the Netherlands for several years. Since 2007, besides acb Gallery, his works have been exhibited at every prominent Hungarian institution from the Ludwig Museum through the Hungarian National Gallery to the MODEM in Debrecen. Batykó has participated in several solo and group exhibitions across Europe and the Us, including Vienna, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Haarlem, Brussels, Montrouge, Berlin, London, New York, and Miami.



Late, oil on canvas, 198 x 65 cm, 2023



LOL, oil on canvas 198 x 70 cm, 2023

DÁNIEL BERNÁTH

(Born in 1990 in Debrecen, Hungary)

Dániel Bernáth's practice explores the relationship between painting, object, and nature, using minimalist shapes and bright colors, such as neon. His works incorporate organic frames or natural materials, like wood, to transform painting into an object while maintaining a connection to the natural world. In this way, he creates compositions that go beyond mere representation, becoming objects that embody minimalist symbolism.

Bernáth is inspired by Hegelian dialectics, approaching his works as a space of confrontation between opposites. His painting-objects do not simply represent but become contemporary icons, where the interaction between art and materiality invites reflection on the internal tensions between abstraction and tangible reality.



Dániel Bernáth earned his MA in Painting from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2014. Bernáth has received several accolades throughout his career, including the ESSL CEE Art Award in 2015 and the STRABAG Artaward International recognition award in 2022. He has participated in notable residency programs, such as those in Krems, Austria (2017), Freising-Shafhof, Germany (2021), and Tossa de Mar, Barcelona, Spain (2023). His works have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions, and are part of significant Hungarian and international art collections.

JÓZSEF CSATÓ

(Born in 1980 in Mezőkövesd, Hungary)

Jozsef Csato paintings are populated with strange forms, hybrid figures, and stylized vegetal or mineral elements that appear to float within dense, colorful compositions. Drawing inspiration from nature and ancient cultures, he constructs a dreamlike visual world – sometimes playful, often enigmatic – where totemic motifs, references to landscape or still life, and invented forms coexist. His intuitive and open-ended approach relies on a personal visual vocabulary with psychedelic overtones in which humor and melancholy intertwine.



József Csató lives and works in Budapest, Hungary. He completed his studies in the Painting Department of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts (MKE) under the guidance of Dóra Maurer, graduating in 2006. He was awarded the prestigious Derkovits Scholarship three times in 2013, 2014, and 2015 and received the esteemed Esterházy Prize in 2013. In 2017, he participated in the Krinzinger Gallery (A) – AIR program as an artist-in-residence. Csató has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions across Europe, including in Budapest, Vienna, Berlin, Stuttgart, Düsseldorf, Nuremberg, and Copenhagen. His work is held in significant private and institutional collections in Hungary and internationally, including the Ludwig Museum.



Evening Lights, acrylic and oil on canvas, 135 x 125 cm, 2025

VERONIKA CSONKA

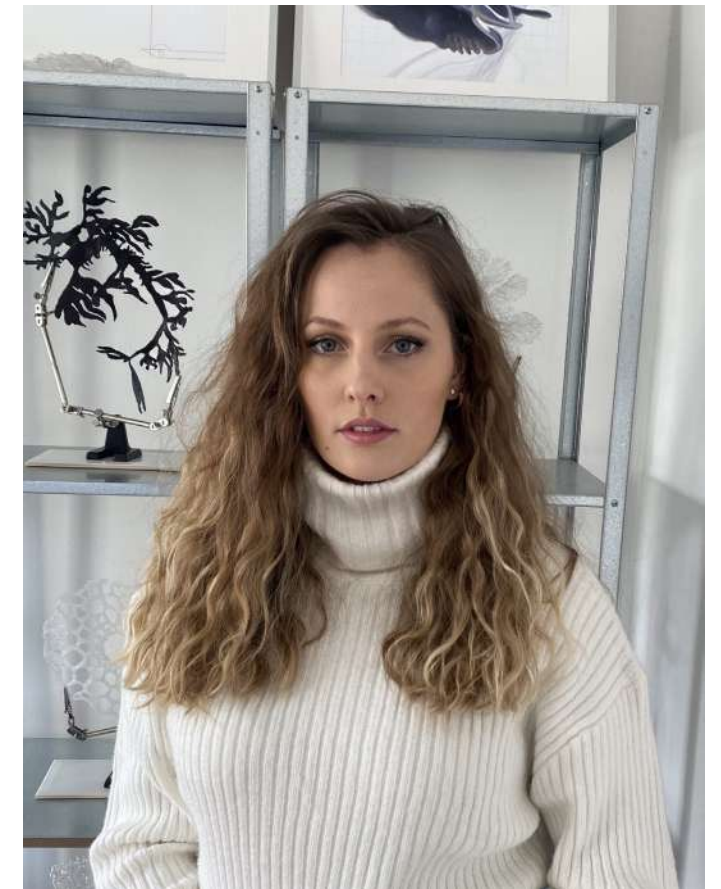
(Born in 1992 in Siófok, Hungary)

Drawing inspiration from biology, her work—unfolding across various materials and scales, from paintings to objects created with a 3D pen—places living tissues within a scientific framework. She explores technological innovations and the motivations behind their development, adopting a personal and critical perspective. Many of these advancements aim to



Biotic Mechanism, steel, eco PLA, 226 x 167 x 37 cm, 2024

neutralize or even reverse the harmful effects of past and present industrial over-production. In her practice, subject matter and formal expression hold equal importance, each theme finding its plastic form.



Veronika Csonka lives and works in Budapest, Hungary. She graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts as a visual artist in 2019 under the guidance of Imre Bukta and as a teacher of fine arts in 2021. She has participated in group exhibitions at B32 Trezor Gallery, Hungarian Workshop Gallery, and MANK Gallery in Szentendre, Hungary. In 2024, she had a solo exhibition at am projects in Budapest.

EJTECH

JUDIT ESZTER KÁRPÁTI & ESTEBAN DE LA TORRE
(Born in 1989 in Miskolc, Hungary) (Born in 1984 in Mexico City, Mexico)

EJTECH is a polydisciplinary artist duo based in Budapest, Hungary, comprising Judit Eszter Kárpáti and Esteban de la Torre. Their collaborative practice focuses on unifying the sensorial and conceptual relationship between subject and object, utilizing mediums such as hyperphysical interfaces, augmented textiles and hybrid materials. Through large-scale installations they explore human-material interactions, dynamic systems, and new materialism theories—treating objects as active agents, investigating how these elements interact with the human body and technology.



Dunk Drak Cloak, acquad woven soft interface, 183 x 168 cm, 2023



Their work has been presented in galleries, festivals and exhibitions such as Japan Media Arts Festival, European Media Arts Festival, Sensorium Festival, Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum, Design Museum Holon, Ludwig Museum, Budapest Kunsthalle, LRRH Gallery, Collegium Hungaricum Berlin, Trafo House of Contemporary Arts, HayArt Center in Yerevan, Easttopics Gallery, Horizont Gallery, LOM Art Space, iii Instrument Inventors Initiative, Rewire, among others. EJTECH has created commissioned art pieces for cultural institutions and commercial brands such as Dior, Blade Runner 2049, Dune: Part Two. They have been conducting academic research on soft technology and material ecologies at MOME since 2020.

ÁKOS EZER

(Born in 1989 in Pécs, Hungary)

Ákos Ezer's painting practice is marked by an immediately recognizable visual language: elongated, twisted, and multiplied male bodies, often captured in absurd or uncomfortable positions. These figures inhabit structured, colorful, and, at times, disorienting environments that amplify their sense of disconnection or confusion. His works offer an ironic and critical reflection on the contemporary human condition – caught between exis-tential exhaustion, information

overload, and daily absurdity. Through his grotesque and awkward characters, Ezer stages subtle forms of adaptation or resistance to social and individual pressures.



Watchtower I., oil on canvas, 200 x 150 cm, 2024



Ákos Ezer lives and works in Hungary. He graduated from the Hungarian Uni-versity of Fine Arts in 2010. In 2017, he was awarded the prestigious Esterházy Art Award.

GIDEON HORVÁTH

(Born in 1990 in West Berlin, Germany)

Gideon Horváth is a founding member of the artist group xtro realm. Gideon Horváth develops a sculptural practice centered on installations, through which he explores queer and ecological theories. His work challenges anthropocentric hierarchies and dualistic worldviews while favoring intuitive and sensory modes of engagement. He frequently works with beeswax—a material he regards as “queer” due to its sensitivity, malleability, and potential for transformation. More than just a medium, beeswax plays an active role in the critical reflection at the core of his practice.



Unsung Tales VIII, iron, beeswax, porcelain, silk macramé, 60 x 60 x 8 cm, 2025



Gideon Horváth is an interdisciplinary visual artist based in Budapest, primarily focusing on sculptural installations. He studied Performing Arts and Film at Université Paris VIII from 2010 to 2013 pursuing his studies at the Intermedia department of Hungarian University of Fine Arts from 2014 to 2015. His work has received several prestigious awards, including the Esterházy Art Award in 2023 and the AICA Award (Hungarian section of the International Association of Art Critics) for Best Solo Exhibition of 2023 for *Myths of Vulnerability*.

ZSÓFIA KERESZTES

(Born in 1985 in Budapest, Hungary)

Keresztes's work is characterized by large-scale sculptures covered in colorful glass mosaics, the captivating surfaces of which oscillate between allure and strangeness. Evoking organic forms, anatomical fragments, or fantastical creatures, her sculptures draw as much from mythology as from philosophy and art history. Her practice explores the tensions between the real and the virtual, the analog and the digital, questioning how our emotions and modes of communication are evolving in a hyperconnected world. The reflective surfaces of her sculptures, akin to

symbolic interfaces, call into question the sincerity of online interactions and suggest a dissonance between digital appearances and embodied realities.



Zsófia Keresztes is a contemporary Hungarian artist based in Budapest. She graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts. In 2022, she represented Hungary at the 59th Venice Biennale with her exhibition *After Dreams: I Dare to Defy the Damage*.



Tasty Selfie, styrofoam, glass mosaic, grout, glue, expanding foam, fibreglass, PU leather, fleece, 137 x 62 x 145 cm, 2018

KATALIN KORTMANN-JÁRAY & KARINA MENDRECZKY

(Born in 1986, Budapest, Hungary),
(Born in 1988, Budapest, Hungary)

In their artistic practice, the two artists explore the impact of culture and the current environmental influences on human perception. They create large-scale, walk-through installations using a spatial collage of various elements. Their collaborative work combines different techniques and materials to construct metaphorically feminine spaces.



Mildewed, printed velvet, old furniture, cotton, dimensions variable, 2023

Katalin Kortmann-Járay and Karina Mendreczky are a Budapest- and Vienna-based artist duo. Katalin is currently pursuing Doctoral Studies at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in Budapest, where she has been enrolled since 2019. She completed her undergraduate studies at the same institution from 2006 to 2012, and furthered her education at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste München, Germany, in 2011. Karina studied Fine and Media Arts, specializing in Graphic Arts and Printmaking, at the Universität für angewandte Kunst in Vienna, Austria, from 2009 to 2015, under the guidance of Prof. Jan Svenungsson. In 2014–2015, she also studied Printmaking and Time-based Media at the University of the Arts London, UK. Kortmann-Járay and Mendreczky have been collaborating closely since 2019. In 2023, they presented a large-scale exhibition as the first show of the Salon at MQ Wien, curated by Verena Kaspar-Eisert, and their duo won the Esterházy Art Award in the same year.



BENCE MAGYARLAKI

(Born in 1992 in Hungary)

Bence Magyarlaki develops an immersive sculptural practice where materials become vessels of memory, flesh, and transformation. Their often biomorphic forms evoke fragments of organs, shells, envelopes, or embryonic structures. Through these shapes, they explore how the body is constructed, fragmented, and recomposed in a constant dialogue between interiority and environment. Their work draws from intimacy, bodily memory, and sexuality, questioning representations of gender and identity possibilities beyond fixed categories. Situated between the micro and the macro, the



The gaze of Cassini, Glazed stoneware and sem-synthetic hair, 92 x 47 x 59 cm, 2024

organic and the architectural, their works become witnesses to an expanded, mutating body where boundaries are blurred.



Bence Magyarlaki is currently based in Paris. They graduated with honors in BA (Hons) Fine Art from Central Saint Martins, London, in 2017, and have since exhibited internationally in the UK, France, Morocco, Portugal, Turkey, and Australia. Their latest body of work was supported by the Montresso Art Foundation in Marrakech. Their work has been nominated for the MullenLowe NOVA Awards (2017) and the International Takifuji Art Award (2017).

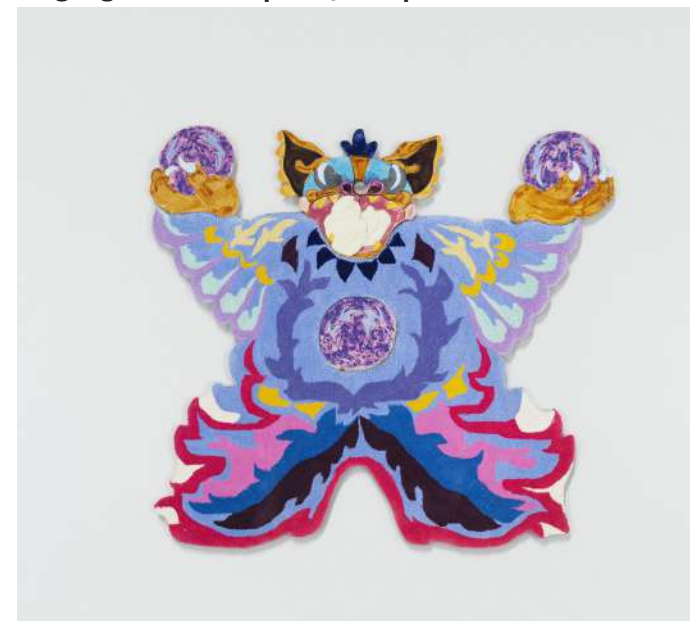
MIRA MAKAI

(Born in 1990, Budapest, Hungary)

Mira Makai's artistic practice blends organic imagination, mythological references, and pop influences, giving rise to hybrid figures – at times grotesque, at times playful – that seem to emerge from a parallel world. Her richly textured and vividly colored ceramic sculptures oscillate between ancient artifacts and mutant creatures. Through these vibrant forms, Mira Makai explores themes of identity, transformation, and instinct, while rein-venting the language of contemporary sculpture.



Mira Makai is a Hungarian ceramic artist based in Budapest. She earned her Master's degree in Fine Arts from the Printmaking Department of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, where she studied under Professor András Lengyel. Makai has received several prestigious awards and grants, including the Creative Grant of the 2nd National Ceramics Quadriennale in 2017 and the Esterházy Art Award in 2015.



Keeper of Secrets, glazed ceramics and textile, 180 x 200 cm, 2023

TAMÁS MELKOVICS

(Born in 1987 in Székesfehérvár, Hungary)

Melkovics's artistic practice is defined by the creation of modular abstract sculptures conceived as open systems. Through the use of 3D printing, he explores the possibilities of repetition, interchangeability, and net-worked existence, thereby challenging the static foundations of traditional sculpture.



Alloy series composition 14, 87 x 45 x 44 cm, 2022



Tamás Melkovics graduated in 2012 from the Sculpture Department of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts. A recipient of the Derkovits Grant (2018, 2020, 2021), Melkovics has presented his work in numerous group exhibitions in recent years at prestigious institutions such as Műcsarnok (Kunsthalle Budapest), the ICA-D Contemporary Art Institute in Dunaújváros, and the Ferenczy Museum Center in Szentendre, Hungary.

ESZTER METZING

(Born in 1992, Hungary)

Metzing's work is grounded in a deeply material approach, where each texture and surface becomes a vehicle for effect. She seeks to create environments where tactile experience merges with imagination, revealing buried or shared memory layers. In this way, her practice engages with the psychological and collective dimensions of the female experience. Situated at the intersection of drawing, sculpture, and installation, her work subverts conventional sensory hierarchies and shifts our relationship to the image.



Neonatal skin, latex, fil transparent, pigment, vernis, toile, ouate, 96 x 65 x 7 cm, 2024

Favoring the instability of form and the porousness of matter, she offers an aesthetic of slow transformation, slippage, and ambiguity.



Eszter Metzing is a visual artist and illustrator based in Budapest. She graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2018. Since 2022, she has been a member of the Studio of Young Artists Association and the Association of Hungarian Graphic Artists. Represented by Inda Gallery in Budapest since 2021, she has held two major solo exhibitions there, in 2021 and 2024. She regularly participates in group exhibitions in Hungary. In 2025, she will be an artist-in-residence at the Styrian Artist in Residence program in Graz and the Artist in Residence Programme in Salzburg. She is also a member of Art Quarter Budapest (aqb), a contemporary art center and artist community.

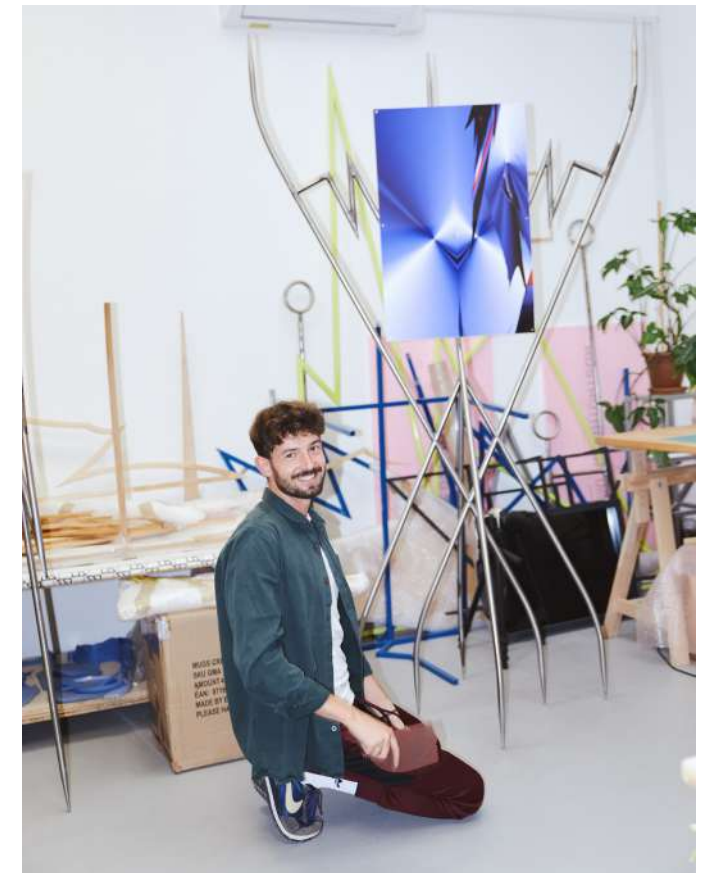
ZSOLT MOLNÁR

(Born in 1989 in Celldömölk, Hungary)

Zsolt Molnár is a member of the young generation of Hungarian graphic artists. His artistic research focuses on observing relational systems that highlight the connections between society and the ecosystem, as well as their interdependence. The collage architectures Molnár has produced in recent years continue his previous efforts to move away from traditional print reproduction processes and explore the latent conceptual possibilities within engraving.



Tolerant Creature, giclée print, papercut, plexi, playwood, 247 x 137 x 134 cm, 2020



Molnár studied at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in Budapest, where he completed both the Department of Graphic Arts and the Department of Teacher of Fine Arts. Prior to this, he attended the Secondary School of Fine Arts in Szombathely, specializing in Graphic Arts. He has received numerous prestigious awards and residencies, including being a finalist at the ACAX and Leopold Bloom Young Visual Art Award in 2020, as well as a nomination for the Esterházy Art Award in 2017 and 2019. In 2017, he also received the Graphic of the Year Art Award at HUFA, Budapest. He was awarded the Derkovits Fine Art Scholarship for three consecutive years (2015, 2016, and 2017) and was an Artist in Residence in Krems an der Donau, Austria, in 2014.

LUCA SÁRA RÓZSA

(Born in 1990, Hungary)

Rózsa's pictorial work explores the complex relationship between humanity and its environment. Drawing inspiration from biblical and mythological figures, she reimagines them within natural settings, evoking the portrait traditions of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Her figures, often portrayed nude in utopian and dreamlike landscapes, confront their own anxieties in the face of the world's eternity and their own mortality. As she puts it: "The figures in my paintings are mammals who have eaten the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge and have been cast out of Paradise. They are fully exposed to their fate, facing it either with resignation or with hope."



The Changing (War), huile sur toile, 160 x 140 cm, 2024



Luca Sára Rózsa lives and works in Budapest, Hungary. Rózsa graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2017. In 2021, she was one of the winners who were awarded of the prestigious Esterházy Art Award. She won the Derkovits Scholarship in 2020 and 2021. She has exhibited in numerous international exhibitions, including in Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Strasbourg and Budapest. Today her works are in numerous private and institutional collections including the Hungarian National Gallery.

RITA SÜVEGES

(Born in 1986 in Szolnok, Hungary)

Her research-based artistic practice focuses on an ecocritical approach to the relationship between humans and nature, exploring how landscapes are transformed into culturally constructed images. By emphasizing the aesthetic and technical qualities of painting through chromatic and formal experimentation, Süveges seeks to expand the boundaries of the traditional landscape genre toward a deeper understanding of nature's contemporary representation.



Infrastructure - Heart of the Machine 03, huile sur velours, 100 x 60 cm, 2023



Rita Süveges graduated from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in Budapest, where she completed both her undergraduate studies in painting and her DLA degree in 2017. Süveges has been recognized with several prestigious awards and fellowships, including the Esterházy Art Award – Audience Award in 2024, the TÓTaIJOY Prize in 2023, and the Stiftung Künstlerdorf Schöppingen Fellowship in Schöppingen, Germany, in 2023. She was nominated for the Herczeg Klára Prize in 2022 and has received the Derkovits grant in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

KATA TRANKER

(Born in 1989, Hungary)

Tranker's practice takes shape through delicate installations composed of carefully arranged elements – hand-crafted objects, cut paper, and found materials. Her work, oscillating between surface and volume, gives rise to compositions imbued with a sense of fragility, where the intimate meets the archaeological. She gathers, connects, and layers fragments of personal and collective narratives, navigating the tension between memory and oblivion, knowledge and emotion. Often grounded in free associations, her pieces explore questions of identity, interiority, and the mechanisms of perception.



Kentaur, paper pulp, smashed stone, polyester, threads, 85 x 22 x 46 cm, 2025

Kata Tranker graduated with an MFA in Painting from the Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts in 2012. In addition to her studies in Budapest, Tranker also attended media design courses at the Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften in Hamburg, Germany, from 2009 to 2010. Tranker has been recognized with several prestigious awards and scholarships throughout her career, including the Esterházy Art Award and the Herczeg Klára Art Award in 2021. She also received the Derkovits scholarship in 2020 and 2019, as well as the Smohay Art Prize in 2019.