**HOMAGE TO PATRONS OF ART**

**Contemporary Hungarian Graphic Art from the New Acquisitions of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts Art Collection**

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The HUFA Art Collection has been augmented in recent years by a number of significant donations. Similarly to big museums, we also intend to reveal the new acquisitions of our Art Collection before the public. Following from the collection’s profile, these acquisitions are works of graphic art. Owing to this faculty and the character of the new works, the exhibition provides a comprehensive overview of the last three decades of Hungarian graphic art, centred on three graphic arts workshops. Generally linked to a facility providing technical background, *community workshop* type practices continue to be a particular form of making graphic art. The core of the exhibition is comprised by prints from the *Graphic Arts Workshop of Vác*, complemented by a selection from the *Makó Portfolios*, and finally a selected collection from the legacy of Róbert König, our university’s recently departed master.

**The Graphic Arts Workshop of Vác (1990-2015)**

The core of the exhibition is comprised by the more than 1300 prints donated to our collection by the Association of Hungarian Graphic Artists. The pieces offer a representative overview of the workshop’s output of printed graphics from the end of the eighties until recent times. For the most part, these are large format colour lithographs made at the Vác Workshop. The speciality of the workshop is that this is the only facility in the country capable of printing 70x100 cm colour lithographs. The Association, which coordinated the workshop’s operation, regularly received a copy of each artwork printed in Vác. In addition, the Association has organised a number of exhibitions in Hungary and abroad from the work of its members. In relation to this, hundreds of works have been acquired by the Association’s collection, which has thus evolved into the biggest collection of contemporary Hungarian graphic art. (In terms of volume, it competes with the contemporary corpus of museum collections.) This collection of exceptional wealth was donated by the Association to the University in 2015. Some of the artists represented in the collection: *Ádám Albert, Margit Ágotha, Ferenc Banga, Huba Bálványos, Márton Barabás, György Borgó, Gyöngyi Gallusz, Sándor Győrffy, Ágnes Haász, Katalin Kádár, Imre Kéri, Tamás Kótai, Csaba Orosz, Sándor Rácmolnár, Gabriella Sulyok, Árpád Szabados, Krisztina Szőnyi, Róbert Swierkiewicz, Substitute Thirsters…*

**The Makó Workshop (1978-1990)**

The Makó Graphic Artists’ Colony has a special place in the 20th century history of Hungarian graphic arts. The artists’ colony blossomed from 1978 under the leadership of graphic artist Imre Kocsis and art historian István Dévényi, and from the ‘80s under art critic István Hajdu. Its main profile was photo-based serigraphy, aligned with the capabilities of the local print shop. As a result, offset and screen printing gained recognition as techniques of graphic art, bringing about a turn in the history of Hungarian graphic arts. This artists’ colony became the centre of experimental, conceptual and photo-based graphic art in Hungary. Starting in 1978, each year they issued a portfolio of the best works produced there. Issued in few copies, these rare portfolios count as curiosities in collector’s terms, with only a few public collections possessing the complete series. This is why the donation of a complete series of the Makó Portfolios by the former head of the Graphics Department, Imre Kocsis, is so special. Many of the artists featured in the portfolios currently teach at our university. To name a few: *Gábor Attalai, Imre Bak, András Baranyay, József Benes, Alajos Eszik, József Gaál, György Galántai, Péter Gémes, Tibor Hajas, Zsigmond Károlyi, Imre Kocsis, Frigyes Kőnig, László Lakner, András Lengyel, Sándor Pinczehelyi, Imre Szemethy, Tamás Szikora, János Szirtes, Ernő Tolvaly, Péter Ujházi, Gábor Záborszky…*

**Graphics Department: Róbert Kőnig (1951-2014)**

The university’s Graphics Department is more than the scene of education, as traditionally, it also serves as background for the graphic artworks of its teachers. In technical terms, the department is the best equipped centre of contemporary Hungarian graphic arts, enabling experiments in printed graphics from traditional techniques (woodcut, linocut, etching, lithography) through screen printing to computer graphics. The work of *Róbert Kőnig* is associated with this workshop, as from his graduation in 1975 until his demise in 2014, he was a professor at the university’s Graphics Department. His oeuvre comprises a visionary, symbolic world created with the use of traditional graphic techniques and following in the footsteps of the great classics of graphic art. The exhibition is centred on his graphics and illustrated albums that were donated by Frigyes Kőnig to the university’s Art Collection.

*Curators of the exhibition*: art historian Emese Révész, visual artist József Szurcsik, head of the Graphics Department

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Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Barcsay Hall

Budapest, 69-71 Andrássy Avenue