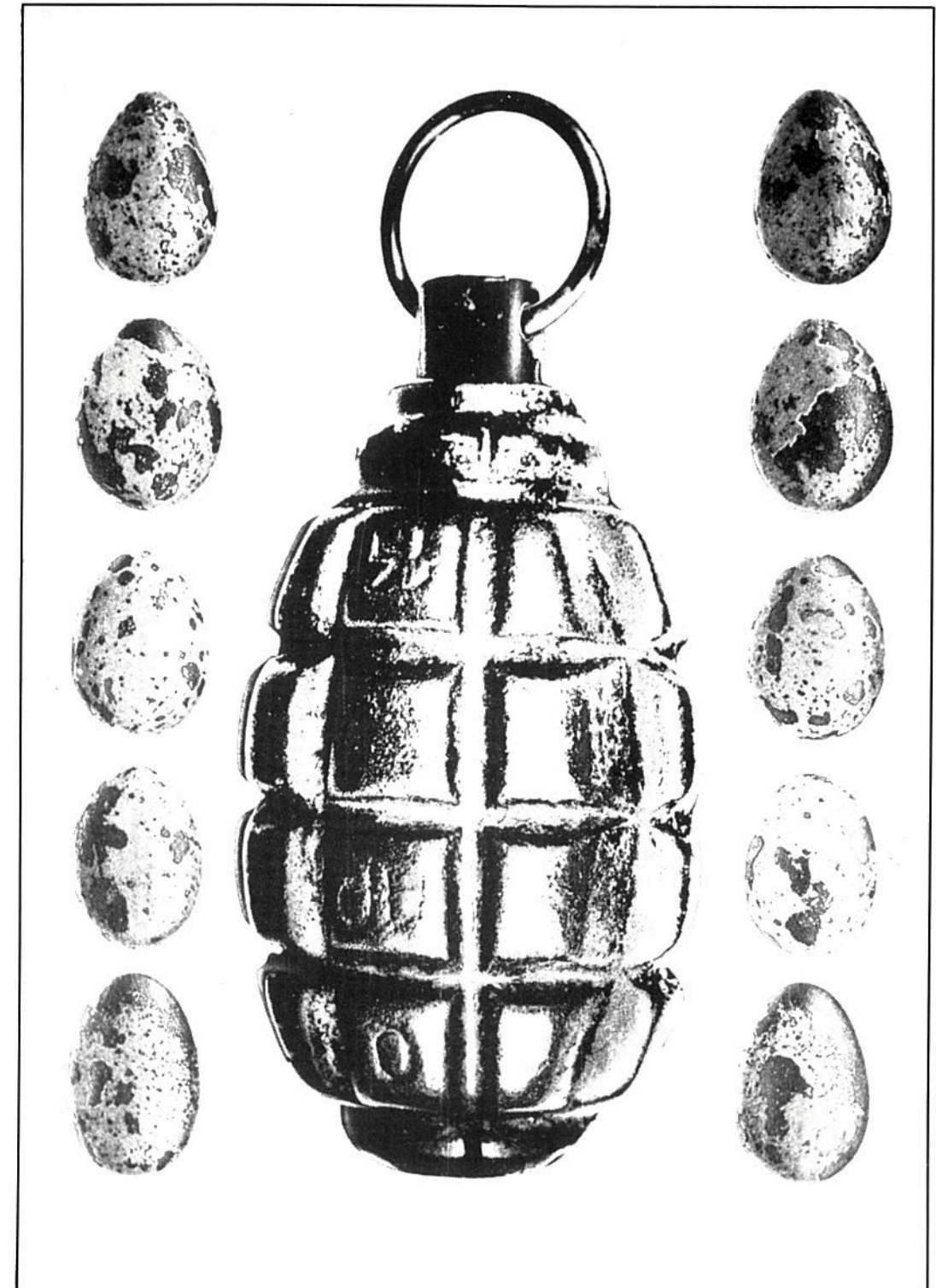


H u n g a r i a n A r t T o d a y
c o n t e m p o r a r y p r i n t m a k e r s



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I v a n D o u g h e r t y G a l l e r y

College of Fine Arts, The University of New South Wales, Selwyn Street, Paddington NSW 2021
Tel: 339 9526. Hours: Monday - Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 1-5pm Closed public holidays

Foreword

In July 1987, a Hungarian graphic exhibition was hosted by this gallery. It included drawings and prints from the students of the College of Fine Arts in Budapest and was an unqualified success. The Hungarian art students demonstrated a high level of skill in both drawing and etching. The obvious question at the time was "what would the work of professional graphic artists be like if the students work was of such a high standard?" The answer is presented in this exhibition.

Since the end of World War II, politics has had a strong influence on Hungarian art, at least until the 1980s. For decades it was up to a select group, commonly known as the "twelve apostles", to decide which artists' work was suitable for solo exhibitions.

This process, combined with European cultural heritage, which tends to place content above form, explains why works represented here range from illustrative Surrealism to lyrical Expressionism.

The fact that drawing has traditionally been the strength of Hungarian painters and printers alike is supported by this exhibition. Although the subject matter chosen reveals a movement toward more personal topics, the traditional European culture, with a strong Hungarian flavour, is easily recognised.

The Australian art world warmly welcomes such an exhibition and we hope it will be the precursor of many more cultural exchanges.

Béla Iványi
Exhibition Curator

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Hungarian Art Today contemporary printmakers

The golden age of Hungarian graphic art was established in the 1960s, though the younger generation of graphic artists educated since that time are also worthy of consideration, as has been proved by their successful participation at exhibitions in Krakow, Leipzig, Florence, Belgrade, Tokyo, Sao Paulo and others, and by the numerous awards they have won.

Great predecessors like Gyula Hincz, Karoly Koffán, Vladimir Szabó, Károly Peich and Béla Kondor were of tremendous significance in their development. Our living classics, Lajos Szalay and Endre Szász, are still greatly influencing the current graphic art of Hungary.

The sweeping political changes of our world are not always easy to come to terms with. The effects of these changes are being absorbed by our artists, who fully recognise the impact of this new world and try to translate it into the language of art. Their hand and style are no longer tied down by official instructions. Demand, public appreciation and the market now have a role, whether elicited or not, in their activity.

The exhibition includes a component of new and interesting work by young artists as well as more traditional works by the older artist generation. A great number of these graphic artists also make a valuable contribution to the illustrating and publishing of books, which is a world-famous activity in Hungary. Painters, sculptors and textile artists, on the other hand, often enter the intimate and fascinating world of graphic art, composing "workshop" works of great effect.

Sources of inspiration for our artists are very wide and comprehensive. Dramatic and lyrical experiences, expressed with an often grotesque and strongly critical accent, become works of art in the language of graphics. Living folk art and its traditions, as well as popular poetry, also have a great influence on our artists.

Representatives of figurative and non-figurative art are exhibiting here together. Some have been inspired by post-impressionism, and others by the renewal of interest in other artistic movements, such as the fauves and the avant-garde, as well as by the numerous new schools that emphasise emotional content.

Apart from traditional, classical media like lithography, etching, wood-engraving, lino and mezzotint, the exhibition also reveals the results of an artistic renaissance in Hungary: serigraphy, offset, zerox and photo-technical works. Photography is a substantial part of artistic work, as it expresses absolutely the point or message of the artist, whatever his/her particular interest.

A great importance is also to be attached to formal signs and colours, which mean something in themselves: by means of a self-created system of signs, these artists attempt to express their own emotional experience of particular events and situations.

Constructive linear systems and dramatic or lyrical compositions, with a world of colourful picturesque features, reflect the new development of our graphics. Our great talented printmakers, with their splendid techniques and daring solutions, are universally recognised as front-rankers in the artistic world.

Mimi Kratochwill

Art Historian

Budapest, March 1992

(translated by Marianne Lanczy)

List of Works

1	Rafael Abrahám	<i>Navigation</i>	lithograph
2	Sándor Badacsonyi	<i>Animal Tamer</i>	pastel
3	György Csaba Borgó	<i>Man with Rooster</i>	lithograph
4	István Drozsnayik	<i>Triptych: Alterpiece I</i>	colour photocopy
5	Tibor Eisenmayer	<i>Sections of a Town III</i>	serigraph
6	Gyula Feledy	<i>Homage to Rembrandt II (Sacrifice of Abraham)</i>	etching
7	Jozsef Gaál	<i>The Helpless</i>	lithograph
8	Péter Gémes	<i>Waterline I</i>	offset
9	Liviusz Gyulai	<i>Gertrude, the Governess</i>	lithograph
10	Tibor Hélenyi	<i>Diagonal of the Motorist</i>	serigraph
11	György Jovián	<i>Umbria III</i>	mixed media
12	Imre Kéri	<i>Bulgakov: The Master and Margarita II</i>	mezzotint
13	Tamás Kpoasz	<i>Rainy</i>	lithograph
14	Péter Balázs Kovács	<i>Cloud Forms in Yellow</i>	lithograph
15	Robert König	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	linocut
16	Erno Kunt	<i>Greeting to Prilep</i>	coloured woodcut
17	Gábor Magyar	<i>Hider</i>	serigraph
18	Gabriella Mészáros	<i>Dios y Diablo (God & Devil)</i>	serigraph
19	Adam Misch	<i>Journey</i>	serigraph
20	Rezső Móder	<i>The Rolling Cosmos Segment</i>	colour lithograph
21	György Olajos	<i>Cicelle's House</i>	lithograph
22	Péter Prutkay	<i>Cuckoo Egg</i>	etching
23	Sándor Pincehelyi	<i>Open Door</i>	serigraph
24	Sandor Rácmolnár	<i>Lunch-time</i>	lithograph
25	András Miklós Sáros	<i>Unwritten Past</i>	lithograph
26	Péter Stefanovits	<i>Heart Murmur IV</i>	hand coloured serigraph
27	Arpád Szabados	<i>Lying Hourglass</i>	lithograph
28	Tamás Szikora	<i>Box legged chest</i>	pencil drawing
29	András Szunyoghy	<i>Prehistoric Animals</i>	ink drawing
30	József Szurcsik	<i>Expectant Volcanoes</i>	lithograph
31	Gabor Zaborszky	<i>Lacerated Surface</i>	mixed media etching

All works are for sale. Please enquire at front desk.