

The image features a minimalist abstract design with several solid black rectangular bars of varying lengths and orientations scattered across a white background. The bars are positioned at the top left, top right, middle right, bottom left, and bottom center. The central focus is the title text in a bold, orange-red font.

**Central and Eastern
European Artists in
Interwar Metropolises**

Central and Eastern European Artists in Interwar Metropolises

10 – 11 OCTOBER 2024

Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest – Central European
Research Institute for Art History (KEMKI)



09:15–09:30 **Registration**

09:30–10:00 **Welcome**

by **Zsolt Petrányi**, Deputy Director for Research, Museum of Fine Arts
by **Dávid Fehér**, Head of KEMKI
by **Magdolna Gucsa** and **Eszter Öze**, KEMKI

Session 1 • Women, Class and Labour Movement

10:00–10:20 **Diana Plachendovskaya**

Adornment as a Matter of Class: Émigré Women Fashion Jewellery Designers in Paris (1920–1930)

10:20–10:40 **Eszter Öze**

Female Body Culture and the Concept of Labour in the History of the 20th Century Hungarian Avant-garde

10:40–11:00 **Ágnes Sz. Horváth**

Kati Horna on the Horizon of the European Left-Wing Movements

11:00–11:20 **Ana Avelar**

Sensitive Female Universes: Considerations on the Work of the Hungarian–Brazilian artist Yolanda Mohalyi

11:20–11:40 **Sára Bagdi and Gábor Dobó**

Mapping Multiple Modernisms: The Question of Emigration in the Lajos Kassák – Jolán Simon Research Project

11:40–12:10 **Discussion**

12:10–13:15 **Lunch**

13:15–13:40 **Coffee Break**

Session 2 • Nation/State, Subversity

13:40–14:00 **Sára Bárdi**

State Representation of Hungary in Interwar Metropolises. Exhibition Design and the Foreign Trade Office

14:00–14:20 **Bálint Juhász**

Visual Language as a Socio-Political Tool. The Irreprehensible and Anti-Cosmopolitan Crusade of Štefan Prohászka (1928–1938)

14:20–14:40 **Bennett Tucker**

Reuven Rubin and the Interrelations of Artist Sponsorships and Institutional Networks in New York City, 1921–1922

14:40–15:00 **Cristina Moraru**

City, Light, De-Coloniality and Artistic Subversivity

15:00–15:30 **Coffee Break**

Session 3 • Metropolis: Representing the Metropolis – Contemporary and Posterior Takes

16:00–16:20 **Schuyler Black-Seitz**

The Politics of Precision: Louis Lozowick's Precisionist Cityscapes, 1923–1938

16:20–16:40 **Tobias Ertl**

László Péri, Alfréd Kemény and the Debate on Revolutionary Realism, Berlin, ca. 1928

16:40–17:00 **András Zwickl**

Exhibiting Emigration. The Case of the *Modern Magyar* Exhibition

17:00–17:30 **Discussion**

17:30–18:00 **Coffee Break**

18:00–19:00 **Keynote Lecture**

Éva Forgács

Challenging National Art Histories

19:00–21:00 **Reception**

10:00–11:00 Keynote Lecture**Angela Lampe**

A Review of the Exhibition “Germany/1920s/New Objectivity/August Sander”, Centre Pompidou, Summer 2022: Sociological Aspects of the Interwar Year

Session 1 • Art and Revolution**11:00–10:20 Harriet Atkinson**

“A Beehive of Creativity”? Interwar Collaborations Through the Artists International Association

11:20–11:40 Magdolna Gucsa

From Anti-Modernist Concepts to Marxist Theory. Conceptualising the Art of the Emigré in Interwar Art Criticism

11:40–12:00 Annadea Salvatore

“I Like the English so Much, as if They Were My Relatives”: Kokoschka’s Exile in London in 1938

12:00–12:20 Juliette Milbach

Louis Lozowick’s Stay in Berlin (1920)

12:20–12:40 Discussion**12:40–14:00 Lunch at the Museum of Fine Arts****14:00–14:20 Coffee Break at KEMKI****Session 2 • From Sociabilities to Integration – Institutions and Informal Contacts****14:20–14:40 Márton Tóth**

“The Secret of Caresses”: Visualising Queerness by Marcell Vértés in Interwar Paris

14:40–15:00 Ádám Korcsmáros and Andrea Vrtelová

In Search of an Identity: Interwar Slovak Architecture at the Crossroads of Modernisms

15:00–15:20 Adrienn Kácsor

Critical Collaborations in Central Asia

15:20–15:40 Discussion**15:40–16:00 Coffee Break****Session 3 • Transfers to the Sending Country****16:20–16:40 Olga Stefan**

Migration, Return, and Exile: The Jewish Artists of the Romanian Avant-garde

16:20–16:40 Judit Galács

Theatre Exhibitions as a Mirror of International Impregnation of Hungarian Emigré Artists. The International Theatre Exposition, New York, 1926

16:40–17:00 Krisztina Csizmadia

Gyula Zilzer in Paris (1924–1932)

17:00–17:30 Discussion / Closing Discussion



Abstracts



Éva Forgács **Challenging National Art Histories**

Keynote Lecture

Éva Forgács is a Professor Emerita of art history at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME) in Budapest, Hungary, and an Adjunct Professor at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. She has been active as a curator, art critic, and essayist. Her books include several monographs and two volumes of essays published in her native Hungary, as well as the co-edited volume *Between Worlds: A Sourcebook of Central European Avant-Gardes, 1910-1930* (The MIT Press, Boston, 2002). Her recent title, *Malevich and Interwar Modernism: Russian Art and the International of the Square* (Bloomsbury, London, 2022), examines the Russian and European interwar avant-garde.

The main point of examining the new situation in the international art world caused by the emigration of many artists in the wake of World War I, is the questioning of the continued relevance of the concept of “national art”. How did the émigrés change the national narratives? Why did so many Hungarian artists emigrate? While the very concept of emigration is related to the existence of nation-states, emigration is seen as a political act – free international movement of artists had not been seen as emigration before World War I.

Relocation of artists, in particular after World War I did, if not in every case, express a political standpoint: they moved over to freer, artistically, financially, and intellectually unrestrained countries. The direction was mostly from Russia and Eastern Europe to Western Europe, the U.S., and Mexico. The great number of émigrés in the interwar period challenges the concept of national art historical narratives. If an artist, having been raised and educated in Hungary, chooses to live in France, Germany, or the US, to which country’s culture does s/he belong? Does artistic formation weigh as much as the new context that allowed him/her to develop as an artist? Can his/her achievements be seen originating from their country, are they reflecting the values of the new one?

Museums designate artists to the country the citizen of which they died. Thus, Kandinsky was French, born in Moscow. Moholy-Nagy was American, born at Bácsborsód. This, however, does not answer the question, which is further complicated by later efforts to re-graft artists to the culture of their country of origin. Outlining patterns of emigration related to the time, the medium, and the adjustment to the new country, I will demonstrate the complications of re-grafting in the example of Victor Vasarely.

The Cold Order: A Review of the Exhibition Germany/1920s/ New Objectivity/August Sander Angela Lampe

Keynote Lecture

In summer 2022, the Centre Pompidou devoted a major exhibition to the art and culture of the *Neue Sachlichkeit* (New Objectivity) in Germany, with the aim of re-reading the history of cultural production in the Weimar Republic, under the keyword “sachlich”, whose difficult translation into other languages points to the special nature of the concept. In addition to painting and photography, the project brought together architecture, design, film, theater, literature and music. Photographer August Sander’s masterpiece, *Menschen des 20. Jahrhunderts* (People of the 20th Century), established the motif of a cross-section through a society as a structural principle, as an “exhibition within an exhibition”. Together, these two perspectives opened up a broad panorama of German art, focusing in particular on the years 1925–1929, when Germany enjoyed a degree of economic stability. An aim was to highlight the dialectic between, on the one hand, a fascination with the achievements of the modern age (technological progress, standardization, etc.), and, on the other, a critique of cold, alienating functionalization. For the Hungarian film theorist Béla Balázs, who lived in Berlin between 1926 and 1931, the dispossessed human being had become a mechanized part of a system hostile to life. In a society increasingly under the sway of the capitalist imperative of rationalization, the transformation of man into a passive thing, his reification, became an essential feature of this new world, indeed a prerequisite for its existence.

Based on the artworks in the exhibition and its two-part structure, this lecture seeks to shed light on the ambiguities of this new cold order, which, in the interwar years, particularly conditioned life in German metropolises. As Robert Musil summed up in 1930 in his great novel *Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften* (The Man Without Qualities), “One has gained reality and lost dreams.”

Angela Lampe began her career at the Kunsthalle Bielefeld in Germany after a PhD in art history at the Sorbonne University Paris. Since 2005 she is a curator of the modern art collections at the Musée National d’Art Moderne/ Centre Pompidou where she organized a large number of international exhibitions, including “*Art and Nature. A century of biomorphism*” (Foundation La Caixa, Spain, 2023-2025) *Alice Neel, Un regard engagé* (2022); *Allemagne / Années 1920 / Nouvelle Objectivité / August Sander* (with Florian Ebner 2022); *Chagall, Lissitzky, Malévitch - the Russian Avant-Garde at Vitebsk 1918-1922* (Centre Pompidou, Jewish Museum New York, 2018); *Paul Klee. L’ironie à l’œuvre* (2016); *Robert Delaunay. Rythmes sans fin* (2014); *Vues d’en haut* (Centre Pompidou-Metz, 2013); *Edvard Munch, Modern Eye* (with Clément Chéroux, Centre Pompidou, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Tate Modern 2011-2012) ; *Marc Chagall et l’avant-garde russe* (Japan, Grenoble, Toronto, 2011). She regularly contributes to international catalogues and symposia and is the author of three artist monographs (Kandinsky, Chagall, Rouault). She is currently preparing two exhibitions on Kandinsky, focused on music for the Musée de la Musique, Philharmonie, Paris (2025) and on his iconographic sources for the Lille Métropole Musée d’art moderne (2026).

Harriet Atkinson **“A Beehive of Creativity”?**
**Interwar Collaborations Through
the Artists International
Association**

Harriet Atkinson is a historian of art and design at University of Brighton, UK. During a recent major fellowship through Arts and Humanities Research Council UK (2019–2023) she explored the role of exhibitions as propaganda and activism in Britain from 1933 to 1953. This culminated in the monograph *Showing Resistance: Propaganda and Modernist Exhibitions in Britain, 1933–53* (Manchester University Press, 2024); the co-edited book *Exhibitions Beyond Boundaries: Transnational Exchanges Through Art, Architecture and Design from 1945* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2022); and documentary film *Art on the Streets* (2023), which focuses on an exhibition mounted on a bombed-out department store in central London during World War II and the motivations of the artists and designers who mounted it, many of whom were recent refugee arrivals in Britain. The film has garnered several film awards and is being screened daily at London's Tate Gallery until July 2025.

In 1933, the year Hitler took power in Germany and with half the British population living below the poverty line, radical artists' group Artists International Association (AIA) formed in London. The group announced themselves as The International Unity of Artists Against Imperialist War on the Soviet Union, Fascism and Colonial Oppression, declaring that they would achieve their ends through creating “propaganda” in the form of “posters, illustrations, cartoons, book jackets, banners, tableaux, and stage decorations” spread through the press, lectures, meetings and exhibitions. The founding members' idea for the group was shaped by direct experience of living in the Soviet Union and by the success of groups like Asso, which had formed in Germany in 1928. Numerous core AIA members had direct experience of migration. Commercial artist Misha Black, who hosted the group's inaugural meeting, had arrived in London as a child, having migrated with his parents from the Russian Empire. Many other new members joined on arrival from central and eastern Europe after fleeing the Nazi threat, including German graphic designer FHK Henrion (arriving in 1936); Hungarian sculptor Peter Laszlo Peri (arriving in 1933); and Austrian painter Oskar Kokoschka (arriving in 1938). Czech born philosopher Vilém Flusser, himself arriving in London in 1939, observed that “If he is not to perish, the expellee must be creative... The arrival of expellees in exile evokes external dialogues, and a beehive of creativity spontaneously surrounds the expellee.” This process of working in dialogue across creative forms became a significant focus for newly arriving artists and designers joining the AIA. Discussing examples of AIA members' varied projects, from banners to lithographs and exhibitions, this paper will explore how experiences of migration shaped not only AIA members' affiliations and their politics but also determined both the form and focus of their resulting work.

Sensitive Female Universes: Ana Avelar
**Considerations on the Work
of the Hungarian-Brazilian
Artist Yolanda Mohalyi**

In this paper, I will address the case of the Hungarian-Brazilian painter Yolanda Mohalyi who occupies a lonely place in the historiography of Brazilian art since, on one hand, she is undisputedly an icon of Brazilian informalist painting, and on the other, monographic studies dedicated to her work are limited to reporting art criticism of mid-twentieth century.

Mohalyi's initial artistic training took place in an artist colony in Nagybania, which brought together people interested in Expressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, among other avant-garde movements. She then studied at Budapest's Royal Academy of Fine Arts in 1920s. Emmigrating to Brazil in 1931, she settled in São Paulo, where she met a Jewish expressionist artist from Lithuania, Lasar Segall, who had been part of Brazil's modernist movement since the 1920s. This friendship helped Mohalyi become integrated in the local scene. In the late 1950s, Mohalyi immersed herself in Informalist art, for which she is known today, and received several awards until her death two decades later.

To comprehend Mohalyi's trajectory as an emigree I will use recent feminist approaches that focus on the Jewish-Romanian-American artist Hedda Sterne, whose abstract expressionist work, little studied until the 2000s, is of great interest today. Sterne also had academic and avant-garde training in her native land, before emigrating to the US in 1941. Her current rehabilitation as an indispensable artist of the abstract expressionist setting offers a guide for understanding Mohalyi's artistic position, given their dialogues with mid-twentieth century abstract painting, as well as the relevance of their formation in similar artistic environments and their subsequent insertion in artistic scenes populated by the avant-garde debate in the Americas.

Ana Avelar is a professor of Theory, Criticism and Art History at the University of Brasília (UnB). She curated shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art at the University of São Paulo (MAC / USP) and at the Banco do Brasil Cultural Center in Belo Horizonte (CCBB-BH), among others. She also integrates juries of national awards for Contemporary Art and writes regularly about abstract art. In 2019, she won the Curators Exchange Program, promoted by the Brazilian Contemporary Art Association – ABACT in partnership with the Getty Research Institute.

Sára Bagdi
Gábor Dobó

Mapping Multiple Modernisms: The Question of Emigration in the Lajos Kassák – Jolán Simon Research Project

Sára Bagdi has been working at the MNMCK-PIM-Kassák Múzeum since 2021 as junior research fellow of the research project "Digital Critical Edition of Lajos Kassák's and Jolán Simon's Correspondence Between 1909 and 1928, and New Perspectives for Modernism Studies" (OTKA FK-139325). She is a member of the Working Group for Public Sociology "Helyzet," and also a PhD student, partially pursuing her research at the University of Hamburg with a DAAD bi-national scholarship.

Gábor Dobó has been a research fellow at the MNMCK-PIM-Kassák Múzeum since 2015. He focuses on modernist periodicals of the interwar period, with a special emphasis on the East and Central European region. Currently, he is the principal investigator of the research project "Digital Critical Edition of Lajos Kassák's and Jolán Simon's Correspondence between 1909 and 1928, and New Perspectives for Modernism Studies" (OTKA FK-139325). He is a committee member of the European Society for Periodical Research (ESPRit). He co-edited a volume entitled *Cannibalizing the Canon. Dada Techniques in East-Central Europe* (Leiden: Brill, 2024) with Oliver A. I. Botar, Irina M. Denischenko, and Merse Pál Szeredi. In 2022, he was a Fulbright visiting scholar at the Harriman Institute of Columbia University in New York City.

Avant-garde historiography has long focused on the activities of émigré artists of the 1920s, particularly artist-editors and their transnational visibility. Challenging some of the routines of art and literary history writing, our research project prioritizes the examination of cultural networking and the gendered aspects of labor division in the spheres of cultural production over individual achievements and emphasizes the social embeddedness of knowledge production, moving beyond the symbolic realm of imagined modernist communities. This presentation provides an overview of the four-year research project funded by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA), titled the "Digital Critical Edition of Lajos Kassák's and Jolán Simon's Correspondence Between 1909 and 1928, and New Perspectives for Modernism Studies", focusing on its two primary objectives.

Firstly, we delve into the digital humanities foundation of our project, detailing methodological considerations such as the use of the TEI XML markup language, digital facsimile and literal transcription of documents, metadata structure, and data enrichment techniques. Specifically, we explore how these methodologies aid in processing multilingual texts related to Kassák's time in Vienna from 1920 to 1925 and mapping his transnational network using digital humanities tools.

Secondly, we highlight the scholarly potential of avant-garde archives, particularly in preserving "traces" (as Aleida Assmann puts it) that may be considered marginal or invisible from the perspective of the artistic canon and mainstream interpretive trends. Beyond shedding light on the array of invisible labor through which Jolán Simon contributed to Kassák's career, their correspondence also reveals Simon's essential role in keeping their intellectual circle interconnected during the year of the emigration to Vienna. Additionally, by making the couple's networking strategies visible, we can explore how working-class individuals, such as our protagonists, navigated the public sphere and eventually established their own counter-hegemonic milieu using avant-garde techniques in Austria and Hungary.

Sára Bárdi

State Representation of Hungary in Interwar Metropolises: Exhibition Design and the Foreign Trade Office

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Hungarian Foreign Trade Office was an important organizer of Hungary's participation in international exhibitions. The main goal of their activity was to promote Hungarian export at trade fairs in economically prominent metropolises. The goods (agricultural products, crafts, etc.) on offer were promoted in historical and cultural contexts, with the aim of attracting the attention of the general public. "... abroad we must use the splendid wealth of forms, colours and decorations offered by Hungarian folk art to dress the propaganda tools of our Hungarian agricultural products in these clothes. Foreigners like the unique, the original, and they always stop when they see the unusual." wrote István Radnóti (Propaganda Chief of the Hungarian Foreign Trade Office) in 1935. The pavilions, the interior design, the artistic decoration of exhibitions and visual materials ordered by the Office were frequently and highly praised by Hungarian press, such as the main journal of modern architecture: *Tér és Forma* (Space and Form), and the journal of the National Association of Hungarian Applied Artists: *Az Iparművész* (The Applied Artist). These two forums also symbolized the duality between modernity and the visuality of traditional rural: concepts, strongly defined the interwar image of Hungary.

In my paper, I will examine the visual representation of Hungary through export exhibitions and try to identify the contributing artists and their relation to exhibition design. In addition, I will discuss the *Export Exhibition* (Budapest, 1938) held for the occasion of the Second World Congress of Hungarians, that thematized the topic of emigration. One highlight of the *Export Exhibition* was a large world map, decorated with stylised folk motifs, visualizing the quantity and location of the Hungarian diaspora, who were also encouraged to promote goods as their "national duty". Like the other exhibitions of the Office, the map and the exhibition were designed by "distinguished" young Hungarian artists, whose work is almost entirely unexamined by previous research.

Sára Bárdi is an art historian.

She started her studies in art history at Pázmány Péter Catholic University (BA, 2017), and earned her MA degree at the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) - Institute of Art History (2019, Lajos Fülep Prize). She is currently a PhD candidate at the ELTE Doctoral School of Philosophy, the title of her thesis is Politics and Art in Hungary (1934–1944).

She has published the results of her PhD research in various articles.

The focus of her research is the history of interwar Hungarian art and visual culture with special emphasis on posters and exhibitions, as well as the visual propaganda and political iconography of the years of World War II.

She currently works as a museologist in the Hungarian National Gallery's - Collection of Print and Drawings since 2020. In her daily work she focuses on Hungarian poster art. In 2022 she was the assistant curator of the *Art Deco Budapest: Posters, Lifestyle and the City* (1925-1938) exhibition at the Hungarian National Gallery.

Schuyler Black-Seitz **The Politics of Precision:
Louis Lozowick's Precisionist
Cityscapes, 1923–1938**

Schuyler Black-Seitz is a PhD Candidate at The Ohio State University specializing in American painting from the 1930s to the 1950s. His dissertation, "Painting in Crisis: Precisionism During the New Deal and World War II, 1932–1945," considers precisionism during the Great Depression, the New Deal, and World War II focusing on canonical precisionists like Charles Sheeler, Niles Spencer, and Louis Lozowick, as well as lesser-studied artists such as Francis Criss, Ralston Crawford, and George Ault.

Ukrainian-born American artist Louis Lozowick (1892–1973) is best known for his precisionist cityscapes from the 1920s. Images like *New York* from 1923 exemplify Lozowick's particular approach to the modern metropolis, which prioritizes crisp lines, sharp geometries, and a cubistic articulation of space. Yet, around a decade later, Lozowick had dramatically changed tack, and he adopted a hardened realism to represent the city. *Storm Clouds Above Manhattan* from 1935 demonstrates the remarkable shift away from the composite perspectives of cubism toward the insistently "traditional" linear perspective and an almost baroque naturalism that would come to occupy Lozowick for some time.

New York and *Storm Clouds Above Manhattan* share in common both their medium and the metropolitan subject matter; yet the way they depict New York City, an emblem of urbanization and industrialization, is divergent and arguably even oppositional. While Lozowick emigrated from Ukraine as a child and, he proved a more committed and astute commentator than many of his leftist peers in New York City on aesthetic and political developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. This paper prioritizes the artist's status as an immigrant, as well as his proximity to and interest in constructivism, the *Neue Sachlichkeit*, and socialist realism, in order to situate Lozowick's developing vision of urban space within domestic and international debates, over the political efficacy of figuration and realism. It explores one interaction between artistic production, urban space, and leftist culture during what were to Lozowick simultaneous crises, namely, the Great Depression and the ascent of Stalinism.

For decades, histories of European modernism have reckoned with the abandonment of abstraction and the following resurgence of figuration in the interwar period. The politics and modernisms of the United States remain, however, largely peripheral to these important and contentious questions. With an eye toward reconsidering the tangential position of the US, this paper evaluates the work of an immigrant artist whose work remains largely absent from extant art histories.

Gyula Zilzer in Paris (1924–1932) Krisztina Csizmadia

My research focuses on Gyula Zilzer, a Hungarian artist linked to New Objectivity, a movement rooting in Weimar Germany and then spreading throughout the whole European continent and overseas as well, becoming established in the Americas.

Gyula Zilzer (1898–1969), a lesser known though very versatile Hungarian artist – who was a painter, graphic designer, illustrator, printmaker, and movie set designer – lived most of his life outside his native country, Hungary. He briefly left Hungary in 1919, first to Italy and then to Munich for his formative years at Hans Hoffman's School of Fine Arts. In 1924 Zilzer permanently settled in Paris. The Parisian period lasted eight years and proved to be very fruitful for Zilzer who met a lot of people and established relationships of professional and personal importance. At the time, Paris was the stronghold of avant-garde art: leftist painters, writers, poets, thinkers, film directors, and photographers found a home there, and the city became their source of inspiration. Zilzer was welcomed by Hungarian émigré artists, e.g. Lajos Tihanyi, Béla Czóbel, Béla Uitz, Marcell Vértes, and Gyula Illyés. Zilzer's long-time friend from Budapest, photographer André Kertész joined them in 1925. The main haunts of the Hungarian émigrés were Café du Dôme and Rotonde in the Montparnasse district.

In addition, he worked together as an illustrator at newspapers *L'Humanité* and *Clarté* with leftist poet and writer Henri Barbusse and pacifist writer Romain Rolland. Through these acquaintances Zilzer, a genuinely leftist artist himself, joined the international network of anti-fascism.

1932 marks the end of Gyula Zilzer's time in France before he left to the United States. In that year he also produced the lithograph album titled *Gáz*, his most successful work in Paris. The album imagines a gas attack on Paris and the catastrophic consequences are depicted in twenty-four sheets. The album became an important artistic product in the anti-war movement.

Krisztina Csizmadia is an art historian working as a museologist at the Collection of Prints and Drawings of the Hungarian National Gallery since 2015. She earned both her Bachelor's (2011) and Master's (2014) degrees at Pázmány Péter Catholic University, where she is currently a PhD candidate. The topic of her doctoral dissertation is New Objectivity / Magic Realism in Hungary. Her research focuses on how New Objectivity is emerging in Hungarian art and how it is connected to European and American artistic tendencies. She curated exhibitions at the Hungarian National Gallery, such as *Frida Kahlo – Masterpieces of the Dolores Olmedo Museum* (2018), *Dancing 1925 – Hungarian Artists in Parisian Nightlife* (2022) and *Ilona Keserü 90 – Self-Powered Pictures* (2023). She has been contributing as an assistant editor to Ilona Keserü's oeuvre catalogs since 2018. She also works as a translator.

Ana Ereš **Painting (in) the Metropolis: Ambivalence with a Distance**

Ana Ereš is a senior research fellow at the Department of Art History at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. She specialises in the study of modernism, the history of exhibitions and the Yugoslav art space in the twentieth century. She has published the following monographs: *Mrđjan Bajić: skulptotekturna* (2013); *Sculpture: Medium, Method, Social Practice* vols. 1 and 2 (*Skulptura: medij, metod, društvena praksa 1 i 2*), 2016 and 2021, co-editor with S. Vuksanović; *Marko Čelebonović* (2017 and 2018, co-author); *Yugoslavia at the Venice Biennale (1938–1990): Cultural and Exhibition Policies* (*Jugoslavija na Venecijanskom bijenalu (1938–1990): kulturne politike i politike izložbe*, 2020), *Vasa Pomorišac: Painter of Modernity and Continuity* (*Vasa Pomorišac: slikar modernosti i kontinuiteta*, 2024). She received the Lazar Trifunović Award for critical writing on art (2017) and the Pavle Vasić Award for a book on Yugoslav exhibitions at the Venice Biennale (2020).

For many visual artists from the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Paris was the world's leading art center, to which they moved in the interwar period to study or develop their careers and position themselves internationally. During shorter or longer stays in the French capital, most of these artists endeavored to adapt to the current trends of the city's artistic life and to become its active protagonists by assimilating to the mainstream of the École de Paris. A few artists, however, developed a somewhat different, and individual relationship to the dynamic artistic and urban environment of this metropolis. The way that two Belgrade painters, Vasa Pomorišac (1893–1961) and Bora Baruh (1911–1942), spent several years in Paris in the 1930s seems quite atypical compared to their compatriots. Pomorišac, a harsh critic of the hegemonic influence of French art in the Belgrade art scene, unexpectedly moved to Paris in 1935, where he enjoyed a notable and commercially successful career until 1939, asserting himself as a painter who stylistically distanced himself from the aesthetics of the École de Paris. Baruh, on the other hand, moved to Paris in 1935 to study painting on a scholarship from the Jewish community in Belgrade. During this stay, he became politically active as a member of the Communist Party both of Yugoslavia and of France, which led to his deportation from France in 1938. This article presents and analyzes the different production contexts in which two artistic positions — those of Pomorišac and Baruh — developed in the 1930s against the specific Parisian background by reconstructing and examining the ambivalent representation of the metropolis they created in their painterly work.

László Péri, Alfréd Kemény and the **Tobias Ertl** **Debate on Revolutionary Realism, Berlin, ca. 1928**

Alongside graphic artists Sándor Ék (Alex Keil) and Jolán Szilágyi, and critic Alfréd Kemény (Durus), László Péri is counted among the Hungarian émigrés who, prior to assuming leading roles in the communist Association of Revolutionary Visual Artists (ARBKD) from 1928 onwards, were highly influential in disseminating both Hungarian and Soviet constructivism in postwar Weimar Germany. However, by 1928, the attitude towards constructivism and other forms of non-objective art had undergone a radical shift among the artists and critics affiliated with the KPD and the ARBKD. In 1929, Kemény stated that “an ‘abstract’ person can only recover if they turn away from ‘abstract’ art and return to being a person of flesh and blood.”

This aggressive stance against non-objective art is, among others, directed towards the group of Berlin constructivists Die Abstrakten, of which Péri was a member. This group would later, in 1932, change its name to Die Zeitgemässen (The Contemporaries) to fully adhere to the demands of communist cultural politics. Kemény's rhetoric already bears the marks of socialist realist denunciation of modernism, although Kemény would only fully embrace this position later. Just a few years earlier, however, Kemény, for instance, in a text on Péri's linoleum cuts, had strongly advocated for a conception of non-objective constructive artwork as an “abstract reality” which, resisting bourgeois anarchism, represents the communist order of “proletarian world revolution” in its transitory period.

My contribution aims to elucidate the shift and its repercussions for artistic practice by tracing the various stages in Péri's work from the early 1920s to the early 1930s. I will argue that the political context of failed revolution and exile is reflected as much in the trajectory of his work as in the debates on revolutionary realism, both on an international scale (Comintern) and within the locally specific context shaped by the transnationalism of the modern metropolis, particularly Berlin.

Against this backdrop, I will analyze Péri's turn to figuration, his communist commitment — highlighting its zenith during his association with the ARBKD in 1928 — and his distinctive sculptural materialism. I argue that his embrace of “concrete” art (both in terms of its representational realism and its material) — offered an alternative to the ideological dichotomy between abstraction and figuration by linking the artwork materially to the modern industrial metropolis.

Tobias Ertl is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the SNSF-funded project “Real Abstractions: Reconsidering Realism's Role for the Present”. In 2022, he completed his PhD thesis on the representation of capitalism in the work of Melanie Gilligan at the art history department of Fribourg University (Switzerland). In his current book project, he focuses on materialist aesthetics and communist artist groups during the Weimar Republic. His essays and art criticism have appeared in *Brand New Life*, *Berlin Review*, *Texte zur Kunst*, among others.

Judit Galácz **Theatre Exhibitions as a Mirror of International Impregnation of Hungarian Emigré Artists: The International Theatre Exposition, New York, 1926**

Judit Galácz graduated at the Eötvös Loránd University in 2011 in Art History. She fulfilled a one-year Master Program at Central European University, Budapest in 2014 in Comparative History of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Her main field of research is the history of Hungarian avant-garde theatre between the two world wars together with an interest in the theatrical movements of East-Central Europe and its relation to international artists and ideologies. She is currently a PhD researcher at the Art History Doctoral Program of Eötvös Loránd University. The topic of her dissertation is János Mácza and the history of Hungarian avant-garde theatre from 1915 to 1926. She published several studies and made exhibitions about the personalities and movements of Hungarian avant-garde in recent years. She also currently works as an archivist at the Museum of Fine Arts – Central European Research Institute for Art History, Archive and Documentation Centre.

Three special exhibitions of theatre designs were organised in the 1920s which served to present the avant-garde ideas in performance art. The first one was held in Vienna in 1924, the second was the *International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts* in Paris in 1925 where the stage design received outstanding attention and the third was the *International Theatre Exposition* in New York in 1926. This lecture focuses on the New York show with reference to the Paris events. The three exhibitions were displayed in different cities, with different backgrounds and organising committees and they represented different missions. The common denominators between these shows are not only Friedrich Kiesler, the Austrian born architect and theatre designer, who was the curator of the exhibitions in Vienna and New York and also the Austrian pavilion at the International Exhibition in Paris, but also the fact that numerous Hungarian émigré artists' works were included in these shows. Friedrich Kiesler was a practising designer himself with a really progressive philosophy about the new forms of theatre and he included all of the avant-garde ideas appearing in the 1920s relating to theatre techniques and architecture into the shows he curated. However these exhibitions are not only interesting because of the curator but also because the presence of the Hungarian émigré artists is significant, especially in the New York exhibition. The visitors could see the plans of Marcel Breuer, Vilmos Huszár, László Moholy-Nagy, Ladislav Mědgyes, and Farkas Molnár amongst the figures of the international avant-garde such as Fortunato Depero, El Lissitzky, or Oscar Schlemmer. As part of my current research, this presentation focuses on how these Hungarian artists related to the so-called avant-garde theatre ideas and how they participated in those artistic groups or became attached to personalities who were the catalysts of these innovative tendencies. The study of the exhibitions, especially the New York show, provides the possibility not only to present the Hungarian artists' experiments in this field but to draw inferences relating to their impregnation to absorption into the international scene. My aim is to draw up a network of these artists and show how their work became embedded as equal part of these reformist tendencies.

Magdolna Gucsa **From Anti-Modernist Concepts to Marxist Theory. Conceptualising the Art of the Emigré in Interwar Art Criticism**

The category of emigrant artists embodies a plethora of dual perceptions of the sending and receiving countries. Underlying epistemological concepts active in the discursive process producing representations of otherness, and specific administrative categories (foreigners, naturalised citizens, "undesirables", etc.) are combined with perceptions of citizens relocating as deserters of the nation-state, actors of national representation or upon their return, importers of knowledge. My paper examines professional authors writing about visual art, born in Hungary and active in Berlin and Paris in the 1920s, emigrants themselves, who contribute to historiographical narratives of contemporary art that are proposed to, among others, fellow emigrant artists to situate themselves within.

The authors under study, Ernő/Ernst Kállai, Alfréd "Durus" Kemény, and Emil Szittyá, allow for a comparative approach to an overview of various genres (art history, criticism, social reports on artists) and platforms (periodicals [art journals, general interest magazines, party organs], editions of specialist art publishers [the series *Probleme der neuesten Europäischen Malerei* by Klinkhardt & Biermann]). They also represent modernist and anti-modernist historiographical theories of modern and avant-garde art that coexisted in the period. Szittyá's reliance on the concepts of national character and the *Schicksaleidee*, a theory postulating the existence of cultures as social entities and the conceptualisation of their political history as collective, deterministic biographies (originating in Oswald Spengler's *Der Untergang des Abendlandes* [1918]) coincided with Kemény's Marxist aesthetics. Kállai's progressionist concept of art was, to some extent, informed by both national characteristics and the Marxist class theory. While examining these rich corpora and contrasting contemporary Hungarian/German and German/French writings by the same author, I focus specifically on the conflicting or complementary politico-artistic narratives proposed to audiences in the sending and receiving countries to understand the categories of artistic and general (re)assimilation and the contrasting concepts of cosmopolitanism/internationalism versus national/autochthonous culture.

Magdolna Gucsa obtained her PhD in Interdisciplinary History/Art History at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) (Paris) and Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) (Budapest) in 2023. Her research focuses on the avant-garde movements of the first half of the twentieth century. She is primarily interested in the politics of artistic practices (creation, collection, criticism, and institutionalisation) considered avant-garde in its broad sense. In her PhD thesis, she examined how French and foreign art critics' political arguments in favour of immigrant artists, gathered under the name *École de Paris*, are crystallized in and transformed into aesthetic categories via the principal example of Emil Szittyá.

Bálint Juhász **Visual Language as a Socio-Political Tool: The Irreprehensible and Anti-Cosmopolitan Crusade of Štefan Prohászka (1928–1938)**

Bálint Juhász received his MA in Art History from Eötvös Loránd University in 2013. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Doctoral School of History of Pázmány Péter Catholic University. His main field of research is the history of the so-called Hungarian School of Rome, a loose grouping of Hungarian artists with state scholarships who stayed in the Italian capital during the interwar period, as well as Italian and Slovak modernism. After completing internships at the Art History Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Museum of Fine Arts, he currently works as a curator at the Fine and Applied Arts Collection of the Hanseatic Museum in Mosonmagyaróvár, Hungary.

Opened in 1995, Šamorín's At Home Gallery was the opposite of the cultural nationalist policy of the new Slovak state. While in the 1990s state funds were used to promote "national interests", the apartment gallery of this small rural town launched contemporary art projects that contradicted the rhetoric of the extreme nationalist government. Little by little, and thanks to the private gallery of this small town in the county, Šamorín was freed from the peripheral role to which the Slovak cultural policy wanted to condemn it. This desire to break out characterized the visual language of István Prohászka/Štefan Prohászka (Šamorín, 1896 – Mosonmagyaróvár, 1974). The exhibitions in Bratislava in 1928, Budapest in 1929, and Kosice in 1936 conveyed to the cosmopolitan citizenry a visual message that interpreted the emphasis on small-town life and social tensions in this modernizing state as preparation for a long-term political program.

The toolbox of Prohászka's visual language still requires careful interpretation through several methodologies. He was a student of György Leszkovszky and Imre Simay at the Royal Hungarian Academy of Applied Arts. During this time, he spent several months in Germany, where he got to know the spirit of the Bauhaus, tasted Berlin's cosmopolitan artistic milieu, and also embraced the spirit of the German left-wing movements. He was aware that the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the pre-war status quo of Central European societies would soon break down, and because of this, the artist not only assumed the role of an agitator but was also able to modify this fragile state with his involvement. Although the Budapest press tried to label him an unconventional and radically thinking artist, Prohászka's diverse modernist stylistic language not only hid a political way of thinking but also reflected on the individual drama of social life and an intellectual struggling with a dual national identity. As a member of the "Sarló movement" and member of the editorial office of the left-wing newspaper *Az Út*, he actively participated in the creation of social and political movements. At the same time, Mária Lauer, an industrial artist and designer, joined the socio-photo movement together with his wife, to better understand the situation of the economically disadvantaged social classes. In my presentation, I will not only present the subjectivity of the artist as an "agitator", but also the multi-coloured toolbox of his visual language, which made him unique within the Central European art milieu.

Critical Collaborations Adrienn Kácsor **in Central Asia**

What was it like to be a foreign artist on the peripheries of the Soviet Union in the 1930s and early 1940s? This paper studies the political networks and aesthetic tactics of Soviet internationalism that Hungarian communist artists used in Central Asia to secure commissions and pursue their creative work despite lacking local language skills and often struggling even with the Russian language. Tashkent, Frunze (today Bishkek), and Alma-Ata (today Almaty) became especially bustling urban centers in the early 1940s, when Soviet and non-Soviet citizens alike were evacuated to the Soviet Central Asian republics during World War II. The Hungarian-born artist Jolán Szilágyi (1895 – 1971) and filmmaker and writer Béla Balázs (1884 – 1949) were among the foreigners who arrived in Frunze and Alma-Ata, respectively, in the fall of 1941. With their first-hand experience of fighting against Nazism in Berlin throughout the 1920s, both Szilágyi and Balázs were eager to battle against the Nazi enemy once again, branding themselves as anti-fascist artists. Yet evacuation to Central Asia posed severe obstacles to their political art making. As her surviving correspondence attests, Szilágyi repeatedly complained to the head of the Hungarian Section of the Comintern, Mátyás Rákosi, that she "was forced to relative muteness" in Soviet Kirghizia, having close to no opportunities and means to use the expertise she had gained in producing anti-fascist and anti-capitalist visual satire in Weimar Germany. Similarly, Balázs desperately tried to connect with Rákosi as his primary political contact and resource. I will analyze the unique collaborations that emerged between Rákosi and Hungarian artists such as Szilágyi and Balázs in the early 1940s, highlighting how the leader of the Hungarian diaspora offered his support to artists by securing them modest funds, supplying them with Hungarian-language political materials, and offering his critical feedback on their artistic work.

Adrienn Kácsor is a Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow at the Bauhaus-Universität (2024 – 2026), where she is working on a research and exhibition project on migrant art histories, titled *The Fugitive Avant-garde*. In 2023-24, she was Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Art History at Northwestern University, where she had defended her doctoral dissertation, *Migrant Aesthetics: Hungarian Artists in the Service of Soviet Internationalism, 1919-1945*, in 2023. Her research has been generously supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources (2018-19), the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship (2020 – 2021), and the Leonard A. Lauder Research Center for Modern Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2021–2023). She has published her work in the *Getty Research Journal*, *Art History*, and *View*.

Adam Korcsmáros
Andrea Vrtelová

In Search of an Identity: Interwar Slovak Architecture at The Crossroads Of Modernism

Adam Korcsmáros is a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Art History of the Art Research Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and at the Department of History and Theory of Art of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Trnava University. He is a lecturer at the Department of History and Theory of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava. He holds a Master's degree in History and Theory of Art from the University of Trnava (2020), and he previously attended the Faculty of Architecture at ČVUT, Prague. He has worked in various gallery positions (for example, Kunsthalle Bratislava and Gandy Gallery). His research focuses on the history and theory of architecture with an emphasis on the twentieth century. Within his professional, publishing and teaching activities he focuses mainly on the history and theory of architecture of the Slovak Republic. She currently cooperates with the Bratislava City Gallery, Gandy Gallery, and the feminist organisation Aspekt.

Andrea Vrtelová is an art historian and a PhD student in the Department of Theory and History of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava. Her research focuses on architecture and art of the interwar period. During her studies she gained practical experience at the Kunsthalle Bratislava, the Slovak Design Centre, the Slovak National Gallery and the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic. She currently cooperates with the Bratislava City Gallery, Gandy Gallery, and the feminist organisation Aspekt.

During the interwar period, the lack of architectural education in the territory of present-day Slovakia motivated aspiring architects to seek education and professional guidance in neighbouring urban centres such as Vienna, Budapest and Prague.

The primary aim of the proposal is to examine the motivations of three architects from this region to travel abroad to gain experience and expertise before establishing their own practices at home, and to assess the impact of these encounters. Dušan Jurkovič, Fridrich Weinwurm, and Emil Belluš represented different forms of dialogue between historical and modern principles in interwar Slovak architecture, based in part on their educational backgrounds. We will also discuss how their years of study and the multicultural environment of the metropolises of the former monarchy influenced their architectural strategies and how they contributed to the formation of the heterogeneous character of interwar architectural practice in the territory of present-day Slovakia, which was gradually established in a continuous dialogue with the wider Czechoslovak and regional context.

Louis Lozowick's Stay in Berlin (1920)

Juliette Milbach

Louis Lozowick (1892–1973) left his Ukrainian shtetl after an initial artistic apprenticeship in Kiev to join his brother in New York and become one of the most famous American lithographers. For a few decades his works were published across the magazines of the American left (*New Masses*), artistic modernism (*Broom*), and the Jewish diaspora (*Menorah journal*). Lozowick was both an illustrator and historian of the Yiddish visual world as well as of the European avant-garde and Soviet art, about which he continued to learn as he travelled several times to the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s. The artistic process in his many works, which are mostly preserved in the American museums, is best understood through the lens of his autobiography *Survivor of a Dead Age*.

In 1920, Louis Lozowick was in Berlin. He exhibited among the avant-gardes, frequented the Russian constructivists (El Lissitzky and Naum Gabo in particular), and took part in publishing projects: we find him around the magazine *Albatros* (see the attached photograph) but also in a work published in 1922 on Jewish graphic art by Petropolis Edition.

My lecture will focus on Lozowick's little-known involvement in these Berlin diasporic circles. Drawing on Lozowick's memoirs and his personal fund in the national American archives of the Smithsonian Institute (where I spent a research trip in November 2023), I will try to shed light on a lesser-known aspect of the circulations between East and West through Lozowick's point of view to highlight the special role of publishing houses and journals in building artistic networks in Berlin.

Juliette Milbach has been focusing in her research on the circulation of art in Eastern Europe and the United States in particular, examining periodicals not only as sources but also as art objects. Her thesis (defended in 2014 at the University of Paris 1 and soon to be published) placed the status of the artist in the Soviet Union within a broader social history of art in the USSR. Her current project examines the careers of several artists who all came from the Pale of Settlement (Ukraine, Belarus) to become illustrators, lithographers, and sometimes painters in New York.

Cristina Moraru **City, Light, De-Coloniality and Artistic Subversivity**

Cristina Moraru is an art historian, researcher and editor from Iași, Romania. She is currently Lecturer at “George Enescu” National University of the Arts in Iași, where she teaches postcolonial studies and cultural heritage. She is a researcher in a project funded by ICMA (Research Institute of UNAGE Iași) and a member of TPP Provenance ResearchForum supported by Technische Universität Berlin, Universität Bonn, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg and Ludwig Maximilians Universität München. She is a member of the International Association of Art Critics. She has participated in international study programs, research residencies, and workshops at the NEC Institute for Advanced Studies (Bucharest), NCCR University of Basel, CRC “Affective Societies” Freie Universität Berlin, Aarhus University, University of Vienna, Simon Fraser University (Vancouver), Valand Academy for Art and Design (University of Gothenburg), University of Copenhagen, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Universität Hamburg, Loughborough University, Birmingham City University, Pedagogical University of Krakow, European University in St Petersburg, Danube University Krems, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, MTFA Academy Chișinău, EEPAP Lublin, LCCA Latvia, CCA Prishtina, The Cvito Fiskovic Centre in Split, Institute of Contemporary Art in Zagreb, Fondazione Arthur Cravan in Milan, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art Moscow, and other independent institutions.

The intersection of “city,” “light,” and “de-coloniality” encapsulates a rich and multifaceted area of inquiry, touching upon themes of urbanism, power dynamics, and cultural representation. This opens up avenues for exploring questions of urban identity, representation, and social justice. It invites inquiries into how colonial histories have shaped urban landscapes, whose voices and experiences are privileged or marginalized in the city by imposing their own spatial planning and design principles on colonized territories, reshaping existing urban landscapes or creating new ones according to their needs and ideologies. Many cities in former colonies still bear the imprint of colonial spatial organization and light installation, with distinct areas designated for Europeans, indigenous populations, and other ethnic groups. Consequently, colonial rule often brought about the construction of architectural landmarks and illuminating infrastructure that reflected the power and prestige of the colonizers. This included government buildings, churches, palaces, and transportation networks built in colonial architectural styles. These structures not only served functional purposes but also served as symbols of colonial authority and cultural dominance.

Colonial histories have left a lasting imprint on urban landscapes, shaping their physical form, social structure, and cultural identity. Understanding these legacies is essential for grappling with the issues of urban inequality, social justice, and cultural heritage in postcolonial societies. These matters can be approached by investigating artistic and cultural practices that challenge dominant narratives and reimagine urban futures. This lecture aims to identify artistic practices and productions that challenge dominant narratives in the interwar metropolis by reimagining urban futures, contributing to the creation of more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable cities. Starting from László Moholy-Nagy’s *Dynamic of the Metropolis*, I will reflect on artistic practices that might inspire collective action, foster empathy and solidarity, and offer new ways of seeing and experiencing the urban environment. Additionally, I will investigate artistic projects that might prompt considerations on how urban lighting practices and design can reflect and contribute to broader processes of decolonization and social transformation in cities.

Female Body Culture and the Concept of Labour in the History of the 20th Century Hungarian Avant-garde Eszter Óze

In my talk, I examine the gendered aspects of emigration and cultural production in the left-wing Hungarian avant-garde. As a case study, I deal with two women-led avant-garde *movement art* institutions in the interwar period. The Socialist Federative Republic of Councils in Hungary (1919) had a great impact on the Hungarian avant-garde art scene: after its fall, several artists who had taken an active part in the organisation were forced to emigrate. In addition the government almost completely eliminated the possibilities for a formal left-wing movement, so collective “leisure” activities became prominent areas of political organization, like the movement art. The *movement art* schools run by Valéria Dienes and Alice Madzsar were important institutions of the Hungarian life-reform movement and also the leftist field of the interwar period. Madzsar studied in Berlin in the early 1910s, Dienes in Paris at the same time, while later in the 1920s both shared the experience of emigration after 1919: Dienes moved to Vienna and then to Paris, while Madzsar supported her husband, József Madzsar, who fled to Vienna. I will examine these two periods: I will show what opportunities and possible life paths were open to these women artists when they were acquiring their emigration experiences. I will examine two forms of emigration: on the one hand, I want to understand the migration of knowledge, and on the other hand, I want to understand how we can broaden the concept of emigration and, through this, better understand what it meant to be an emigrant between the two world wars. While I present the two *movement art* schools, the theoretical approach of my paper places the woman’s gymnastics and movement art schools primarily within the wider processes of the institutionalisation of the world of work and of the emergence of industrial capitalism.

Eszter Óze earned her BA in Art History and Aesthetics at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), and her MA in Art Theory and Curatorial Studies at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts. She completed her PhD in philosophy at the ELTE Institute for Art Theory and Media Studies. She is a researcher of early twentieth century art history and museology. In recent years, she has primarily focused on the interwar period, researching workers’ culture, as well as social museums and public health museums from this time. Since 2020 she has been teaching in the Department of Art Theory and Curatorial Studies at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in Budapest. Previously, she was a lecturer of the Department of Media and Communication at Eötvös Loránd University. Until 2021, she was a lead member of the Studio of Young Artists’ Association (SYAA). Between 2014 and 2017, she worked for the Kassák Museum.

Diana Plachendovskaya **Adornment as a Matter of Class:
Émigré Women Fashion Jewellery
Designers in Paris (1920–1930)**

Diana Plachendovskaya is a PhD candidate and a lecturer at the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris. She graduated in history of art at the Sorbonne University in 2020, and in art studies at the EHESS in 2021. She currently works on the politics of adornment through a case study on the fashion jewellery made by the French communist writer Elsa Triolet between 1929 and 1932.

The case study of women émigrés from the former Russian Empire adorning Parisian haute couture in 1920–1930 is of great interest, not so much for the transfer of ethnic ornamental motifs (Albertini, Kurkdjian, 2023) as for the association of ornament production with social downgrade. However, the bourgeois-educated women under discussion have nothing in common with the tragic destinies of white emigration, fallen to the rank of fabric workers and servants as a consequence of exile. Quite the contrary: they successfully integrated in the Parisian artistic and intellectual scene. Sympathizing with the European socialist movements, and not yet excluding returning to their home countries, they helped to build a connection with the Eastern European avant-garde. Even though driven to manual work by economic necessity, they created costume jewelry to be sold by the most famous Parisian fashion houses. Made from non-precious materials, simple but formally inventive, these adornments took fashion closer to contemporary artistic practices. Disputing the political potential of decorative arts with the artistic spheres of their male companions, like literature and visual arts, the ornaments created by Eastern European émigrés took part in the development of modern aesthetics. Unlike traditional craftsmanship, it sought to overturn the existing class relations. Éli Lotar's photograph of Elisabeth Makovska, adorned with a necklace made by Elsa Triolet, gives us a glimpse of the network to reconstruct. Did these women designers perceive as downgrading the work of adorning local bourgeoisie and aristocrats, who constituted the major part of their clients, or on the contrary, were they fulfilled by the connection with the working class they earned? How do those commercial relationships enable the class enemies in their homelands to socialize in exile? Could those women decorators seek to spread this political ambition of adornment to their countries of origin?

**“I Like the English so Much,
as if They Were My Relatives”:
Kokoschka's Exile in London
in 1938** Annadea Salvatore

In 1938, on the eve of the German invasion of Czechoslovakia, Oskar Kokoschka (Pöchlarn 1886 – Montreux 1980) took refuge in London, taking part in the international resistance in defense of freedom. From that moment he became a leading figure on the European intellectual scene, exploring mythology to find the common cultural ferment that united the societies of Europe.

Kokoschka had entered Britain on a Czech passport, after Masaryk had helped him apply for Czech citizenship in 1935. This would later prove beneficial to the artist: in the panic of the summer of 1940, after the fall of France, thousands of German and Austrian refugees were classified by Parliament as “enemy aliens” and interned. The Czechs, on the other hand, were considered “friendly aliens”, with a government-in-exile in London led by Edvard Beneš; and although their movements in Britain were limited, they were otherwise left more or less alone. Kokoschka was thus in a good position to mobilize for the liberation of his anti-Nazi and Jewish friends, including artists, from internment camps, and for the total repeal of the laws against foreigners.

This was in line with the policy of the so-called Free Austrian Movement and the Free German League of Culture, two refugee organizations in which he took an active part. In December 1941 he called for an end to the “scandal” of internment, which he denounced as “the skeleton in the closet of democracy”, and for internees to be allowed to contribute to the war effort.

A few weeks before the outbreak of war, Kokoschka left London, which was becoming too expensive for him and his wife Olda Palkovská, and moved to the picturesque fishing village of Polperro, on the southern coast of Cornwall. His attitude toward the United Kingdom would always remain positive. This study aims to analyze the artistic, political, intellectual, and social networks that enabled Kokoschka to pursue his cultural-political activities — strong in his belief, always translated into his work, of the subversive power of painting.

Annadea Salvatore has a PhD in Art History from Ca' Foscari University in Venice, is a Research Fellow at the Fondazione Ambron (Florence). She worked with several institutions for academic research, such as the Swiss Confederation (Excellence Scholarships). She has been Research Fellow at the Fondazione Primoli in Rome, the Fondazione Cini in Venice, the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, the Sorbonne University in Paris, the Resource Center of the Petit Palais in Paris, the Central Library of Zurich, the Arp Stiftung of Berlin, the University of Cagliari and the University di Firenze, where she also served as a dissertation co-supervisor. In addition to essays and articles, she has authored *Lolita sulla tela. Poetiche dell'invenzione in Balthus e Nabokov* (Artemide, 2016). Currently, her main areas of interest are the reception of German artists in Italy (mainly Hans Arp and Oskar Kokoschka) and the history of the Italian art criticism between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Ágnes Anna Sebestény **Hungarian Architects in London on the Brink of the World War II**

Ágnes Anna Sebestény is a Budapest-based art historian and curator at the Hungarian Museum of Architecture and Monument Protection Documentation Centre. She studied art history at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, and Leiden University. She is currently a PhD candidate in Design Culture Studies at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design. She has curatorial experience in twentieth-century architectural history and research expertise in the history of modern architecture and architectural photography with a special focus on interwar Hungary. She has published several essays in Hungarian and English and lectured at international conferences on related topics.

The routes to exile from Central Europe to the United Kingdom and eventually to the United States is a well-documented path many artists and architects took in the second half of the 1930s due mostly to political reasons. The Nazis, who rose to power in Germany in 1933, forced many forward-thinking individuals, and many of them being of Jewish origins, to emigrate. In later years, rising anti-semitism threatened many lives in Central and Eastern Europe, which led to a period of international mobility of people, ideas, and objects. The UK was considered to be a safe choice. The country, which accepted modernism relatively late, benefited much from émigré artists and architects. The most famous Hungarians, who spent a few years in London before moving to the USA, were Marcel Breuer and László Moholy-Nagy.

A lesser-known story is the activity of the Refugee Committee of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), which was set up in January 1939 to deal with the growing number of requests from mostly Jewish architects living in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Hungary to escape religious, ethnic, or political persecution. The Hungarian applicants included Ferenc Domány, Gusztáv Feuer, Augusztá Kurz, Zoltán Pajor, and Olga Gémes-Forbát.

In my talk, I focus on Hungarian architects, who tried or managed to move to London to work there as architects or designers in the second half of the 1930s. I highlight their network, which led their attention and eventually their paths to this city. I also underline how those well-established figures such as Breuer and Moholy-Nagy helped their compatriots. My talk is partly a contribution to the ongoing research project about the activities of the RIBA Refugee Committee, led by Valeria Carullo, the photography curator of RIBA.

Migration, Return, and Exile: The Jewish Artists of the Romanian Avant-garde Olga Stefan

This lecture will present the impact of temporary migration to Western European countries such as Germany, France and Switzerland in the interwar period on the artistic practices of several Jewish artists of Romanian origin and on the course of the avant-garde in Romania. The presentation will focus on the trajectories of several artists that were part of the same social circles, some very well-known while others who will be introduced here for the first time, such as Marcel Iancu, Victor Brauner, Jacques Herold, Hedda Sterne, Tristan Tzara, M. H. Maxy, Sigmund Maur, and several others. The lecture also analyzes how the effervescent cultural atmosphere of interwar Romania was created through the social and cultural capital these artists developed through artistic exchanges established while they were abroad. These artists, upon their return to Romania, initiated publications that promoted to the Romanian public the artistic movements with which they had connected in the West, and their pages became platforms for maintaining the artistic networks formerly established. As Jews, these artists did not benefit from any government support to travel abroad, but had to rely on their personal resources and connections. Once World War II broke out and many of these artists managed to escape fascist Romania, while others decided to remain in the country, the respective influence of each on Romanian artistic trends also changed accordingly. During this period, those that migrated to France were absorbed through their networks and relations in the French avant-garde, several becoming recognized as representatives of France later on. Likewise Marcel Iancu in Israel and Hedda Sterne in the United States, in effect leaving few formerly avant-garde artists behind in Romania, who after the war integrated themselves in the state art of the communist society. In conclusion, I will address the impact of this geographic separation (which is inherently also representative of an ideological separation) on the formation of the art historical canon in Romania and abroad.

Olga Stefan is a doctoral student in Historical Sociology at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași, Romania with a thesis on the Vapniarka concentration camp. She is the founder of The Future of Memory, www.thefutureofmemory.ro, a transnational platform for Holocaust remembrance through art and media, a documentary filmmaker, curator and author. Her documentaries include *Fragments of a Life*, *Gestures of Resistance*, *My Illusions*, *Daniel Spoerri: The Wild Child of Iași*, and *Vapniarka: Camp of Death*. She is the author of the books *The Future of Memory* and *Salva Viseu 1948: Then and Now*. Her chapter "Vapniarka: Personal Memory from the Camp of Death" is published in the volume *Memories of Terror*, CEEOL Press, Frankfurt, while "Vapniarka: Antifascist Resistance in the Camp of Death" is forthcoming in a volume published by Peter Lang. Two additional articles will also appear soon in the *Journal of Eastern European Holocaust Studies*.

Ágnes Sz. Horváth **Kati Horna on the Horizon
of European Left-Wing Movements**

Ágnes Sz. Horváth is an art historian.

She earned her MA degree at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) – Institute of Art History (2020, Lajos Fülep Prize). She is currently a PhD candidate at the ELTE Doctoral School of Philosophy, the title of her thesis is *Critical Reception of the Art of Lajos Vajda Between 1941 and 1983*. Her research field is interwar-period Hungarian fine art, with special focus on left-wing intellectual networks and artist circles. She is interested in cultural, political, and philosophical aspects and factors forming individuals' and communities' worldviews. Since 2021 she has been working as a museologist in the Hungarian National Gallery's – 19th and 20th Century Paintings Collection.

Kati Horna, or by her maiden name Kati Deutsch (1912–2000), is one of the Hungarian-born photographers who left their country for good in the interwar period. In the two decades since her death, Horna's oeuvre has become the focus of much international research, but her name is still almost unknown in her native country.

Kati Horna raced through the metropolises of Europe (Budapest, Berlin, Paris) and civil war-ravaged Spain until the age of twenty-seven, only to arrive in a new continent, and begin rebuilding her life in Mexico City. Her life story can be defined as a model of artistic existence organised on the basis of worldview, so I approach the subject from the perspective of her career arc, one that unfolded entirely in emigration. My research focuses on the motivational factors and identity-forming influences that played a decisive role in her choice of emigration destinations and influenced the development of her art. The subject of my research is the rich intellectual horizon that traces the background of her oeuvre through the defining intellectual-political currents, as well as through a web of relationships woven by exceptional individuals. An important point of her orientation was the experience of the culturally based opposition movement and the progressive political and intellectual atmosphere Deutsch grew up in as a teenager in the *Munka* (Work) Circle and later in the *Oppozíció* (Opposition). The intellectual milieu during her time in Berlin included the liberal-minded institution of Deutsche Hochschule für Politik, the seminars of the German critical Marxist philosopher and close friend Karl Korsch, as well as the cultural gatherings at Bertolt Brecht's apartment. The influence of Korschist views transmitted from Berlin to Hungary by Kati's first husband, Pál Partos, is an important but little known episode in the history of ideas, and one that is thus illuminated from an unusual narrative. Her time in Paris and during the Spanish Civil War shows that her engagement and transnational solidarity led her to take an active role: she published her photographs and montages made with her second husband, José Horna, in antifascist and anarchist magazines.

In my lecture, I will use intellectual history and network research considerations to explore how the extremely broad spectrum of these radical communities and left-wing political thought, which can be traced in her immediate environment, influenced her development as a photographer.

“The Secret of Caresses”: Márton Tóth
**Visualising Queerness
by Marcell Vértés
in Interwar Paris**

Marcell Vértés (1895–1961), often referred to as the most Parisian Hungarian painter, fled to Vienna after the fall of the Soviet Republic. There, he gained recognition for his drawing talent, winning numerous commissions for poster design, which eventually provided him with the financial means to continue his career in Paris from the early 1920s. The *années folles* in Paris offered Vértés great opportunities: a widening network of connections among artists and intellectuals (such as Colette, Jean Cocteau, Pierre Louÿs, Francis Carco, Maryse Choisy, Elsa Schiaparelli) provided him with social and cultural capital that not only enabled him to obtain commissions but also directed his artistic interests towards the depiction of the fashionable and interlope facets of urban modernity. Among these themes, queer subculture emerged as a subject of predilection for Vértés from the beginning of his Parisian years. In early twentieth century Paris, homosexuals, a transgressive part of the urban population and an emerging identity group, gained increasing social visibility: new venues and events of sociability appeared, and at the same time artistic representations explicitly thematizing the phenomenon multiplied. In this presentation, I will examine the metropolis as a space that not only attracts sexual minorities but also constructs queer subjectivities while shaping artistic sensibilities in this direction. Focusing on Vértés' oeuvre, I will analyze the strategies he employed to portray queer sociability and subjectivity. By contextualizing his work within the broader landscape of representations of same-sex desire during the interwar period, I aim to uncover the nuances of Vértés's engagement with this theme and their resonance with the cultural milieu of his time.

Márton Tóth is an art historian in the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest and a PhD student in “Atelier”, Department for Interdisciplinary History at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. His doctoral research focuses on Hungarian representations of queerness in Paris and Budapest in the first half of the twentieth century. His research interests include French art in Hungary, Hungarian artists in Paris as well as “lesser” materials, genres and themes in art (such as works on paper, art reproduction, visualisation of sexual minorities).

Bennett Tucker **Reuven Rubin and the Interrelations of Artist Sponsorships and Institutional Networks in New York City, 1921–1922**

Bennett Tucker held a career as an officer on international cargo ships before transitioning to academia and earning masters' degrees at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His interest in Reuven Rubin began after discovering unpublished documents on Rubin at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem. He is currently completing his PhD at the Technion Israel Institute of Technology where he researches the transfer and cross-cultural communication of modern architecture and furniture design between Central Europe and practitioners of modernism in the British Mandate of Palestine during the 1930s. He has published in the *Journal of Design History* and *The Burlington Magazine* and frequently contributes news correspondence and exhibition reviews to Israeli and American publications.

While convalescing from the war and struggling to find his artistic voice, the Romanian painter Reuven Rubin (1893–1974) traveled on his own volition from Czernowitz to New York City in 1920. This episode occupies a scant chapter in the scholarship on Rubin, which points mostly to his friendship with Alfred Siieglitz and his exhibition at the Anderson Gallery as the impetus for an artistic transition that would later reach maturity after Rubin immigrated to British Mandate Palestine in 1923.

While analyzing his artistic development, my paper will focus intently on the overlooked sponsorships and financial support Rubin enjoyed from individuals and institutional networks in New York. In addition to revisiting the known support and friendship from Siieglitz and sponsorship by Romanian Ambassador Prince Antoine Bibesco, I will look closely at archival documents from the National Library of Israel, yet to be considered in the scholarship, that cast an entirely new light on Rubin as an artist and refugee in New York. For example, correspondences between Dr Judah Magnes and his social and intellectual circles in New York reveal collective efforts to purchase Rubin's paintings at the Anderson Gallery and provide the artist with charitable support. Likewise, documents and correspondences from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee unveil efforts to secure Rubin's transportation back to Romania amid controversial issues over his "refugee" status in America. The absence of this information in the literature, including Rubin's autobiographical memoir, I argue, attests to the covert operation of these networks without Rubin's knowledge.

My paper contributes a new chapter on Rubin in New York and, in support of the conference objectives, expands the art historical discourse to address relationships between artists and their sources of funding such as networks centered on private and institutional support. To this end, I also intend to apply for the early career researcher's grant from the organizing research institute.

Exhibiting Emigration. The Case of András Zwickl **the Magyar Modern Exhibition**

The exhibition *Magyar Modern – Ungarische Kunst in Berlin 1910–1933* (Modern Hungarian – Hungarian Art in Berlin 1910–1930) presented the work of Hungarian artists working in Berlin in the first third of the 20th century. The exhibition at the Berlinische Galerie was organized in cooperation with the Museum of Fine Arts – Hungarian National Gallery from November 2022 to February 2023. The exhibition focused on artists and works of art directly related to Berlin. This was defined on the basis of three criteria: the artist had to have been a resident of Berlin for a certain period of time and/or the work had to have been made there and/or it had to have been exhibited in Berlin. These criteria led to the inclusion of well-known artists and emblematic works, as well as lesser known or little known artists, sometimes with works that we did not even know existed. Previous exhibitions with similar aspects have focused on Hungarian artists in exile in Germany (e.g., *Wechselwirkungen, Kassel, 1986–87*), with a particular emphasis on artists associated with the Bauhaus. In my presentation, I will introduce the "Magyar Modern" exhibition, describe its concept and the path leading to its realization, as well as the questions and new discoveries that have inspired us to further research this topic. I will also discuss the catalogue of the exhibition, which is structured in accordance with the logic and structure of the exhibition, with each essay being linked to a chapter of the exhibition.

András Zwickl art historian, professor at the Institute of Theory of the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, head of the Design Theory MA program and the Design Curator specialization; between 1988–2023 he was curator at the Department of Painting of the Hungarian National Gallery. He taught as a guest lecturer at the Eötvös Loránd University and Pázmány Péter Catholic University, at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts and at the Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna. His main topic research: modern and avant-garde art, Hungarian art from the early 20th century and between the two world wars, museum and curatorial studies. He curated several exhibitions, authored and edited catalogues: *In the Land of Arcadia – István Szőnyi and his Circle 1918–1928* (Hungarian National Gallery, 2001); *The Artists' House 1909–1914 – Modern Exhibitions in Budapest* (Hungarian National Gallery, 2009); *Derkovits. The Artist and His Times* (with Katalin Bakos, Hungarian National Gallery, 2014); *Magyar Modern – Ungarische Kunst in Berlin 1910–1933* (with Ralf Burmeister, Berlinische Galerie, 2022). He is a member of the Art History Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; in 2001 he won the Opus Mirabile Award for the exhibition of the year, in 2005 he received the Lajos Németh Prize.

