

THE ARTISTIC BOOK: EXHIBITION IN THE NSZL ANTAL REGULY MUSEUM LIBRARY



Relations between books and arts from exquisite codices to contemporary art books can be analysed from different perspectives. As the Zirc manuscripts are in the NSZL Manuscript Collection today, the time frame for the exhibition was defined as ranging from the beginnings of book printing to our days. Our stocks contain works dealing with different branches of art. This is where we selected the main themes for the first section of our exhibition, namely books about art. One of the oldest items was Étienne Du Pérac's first edition of "*I vestigi dell' antichita di Roma*", in which the 16th century French architect was introduced the antique Rome in line engravings. Joachim von Sandrart's eight-volume series, "*Teutsche Academie der edlen Bau-, Bild-, und Mahlerey-Künste*" is one of

the main theoretical work and source of German art history; our exhibition featured its second edition dating back to the 18th century. Johannes Kip's highly significant "*Nouveau theatre de la Grande Bretagne*" (London, 1727) demonstrates the architectural gems of 18th century England in beautiful elaborate engravings. Among the art history albums, special attention is due to Karl von Lützwow's "*Die Kunstschätze Italens*", the book from which we introduced a Madonna relief by Michelangelo in a beautiful engraving. With its high-quality typography and binding this volumes represents the German book art movement as well. Hungarian bibliophilia is represented by two works of Dezso Malonyai. "*The Pioneers of Hungarian Visual Art*" (Budapest, 1905) is especially noteworthy with its handmade paper and magnificent woodcut Art Nouveau ornaments

Írisz Balogh: *Pop-up Chronicle* (2009)
János Thuróczy: *Chronica Hungarorum*.
Augsburg, 1488, Erhardt Ratold

The second section of our exhibition displayed art books from the masterpieces of the "Hungarian





Meisterwerke der Holzschnieekunst... 1879, J.J. Weber.
 Dezső Malonyai: *The Pioneers of Hungarian Visual Art.*
 Budapest, 1905, Franklin Society

Artists' Society of Books as Art Objects" and the local secondary art school's teachers. We managed to win well-known artists for the event, with one piece by András Butak, Ilona Kiss, Tibor Pataki, Krisztián Stroe and Wanda Szyksznian and others. Next to contemporary books, we placed old ones matching either in their theme or their binding, thus creating exciting new installations. One of the most successful pieces on display was produced by Írisz Balogh, whose "*Pop-up Chronicle*" was inspired by János Thuróczy's "*Chronica Hungarorum*."

The third stream of the exhibition presented the relationship of books and art from an interesting per-

spective, looking at books as models for fine arts: collages by Piros Hegedus B, montages by György Szeifert, lithographs by Attila Szabadvári and paintings by Vera Balogh, Barna Földesi and András Lengyel were all visual realizations of the book as such. These pieces were hung on the walls of the museum library's corridor.

Within the framework of the Night of Museums series of events, General Director István Monok opened the exhibition on 21st June and by the end of September it had been visited by over 6400 people.

The organizers of the successful exhibition were Gábor Németh, Attila Szabadvári and György Szeifert.

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