The first event of the ART IN EXILE series is the fine arts exhibition

BELATED HOMECOMING

The works of EDIT BÁN KISS, BÉLA MÉSZÖLY MUNKÁS and ZSIGMOND WITTMANN are virtually unknown to art professionals. They lived in exile, forced to leave their country because of their Jewish origins, and they have metaphorically remained in exile, since they have either been forgotten or their works never known at all.

The aim of this exhibition is to return these artists to their well-deserved place in the Hungarian art scene. At the same time, their lives and art may give us a better insight into history and the role of the individual in it.

70 artworks will be displayed together with some historical documents, which have been made available to us by French, German and Hungarian museums and collectors.

Professional guides may be requested, and educational programs are available to visitors over the period of the exhibition.

ORGANISERS

MAIN ORGANISERS:
Júlia Cserba
Marianna Török

HISTORIAN, MUSEOLOGIST:
Judit Molnár (PhD) historical consultant
Helmut Bauer (PhD) historian
Éva Vizi

ASSISTANTS:
Zsófia Farkas
Zsuzsanna Török

TECHNICAL EXECUTIVE:
Istvan Steffanits, ACCESS Bt.

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VISITOR’S INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS:
Tuesday to Sunday 10:00–18:00

TICKETS:
Full price  800 HUF / Reduced price 400 HUF / Student 100 HUF

ADDRESS:
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER
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SUPPORTED BY:

MEDIA PARTNERS:

Works by Edit Bán Kiss, Béla Mészöly Munkás and Zsigmond Wittmann

17 April – 15 August 2010
Edit Bán Kiss (1905–1966)

Born in Budapest, studied sculpture in Dusseldorf. In 1944 she was deported to Ravensbrück where she attempted suicide. From December 1944 she worked as a forced labourer in the Daimler–Benz factory. She managed to escape in April 1945 and a few months later an exhibition of the drawings she made of her time in the camp opened in Budapest. In 1947–1948 she completed a four-part relief for the exterior wall of the synagogue in Újpest. She later moved to live in Morocco, France and Great Britain. Edit Bán Kiss committed suicide in 1966. Her works are made available to us by the National Gallery in Budapest and also by Dr Helmuth Bauer, a German historian.

Béla Mészöly Munkás (1889–1942)

Béla Mészöly Munkás – also known as the “globetrotting painter” – was born in 1889. His father, József Messinger, changed his surname to Mészöly and the painter, who had left-wing sympathies, added the name “Munkás” meaning “worker”. In 1918 he was still a member of the Free School in Nagybánya but from spring 1920 onwards he travelled all over Europe before finally settling in Paris. He remained a member of the National Salon until 1938. On 22nd June 1942, he was arrested by the French authorities and deported. He died in the Auschwitz concentration camp on 3rd October 1942. His works have been made available to us by French collectors, the Nagyházi Gallery and Auction House and the Hungarian Jewish Museum.

Zsigmond Wittmann (1909–1944)

He enrolled in the College of Fine Arts in 1929, but the following year moved to Berlin to continue his studies. After Hitler’s election, he protested against the regime by distributing his own posters. In 1933 he was forced to flee to Paris. He quickly became a member of the Montparnasse community and later volunteered for the French Army. He died from his wounds in 1944. Only a few of his works are still in existence. Besides the works from French collectors, two paintings are on display that are borrowed from the Musée d’Art et d’Histoire du Judaïsme in Paris.