

The Hungarian Contemporary Art Galleries Association

Press- release of first half 2011

The Hungarian Contemporary Art Galleries Association is the only non-profit organization in Hungary, whose primary objective is to improve recognition and development of the Hungarian contemporary art market with the support of the collaboration of commercial art galleries. However, the Association wishes to represent the rights of its members not only on the Hungarian but also on the international art market in the future. The role of the Association is essential in the creation and stimulation of communication within the contemporary art scene. It provides guidance for collectors, since the 21 member galleries represent nearly 300 cutting edge artists of different generations. In order to gain membership of the Association a gallery has to be at least 2 years old and has to provide a professional exhibition portfolio. All member-galleries consider it to be very important to popularize contemporary art and to introduce their represented artists both on national and international level.

The newly formed (2010) Contemporary Art Galleries Association expanded its membership and after the changes taken place at the beginning of 2011 in the presidency, it entered the practical scene of contemporary art life with renewed power and fresh objectives.

In the past months the Association started a dialogue with state cultural organizations and introduced its suggestions in favor of the development of the Hungarian art market. The Association would like to fight to eliminate anomalies, which are due to unsettled legal regulations of the Hungarian art market. For example a reduction of the 25% VAT tax rate on contemporary artworks is proposed, and also that contemporary works of art should be derived for companies according to certain criteria and that individuals should get the tax reduction in case of purchase of contemporary art works.

The communication of the Association with similar foreign organizations primary in the Central and Eastern European region is extremely important in order to create an internationally operating legal framework and in order to integrate Hungarian art galleries within the international art market.

In recent years there is an increased attention to the contemporary art and a growing interest in collecting art in Hungary, which is primary advocated by those professional commercial galleries who are united in the Association. In our country approximately 100 visual artists graduate per year, so for the dedicated talents a gallery system is crucial, because the contemporary art galleries play a prominent role in Hungarian art life, they discover, support and manage artists in Hungary and at the same time they represent a significant number of artists on international exhibitions, exchange programs and international art fairs.

Contemporary art is a very lively forum for creating values and communicating between countries and cultures, here the Association would like to take a distinctive role. The international representation of culture is a very important element of the image-building of the

country, and the formation of a positive international opinion of Hungary. Therefore, the Contemporary Art Galleries Association emphasizes the support of the member galleries' participation on international art fairs, since the galleries' common aim is to attach and give a good position to Hungarian art in the international contemporary art market.

It is a positive phenomena that has occurred in recent years that more and more Hungarian artists are represented on international art fairs by the galleries. This growing tendency has started in the first half of 2011. This year it is again the contemporary art fair of Vienna, the VIENNAFAIR between 12 - 15 May, where most Hungarian galleries - six this time - the acb Gallery, Faur Zsófi - Ráday Gallery, Inda Gallery, Knoll Gallery, Molnár Ani Gallery and Viltin Gallery represented their artists. Due to its geographical proximity, this art fair is the most popular among Hungarian art lovers.

It is good news that in this year in June there was the first Hungarian participation in the name of the Vintage gallery on one of the most prestigious international art fairs, the 42nd Art Basel. The number of visitors of Art Basel exceeded sixty-thousand people last year.

In the first half of the year it was the Inda and the Viltin galleries who participated on the most international art fairs, besides Viennafair the Inda Gallery got into the Volta Show in New York which is a satellite art fair of the Armory Show and into ArtParis in France, the Viltin Gallery participated in the Spanish ARCOmadrid and in Art Dubai. Also Knoll Gallery represented its artists on ARCOmadrid this year.

It was also the first time that Deák Erika Gallery participated in a prestigious art fair in Cologne called ARTCOLOGNE. It was the second time for the abc Gallery to exhibit artists on the art fair in Hong Kong, called ART HK' 11 in May. Furthermore, the Kálmán Maklár Fine Arts participated in Brafa'11 art fair in Brussels, the NextArt Gallery exhibited its artists at the Scope Art Show in New York and the Kisterem Gallery participated for the third time in the 16th LISTE art fair in Basel.

Member Galleries of the Hungarian Contemporary Art Galleries Association: acb Galéria, Artel Galéria, B55 Kortárs Galéria, Deák Erika Galéria, Dovin, Godot Galéria, INDA Galéria, Kálmán Maklár Fine Arts, Kisterem Galéria, Knoll Galéria, Körmendi Galéria, Mission Art, Molnár Ani Galéria, Mono Kortárs Galéria, NextArt Galéria, Peter Wilhelm Art Center, Faur Zsófi -Ráday Galéria, Várfok Galéria, Videospace Galéria, VILTIN Galéria, Vintage Galéria

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