



1994

HUNGARIAN
STUDIES

Papers of an International Conference at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the
University of California, Santa Barbara, on the occasion of the exhibition
Standing in the Tempest: Painters of the Hungarian Avant-Garde, 1908-1930.

HUNGARIAN STUDIES

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ON THE COVER: Lajos Kassák, Noise, 1920, collage
and ink on paper. Lent by Kunsthalle Nürnberg.

Culture and Society in Early 20th-Century Hungary



Papers of an
International Conference at the
Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the
University of California, Santa Barbara,
on the occasion of the exhibition
*Standing in the Tempest: Painters of
the Hungarian Avant-Garde, 1908–1930.*

April 11–13, 1991

Edited by Tibor Frank

ISSUE EDITOR'S PREFACE

The present issue of Hungarian Studies offers articles that were originally presented as papers at an international conference jointly organized by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the University of California, Santa Barbara, April 11–13, 1991. Part of Hungarian Spring 1991, a major Hungarian–American cultural festival in Santa Barbara, this conference was one of the events that were originally drawn to California by the exhibition Standing in the Tempest: Painters of the Hungarian Avant-Garde, 1908–1930. A unique tribute to the scholarship and dedication of Steven A. Mansbach, Guest Curator of the exhibition, this was probably the single most important presentation of Hungarian avant-garde art in or out of Hungary. It was also Dr. Mansbach who edited the catalog of the exhibition, now a basic handbook and, in 1993, a precious bibliographical rarity indeed. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, then under the able and pioneering directorship of Richard V. West, was a perfect host of the exhibition and contributed to the conference in a major way.

Having served as Conference Director in Santa Barbara, the present Editor is eager to register his gratitude to the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center of UCSB which elected him a Resident Fellow and supported this project in all conceivable ways, morally, technically, and financially. Special thanks are due to Professor Paul Hernadi, then Director of the Center, who provided a much needed institutional framework and constant encouragement, and to Randi Glick for years of patient and unfailing assistance. The success and impact of the conference was largely a result of their effort.

The conference was made possible also by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Soros Foundation/Hungary of New York and Budapest. Several Departments of UCSB also contributed to this event, such as English, History, Political Science, and Psychology; Germanic, Slavic and Oriental Languages and Literatures; the Global Peace and Security Program, and the College of Creative Studies.

Included here is a representative selection of the conference papers (a few speakers refrained from publishing their text), which will contribute to the understanding of the achievement and sophistication of culture in early 20th century Hungarian society. Hopefully, the memory and example of this outstanding period will help us recreate the diversity and productive richness of Hungary's culture.

Tibor Frank