

Ázbej & Ázbej

ALGIERS – BUDAPEST – PARIS

27 July – 11 September 2016

Venue: Műcsarnok Chamber Room

Interlinking generations, the co-operation of fathers and their children in the arts and disciplines make for inexhaustible, exciting and enlightening stories. An exhibition of father and son is proof positive that renewal need not begin by sweeping away the past, but often quite the contrary. The concept of this exhibition is to present some snapshots of intertwinements and junctions, without a specific system or judgement.

Architect father, artist son, each creating a unique architectural and artistic oeuvre. The exhibition presents the work of Sándor Ázbej and his son Kristóf.

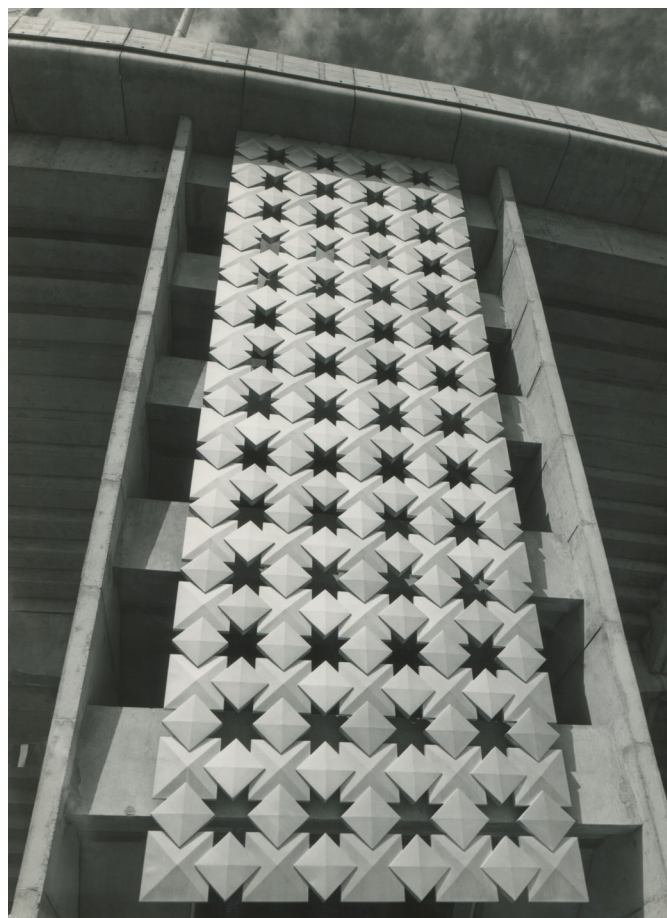
Sándor Ázbej (1913–1998) was a Miklós Ybl Award-winning architect who designed, and coordinated the construction of, the 5 July 1962 Stadium in Algiers. His work paved the way for Hungarian-Algerian technical co-operation that went on for over two decades. Although it was modelled on the People's Stadium in Budapest, then just a few years old, the

Algerian stadium surpassed it in architectural and technical terms. It is an impressive building by international standards, serving the needs of the age in every respect.

Between the late 1960s and the end of the 1980s Hungarian architects and engineers built some 160s facilities around Algiers. The buildings and facilities continue to serve as an organic part of Algeria's architectural and technical infrastructure.

Kristóf Ázbej (1953) claims to have become attracted to the arts in the family environment. His most important work is a 52-square-metre giant, panoramic collage, which he worked on for fifteen years from 1981 onwards in his two-room studio apartment near Paris (Bagneux).

Sándor Ázbej: 5 July 1962 Stadium



Time capsule, Kunstkammer, palimpsest game

The Bagneux panorama is the first item in the project entitled The Great Wall / The Biggest Map of Human Endeavor. Evocative of ancient cave art and the supercomputers (big data science) of recent times, the dazzlingly colourful ensemble of images is an imprint of human cultural history.

With a curious, mosaic-structured form and special aesthetic quality, the encyclopaedic collage wall/or-nament affords viewers an amazing time travel.

Taking down the giant panoramic collage, transporting it to Hungary, restoring it and rebuilding a 1:1 replica of the original studio was supported by the Ministry of Human Resources and the National Cultural Fund in 2014–2015.

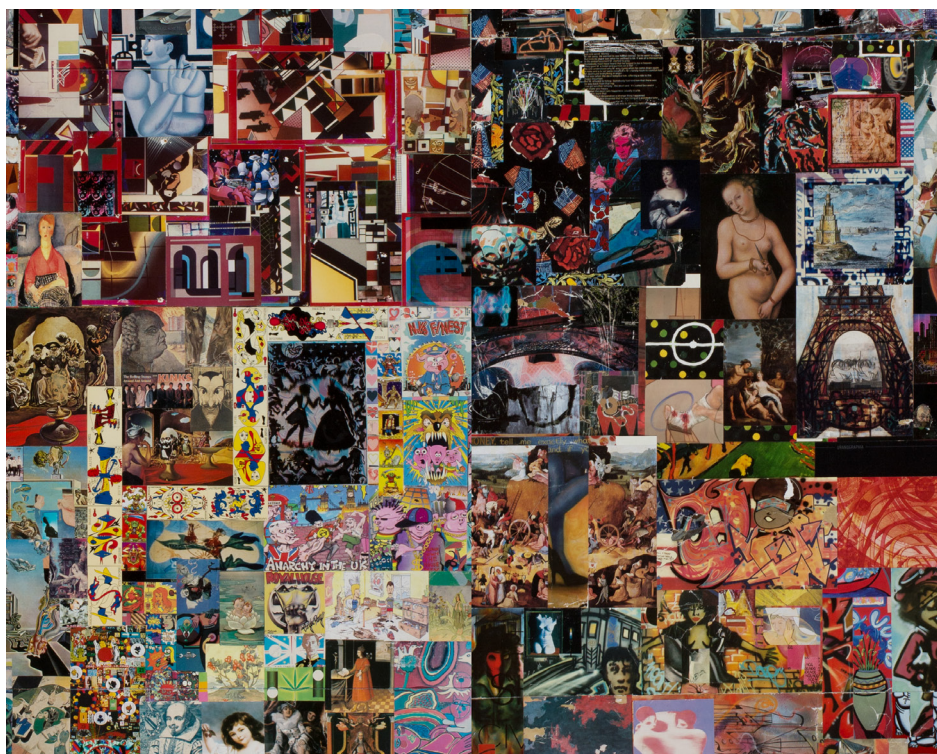
The collage will be open to public viewing for the first time in the Műcsarnok.

The Hari Seldon labyrinth

At the invitation of the French Millennium Commemorative Committee, in the summer of 1997 the architect father and the artist son worked in the concept of a world memorial. The world memorial took its name from one of the protagonists of Isaac Asimov's Foundation trilogy. The exhibition will present visualisations of the memorial that was never built, allowing an insight into the creative phases of what might be called a Gesamtkunstwerk megaproject.

Exhibition in the exhibition – Popup7 at the Műcsarnok

In the finissage week of the show the artist studio apartment will become a temporary exhibition space with one-day pop-up shows of artists including Károly Elekes, Pista Horror, Adél Kuli, Gábor Szinte, János Szinte, Tayler Patrick, Erik Tollas and Orsolya Vető.



Kristóf Ázbej: The Great Wall / The Biggest Map of Human Endeavor (detail)