

## ARTWORK INFORMATION

Artist: Kristóf Ázbej born 1953

Title: *The Biggest Map of Human Endeavor (The Initial Segment)*

Installation Title: *Musée X-Point-Zéro*

Alternative Titles: *Grotto One, Memory Motel, The Big Memory Generator, Eulogium Memorabilia, The Great Wall of Human Adventure*

Date: 1981 - 1996

Technique: double-sided collage

Medium: printed papers, transparencies, adhesive tapes, ink

Dimensions: 230 x 2150 cm

Installation Dimensions: 2.8 m (H) x 10 m (L) x 4 m (W)

Original Location: Bagneux (France) (moved from location in 2014)



Installation view at Műcsarnok - Kunsthalle Budapest, 2016.

Photos by András Alapfy and György Márió Kóvári



## HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

In 1981, Hungarian artist Kristóf Ázbej established the Musée X-Point-Zéro (Grotto One Gallery) in Bagneux, a suburb of Paris. Between 1981 and 1996, he assembled a 52 square meter encyclopedic mega-collage that contiguously covers the interior walls of the Museum. Evocative of ancient cave art, Renaissance wunderkammers and the supercomputers of recent times, the dazzlingly colorful ensemble of images is an imprint of human cultural history. With a curious, mosaic-structured form and special aesthetic quality, the collage wall/ornament affords viewers an amazing time travel.

Blending past and present, the kaleidoscopic time capsule cyclorama sums up the experience of the development and methods of century-old collage and montage. The artist likens the principle of the collage wall to the Bayeux tapestry, by which refers to the narrativity, and chronicle-like character. However, there are many other historical analogies, including mediaeval wall paintings, the storytelling panels of winged altars, the “picture walls” in the Rococo halls of the Bratislava City Museum, panorama painting, popular in Europe in the 19th century, Cubist and Allan Kaprow-type collages, environments and assemblages, as well as the dé/collage of the French “Neo-Realists” or Gerhard Richter's “Atlas” and Aby Warburg's “Mnemosyne Atlas”.

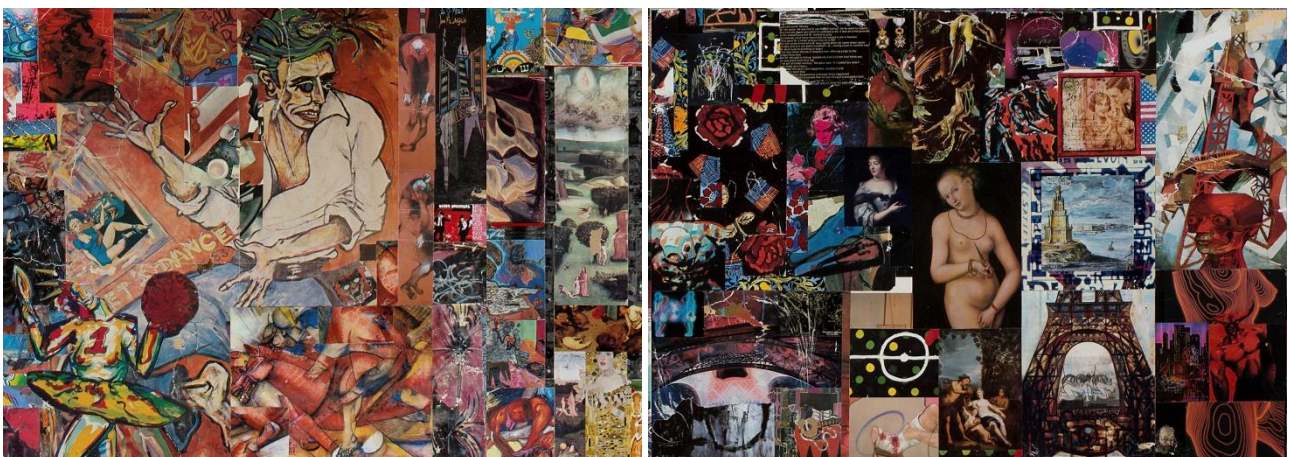
The starting point of the Bagneux collage walls was 1960s Pop Art. Subsequently the walls took on more and more layers of meaning, creating unique conceptual “condensations of time and images”. Exploring the crucial aspects of the knowledge-memory-imagination-image relation, cultural memory and the theme of erecting memorials, the artwork is, in addition to its summarising intentions, a grandiose document of post-WW2 culture.

In 2014, supported by the Ministry of Human Capacities and the National Cultural Fund of Hungary the mural-collage, entitled *“The Biggest Map of Human Endeavor”* was removed from its original location in France and transported to Budapest, Hungary. The artwork was successfully restored in 2015, and an exact copy of the museum-apartment was built as a portable modular unit in order to display the mural as it travels from venue to venue.

The Musée X-Point-Zéro show was premiered at Múcsarnok - Kunsthalle Budapest in July 26 - September 11, 2016, and was on display at Art Market Budapest, October 13-16, 2016. The installation was on view at REÖK Regional Art Center, March 31 - April 30, 2017, in Szeged, Hungary.

**A continually evolving and growing piece of artwork including complex interactive, multimedia, and virtual reality environments and architectural settings.**

The artist plans to take the show on an international tour. In conjunction with the travelling exhibition, he plans to add further units to the work in collaboration with artists from all around the world.



*The Biggest Map of Human Endeavor* (details)



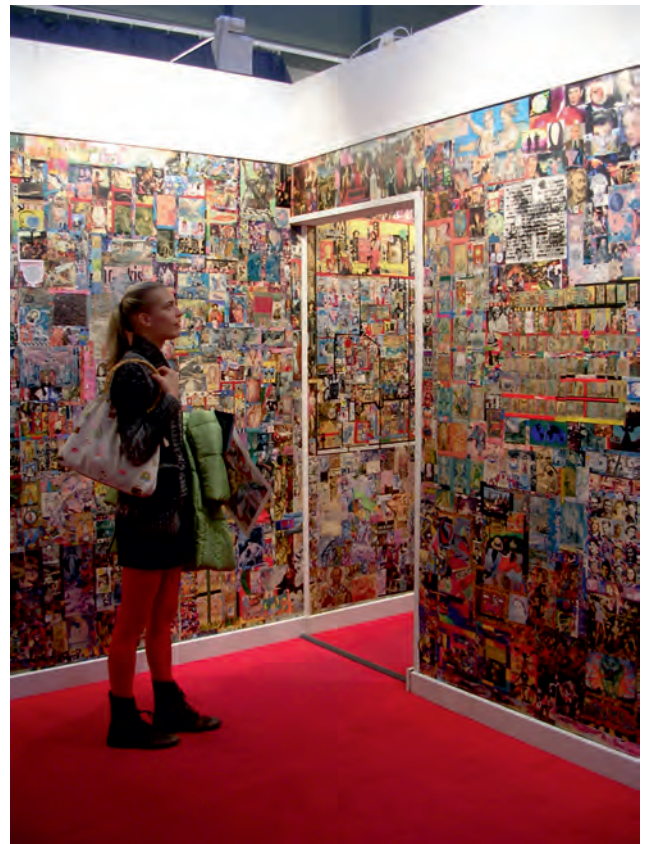


© PHOTO BY DAVID BIRÓ / ARTKARTELL



Visitors of the installation „Musée X-Point Zéro” at Art Market Budapest 2016, in Budapest, Hungary





Visitors of the installation „Musée X-Point Zéro” at Art Market Budapest 2016, in Budapest, Hungary





Visitors inside the installation „Musée X-Point Zéro” at Art Market Budapest 2016, in Budapest, Hungary