

Transcending subject

EXHIBITION

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THE softly, delicately worked pristine nude studies, still lifes of facing flowers, expressive landscapes, incisive portraits of village characters and members of his family, all conjure up a unique world in which painter **József Soproni Horváth** (1891-1961) lived and worked. This memorial exhibition pays tribute to him and to a specific, special time and place in Hungary.

Horváth was born in Sopron, and lived out his entire life there; teaching drawing, painting, and anatomy, in the classical academic tradition.

He was said to be a wonderful teacher, who imparted more than rudimentary knowledge and stiff rules to his students.

His pedagogical approach transcended the subject matter, spilling over into all disciplines. His fine character and simple, retiring, dignified manners imparted to his students the

ethics and esthetics of living in a harmonious world in which art, poetry and life were one.

He trained an entire generation of Hungary's architects, who are practicing today the world over.

Each of his works has a strong aura, a life of its own, which binds the viewer under its spell, taking him back to the Hungary of days gone by, into a world in an indeterminate time before all the horrors and fears which permeate today came to be.

We can now enjoy Horváth's hermetic, ethereal world, and the essence of the lovely city of Sopron, thanks to **Barnabas Winkler**, owner of the **HAP Galéria**.

A native of Sopron himself, architect Winkler created the unique space of this beautiful little gallery as a light, clean haven to step into from noisy, drab Margit körút. Winkler's architectural offices, **Hungaro-Austro Plan** (HAP) are on the 6th floor.

"József Soproni Horváth encouraged my father to be an architect, and was his teacher," said Winkler at the opening ceremony, which took place in the courtyard of the apartment building out

of whose former *fiázmester lakás* (building superintendent's area) Winkler fashioned the gallery, cooled by huge chestnut trees.

"We brought together these matchless works from private collections and museums, to present a sampling of the work by one of Hungary's great teachers."

The illustrated catalogue (in Hungarian) is available for Ft100, and a documentary film showing the painter working, teaching and conversing, is shown intermittently during the exhibition.

INFORMATION

Memorial exhibition for **József Soproni Horváth**, painter
(1891-1961)

HAP Galéria
1027 Margit körút 24
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www.hap.hu

Open: weekdays, 2-7^{pm}, or by special arrangement
Until July 21, 2006

