

## **LAJOS SÍRÓ'S EXHIBITION – OPENING CEREMONY – 15/10/2021 – ARTIKON GALLERY**

We are here again, in this lovely place, on this special day that we have been waiting for a long time. When the arts program of Artikon Gallery was launched three years ago, we had no idea about the advent of such incredible events and we thought that we would not have any chance to meet and spend time together for an uncertain period of time.

The last half a year has changed everyone's life at some extents and affected almost everyone in various ways all over the world. We had to face severe losses, hardships and we were also forced to experience the fragility of existence. However, we could witness the heart-breaking moments of solidarity and cooperation as well.

It has been a test for all of us. Many people started to examine themselves, their goals, results, and their failures. As we did.

During the time of lockdowns and doubts, the power of arts means a lot of help for many people. Artists were diligently working and trying to convey their thoughts for all of us. We could listen to online concerts and follow online guided tours, as well as we had time to watch movies and read books. The fostering power of arts could help us strengthen our soul as it does in any other time and situation.

We would also like to contribute to this, we aim to convey in a simple and clear way about the versatile universe of arts. We have a huge desire to become a connection between the artist and the audience. We endeavour to approach you through providing some pieces of arts we absolutely believe in.

Lajos Síró works as a successful graphic designer and a photographer. His works have been presented at many international and several national exhibitions; he has received a lot of significant acknowledgements.

Besides his graphic designer studies at the College of Nyíregyháza, he has always been open to other branches of arts and different genres. He is currently dealing with graphic arts and painting beyond photography. He got close to photography during his college years; he was heavily impressed by the intensive photography life in Nyíregyháza. In this sphere he had the chance to meet his excellent colleagues who made him possible to become acquainted with photography in a deeper and comprehensive way.

Lajos Síró is also an art teacher. He teaches in Tiszaújváros and his studio is always open for the ones who are interested in this field. One of his characteristic features is his selfless behaviour; he completely shares the experience of his arts with others. These are exceedingly rare characteristics from a strong, individualist artist. Despite it, Lajos Síró owns this personality and attitude.

He impressively talks about the magnificent world of photography, about his artistic ideas, individual recipes and mythical ingredients. About his explorations in which he experiments with substances, materials, methods, and chemicals.

The infinite process of searching, experimentation has a huge influence on him because curiosity fundamentally defines his artistic attitude. He is not afraid of failures; he rather regards them as natural inferences. They highly stimulate the artist towards new solutions and explorations. He adopts an intense and disciplined work-method enabling him to play.

It is enviable how much inner profusion characterizes the artist and can be reflected in his works. Deep, spiritual aquarelles enriched with emotions, memories, and thoughts are standing in front of our eyes. They truly look like paintings and graphics reminiscent of fine arts-artifacts. It is an immeasurably delicate and gentle light-painting.

If we remember the birth of photography, magnificent versatility can be found among the inventors and reformers. Since the 19th century, several astrologists, painters, physicians, sculptors, chemists, specialists, and amateur photographers have sought the solutions for imaging the world in different ways beyond paintings and graphics. They longed for simple techniques overlapping the artistic demands as well, but at same time anyone could adopt them. It is impressive to follow what secret discoveries and inventions enabled the birth of the first photograph and the first photo camera; what cooperation, agreements, and compromises were needed for the individual inventing results to unite.

The process that aimed to establish an easily accessible, fast photographic technology could have ruined the artistic photography. However, something else happened instead. After the release of every technical achievement, the highly-qualified layer of photography as art and profession could remain over years. Artistic photography has not been disturbed by mass photography. Even after the global digital emergence, they are clearly separated.

Some artists endeavour to apply the most modern technologies to make their unique visual world, while others work with analogue techniques that were used in the golden age of photography and they try to acquire unique techniques via experimentations.

Lajos Síró also belongs to this group. He is an enthusiastically deepened artist. The contemplative man is constantly perceptible in his works; he reads many books and studies on philosophical topics. This intellectual openness, hypersensitivity, is reflected in his works.

Cyanotype and silver colloid, iron salts, ferric ammonium citrate, red blood salt, alcohol and ether, silver nitrate, iron sulphate. Lots of mystical words, chemicals, callers, fixers, sensitized glass sheets, sheets of paper, wet and dry glass procedures... Even a lifetime is not enough to learn and love these techniques. Or only a lifetime would be enough.

Lajos Síró's life is something like this. Rich life pursuing the industrious work, disciplined methods, the curious, playful courage, and satisfaction. This harmony and warmth can be experienced before the works.

Portraits... we do not know them, but we do not have to know them to feel that there is an important spiritual link between them and the artist. Thus, we lean closer and try to feel them. Suggestive and soft faces, charismatic and tenderly emotional people. Melting soft surfaces and sharp edges. The Man. All sorts and interesting in many ways. The Precious.

Objects... abandoned or arranged objects. Tables, chairs, shoes.

How much poetry is there in a father's ceremonial clothes set precisely on a chair or in a girl holding fruit in her hands?

Stories, emotions are revealed. We received the gift of remembering from the artist.

Human relationships, past and remaining emotions, family reunions, abandoned places, trips. The scenes of gaming, cruising, coffee sessions, and contemplations. Thought-provoking scenes inked with melancholy. Lacks and remains. We have got an impression as if the artist put us next to him when contemplating and looking around amid his deepest thoughts.

When you become acquainted with Lajos Síró's complete lifework that you can follow on his constantly updating website, you can discover his series of work about unique space and object details. Such objects, spaces, and surfaces attract the artist we do not focus on at all; however, they are so familiar...

Because we were exactly the same at the time of our discovering and prying childhood. We watched exactly these details. Lajos Síró lifts us back to ourselves, to the staggeringly clear, immaculate, and amazing state full of confidence.

Once we sat on these chairs, we looked at these clothes, objects, fruits, flowers this way, once we played under these trees, and once we stared at the carpet-patterns this way in these dark rooms. A long-long time ago... when we wanted to understand the world at the first time. However, we have received back the lost time right now. And this feeling can stay inside permanently.

Sensitized surfaces, emulsion-coated photosensitive papers, and Hasselblad, and favourite cameras, optics. So far, these would be just tools, but we get the artist himself with them.

Our sensitization has just begun. Thank You!

Németh Erika