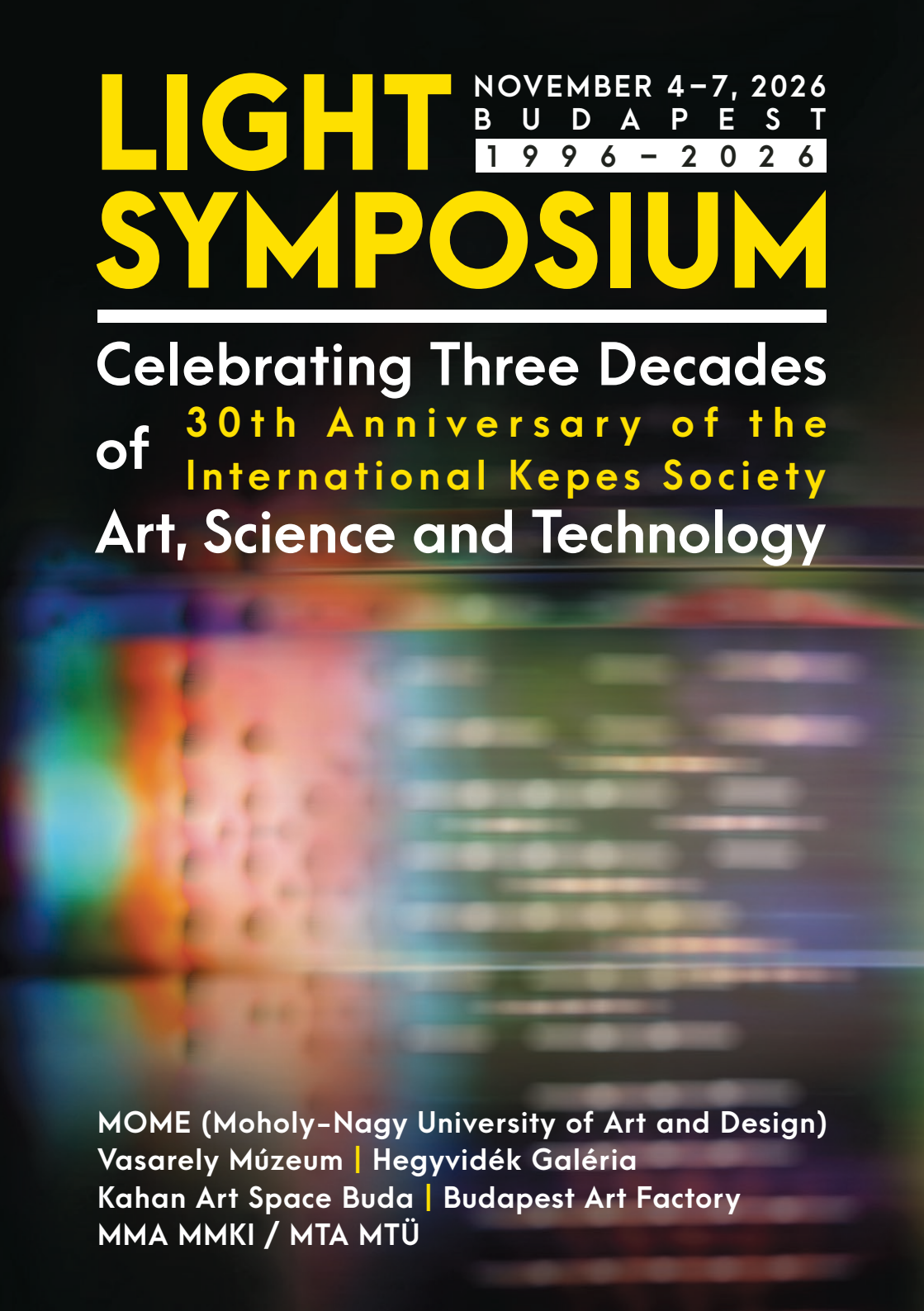
LIGHT SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 4–7, 2026
BUDAPEST
1996 – 2026

Celebrating Three Decades of Art, Science and Technology

30th Anniversary of the International Kepes Society



MOME (Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design)
Vasarely Múzeum | Hegyvidék Galéria
Kahan Art Space Buda | Budapest Art Factory
MMA MMKI / MTA MTÜ

Wednesday, November 4

Vasarely Múzeum
1033 Budapest, Szentlélek tér 6.

4:00 PM **Konstantin Akinsha** (independent curator, Kyiv, Ukraine)
F Is for "Fake": The International Dissemination of "Russian Avant-Garde" Forgeries and How It Can Be Prevented

Admission to the lecture is included with a valid museum ticket.

Thursday, November 5

Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME)
1121 Budapest, Zugligeti út 9–25.

9:30 AM registration

10:00 AM **László Zsolt Bordos** (independent artist, co-President, International Kepes Society)
Welcome Address

10:10 AM **Márton Orosz** (art historian, curator, co-President, International Kepes Society)
Luminomania: The Promises and Failures of Light-Based Media

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

10:30 AM **Tamiko Thiel** (independent artist, Munich, Germany / recipient of SIGGRAPH Distinguished Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement in Digital Art)
Thinking with Machines: Exploring the Challenges of Design Aesthetics in Science

COFFEE BREAK

GENERATIVE HISTORIES

11:50 AM **Daria Mille** (curator, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany)
The Politics of Synthetic Images: Art in the Age of AI

12:10 PM **Lívia Nolasco-Rózsás** (University College London, UK)
Matter, Non-Matter, Anti-Matter: Exhibitions as Digital Experiences

12:30 PM **Francesca Franco** (independent curator, Venice, Italy)
From Vera Molnár to the Venice Biennale. Women Pioneers of Generative Art and the Rewriting of Media Art History

LUNCH

THE DARK SIDE OF PERCEPTION

2:00 PM **Eszter Polonyi & Sašo Grozdanov** (Kunstuniversität Linz, Austria; Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics, University of Edinburgh)
Black Holes, Black Boxes, and the Situated Observer

2:20 PM **Daniel A. Freedman** (Uzhhorod National University, Ukraine)
The Unheard Half of Light

ARTIST TALKS

2:40 PM **Vinzenz Aubry** (independent artist, Berlin, Germany – Copenhagen, Denmark)
Embodied Cinema: The Audience as Camera and Screen at Once

3:00 PM **Pascal Dombis** (independent artist, Paris, France)
Multiplying Points of View. Experiments with Lenticular-Based Media

COFFEE BREAK

3:35 PM **Éva B. Csonka** (Berlin, Germany, IRCAM "Orchestra of the Future" research group)
Temporary Utopias

3:55 PM **Graham Smith** (independent artist, Toronto, Canada / founder of Virtual Reality Artist Access Program)
Human Perception of Panoramic Space

4:15 PM **Shawn Brixey** (School of the Arts, College of Engineering, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia, USA)
The Second Aether

COFFEE BREAK

5:00 PM **Lora Likova** (Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco, USA)
Harnessing the Power of Art for Brain Plasticity & Neurorehabilitation

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5:20 PM GYÖRGY KEPES' *CAVS* + *FRANK MALINA'S LEONARDO – THEN AND NOW*
"The Pleasure of Light" revisited
Nina Czegledy (independent curator, Toronto, Canada, Leonardo/ISAST board member, co-curator of *Pleasure of Light*), **Raphael Arar** (independent artist, Portland, USA, Leonardo/ISAST board member), **Roger Malina** (Distinguished Professor of Art and Technology, University of Texas, Dallas, USA and former chief editor of *Leonardo*), **Ryszard W. Kluszczynski** (Director of the Transdisciplinary Centre for Arts and Science Research, University of Łódź, Poland), **Róna Kopeczky** (art historian, curator at acb Gallery, Budapest; co-curator of *Pleasure of Light)*

Kahan Art Space Buda
1116 Budapest, Gyapot utca 4.

7:00 PM EXHIBITION OPENING AND RECEPTION, **AFTERGLOW**
(curators: Nina Czegledy, Joel Ong, Márton Orosz)
opening speech: Oliver A. I. Botar (Professor of Art History and Associate Director, School of Art, University of Manitoba, Canada)

Friday, November 6

Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME)
1121 Budapest, Zugligeti út 9–25.

9:30 AM registration

FROM THE EYE TO THE MIND

10:00 AM **Flóra Zsófia Fedor** (neuroscientist, research project manager at BrainVisionCenter, Budapest, Hungary)
Learning to See the Brain. From György Kepes's Language of Vision to Innovations in Neuroscience

10:20 AM **Hrysovalanti Maheras** (media artist and researcher, Toronto, York University, Canada)
Corpus Hormē: Affect Between Body, Environment, and Machine

10:40 AM **Renáta Cserjési** (neuropsychologist, Associate Professor, Head of the EMIND Neuropsychology Research Group, Budapest), **Viola Lukács** (curator, writer, Director of Curatorial Affairs at 0xCollection, Basel, Switzerland), **Andrea Sztojánovits** (artist, media arts researcher, Budapest)
12 Hertz: Experimental Art & Science Research Network

11:00 AM **Márta Novák** (somnologist and psychologist, University of Toronto, Canada)
Here Comes the Sun: Light, Darkness, and the Biology of Being Human

COFFEE BREAK

ARTIST TALKS

11:40 AM **Robert Seidel** (independent artist, Berlin, Germany)
Between Spectral Abstraction and Latent Space

12:00 PM **Joel Ong** (University of Victoria, Research Chair of Emergent Digital Art Practices, Victoria, Canada)
Frozen Sound: Revealing the Relations Between People, Objects and Spaces

12:20 PM **Adrien Lucca** (Studio Adrien Lucca, Brussels, Belgium)
Ecological Colour: A Journey Through the Spectrum of Light

12:40 PM **Pietro Pirelli** (independent artist and inventor, co-founder of AGON, Milan, Italy)
When Technology Disappears

LUNCH

LIGHT ART COLLECTIVES AND ART × SCIENCE LABS

2:15 PM **iii – instrument inventors initiative / Gabey Tjon a Tham**
The Hague, Netherlands
Light as a Living System: Nature, Technology and Emergent Patterns

2:35 PM **FLUXLIAN** (**Martin Flugelman Olmeda**, **Axel Rothbart**, **Lisandro Galván**)
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Bodies, Prostheses and Collective Choreographies of Light

2:55 PM **NOKS Collective** (**Robert Sochacki**, **Wera Morawiec**)
Wrocław, Poland
From Waking the System to Worlding: Light as a Creative Tool

3:15 PM **Ryszard W. Kluszczynski** (Director of the Transdisciplinary Centre for Arts and Science Research, University of Łódź)
Łódź, Poland
Art and Science Meeting: Towards Transdisciplinarity

3:35 PM **Ming-Yi Gyorgy Tsai** (Wen-Ying Tsai Foundation, New York, Conservation Director)
Basel, Switzerland
Transgenerational Cybernetic Art

COFFEE BREAK

IMMERSION UNBOUND

4:20 PM **David Rokeby** (Toronto, Canada / multiple award winner at Ars Electronica in the field of Interactive Art)
Latent Spaces of Possibility: from Interactive Art to AI

4:40 PM **Tibor Balogh** (researcher and inventor, CEO, Holografika, Budapest)
From Holography to HoloVizio, the Holographic Universe

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

5:00 PM **Oliver A. I. Botar** (Professor of Art History and Associate Director, School of Art, University of Manitoba, Canada / recipient of the Moholy-Nagy Award, MOME)
László Moholy-Nagy's Projection Spaces

6:15 PM Closing Remarks

Budapest Art Factory + Kahan Art Space Buda

1116 Budapest, Építész utca 20.
1116 Budapest, Gyapot utca 4.

7:00 PM EXHIBITION OPENING, BUDAPEST ART FACTORY
PASCAL DOMBIS: *AFTERDOOM* (on view until January 6, 2027)

EXHIBITION FINISSAGE, KAHAN ART SPACE BUDA
AFTERGLOW

AFTERGLOW EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Raphael **ARAR** ▪ László-Albert **BARABÁSI** ▪ Gáspár **BATTHA** ▪ Bálint **BOLYGÓ** ▪ László Zsolt **BORDOS** ▪ András **BÖRÖCZ** ▪ Shawn **BRIXEY** ▪ Attila **CSÁJI** ▪ Éva B. **CSONKA** ▪ Áron **DOHNÁL** ▪ Pascal **DOMBIS** ▪ **FLUXLIAN** (Martin **FLUGELMAN OLMEDA**, Axel **ROTHBART**, Lisandro **GALVÁN**) ▪ Jan Daniel **FRITZ** ▪ Alexander **GYENES** ▪ Zsolt **GYENES** ▪ Erzsébet **HORVÁTH** ▪ Mihály G. **HORVÁTH** ▪ Dieter **JUNG** ▪ Antal **KELLE** Artformer ▪ Filiz **KLASSEN** Klára **KUCHTA** ▪ Flóra B. **LABORCZ** ▪ Willy **LE MAITRE** ▪ Joanie **LEMERCIER** ▪ Renáta **LISZI** ▪ Adrien **LUCCA** ▪ Hrysovalanti **MAHERAS** ▪ Erik **MÁTRAI** ▪ András **MENGYÁN** Antoni **MUNTADAS** ▪ András **NAGY** ▪ **NAGYMOLNÁR** (Csaba **MOLNÁR**, Krisztián **NAGY**) Ákos **NEMCSICS** ▪ Joel **ONG** & MSI Lab ▪ Pietro **PIRELLI** ▪ Ferenc **PÓCSY** ▪ David **ROKEBY** Robert **SEIDEL** ▪ Bettina **SCHUELKE** ▪ Robert **SOCHACKI** ▪ Csongor G **SZIGETI** ▪ London **TSAI** ▪ Tamiko **THIEL** ▪ Gabey **TJON A THAM** ▪ Vinzenz **AUBRY** ▪ Elaine **WHITTAKER**

Curators: Nina **CZEGLEDY**, Joel **ONG**, Márton **OROSZ**

Afterglow explores light as a physical phenomenon, an artistic medium and a means of inquiry, bringing together artists, scientists and researchers to mark the 30th anniversary of the International Kepes Society (IKS). Through analogue and digital processes, kinetic works, holography, optical illusions and sensory installations, the exhibition investigates how light shapes perception, space and embodied experience. Connecting historical traditions of light-based art with contemporary experimentation, the works explore intersections between art, science and technology, from quantum physics and cosmology to the social and political dynamics of collective life. Rather than offering definitive answers, the exhibition invites viewers to reconsider the relationship between scientific knowledge, sensory experience and artistic imagination. The title evokes the radiance that persists after its source has disappeared, as well as the enduring legacy of ideas and experiments that continue to illuminate new connections across disciplines.

The Afterglow exhibition draws on research supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



Saturday, November 7

Research Institute of Art and Art Theory, Hungarian Academy of Arts (MMA MMKI), Budapest in collaboration with the Hungarian Science Festival / Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA)

Hild Villa, 1121 Budapest, Budakeszi út 38.

3:00 PM Presentation of the ***2023 International Kepes Society Light Symposium Proceedings*** and the ***Luminothèque*** (2023, Vasarely Múzeum) exhibition catalogue

Discussion participants:
Eszter Bohus (founder of the Bohus–Lugossy Foundation), **Dr. Norbert Kroó** (physicist, former Secretary General and Vice-President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), **András Szöllősi-Nagy** (UNESCO Chairholder in Water Conflict Management), **Márton Orosz** (art historian, co-President of the International Kepes Society, curator and editor of Luminothèque), **Ferenc Pócsy** (independent artist), **Richard Robinson** (co-editor of the 2023 International Kepes Society Light Symposium Proceedings)

Hegyvidék Galéria

1126 Budapest, Királyhágó tér 10.

5:00 PM ***György Kepes. Interthinking Art + Science*** (feature-length documentary film, Hungary–Canada, directed by Márton Orosz), English with Hungarian subtitles

Participants of the post-screening discussion:
Tünde Topor (editor-in-chief of *Artmagazin*, moderator), **László Lengyel** (art historian and Kepes scholar, former head of the Art Appraisal Department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest), **András Mengyán** (kinetic artist and designer, former professor at the Bergen National Academy of the Arts, Norway), **Márton Orosz** (art historian, director of the documentary film), **Andrea Sztojánovits** (independent artist, co-founder of mïus X Attaray Visual)

No prior registration is required for any of the symposium events.

For further information about the program and to access the symposium's online livestream, please visit www.kepessociety.org

In 2026, THE INTERNATIONAL KEPES SOCIETY (IKS) marks the thirtieth anniversary of its founding. Established in 1996 at the initiative of Attila Csáji, the Society emerged from the intellectual and artistic legacy of the Light Symposia inaugurated in Eger, Hungary, in 1993. The anniversary also commemorates the 120th anniversary of the birth of György Kepes (1906–2001), whose visionary work continues to inspire new ways of thinking across art, science and technology.

Founded in 1993, the Light Symposium is the world's longest-running international forum devoted to the art of light. Over more than three decades, it has cultivated a distinctive space for interdisciplinary exchange, bringing together artists, curators, scholars, scientists and engineers. At its core lies an understanding of light not simply as a condition of vision or a vehicle of artistic expression, but as a medium in its own right—one whose aesthetic, technological, scientific, social and cultural dimensions continually invite new forms of inquiry.

Integral to the symposium since its inception, a contemporary art exhibition has offered each edition a distinct perspective on the manifold possibilities of light as an artistic medium. More than an extension or illustration of the symposium's intellectual discourse, these exhibitions constitute an independent arena for artistic experimentation and critical reflection, bringing emerging tendencies in light-based art into dialogue with innovative practices and evolving technological possibilities.

The 2026 anniversary thus celebrates not only a remarkable legacy of more than three decades, but also its continuing capacity to generate new ideas, practices and encounters. It reaffirms a living tradition of inquiry in which light becomes at once an artistic medium, a field of technological exploration and a catalyst for collaboration across disciplines. At the heart of this enduring endeavor is the conviction that the intersections of art, science and technology can open up new ways of seeing, thinking and engaging with the world.

INTERNATIONAL KEPES SOCIETY

Kepes120
Interthinking Art + Science

VASARELY MUSEUM BUDAPEST

MOHOLY-NAGY művészeti egyetem
university of art and design budapest

Eva KAHAN Foundation

HEGYVIDÉK GALÉRIA

Hungarian Academy of Arts
Research Institute of Art Theory and Methodology

BUDAPEST ART FACTORY

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

JUBILEUMI TUDOMÁNYÜNNEP 2026

MTA 200 ÉVES A MAGYAR TUDOMÁNYOS AKADÉMIA