

imagina el mundo NOBO DIGONTER KOLPONA

تَخَيَّلِ الْعَالَمَ *imagine the world* কল্পনায় জগত

logathe patti chindikyuga *képzeld el a világot*

कल्पना दुनिया की DYCHMYGWCH Y BYD *waza dunia*

FESTIVAL REPORT

HAY FESTIVAL BUDAPEST 2013



HAYFESTIVAL.ORG

AFRICA AMERICAS ASIA EUROPE MIDDLE EAST

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‘Great ideas and great fun in one of the world’s great cities: a promising mix.’

Ed Cumming, The Telegraph

The Festival



‘THE HAY FESTIVAL OPENED A WINDOW TO THE WORLD AND BROUGHT INTERNATIONAL STARS AND FRESH IDEAS TO BUDAPEST. FOR A FEW DAYS WE FELT WE LIVED IN THE CULTURAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.’

Edit Inotai, Nepszabadsag

HAY FESTIVAL BUDAPEST, 17–21 MAY 2013

It was a real challenge to seduce Budapest, a city with such an energetic intellectual life. Hay Festival in Budapest enchanted the town with memorable and lucid conversations.

The festival’s second edition has expanded in many ways; it brought a new series of stimulating debates spread over five days and in five venues, and introduced contemporary authors, poets, architects, mathematicians and musicians from around Europe and beyond to the audience in Hungary. In conversation with their Hungarian counterparts, their synergy made people think about the world both as it is and as it might be.

Artists came to Hungary from the UK, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Slovakia, Wales, Canada, Finland, Australia, Czechoslovakia and the USA, producing many great stories, which encouraged audiences to re-imagine their world. Gathered together in the Hungarian capital were international guests Nicole Krauss, Marcus du Sautoy, Odile Decq, Martha Thorne, María Dueñas, Marta del Riego, Owen Sheers, Jaap Scholten, Germaine Greer and Carl Bernstein. All re-imagined the world with Hungarian stars including Péter Balázs, Péter Esterházy, László Lovász, Zsófia Bán, Petra Finy, Gabriella Gulyás, Júlia Váradi, Csaba Mányai, Péter Závada, Márton Simon, István Pion, Mátyás Sirokai, György Dragomán and Nóra Winkler.



Hay Festival Budapest opened at the Central European University with two debates on central Europe. One focused on the role of central Europe and the Visegrad Group, with Karla Wursterová, Michal Černý and Péter Balázs, the former Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The other, with Michael E. Cox and Adam Austerfield, director of the London School of Economics, examined what the current global, political and economic changes mean for Central and Eastern Europe.

Peter Esterhazy, one of the world's greatest novelists and one of the best-known and most garlanded contemporary Hungarian writers, translated into more than 20 languages talked about his most recent novel *Not Art* and about the relationship between his narrative and his own life to Revel Guest, filmmaker and Chair of Hay Festival. As *The New Yorker* put it: 'Esterhazy's prose is jumpy, allusive, and slangy...there is vividness, an electric crackle. The sentences are active and concrete. Physical details leap from the murk of emotional ambivalence.'

The great science communicator **Marcus du Sautoy**, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University and one of the UK's leading scientists, talked to the academician and Wolf Prize-winning mathematician László Lovász. The debate began on how symmetry is a fundamental concept both in the arts and the sciences and continued into the world of mathematics. Both speakers have the ability to make maths engaging to people of all ages.

Among other international artists, the Hungarian audience had the opportunity to meet **Nicole Krauss**, one of the most important American novelists, who discussed her most recent novel *The Great House* as well as her previous books *The Story of Love* and *Man Walks into a Room* with well-known Hungarian writer Zsófia Bán.

The innovative and leading contemporary French architect **Odile Decq**, academic professor at the Ecole Spéciale d'Architecture, whose designs include the Opéra Garnier in Paris and the Macro Museum in Rome, discussed where contemporary architecture is headed, with the Executive Director of the Pritzker Prize and Associate Dean of the IE School of Architecture, Martha Thorne.

At one of the most exciting events, the audience had the chance to get to know poet and translator **George Szirtes**, who was recently awarded with two international literary prizes. The talk covered the interest in Hungarian literature in the UK, why it is more difficult to translate a folksong than Krasznahorkai, and why it is important to approach Ágnes Nemes Nagy with a flower...

The Spanish presence at the festival was sponsored by IE University, Acción Cultural Española (AC/E), the Embassy of Spain and the Instituto Cervantes, with appearances by bestselling author **María Dueñas**, and author and journalist **Marta del Riego**. The journalist **Arcadi Espada** talked about the protection given to Hungarian Jews by the Spanish Embassy in Budapest during WWII.



Two visual arts exhibitions, **Romani Lives** – supported by the Spanish Government – and **Ferenc Berko** – supported by the US Embassy in Hungary – received a high volume of visits.

The world of music was represented by **Dark Dark Dark**, an American folk band from Minneapolis, the **Classicus Ensemble**, a group of talented young Hungarian musicians, **French Films**, a Finnish band, and the **Slam Poetry** night – a huge phenomenon in Hungary – with poets Péter Závada, Márton Simon and István Pion.

The closing event of the festival, at the Petőfi Museum of Literature, was memorable. **Carl Bernstein**, the legendary American investigative journalist, focused the debate with Foreign Editor Edit Inotai on political power, freedom of speech and the Watergate scandal as well as the Hillary Clinton biography, of which Bernstein is the author.

The Festival in words



‘...A humdinger. Wherever the speakers fly in from, they will be addressing an audience in a city charged with intellectual energy.’

ED CUMMING, THE TELEGRAPH

‘This was a band of free-thinking and free-speaking individuals. There are no particular objectives or agendas to meet, but what it does is bring such diverse people together, helping to break down prejudices and showing many different perspectives to life.’

RUSSELL SKIDMORE, XPATLOOP

‘There is urgent need for events like Hay, so that our best thinkers can continue, “año tras año”, to debate the ideas that will guide us into the 21st century.’

ENRIQUE PASTOR DE GANA, SPANISH AMBASSADOR, THE TELEGRAPH

‘It is a modest festival. But this modesty manifests only in the externals, like a kind flower handed to the speakers at the end of the very high quality programming. It will attract masses sooner or later. It will deserve it! ...Imagine the world stands on the brochure of Hay Festival. Imagine the world like something. And listening to the events we feel as if we lived in an open, intelligent, calm and cultured city, country, continent, planet. Big things start like this – in such a modest way.’

REVIZOR.HU

The Festival in words



‘The festival does play a political role in breaking down prejudice.’

MARCUS DU SAUTOY, THE TELEGRAPH

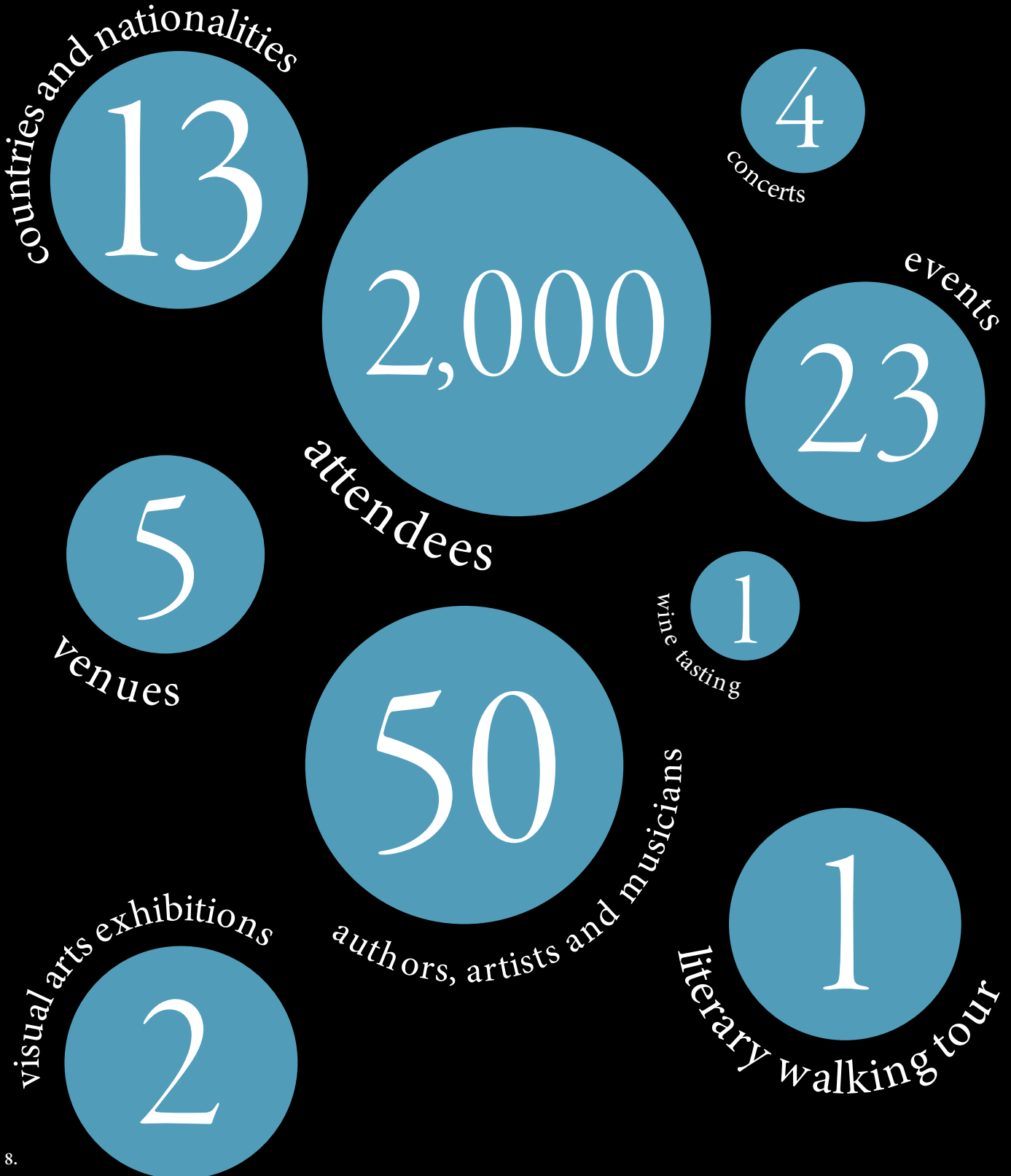
‘At Hay Festival the round-table discussions dealing with relevant issues and other events bring forth opportunities of creative colloquy by which we can get to know the art and way of thinking of each other.’

MTI – HUNGARIAN PRESS AGENCY

‘And for a few days Budapest again become the Paris of the east..’

MARTA DEL RIEGO, VANITY FAIR

The Festival in numbers



The authors

Germaine Greer



Nicole Krauss



Marcus du Sautoy



Carl Bernstein



Odile Decq



George Szirtes



Georg von Habsburg



Owen Sheers



Media coverage



‘THE HAY FESTIVAL IS A GREAT CONVERSATION AND A REVEALING INTELLECTUAL ADVENTURE WHERE PARTICIPANTS SHARE THEIR IDEAS AND STORIES.’

ABC

HUNGARIAN MEDIA COVERAGE

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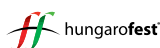
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