

Hajnal Németh works at the intersection of visual art and music. Her interdisciplinary practice includes performances, moving-image formats, and site-specific audiovisual installations. Her works draw on notations, scores, poems, occasionally archival materials, quotations from various sources as well as on her own writings. Her innovative approach to time, rhythm, and intonation, along with her playful questioning of structures of meaning, often manifests in minimalist interventions into existing materials such as texts, musical works, objects or the environment. In her collaborations with composers and performers, she experiments with the arbitrary construction and deconstruction of contexts. Her process-based works, which start from scripts and then evolve through impulses arising during development and improvisational methods, are often realized in multiple versions.

Németh was born in 1972 in Szőny, Hungary, she received her MA at the Intermedia Department of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in 2000, since 2002 she lives and works in Berlin.

Her work has been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions at renowned art institutions, including: Blinken OSA Archivum, Budapest (2025, 2013); Museum Ostwall, Dortmund (2022); n.b.k. – Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin (2021); Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest (2024, 2022, 2016, 2008, 2003); Centre d'art contemporain, Meymac (2018); The Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam (2017); Kunsthalle Emden (2017); Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2016); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2015, 2012); Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2014); Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art (2014); OSA – Open Society Archives, Budapest (2013); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2010); Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf (2010); mumok – Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna; (2009); Temporären Kunsthalle Berlin (2008); MAMC – Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, St-Etienne (2008); The Kitchen, New York (2006); Gropius Bau, Berlin (2005); The Renaissance Society, Chicago (2004); Tate Modern, London (2004); SAM – Singapore Art Museum (2004); TENT, Rotterdam (2002); KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2001); Casino Luxembourg (2001); ICA – Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2001); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2000).

She presented her installation in a solo exhibition at the Hungarian pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2011. In addition, she was featured at the Berlin Biennale in 2001, the Vienna Biennale in 2006 and the OFF-Biennale in Budapest in 2015.

Her work was nominated for the Nam June Paik Award in 2010.

She received Grants and Awards such as: Grant of Gwaertler Stiftung, Basel, 2024; Grant of Hans und Charlotte Krull Stiftung, Berlin, 2023; Research Grant of Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, Berlin, 2021; Leopold Bloom Art Award, Hungary, 2017; Residence Grant at Villa Serpentara, Olevano Romano, Italy, from Akademie der Künste, Berlin, 2013; Grant of Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bonn, 2012; AICA Award, Hungary, 2011.

In 2019 Németh founded YELLOW SOLO, an initiative in Berlin for time- and process-based artistic formats that explore musical systems and references in a visual art context.

The program so far has featured works by Arnold Dreyblatt, Anri Sala, Olaf Nicolai, Ari Benjamin Meyers, Zorka Wollny, Dani Gal, Annika Kahrs, André Vida, Luciano Chessa, among others.

Tabular CV

Born in 1972 in Szőny, Hungary.
Lives and works since 2002 in Berlin.

Studies

Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Intermedia Department, Budapest, 1995–2000
Master of Arts

Leading workshops

Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts, Budapest, Intermedia Department, 2011 - 2019
Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam, Fine Art Department, 2016
Muthesius Academy of Art and Design, Kiel, Media Department, 2011

Grants and Awards

Gwaertler Stiftung, Basel, Working Grant, 2024
Hans und Charlotte Krull Stiftung, Berlin, Working Grant, 2023
Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, Berlin, Grants for operators of artistic project spaces and initiatives, 2022
BBK-Bundesverband - NEUSTART Kultur, MODUL C - Innovative Kunstprojekte, 2021 - 2022
Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, Berlin, Research Grant, 2021
Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, Berlin, Special Grant, 2020
Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, Berlin, Female Artists Programme, Film/Video, Working Grant, 2018
Villa Serpentara, Akademie der Künste - JUNGE AKADEMIE, Berlin, Residence Grant in Olevano Romano, Italy, 2013
Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bonn, Working Grant, 2012
Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa, Berlin, Working Grant, 2011
Künstlerhaus Worpswede, International Studio Program, Residence Grant, 2007
Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, International Studio Program, Residence Grant, 2002
Duende Studiohouse, Rotterdam, Residence Grant, 2001
Leopold Bloom Art Award, Hungary, 2017
AICA Award, Hungary, 2011
Munkácsy Award, Hungary, 2011

Biennials

2015 1st Off-Biennale, Budapest, Hungary
2011 54th Venice Biennale, Hungarian Pavilion, Venice, Italy
2006 1st Vienna Biennale, Vienna, Austria
2005 7th International Triennial Ecology and Art, Maribor, Slovenia
2001 2nd Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany

Solo Shows

2025

Dance Break, intervention, Café Keese, Berlin

Break Dance Break, performance, 2B Gallery, Budapest

Freedom Trap, performance, Blinken OSA Archivum – Galeria Centralis, Budapest

2024

Freedom Trap, performance, EBENSPERGER, Berlin

Copy Nothing, performance, at the opening of “On Seeking”, After the Butcher, Berlin

2023

Five Songs, One End, performance, “Jour de Ruhr x dispari”, Museum Ostwall, Dortmund

Freedom Trap, performative installation, Blue Chapel, Balatonboglár

2022

Fear of Music, Trust in Twelve, Galerie Ebensperger, Berlin

Simultaneous City, CHB - Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin

2021

Five Songs, One End, performance, Berlin Art Week - BAW Garten, KINDL, Berlin

Simultaneous City, DMK – Csokonai Literary Lab, Debrecen

2020

My Time, Your Time, Galeri Ffrindiau, Budapest

2019

Simultaneous City, Galerie Ebensperger, Berlin

Crash - Passive Interview, MODEM - Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts, Debrecen

2018

Work Song - As Time Goes By, screening, David Chipperfield Architects – Showroom, Berlin

52 For Example, lecture performance, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest

2017

False Testimony, The Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam

White Song – Among Others, Trafó Gallery, Budapest

2016

White Song – Among Others, Galerie Patrick Ebensperger, Berlin

Imagine War – Sound in Motion, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart

German Dawn, Galerie Patrick Ebensperger, Graz

Work Song – As Time Goes By, musical, live performance, ZK/U, Berlin

Work Song – As Time Goes By, musical, live performance, CHB, Berlin

2015

Imagine War, ACB Gallery, Budapest

The Loser, performance, Átrium Theatre, Budapest

Work Song, RAM, Rotterdam

2014

Work Song, musical, Teatro Valle Occupato, Rome

Work Song, Galerie Patrick Ebensperger, Berlin

False Testimony, "CKOM", Video Room, RAM Foundation, Rotterdam

Imagine War, performance, A Window in Berlin

2013

Work Mania, live performance, Cantina Sociale, Olevano Romano

The Loser (version 2), REH Kunst, Berlin

False Testimoy, OSA – Open Society Arhive, Budapest

Contrawork, Projections, Art Rotterdam

2012

False Testimony, Invaliden1 Galerie, Berlin

Air Out, video of the month, NBK, Berlin

The Loser, performance at Balassi Institut - CHB, Berlin

False Testimony, screening, Tranzit (tranzit.hu), Budapest

Contrawork, Kunstcentrum - Korenbeurs Schiedam, Schiedam

2011

Crash – Passive Interview, 54th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, Hungarian Pavilion, Giardini di Castello, Venice

Air Out, Loop - Screen from Barcelona, Picasso Museum, Barcelona

Contrawork, PhotoEdition Berlin

2010

Crash – Passive Interview, Museum Kiscell – Municipal Picture Gallery, Budapest

Crystal Clear Propaganda – The Transparent Method, Dortmunder Kunstverein e.V., Dortmund

2 Songs 1 End, MODEM Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts, Debrecen

Joe Contra Joe, VideoSpace Gallery, Budapest

2009

Crystal Clear Propaganda – The Transparent Method, Studio Gallery, Budapest

Crystal Clear Propaganda – The Transparent Method, SecondHome Projects, Berlin

2008

Air Out, Photo Edition Berlin

2007

Guitarsolo, CHB – Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin

Truck facing Eastwards, KUNSTrePUBLIK – Skulpturenpark, Berlin

I'm absolutely none, IMPEX, Budapest

2006

Guitarsolo, Vintage Gallery, Budapest

2005

Portrait with a microphone, Approach Art Association, Pécs

2004

Tradition und neue Chance, presentation, IFA-Galerie, Berlin

2003

Thursday Forever – MC Monument, Ludwig Museum, Budapest

StereoHeart, ACB Gallery, Budapest

Bar 24, Galeria Balen, Slavonski Brod

2002

Move the Spirit from A to Z, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin

Move the Spirit from A to Z, Trafó Gallery, Budapest

2001

Sunday to Monday, CO10 Galerie – Ulrike Behrends, Düsseldorf

Bye Bye Happiness, Hello Loneliness, Vintage Gallery, Budapest

Bye Bye Innocence, MEO – Institution of Contemporary Arts, Budapest

2000

Inplanted Reality, Galerie für Landschaftskunst, Hamburg

1999

Video show, Salon3, London

Video show, Moderna Museet, Stockholm

EY EY, U.F.F. Gallery, Budapest

1998

Help Yourself, Annexed Gallery, London

LifeStyle-less, Knoll Gallery, Budapest

1997

Every night and every day is Sunday, Studio Gallery, Budapest

Group Shows

2025

494h 29m 53s, the collection of the n.b.k. Video-Forum sorted by Karin Sander, adk, Berlin

Body and Memories, Figurative Works from the Antal-Lusztig Collection, CHB, Berlin

OMA - Ordinary Music Archives, Budapest, Grand Opening

2024

Women's Quota 0, Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

2023

TechnoCool, Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest

Neulich am Augarten, Ebensperger - Augarten Art Hotel, Graz.

2022

We Are All Emotional!, Festival of Performance Art, Matter of Art, Divadlo X10, Prague

Place Value, Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

30+, Experimental Art Pedagogy Project, MODEM - Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts, Debrecen

2021

Tomas Schmit Retrospective, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin

TAKING FLIGHT - Birds & Bicycles Berlin, Momentum, Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin

2020

Freedom & Independence, Galerie Ebensperger, Berlin

Dialectic of Images, CHB - Collegium Hungaricum Berlin

The Dead Web - The End, Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

2019

10th Anniversary of Whiteconcepts, Berlin

Something Common, Ebensperger Rhomberg, Salzburg

Public Private Affairs, ArtMill, Szentendre

2018

De Fils ou de Fibres, Abbaye St André - Centre d'art contemporain Meymac

Related by Sister Languages, Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

2017

Save As, Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

The Car in the Art - A Raging Passion, Kunsthalle Emden, Emden

Leopold Bloom Art Award 2017, New Budapest Gallery, Budapest

2016

Hero Mother, Momentum & Studio 1, Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin

Passion – Fan Behavior and Art, Stadtgalerie Kiel

Passion – Fan Behavior and Art, Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

False Testimony – Version 3, Art Rotterdam

Up Memory Lane (Part 2), RAM, Rotterdam

2015

Do Disturb, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Language & Art, Kunsthall Rotterdam

Passion - Fan Behavior and Art, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin

Passion - Fan Behavior and Art, Kunsthaus Nürnberg

Timebase, New Budapest Gallery, Budapest

Inaugural Exhibition – Vienna Branch, Galerie Patrick Ebensperger, Vienna

Art Has No Alternative, tranzit.sk, Bratislava

2014

Letter from Mr. Faustus - Seven Adaptations from Berlin - Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art

Audio Trouble – The video collection of NBK, Centre d'art contemporain La Halle des bouchers

False Testimony, Art Rotterdam

Story Time: Or Was It? Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv

Analogue - ACB Gallery, Budapest

2013

Galerie Patrick Ebensperger

Love Triangle, Goethe-Institut, Stockholm

Conceptual Art Today, City Gallery Paks

20 Years Intermedia, Modem, Debrecen

Still, Modem, Debrecen

2012

Selected Artists 2011, NGBK, Berlin

Entre(Ouverture) Palais de Tokyo, Paris

2011

The End of the Dream, MicaMoca Project, Berlin

2010

Nam June Paik Award 2010 –Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf

Aviva Award Exhibition, Kunsthalle Budapest

Transitland, Studio Tommaseo, Istituto per la documentazione e diffusione delle arti, Trieste

Transitland, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía MNCARS, Madrid

Infernoesque Provides: Luna / Proxy/ Fire/ Snow, Galerie Gebr. Lehmann, Dresden

Infernoesque Provides: Luna / Proxy/ Fire/ Snow, Galerie Gebr. Lehmann, Berlin

Private Landscapes, Contemporary Photography from Hungary, Kunstverein Düsseldorf

2009

Gender Check – Rollenbilder in der Kunst Osteuropas, MUMOK, Vienna

Transmediale, Transitland Destination Berlin (TCP), Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin

Transitland, The Red House, Centre for Culture and Debate, Sofia

Another Time – Another Place, American University Museum at the Katzen, Washington

A Little Hungarian Pornography, MODEM, Debrecen

2008

Guess who is coming, RAM Art Foundation, Rotterdam

Micro-narratives: tentation des petites réalités, Musée d'Art moderne de Saint-Etienne

All that Cinema, Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

Kunst am Hamburger Bahnhof, Infernoesque Projektraum, Berlin

Endlosschleifen, Kunstverein Göttingen

My favorite pastime, WL project, presentation, Blue Lotus Gallery, Hong Kong

Art is a man's name, videoscreening, Temporären Kunsthalle Berlin

2007

Concept: Photography – Dialogues and Attitudes, Selection from the DZ BANK Art Collection, Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest
ASIA – EUROPA mediation, European attitude, IF Museum Inner Spaces, Poznan
Central Europe Revisited I, Schloss Esterhazy, Eisenstadt
Close Encounters, Fine Arts Center Galleries University of Rhode Island, Kingston
48th October Salon, Temptation of small realities, micro communities, Belgrade
2006
1.Vienna Biennale, Vienna
New Video, New Europe, The Kitchen, New York
Artist Migration Berlin – Dellbrügge & De Moll, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg
Autopoesis, Slovenska Narodna Galerija, Bratislava
2005
Extended Views – screening program, Médiathèque José Cabanis, Toulouse
Urbane Realitäten: Focus Istanbul, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin
New Feminism / New Europe, Cornerhouse, Manchester
Boundary Zones – Platforma, Klaipėda, Lithuania
Places of Transition – 7th International Triennial Ecology and Art, Maribor
2004
New Video – New Europe, Society Renaissance, Chicago
New Video – New Europe, Contemporary Art Museum, St Louis
New Video – New Europe, Tate Modern, London
Twilight Tomorrow, Art Museum Singapore, Singapore
BreakThrough, Grote Kerk Den Haag
Soap Opera, Mucsarnok – Kunsthalle, Budapest
2003
Soft manipulation, Atelierraum Martin Vesely, Vienna
Cruising Danubio, Comunidad de Madrid, Madrid
AURA, After the age of technical reproduction, C3 Center for Culture & Communication, Budapest
2002
Unstable Narratives, hARTware MedienKunstVerein, Dortmund
Owerwork, TENT, Rotterdam
Upside Down, Gallery Priector for Contemporary Art, Bratislava
Aktuelle Positionen, Museum Sammlung Friedrichshof
2001
2.Berlin Biennale, Kunst-Werke, Berlin
Confidences – Parce que c'était lui, parce que c'était moi, Casino Luxembourg
Irokez Collection, Mucsarnok – Kunsthalle, Budapest
Out of Time, Mucsarnok / Kunsthalle /, Budapest
Léger Différé, Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain, Sète
Hungarian digital art, Media Centre, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
2000
What If, Moderna Museet, Stockholm
UndabdiePost 2000, Postfuramt, Berlin
Crosstalk, Mucsarnok – Kunsthalle, Budapest
Up to You!, Galerija SKUC, Ljubljana
Media Model, Intermedia-C3, Mucsarnok – Kunsthalle, Budapest
Cross Female, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin

In and Out, Galeria Kombetare e Arteve, Tirana
1999
The Stockholm Connection, ACC Galerie, Weimar
Young and Serious – Recycled Image, Ernst Museum, Budapest
MA fine art students, Gallery of the London Institution, London
The FKSE in Bucharest, Hungarian Institution, Bucharest
Footwear things, P60 Gallery – Artpool, Budapest
1998
Obserwatorium, Zamek Ujazdowski, Warsaw
Very Short Spaces of Time, Biennale de l'Image Paris, Cnp., Paris
Personal – Ritual – video programme, City Museum of Skopje
1997
Internet Galaxy, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

Public Collections

Neuer Berliner Kunstverein - n.b.k, Berlin
FRAC - Basse-Normandie, Caen
DZ Bank Kunststiftung, Frankfurt am Main
Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest
Institute of Contemporary Art, Dunaújváros
MODEM - Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts, Debrecen

Solo Publications

2021 Hajnal Németh - WORK SONG - AMONG OTHERS / Selection of Performances, textbook with illustrations, published by YELLOW SOLO, Berlin
2013 Hajnal Németh - RED FORD MONDEO, textbook of the performance Contrawork #1, published by the artist
2011 Hajnal Németh, Selected Artists 2011, Arbeitsstipendium für Bildene Kunst des Berliner Seants, booklet of the catalogue, published by RealismusStudio, NGBK, Berlin
2011 Hajnal Németh - Crash - Passive Interview, 2/1, 2/2, catalogue of the exhibition, 54th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, Hungarian Pavilion, Giardini di Castello, Venice, published by Biennale Office, Kunsthalle Budapest
2010 Hajnal Németh - 2 Songs, 1 End, catalogue of the exhibition, published by MODEM Debrecen
2010 Hajnal Németh - Crash – Passive Interview, catalogue of the exhibition, published by Museum Kiscell – Municipal Picture Gallery, Budapest
2010 Németh Hajnal – Contemporary Photography 5, published by Faur Zsófia, Ráday Galéria

Filmography, Videography

Fear of Music, Trust in twelve, two channel film installation, 2022, 40'
Five Songs, One End, performance film, 2021, 17'
Simultaneous City #2, two channel film installation, 2019, 28'
Simultaneous City #1, performance film, 2019, 27'
White Song - Among Others, performance film, 2017, 13'
Work Song – As Time Goes By, musical film, 2016, 65'

Imagine War – Band Version, performance film, 2015, 33'
Imagine War – Solo Version, performance film, 2014, 31'
Work Song, musical film, 2014, 72'
False Testimony – Version 3, operatic film, 2013, 17'
False Testimony – One Version of the Version, operatic film, 2012, 18'
The Loser, operatic film, 2012, 40'
ContraWork, performance film, 2011, 43'
Crash – Passive Interview, operatic film, 2011, 70'
Joe Contra Joe, video, 2010, 4'50"
Air Out, video, 2008, 4'30"
Desney and Destiny, video, 2007, 12'
Recording Room, video, 2006, 12'
Gogo 01, video, 2004, 6'
Gogo 04, video 2004, 8'
StereoHeart, video, 2003, 7'
Bar 24, video, 2003, 3'50"