

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

Németh was born in 1972 in 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: Akademie der Künste, Berlin (2026); 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); Kunsthalle Emden (2017); Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2016); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2015, 2012); Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2014); Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art (2014); 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 2020 Németh founded YELLOW SOLO, a nonprofit initiative in Berlin for time- and process-based artistic formats that explore musical systems and references in a visual art context. The program consists of a series of concerts and performances taking place at various venues.

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

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

2026

Break Dance Break, performance, Ferenczy Museum Center – ArtMill, Szentendre

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 Testimony, OSA – Open Society Archive, 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
 Implanted 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

2026
Berlin Carousel, Break Dance Break, performance, Akademie der Künste, Berlin
HERE I AM! – The Viennese Actionists and Contemporary Performative Art, Ferenczy Museum Center – ArtMill, Szentendre
2025
494h 29m 53s, the collection of the n.b.k. Video-Forum sorted by Karin Sander, adk, Berlin
Shifting Perspectives: If the Berlin Wind Blows My Flag. The Story of a West Berlin Fellowship, Blinken OSA Archivum – Galeria Centralis, Budapest
Body and Memories, Figurative Works from the Antal-Lusztig Collection, CHB, Berlin
Body and Memories, Figurative Works from the Antal-Lusztig Collection, MODEM Center for Modern and Contemporary Art
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, Klaipeda, 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!, Galeria 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, exhibition catalogue, 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 installtion, 2022, 40'
Five Songs, One End, performance film, 2021, 17'
Simultaneous City #2, two channel film installtion, 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"