



PRESS RELEASE

An intimate exhibition by a legend of Central European conceptual and post-conceptual art, an intermedia artist, and university professor. The exhibition is composed of paintings (mixed media works) from the 1980s, thematically connected to works created in the following decades.

Artist, exhibition title:	Peter Rónai – POSTCONTEMPORÓNAI
Venue:	Foyer of the Záhorie Gallery of Ján Mudroch in Senica, Sadová 619/3
Curator:	Roman Popelár
Exhibition Opening:	May 29, 2026 (Friday) at 5:00 PM
Musical guest at the opening:	Barbora Tomášková
Duration of the exhibition:	May 29 (Friday) – July 12, 2026 (Sunday)

Those familiar with Peter Rónai's work have, over nearly five decades of his presence on the Central European art scene, become accustomed to the fact that his work is not only a mirror of the postmodern era, but has also been remarkably effective in reflecting the digital age. And it seems that today's post-truth era suits him as well. In a time when emotions outweigh facts more than ever, he is free to play with the meanings of words, texts, and images. Within the context of his oeuvre, the exhibition POSTCONTEMPORÓNAI belongs among his "most classical" presentations. Many of the exhibited works — primarily acrylic paintings and mixed media pieces — date back to the 1980s, when he was active on the unofficial art scene. As the title suggests, it is work that comes after the "post contemporary" era, metaphorically returning to his younger years while simultaneously continuing that line through more recent paintings. In essence, the exhibition confirms that alongside the deconstruction of the image (both physical and digital), performative actions, and happenings reflecting the spirit of their time, Rónai also devoted himself to painting, collage, and other techniques that were considered outdated and essentially "dead" especially during the 1990s. His play with language — primarily based on the negation of concepts, the deconstruction of various "-isms," and the use of signs and symbols within the image — became the central theme of this presentation.

Alongside the currently running exhibitions featuring Rónai's works (Distorted Image. Chapters from the Beginnings of Video Art at the House of Arts of the City of Brno, Bang?! Bang! 2 at the Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava, and The Art of Interaction at the Bratislava City Gallery), the artist

demonstrates that his body of work is vast, the nature of his practice hybrid, and his social stance unconventional. As he stated in 2014 regarding visual art:

“Over the decades, the alternative has become the mainstream, and the mainstream has become the alternative.”

Roman Popelár

Peter Rónai

was born in Budapest in 1953. Between 1970 and 1974 he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava (under Prof. Ján Želibský), and from 1974 to 1976 at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts in Budapest, where he studied painting and graphic art (under Prof. I. Koczis) as well as photography theory. From 1990 to 1993 he was active, together with Július Koller and Milan Adamčiak, in the group *Nová vážnosť* (“New Seriousness”). He is an intermedia artist and is regarded in Slovakia as a pioneer of video art. Since the 1970s he has explored artistic overlaps ranging from painting, assemblage, collage, objects, ready-mades, and installations to photography, video, and performative outputs. His work frequently employs the self-portrait as an object of manipulation. He is particularly drawn to appropriation and citation, borrowing motifs from various fields of visual art and working with borrowed identities, usually in an ironic and humorous mode. He is a professor and currently serves as lecturer and guarantor of the Department of Fine Arts and Intermedia at the Faculty of Arts of the Technical University of Košice.