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THE HUNGARIAN PIONEERS OF MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY

ANDRÉ KERTÉSZ, LÁSZLÓ MOHOLY-NAGY, ROBERT CAPA: NEW PERSPECTIVES, DISTINCT PATHS

Jakopič Gallery, 18. 11. 2026–14. 3. 2027

Guided tour for press: Wednesday, 18. 11. 2026, at 11 a.m.
Expert preview tour with the curators: 18. 11. 2026, at 5.30 p.m.
Opening: 18. 11. 2026, at 7 p.m.



André Kertész © Courtesy of André Kertész Memorial Museum, Szigetbecse, Hungary / Capa Center, Budapest

At the Jakopič Gallery, we are delighted to announce an exhibition of three classics of Hungarian photography: André Kertész, László Moholy-Nagy, and Robert Capa. *New Perspectives, Distinct Paths. The Hungarian Pioneers of Modern Photography* brings together approximately 180 exhibition prints to explore how three independent, enduring photographic languages emerged, and how shared experiences helped shape these bodies of work to become defining chapters in the history of modern photography.

The exhibition is a collaboration with the *Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center* in Budapest and with the *Liszt Institute* in Ljubljana to mark the 10th anniversary of its founding.

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MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The first half of the 20th century brought rapid changes to Europe – a continent transformed by wars and political turmoil – and saw three photographers of Hungarian origin set out on different paths: André Kertész, László Moholy-Nagy, and Robert Capa. Connected by the reality of emigration, their Jewish backgrounds drove them steadily westward. The sense of alienation, need to start over, and constant pressure to adapt were not just personal challenges they faced, but experiences that shaped their worldview and their work.

Co-produced with the Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center in Budapest, the exhibition *New Perspectives, Distinct Paths. The Hungarian Pioneers of Modern Photography* brings together approximately 180 exhibition prints to explore how three independent, enduring photographic languages emerged, and the shared experiences which led these bodies of work to become defining chapters in the history of modern photography.

For André Kertész, photography was above all a form of connection, attentiveness, and sensitive presence. He trusted his intuition and waited for the moment when a detail of the world seemed almost to arrange itself into an image before him. In both the photographs he took in Paris, which coincided with the emergence of avant-garde art and Surrealism, and his later work in New York, he captured moments when the apparently ordinary came to hold universal meaning.

As a Bauhaus professor, artist, and thinker, László Moholy-Nagy delved into the connections between light, movement, material and technology. His photograms, unconventional perspectives, montages, films, and light experiments all sought to explore new possibilities of perception. For him, photography was not an imitation of reality, but an autonomous visual experience. His groundbreaking concept of “New Vision” proposed that, with the help of technology, we can fundamentally transform the way we see.

Robert Capa was working in the midst of historically significant events. During the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War – as well as in later assignments – he captured images that reveal history’s pivotal moments not as distant events, and instead via the fate of ordinary people. For Capa, getting physically close to the action was inseparable from ethical responsibility: his work was defined by direct presence, solidarity, along with a constant, deliberate willingness to take personal risks.

Bringing the works of Kertész, Moholy-Nagy and Capa together in the new context of an exhibition accompanied by a catalogue enriches the dialogue between the cultural environments that shaped their lives and artistic practices. In this way, the exhibition also highlights that preserving photographic memory is not simply a matter of safeguarding images from the past but also calls for a consideration of how they are presented and understood in the present.

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MORE ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

ANDRÉ KERTÉSZ* (1894–1985)

In a career spanning more than 70 years and 3 countries, André Kertész created a visual language of modernist photography that has been a point of reference and a source of inspiration for generations. His early Hungarian photographs, taken during and after the First World War, combine humour, intimacy and experimentation, while his move to Paris in 1925 brought him into the vibrant avant-garde milieu of Montparnasse. There, he photographed artists, writers and the city itself, creating images marked by unexpected perspectives, geometric structures and a profound sensitivity to everyday life. After moving to New York in 1936, he encountered a photographic culture whose commercial expectations often conflicted with his own visions. Yet alongside commissioned work, he continued to photograph for himself, developing an increasingly symbolic and contemplative language. His international recognition grew from the 1960s onwards, when his work was exhibited widely in Europe and the United States. Throughout his long career, Kertész remained attentive to the poetry of ordinary moments. His photographs transform fragments of daily life – people, streets, objects, shadows and reflections – into images of lasting emotional and formal resonance.

*All photographs of André Kertész, included in the exhibition at Jakopič Gallery, Ljubljana are presented with courtesy of André Kertész Memorial Museum, Szigetbecse.

LÁSZLÓ MOHOLY-NAGY (1895–1946)

László Moholy-Nagy was one of the most influential artists and art theorists of the 20th century. A painter, photographer, designer, writer and pedagogue, he was a key professor at the Bauhaus and later founded the New Bauhaus in Chicago. Deeply influenced by Constructivism, he was a pioneer in exploring the relationship between art, technology and industry. Rather than considering photography an independent medium, Moholy-Nagy understood it as “light formation”: a continuum of practices through which light could be explored and shaped. Painting, photography, photograms, photocollage, graphic design, film and projected light were all part of this expanded field, as described in his influential book *Malerei, Photographie, Film* from 1925. Central to his work was the concept of New Vision (*Neues Sehen*). By exploiting the optical and technical capacities of the camera, photography could reveal aspects of reality not accessible to the naked eye. Familiar objects could become abstract forms, architecture geometry, and light itself a subject. His artistic practice was inseparable from his pedagogy. At the Bauhaus and in Chicago, he advocated an interdisciplinary approach in which art, design, industry and technology can expand human perception and imagination.

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ROBERT CAPA (1913–1954)

Born Endre Friedmann into a middle-class Jewish family, Robert Capa became one of the defining figures of 20th-century photojournalism. He began working as a photographer at the Dephot agency in Berlin, before moving to Paris in 1933. There, he met photographer Gerda Taro, who became his partner in both life and work. Together, they invented the persona of Robert Capa, a successful American photojournalist whose name Friedmann then adopted. His photographs of the Spanish Civil War, including *Death of a Loyalist Militiaman*, remain contested yet essential works in the history of war photography. He worked in China in 1938 and, during the Second World War, covered the North African campaign, the invasion of Sicily, the Normandy landings, and the liberation of Europe as a war correspondent for *Life*. In 1947, he co-founded Magnum Photos, the photographic agency which went on to achieve world renown and remains active even today. Over six weeks in Hungary in 1948, he photographed his native Budapest and other locations, documenting the ruins, post-war reconstruction and working life. Legends developed around the man, while his photographs remained stubbornly specific. He photographed history at close range, directing his attention to the people living through it. He continued to do so until the very end – while accompanying a French military unit in Indochina, he stepped on a landmine and died of his injuries.

THE USE OF THE PHOTOS FROM THE PRESS MATERIAL

In accordance with the protection of copyright, we kindly ask you to publish all photographs for the media on the occasion of the exhibition of the Hungarian pioneers of modern photography *New Perspectives, Distinct Paths* and all the photographs regarding the exhibition, published on the websites of the Jakopič Gallery or the Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana (MGML), in their original version, without any alterations and without overlaying them with captions (listed in the Word file you find in the Foto-PRESS package). We also ask that you consistently use captions and attributions. Please contact us if you have any further questions.

JOIN US AT THE OPENING

You are warmly invited to the opening of the ***André Kertész, László Moholy-Nagy, Robert Capa: New Perspectives, Distinct Paths. The Hungarian Pioneers of Modern Photography*** exhibition at Jakopič Gallery **on Wednesday, 18 November 2026**. Join us **at 5.30 p.m. for an expert tour with the exhibition curators Katalin Kopin, Emese Bíborka Szakács (Capa Center)** and **Julija Hoda (Jakopič Gallery).**

The official opening will take place **at 7 p.m.**, with a welcome address by **Uršula Menih Dokl**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia. The exhibition will be officially opened by Dr **Zsolt Sári**, Hungary's State Secretary for Public Collections and Heritage Protection.

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GALERIJA JAKOPIČ GALLERY

PROGRAMME ACCOMPANYING THE EXHIBITION

Guided tours in Slovene: every Sunday at 4.30 p.m. / included in the admission fee
Guided tours in English: every Saturday at 4.30 p.m. / included in the admission fee

Guided tour with the curators Katalin Kopin, Emese Bíborka Szakács and Julija Hoda
18. 11. 2026 at 5.30 p.m. / free entrance
14. 3. 2027 at 4.30 p.m. / included in the admission fee

Guided tour with curator Julija Hoda
3. 12. 2026 at 4.30 p.m. This Happy Day of Culture / free entrance
8. 2. 2027 at 4.30 p.m. Prešern Day / free entrance

Foto aperitiv: Flavours of Hungarian culture
21. 1. 2027 at 6 p.m. (included in the admission fee, mandatory bookings at: prijava@mgml.si)

COLOPHON

Produced by: **Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana**, **Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center** Photographers: **André Kertész, László Moholy-Nagy, Robert Capa** Curators: **Katalin Kopin, Emese Bíborka Szakács** (Capa Center)**, Julija Hoda** (Galerija Jakopič)Expert help: **Marija Skočir, Teja Miholič, Emma Horváth** Graphic design: **Bojan Lazarevič** (Agora Proars)Realisation of the exhibition: **O.K.vir**, **Technical Service MGML, Imre Kmetz, Márk Pócs** (Capa Center)Translations: **Polona Mesec** Slovenian language editing: **Katja Paladin** English language editing: **Murray Bales** Public relations: **Maja Čehovin Korsika** Accompanying programs: **Julija Hoda, Matevž Paternoster, Metod Blejec** This project was made possible by: **City of Ljubljana**, **Ministry of culture RS** Supported by: **Liszt Institute (Ljubljana) on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its founding** Media sponsor: **TAM-TAM, Europlakat**

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