

BARBARA BÓNYAI

Biography

Barbara Bónyai is an interdisciplinary Hungarian visual artist working across sculpture, painting, installation, sound and performance. Her conceptual practice explores the intersection of analog and digital media, with a focus on fragmented identity, sacred-grotesque symbolism, and philosophical narratives.

Born:

Budapest, Hungary, 1975.

Lives and works in Budakeszi, Hungary

Selected Education:

1995–2001: MA in Sculpture, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
Diploma project under the supervision of György Jovánovics, sculptor

1994–1995: Studies in Fine Art Graphics, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
Class of József Gaál, painter

Selected Awards:

2021: Honorable mention, National Centre for Circus Arts and MANK Hungarian Arts Nonprofit LLC, Budapest, Hungary.
2021: Selected for the 19th Golden Drawing Pin Award for Graphic Design Competition and Exhibition, as part of Graphifest, Budapest, Hungary
2021: Selected for the 2nd Budapest Illustration Festival as part of Graphifest, Budapest, Hungary
2007: Finalist in the "Values of Our Dwelling" competition, Budakeszi Culture Foundation, Budakeszi, Hungary
2001: MAOE Diploma Award, Association of Hungarian Fine and Applied Artists (MAOE), Budapest, Hungary
1999: Selected for the "The Last May Day of the Millennium" exhibition and competition, Szinyei Merse Pál Society 1920/1992 and Le Club Contemporary Gallery, Millennium Salon, Olof Palme House, Budapest, Hungary

Selected Solo Exhibitions and Performances:

2025: Barbara Bónyai: Calvary (public graphic series), Saint Anthony's Forest Stations of the Cross, Sárvár-Sitke, Haraszti Forest, Hungary
2016: Barbara Bónyai: Rite / „Where is the stage: inside or outside?" (selected paintings), Vörösmarty Theatre, Székesfehérvár, Hungary
2016: Barbara Bónyai: Value-enhancing Upcycling (interdisciplinary performance-installation), Schmidt & Kerekes Wine Bar, Budakeszi, Hungary
2002: Barbara Bónyai: PANSEXCEXCOXBOX (multimedia public street art installation, performance), Institute for Computer Science and Automation, Kirakat Gallery, Budapest, Hungary. Available at: <http://old.sztaki.hu/providers/kirakat/vendegek/bonyai.html>
2001: Barbara Bónyai: Contemplatio 2001 (conceptual, interactive, interdisciplinary installation), Epreskert, Parthenon Frieze Room, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1999: Barbara Bónyai: Butsu (temple sculpture), Mokusho Zen House, Hoboji, Pilisszentlászló, Hungary
1998: Barbara Bónyai: Alpha Analysis (selected paintings, graphics), Aula, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1997: Barbara Bónyai: Tao-ship, (multidisciplinary, conceptual and performative installation), Epreskert, Calvary Room, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1995: Barbara Bónyai: Two Persons, Three Faces (statues), Epreskert, Calvary Room, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1994: Barbara Bónyai: Room 210, (installation), Hungarian University of Fine Arts Dormitory, Budapest, Hungary

Selected Group Exhibitions and Performances:

2022: 2nd Budapest Illustration Festival, (comic drawings), Selected Works Exhibition, 7th Szeklerland Graphic Biennale, Szekler Museum, Miercurea Ciuc (Csíkszereda), Romania
2021: Graphifest - 19th Golden Drawing Pin Exhibition, (digital graphics), MOME Ground Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
2021: Graphifest - 2nd Budapest Illustration Festival Exhibition, (comic drawings), MOME Ground Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
2021: CIRCUS FLOW, Circus – Art – Creation Exhibition, (digital graphic prints), Collection Exhibition, Visegrád, Hungary
2010: Gadjos and Chavos, (graphics), Artus Studio, Autumn Salon, Budapest, Hungary
2007: Values of Our Dwelling, (mixed media), Erkel Ferenc Cultural Centre, Budakeszi, Hungary
2006: I Am Not, But My Mind Is Free, (performance), Theatre and Performance Tent, Pepsi Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
2006: Budakeszi Drawing, (graphics), Erkel Ferenc Cultural Centre, Budakeszi, Hungary
2002: Trans Sexual Express, (performance with Róbert Szabó Benke Group), Műcsarnok, Budapest, Hungary
2002: Dorkandkozma Frankhegy Party, 2002, (installations and performances with Optimal Group), Frankhegy, Budapest, Hungary

1999: The Last May Day of the Millennium, (painting), Millennium Salon, Olof Palme House, Budapest, Hungary
1998: Camera Circulata, (installation), Epreskert, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1997: The Book of Foreign Waters, (installation), Epreskert, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1997: 28 Faces of a Woman (performance) in U2 - Underground in Hungary Festival, Collegium Hungaricum, Vienna, Austria
1996: Temple, (interdisciplinary performance and installation with Katalin Györfy and Tjeerd Bosch), Theoréma Theatre, Vörösmarty Cultural Centre, Budapest, Hungary
1995: Exhibition of József Gaál's Fine Art Graphics Class, (installation), Bercsényi College, Budapest, Hungary
1995: 2nd National Pastel Biennale, (graphics), Esztergom, Hungary
1995: Alternative Music Performance in Honor of Béla Bartók, (performance with Vilmos Vajdai and Tibor Budahelyi), Institute for Musicology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Erdődy Palace, Budapest, Hungary
1995: IV. International Zalaegerszeg Artist Residency Exhibition and performances with István Drabik, Rezső Móder, Tibor Budahelyi, Gébárt, Zalaegerszeg, Hungary
1995: Barbara Bónyai performance with cellist Michael Babinchak, Epreskert, Calvary Room, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1995-1997: Antonin Artaud: Jet of Blood, (performances and installations based on the principles of the Theatre of Cruelty, director: Imre Katona), Theoréma Theatre, Vörösmarty Cultural Centre, Budapest, Hungary

Selected Discography as Barbo Inject Q:

2018: The Quick and the Dead (QAD) & Barbo Inject Q – Most High, LP, Budapest. Available at: <https://www.discogs.com/release/11514528-The-Quick-And-The-Dead-Most-High>
2017: The Quick and the Dead (QAD) & Barbo Inject Q – The Lascivious Nymph, LP, Budapest. Available at: <https://www.discogs.com/release/11385459-The-Quick-and-the-Dead-The-Lascivious-Nymph>
2006: TrooLenz & Barbo Inject Q demo EP, supported by the National Cultural Fund (NKA), Budapest. Available at: <https://youtu.be/IDZzn5t37K0?si=OfxBsucBjchYKjEE>
1994-2025: Barbo Inject Q selected experimental music: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4NZxUKjJwK74bWxYcm3oPZC7pFrdrGs&si=_hmkXh89PUvjZZnC

Selected Press & Publications:

2nd Budapest Illustration Festival Exhibition Catalogue, Budapest, Hungary, 2021.
 Graphifest - 19th Golden Drawing Pin Exhibition Catalogue, Budapest, Hungary, 2021.
 CIRCUS FLOW, Circus – Art – Creation Exhibition Catalogue, Budapest, Hungary, 2021.
 Budakeszi Drawing Exhibition Catalogue, Budakeszi, Hungary, 2006.
 Budakeszi Dreams Exhibition Catalogue, Budakeszi, Hungary, 2005
 Hemrik, László. "An instructive day at the Epreskert: Sculptors' diploma pieces." Új Művészet – Art Today, vol. 12, no. 9 (September 2001): 15.
 Paksi, Endre Lehel. "Bónyai Barbara." In M.A. Catalogue 2001: The Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Sculpture, 4–5. Budapest: Rector of the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, 2001.
 Martina Angerer, Barbo Book, (a photographic book featuring Barbara Bónyai), Dortmund, Germany, 1998.
 2nd National Pastel Biennale Exhibition Catalogue, Esztergom, Hungary, 1995.

Selected Collaborative Works - Books, Publications, Comics:

Barbara Bónyai, „The Zen of Art”, in: Q comic magazine, Issue #5. Budapest: Q Kiadó, 2023. [illustrator]
 Barbara Bónyai, „Deadly Stories + T. Deshimaru, The Practice of the Path”, in: Q comic magazine, Issue #4. Budapest: Q Kiadó, 2022. [illustrator]
 Barbara Bónyai, „3 Zen Koans Based on Gyomay M. Kubose”, In: Q comic magazine, Issue #3. Budapest: Q Kiadó, 2020. [illustrator]
 Edina Takács, Bortarot (Wine Tarot), ISBN 97896308-88981, Tordas: self-publishing, 2014. [DTP, book and card deck illustrator] available at: http://borszeansz.hu/?page_id=20
 Attila Mester, Matyó Király Koronája (Crown of the Matyó King), book illustrated by Barbara Bónyai, ISBN 2399974988727, Nyíregyháza: self-publishing, 1992. [illustrator]

Collections:

Magyar Cirkuszművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, Hungary
 Private Collections in Hungary, United States of America, Netherlands, Austria.