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The art of
Gábor Miklós Szőke

ABOUT the ARTIST



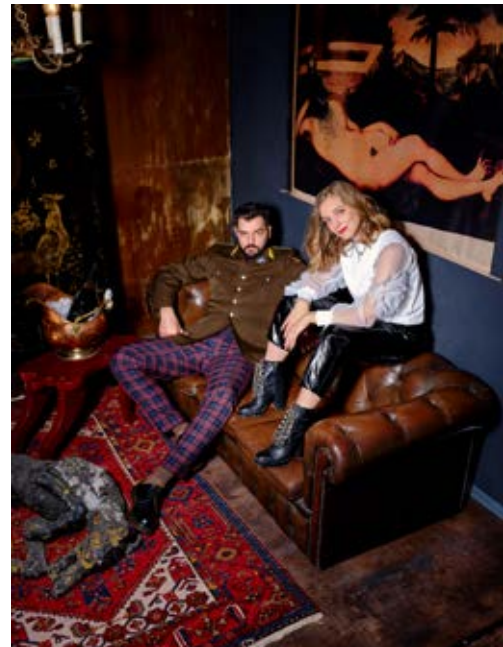
Gábor Miklós Szőke is one of the most popular contemporary artists in Europe. His artworks are mainly public animal sculptures, which can be easily recognized by his expressive “lath-style” and their enormous size. Szőke’s public art informs and enriches architectural environments around the globe. Szőke holds the record for the biggest equine statue in Europe and the largest avian sculpture in the world. His most recent work is the Atlanta Falcon, designed for the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia.

As opposed to traditional, figurative public marble and bronze sculptures, Gábor Miklós Szőke uses stainless steel and hardwood for his public artworks as part of his modern aesthetic. His sculptures have a profound influence on the identity of the surrounding architectural environment, the works themselves becoming emblematic symbols of the local culture. Due to the durability of stainless steel and hardwood these artworks are designed to be enjoyed by many generations to come. Szőke's creatures are inspired by nature, power and the dynamism of animals, by monsters and demons such as the ones of Goya and Bosch. These artworks are extremely powerful; due to their depiction of the subject and their gigantic size, they trigger an instantaneous reaction in the visitors.

The art of Gábor Miklós Szőke is very diverse. One of the most creative designers in contemporary art has an impressive portfolio, including thousands of sculptures, installations, paintings, custom-made furniture, and art objects. His aesthetic is defined by his imaginary world, the Dante Empire, which was inspired by his Doberman. Lord Dante has exquisite imperial taste. In his world, baroque grandeur and the strict functionality of industrialism can be found side by side.

Although Gábor Miklós Szőke conquered the world with his monumental animal sculptures, this year he is featuring his first interior brand DANTE HOME by Gabor M Szoke. The DANTE HOME interior design brand came from a long experimental process, inspired by both the fictive creatures from the mythology of Dante and Szőke's sculptures. The artist describes his own style as industrial-imperial.

The person responsible for the management of the Gábor Miklós Szőke brand is Gábor’s partner, Berta Hauer. Both think that social responsibility and engagement are important, therefore, these issues figure prominently in the art of Gábor Miklós Szőke. They gladly fight for causes such as better living conditions for livestock, easy access to the arts for the socially disadvantaged, or the development of children’s visual culture.



Gábor Miklós Szőke graduated in 2010 from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts. Despite his young age, he is a prominent artist of the contemporary sculpture scene. He has already received numerous national and international awards. He studied in Milan for half a year at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in the framework of a scholarship programme. He has taken part in group and also in individual exhibitions since his university years. His works are present in public and private collections and contemporary galleries. He often participates in social awareness projects as well. He is mostly known for his giant artworks displayed at busy public squares in Washington D.C., the Royal Palace of Bahrain, Gstaad, Milan, Rome, Munich, Vienna, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Zagreb, Samorin, Oradea, Budapest and many other cities worldwide. The art and style of Gábor Miklós Szőke became a part of the curriculum at many universities.

CLIENTS & SPONSORS

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THE CITY OF NIZHNY NOVGOROD

TOLLWOOD GMBH

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VOLKSWAGEN HUNGARY

X-BIONIC® SPHERE



2017 March, Atlanta SE



GABOR M. SZOKE Team

Szoke has been working with his own team in his studio in Budapest for years. After the artist finds the concept for his piece, his highly professional team start the physical realization of the sculpture. Most of his commissioners are sports clubs or real estate companies, who most of the time involve the artist already in the first phase of the construction. The task is to design a mascot or an iconic sculpture in front of a new building, which defines its architectural environment and enlivens the city's identity.

Szoke's ideas are always grandiose, no wonder many of his sculptures are world record holders. First he sketches everything on paper by hand, then with his 3D modellers they continue designing digitally, so the client would get high quality and accurate 3D renderings before the construction of the sculpture. Szoke's permanent project management team takes care of everything from the design process to the inauguration of the sculpture. They procure the construction permits, negotiate with contractors, draw an accurate timeline of the realization process.

Before the realization, Szoke elaborates the static design with technical and static engineers, which guarantees that Szoke's sculpture is going to stand safely for several generations and decades to come. Qualified sculptors, welders and locksmiths take part in the construction process. They follow Szoke's leadership, like an orchestra the instructions of its conductor. Szoke's clientele are proof of the high quality of the artworks, and the success of his characteristic dynamic sculptures are the best reference for his future commissioners.

BIO & AWARDS

AWARDS:

For the Hungarian Art award (2019)

Pro Urbe award (2018)

Halfway exhibition (2018), first retrospective exhibition

Gabor M Szoke Studio: The Design Office of the Year (2016)

Forbes Top 10 Under 30 (2015)

Top 10 design furniture of the year - Dante chairs (2011)

Salone Satellite, Milan, Italy (2013) exhibition

The Throne, Kunsthalle Budapest (2011)

The Rocking Horse project, Vienna (2010)

Horses at Helikon Castle (2010)

EDUCATION:

2005 -2010: University of Fine Art, Budapest, Hungary - Sculpture studies

2008 -2009 : Accademia di belle arti di Brera (Brera Academy Fine Arts) - Sculpture Studies

World Records:

The Atlanta Falcon, the largest again sculpture in the world, Atlanta, GA, USA, (2017)

Colossus, the largest equine statue in the world at X- bionics sphere, Samorin, Slovakia, (2015)

The Eagle of FTC, the biggest bird sculpture in Europe, Budapest, Hungary (2014)



Gabor received “Pro Urbe Award” for acknowledgement of the valued contemporary impact for Budapest achieved by his monumental public artworks



Gabor posing with fans front of the largest avian bird sculpture at the Super Bowl Atlanta



Art World
In Atlanta's New \$1.5 Billion Football Stadium, the High-Priced Artworks Will Outnumber the Players
 More than 50 artists contributed 180 works to the new billion arena—including the largest bird sculpture in the world.
 Sarah Cascone, August 7, 2017



Outside, a falcon sculpture by Hungarian artist Gabor Miklos Szoke, weighs in at a whopping 73,000lbs

Media

GLOBAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS
 200+ COVERAGE ALL AROUND THE
 WORLD

The Wall Street Journal, CNN, USA Today, Atlanta Magazine, AJC, Daily Herald, Artnet, Daily Mail, The New York Times, Chinese Daily, Die Welt, Art Dialogue Russia, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Forbes (TOP 30 under 30), Octogon Art & Achitecture, My Modern Metropolis, LSD Magazine, Marie Claire, TV & Radio interviews all over the world. Public appearances, speeches, workshops.

THE GÁBOR M. SZÓKE STUDIO

DESIGN OFFICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

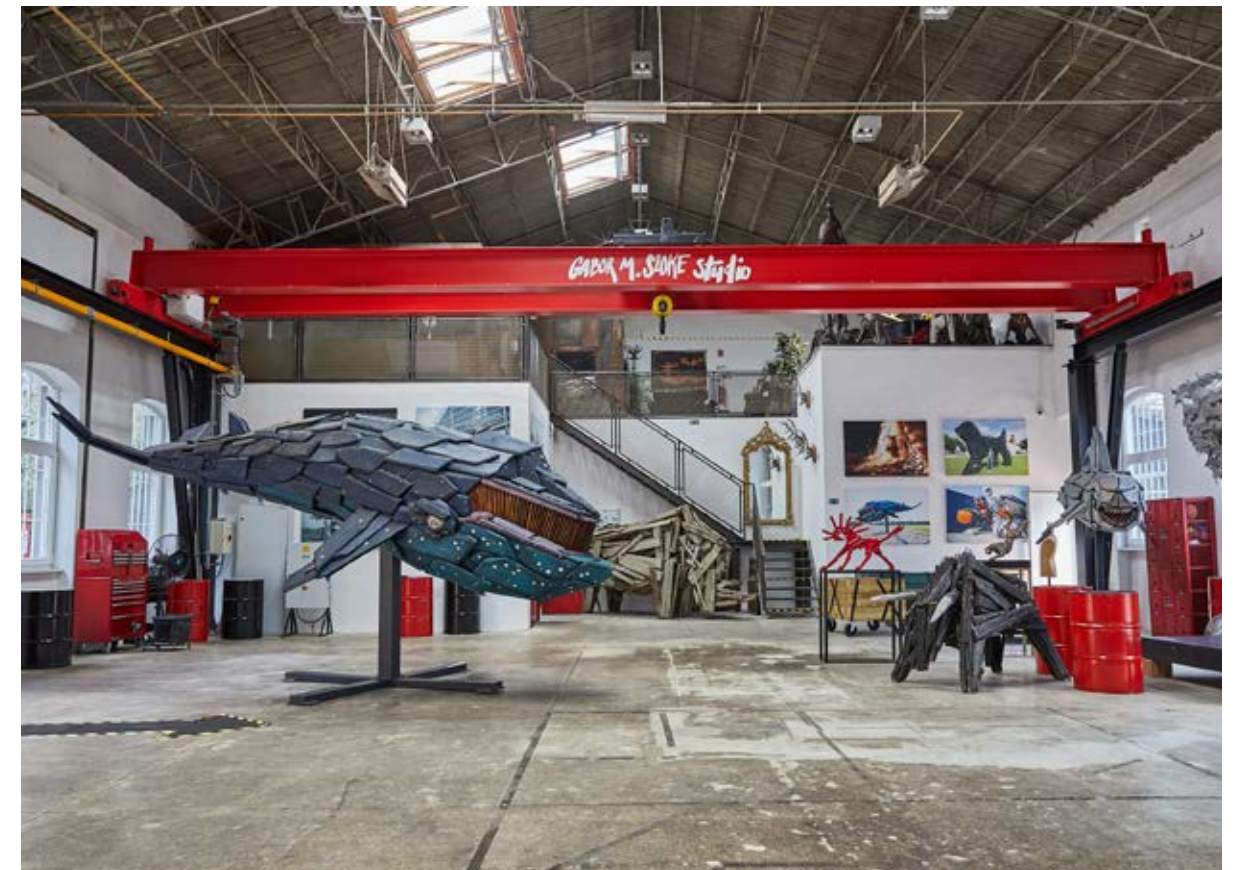
Gábor Miklós Szőke's first studio was the family garage, today it is a 100-year-old, 8000-square-metre industrial complex located in the former Manfréd Weiss Steel and Metal Works. The estate, which includes the office, the showroom, the workshop and warehouses, is co-owned by the artist and his partner and it is the headquarters of the Dante Empire. Crossing continents and oceans, this is where the artist's sculptures start their journey, this is where his clients and guests come. The studio also hosts various thematic social events and it has facilities befitting an industrial construction company. Every detail of the studio reflects its owners' taste. The kitchen, the locker room, the offices, the furniture, the banister and the stairs were all made by the team of Gábor Miklós Szőke.

During the renovation of the halls, it was an important aesthetic principle to restore the WM Works to its former glory and to reinterpret this industrial historic building in Szőke's style. From the facade to the interiors to the uniforms of the workers, the dominant colours are black, red and white.

In 2017, the Gábor M. Szőke Studio won Hungarian Design Office of the Year.



studio





HISTORIC BUILDING

An art and design studio was established, which in its infrastructure could qualify as a construction company as well, nevertheless, it reflects the style of its owners in every detail. The kitchen, the changing rooms, the offices, the furniture, the banisters and the stairs are all the works of Gábor Miklós Szőke's team. During the renovation of the halls, the restoration of the Manfréd Weiss Steel and Metal Works' former glory was an important aesthetic principle, thus, the whole facade was renovated, and the original window frames were preserved, which received insulated windows. The facade, the interior and the employees' uniforms are all black, red and white.



Photo by Csaba Barbay



WORK AND ENTERTAINMENT ABOVE ALL

Opportunities to relax and unwind are in line with employees' personalities and the imperial taste of the Dante Empire. The studio organizes various thematic social events, where guests may crawl around on all fours in dog masks. The halls are a design studio, a workshop, a showroom, an entertainment venue and a warehouse in one.



Photo by Csaba Barbay



SELF-EXPRESSION AND FUNCTIONALITY

As far as the eyes can see, the sculptures, the paintings, the objects, the hangers, the negotiating tables, the desks, the bar and the lighting in the command center and the other rooms are all born of the imagination of Gábor Miklós Szőke and realized together with his team. Through the sound-proof glass walls of the conference room, one can see the flight of the heavy sculptures suspended from the black and red bridge crane spanning the 25-meter-long hall in its full length. Looking down from the upper floor, the useful equipment of the empire can be observed: scaffoldings, forklifts, lift baskets, welding machines, metal- and woodworking tools, without which the construction of the sculptures would be unimaginable.

SOCIAL EVENTS
AT GABOR M SZOKE STUDIO



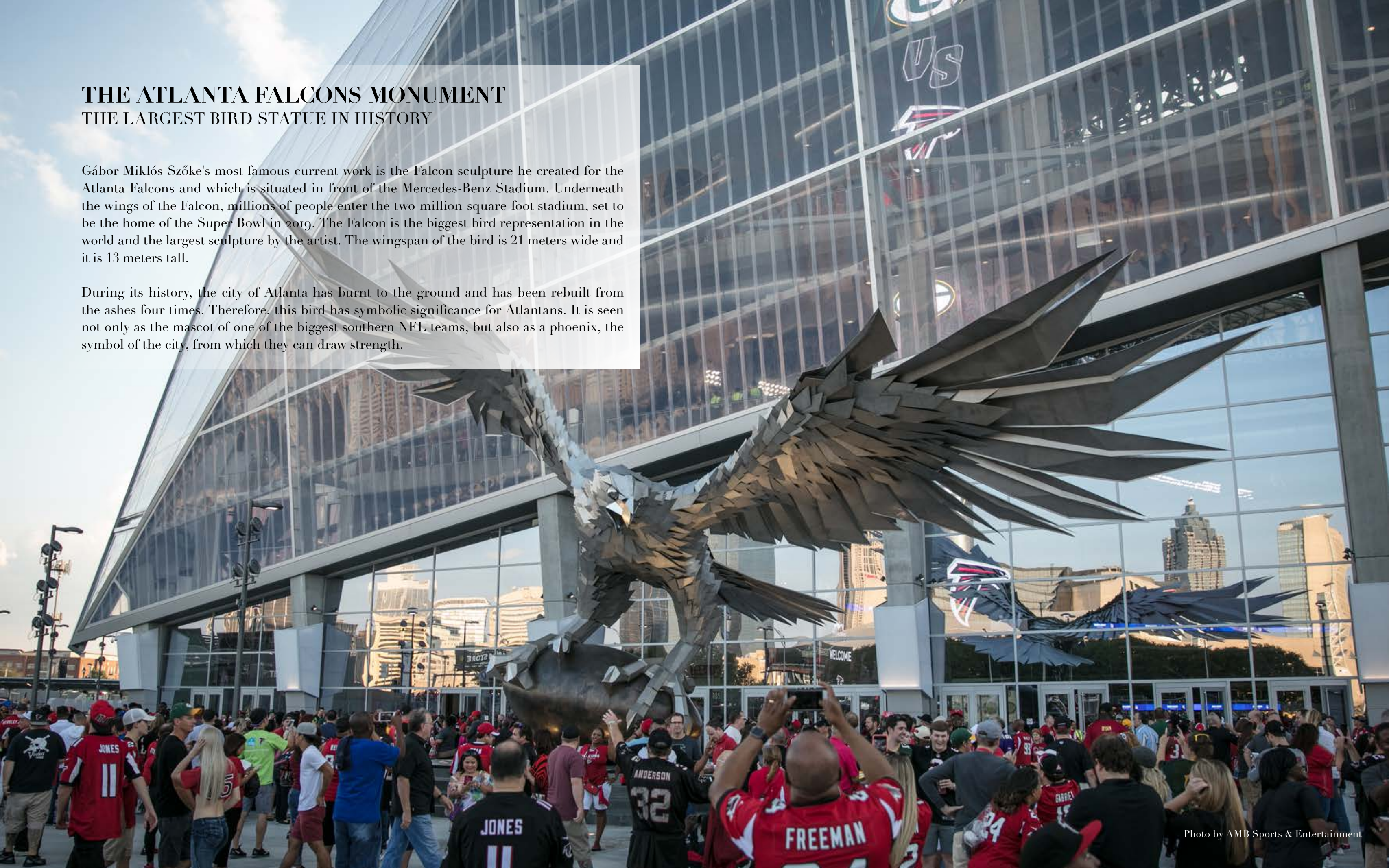
MONUMENTAL
PUBLIC ARTWORKS

THE ATLANTA FALCONS MONUMENT

THE LARGEST BIRD STATUE IN HISTORY

Gábor Miklós Szőke's most famous current work is the Falcon sculpture he created for the Atlanta Falcons and which is situated in front of the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Underneath the wings of the Falcon, millions of people enter the two-million-square-foot stadium, set to be the home of the Super Bowl in 2019. The Falcon is the biggest bird representation in the world and the largest sculpture by the artist. The wingspan of the bird is 21 meters wide and it is 13 meters tall.

During its history, the city of Atlanta has burnt to the ground and has been rebuilt from the ashes four times. Therefore, this bird has symbolic significance for Atlantans. It is seen not only as the mascot of one of the biggest southern NFL teams, but also as a phoenix, the symbol of the city, from which they can draw strength.





The artist Gábor Miklós Szőke and his partner Berta Hauer meeting with Arthur Blank, the owner of the Atlanta Falcons and the founder of Home Depot

ABOUT GÁBOR MIKLÓS SZŐKE'S ATLANTA FALCONS SCULPTURE

“Gábor Miklós Szőke was commissioned by the Atlanta Falcons to make something one of a kind. In a stadium with numerous state-of-the-art features, this needed to make a statement. “I have always liked to spark a reaction,” Szőke says, “It is a special honor for me that I was asked to do this.” And spark he made, one he calls “the biggest” of his career. This dirty bird is made up of over 1,000 pieces of stainless steel, adorned with two polished eyes. It clutches a 13-foot football made of bronze. “Rise Up” -- the team’s motto -- begins to take on a whole new meaning. Working in conjunction with the Savannah College of Art and Design, it took more than a year to construct, and it had to be built in parts. Szőke and his team of over 200 people built sections of four pieces in Budapest, and had the sections shipped for assembly in Atlanta. Falcons owner Arthur Blank met in Atlanta with Szőke to talk concepts last year, and after a few different iterations of design, the final one now stands at the entrance. It looks a little like a transformer, ready and waiting to take flight.” - CNN

“The centerpiece of the collection is undoubtedly Gábor Miklós Szőke’s massive steel sculpture Rise Up, which the artist claims is the largest freestanding bird sculpture in the world” - Artnet

“The hulking installation demands attention” - Atlanta Magazine

“Millions of people will enter the the futuristic stadium, from underneath the wings of the falcon“ - CLAD Architecture, design and leisure magazine

“There quite literally are not enough words to describe the bird. It’s equal parts terrifying and incredible, and it’s HUGE.” - USA TODAY

“A stainless steel falcon sculpture by Hungarian artist Gabor Miklos Szoke is reflected in the glass exterior of Mercedes-Benz Stadium as the retractible roof sits under construction inside the new stadium for the Atlanta Falcons NFL football team in Atlanta. At 41.5 feet high and a wingspan of over 64 feet, it’s the largest bird sculpture in the world.” - Daily Mail

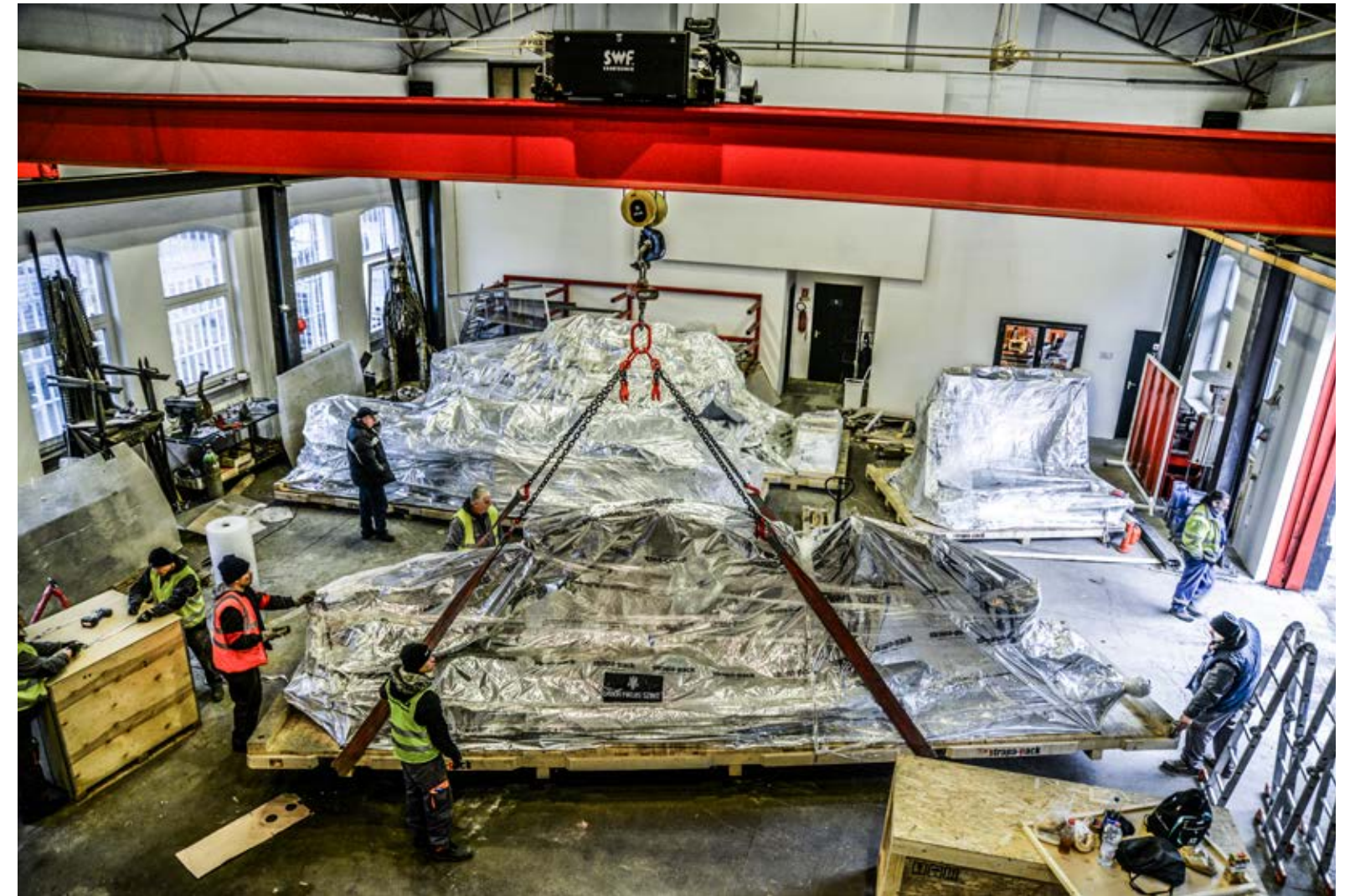
“The Falcons’ \$1.4 billion new home, which is set to open August 26, will rise to 30 stories high, feature a retractable roof that can open and close in seven minutes and many amazing views of Atlanta’s skyline. However, all of that will be overshadowed -- figuratively and possibly literally -- by this gigantic stainless steel bird. The statue is 41.5 feet tall and weighs 73,000 pounds. It was created by Gabor Miklos Szoke, who has a thing for nightmarish birds, having constructed the largest bird monument in Europe for the Hungarian football club FTC.” - NFL.com



Photo by Mercedes-Benz USA

AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION, THE CONSTRUCTION HAS STARTED AT THE GABOR M. SZOKE STUDIO

August 2016 - January 2017



The sections of the Falcon are ready for shipping. The special aluminium packaging required a package engineering team. The shipment travelled several thousand miles in four 40-foot containers across the ocean from Budapest to Atlanta.

Szőke worked on the plans of the falcon for half a year, he made several hundred motion studies, and he experimented with different colors and materials, too. The final designs were presented to Arthur M. Blank in person in Atlanta, who having seen Szőke's reference works gave the artist a free hand to build his sculpture. After surveying the site, a Hungarian static engineer, László Pongor put together the static documentation of several hundred pages. The realization of the sculpture took half a year of intensive work at the Gabor M. Szoke Studio under the continuous supervision of engineers. Szőke works with a steady team of static engineers, lighting and 3D designers, sculptors, welders, locksmiths, wood and metal works experts. The artist actively took part in the coordination of every phase of the work process from planning to execution. His partner, Berta Hauer is responsible for the management of the project. The curatorial work was done by the Savannah College of Art and Design.

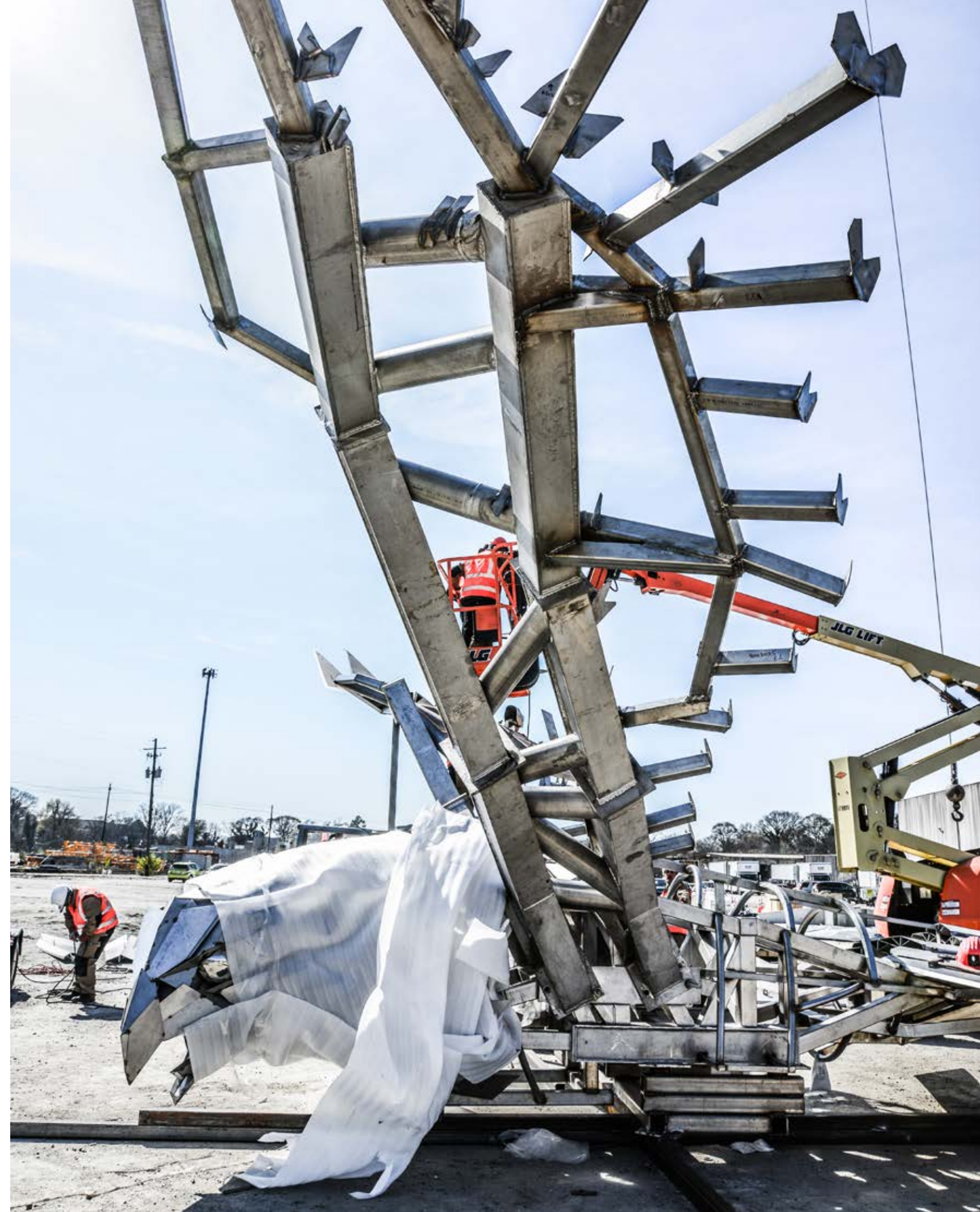


DAY 1: UNLOADING THE SECTIONS OF THE FALCON

Offsite location Atlanta SE, GA, 15th March 2017



Photo by Timi Szoke





OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, SEVERAL THOUSAND INDIVIDUALLY CUT STAINLESS STEEL FEATHERS WERE WELDED TO THE WINGS

TRANSPORTATION OF THE SECTIONS OF THE FALCON
TO THE MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Offsite location Atlanta SE, Mercedes-Benz Stadium Atlanta NW, GA, March 2017



After all the feathers were attached to the wings, they were taken apart again and transported from the offsite location to the site itself, in front of the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The shipment was escorted by four motorcycle police officers and the route to the stadium was closed to traffic.



Photo by Timi Szoke





Photo by Timi Szoke



HOISTING THE SECTIONS OF THE SCULPTURE

Mercedes-Benz Stadium Atlanta NW, GA, March 2017

Hoisting the sections of the sculpture required special permits because of the weight limitations of the stadium. In the end, the 10-20 ton elements, the bronze football, the body, the wings and the claws of the falcon were placed in their final position.



ALMOST READY TO FLY

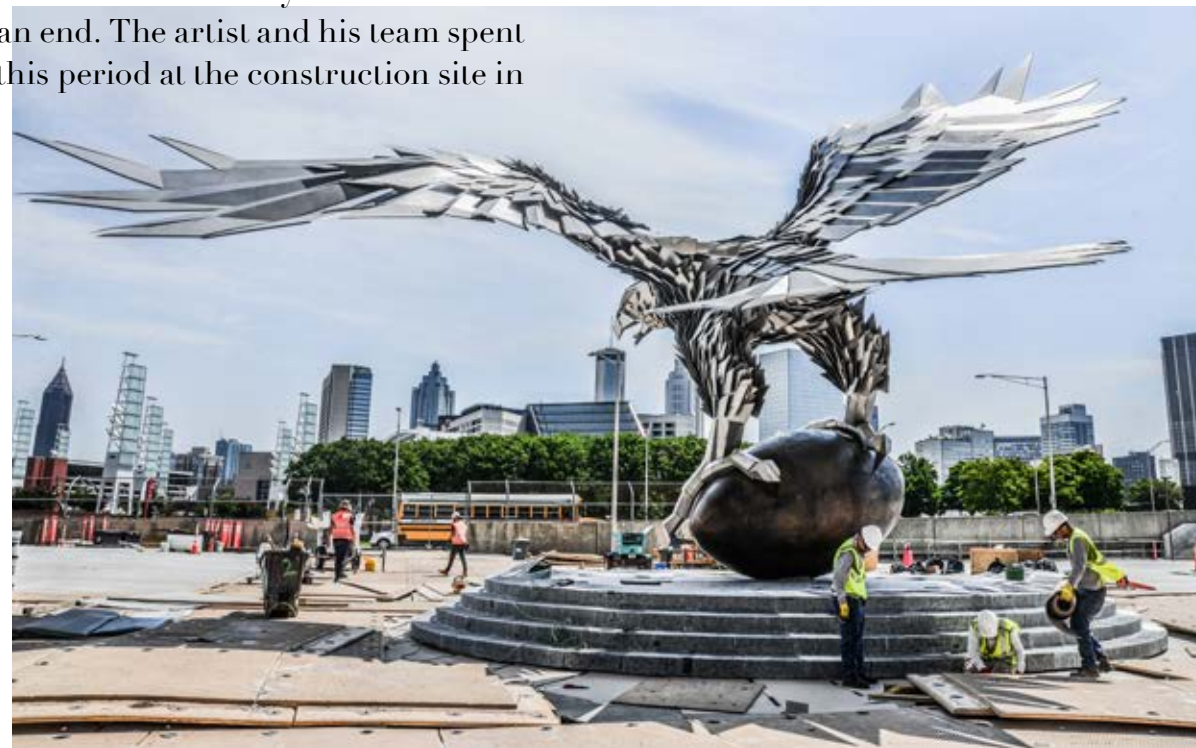
After hoisting the elements together, the feathers were finalized and the surface of the whole body was treated. The feathers were polished to get a silky gloss, while the eyes received a mirror-like polish to reflect the skyscrapers of the city.



Photo by Timi Szoke



After treating the surface, the casting of the pedestal and the pouring of the concrete was next. Two years of intensive work were coming to an end. The artist and his team spent almost six months of this period at the construction site in Atlanta.



PEDESTAL WORKS & INTERVIEWS

June 2017

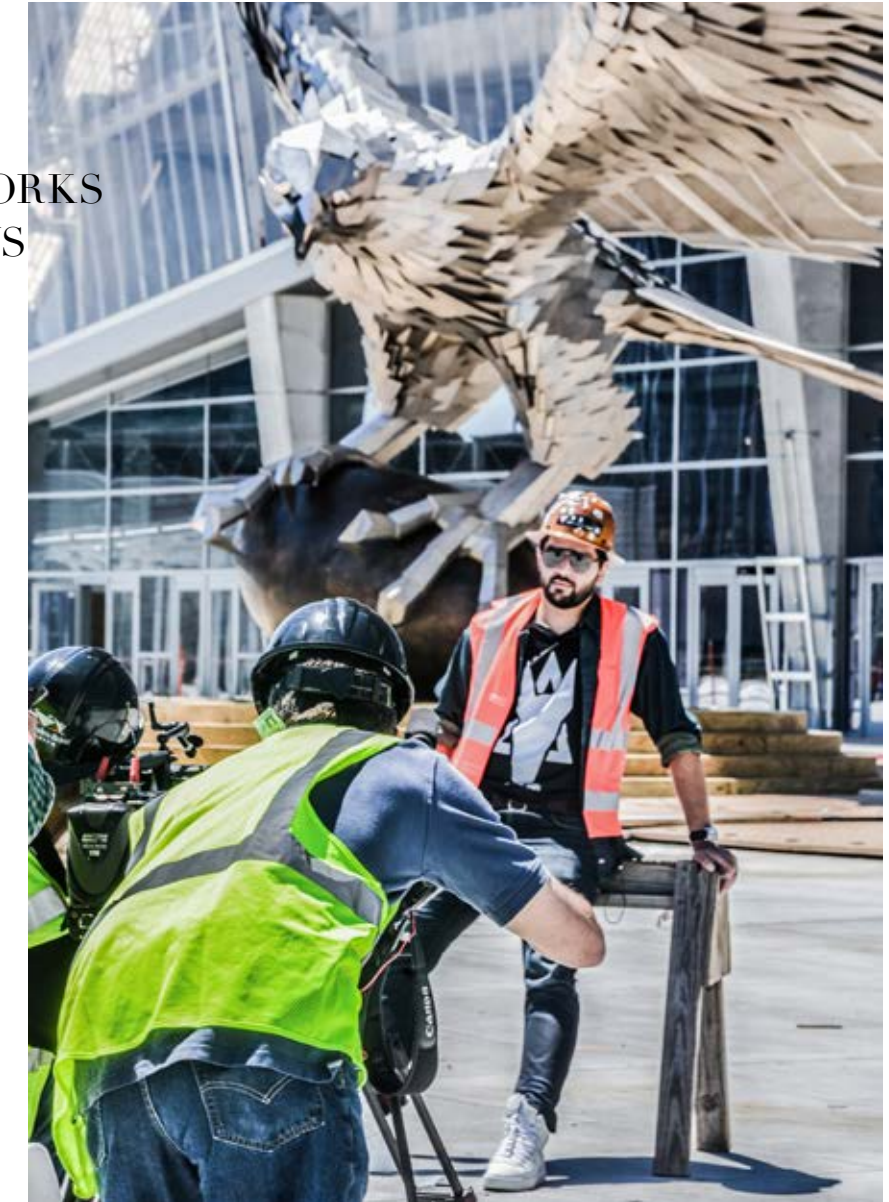


Photo by Timi Szoke

The sculpture was erected and it became a part of Atlanta's history forever. Already during construction, it acquired a cult status among tourists, who ventured to the Falcon in large groups to have their picture taken with the artist and his creation, the biggest avian sculpture in the world. The Falcon is one of the most visited sights of Georgia, one of the most popular contemporary sculptures, where thousands of Atlanta Falcons fans meet and celebrate before and after matches. The artist is proud that together with his team of 200 people, they were able to create this piece, which receives special attention during the broadcast of every single NFL match in Atlanta.



THE COLOSSUS

Somorja / Samorin, X-bionic sphere, 2015

The equine statue is also one of the greatest permanent public artworks of the artist, currently the biggest horse sculpture in the world. The dynamism and power of the monument is achieved through thousands of individually welded, shard-like stainless steel plates, that form an 8.3-meter-high, 14.6-meter-long, 20-ton galloping horse tilted at a 10-degree angle.



Photo by Eniko Hodosy, Marcell Krulik





Photo courtesy of triathlonworld.com, Kevin Mackinnon



Photo by Eniko Hodosy, Marcell Krulik

It is impossible to describe x-bionic® sphere to someone who has not seen it with their own eyes. It is difficult to take a photograph of x-bionic® sphere unless you are sitting in a helicopter above the resort. Nothing can really capture the atmosphere and the variety of experiences this place has to offer. However, there is one monument that embodies and represents the energy and the massiveness of this unparalleled project. The horse by Gábor Miklós Szőke, the tallest free-standing horse statue in the world. With its height of 8 meters, the horse of x-bionic® sphere exceeds the size of Leonardo Da Vinci's horse, which was supposed to be the largest equestrian statue in the world.

SKY OF LIONS

The Lions of the Sky sculpture is the largest work Gabor M Szoke has ever produced. It is located inside the new National Hungarian Bank building, which is to house the Stock Exchange, and the lion motif itself was developed as the embodiment of the guardian of the treasury. When first entering the huge glass roofed hall, Gabor saw an allegorical scene unfolding in front of him nine lions descending from a peek of sky emerging from the clouds. Nine plays an important role at Szoke's art, as this number is strongly associated magic and power. For all the single digit numbers, nine is the most profound. Composed of three trinities, nine represents the principles of the sacred Triad taken to their utmost expression. Nine has been and still is considered thrice sacred and represents perfection, balance, order, in effect, the supreme superlative. These nice lions are levitating in the air like in a dream, surrounded by clouds made of thousands of money like coins.



The artist in the making of the shape of lions



Prior to welding, Gabor M Szoke's team carefully modelled the clouds for the negatives forms using 50 tonnes of plaster.



Over a period of many months and out of 9 million individual coins, Gabor's team has crafted clouds reminiscent of drapery. Now these finished clouds float majestically above the empty hall below.



SKY OF LIONS

“In connection with the stock exchange, I wanted to depict the elusive world of money with this symbolic image. Of how money is a concept of whose value one is convinced without it being real. A faith that transcends the time of all religions. The sacred aspect of this emerged during the design process; I envisioned a reception space providing a church-like experience within which one could almost immerse oneself while sinking into the details of the space, drifting away from its physical limitations.

To this grandiose feeling I associated fresco-like masses and detailed workmanship. The result of all this work is to be the group of statues called Lions of the Sky, the greatest work of my life so far. I understand its scale not only in a physical sense, as its realization is not just about tons, power machines, or large sizes, but as the result of a long, meditative sculptural process that demands an almost ascetic like focus and willpower.”





CLASH OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE

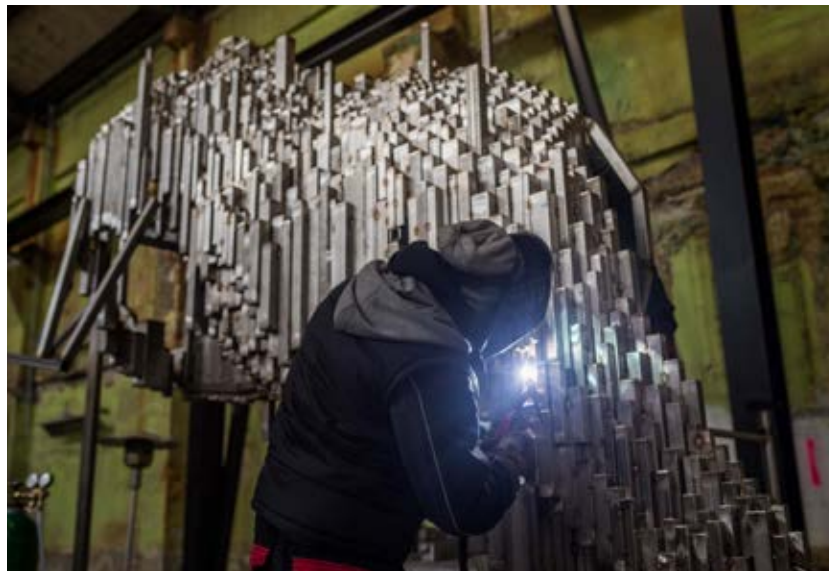
It is characteristic of Szoke's art and style that for each of his sculptures he searches for a key component which is formally and symbolically built into the concept as a pillar. This concept then defines the character, meaning and form of the whole sculpture: The FTC eagle, for example, is made up of long parallel graphic lines and the Atlanta Falcon of large picturesque spots. He associated the shape of fine bronze coins with the figure of the ancient goddess of the Pallas Athena and the Sky of Lions is inspired by the ancient arts.

In the case of the Clash of the Stock Exchange he chose another component for the stock market, the signal system of the graph.

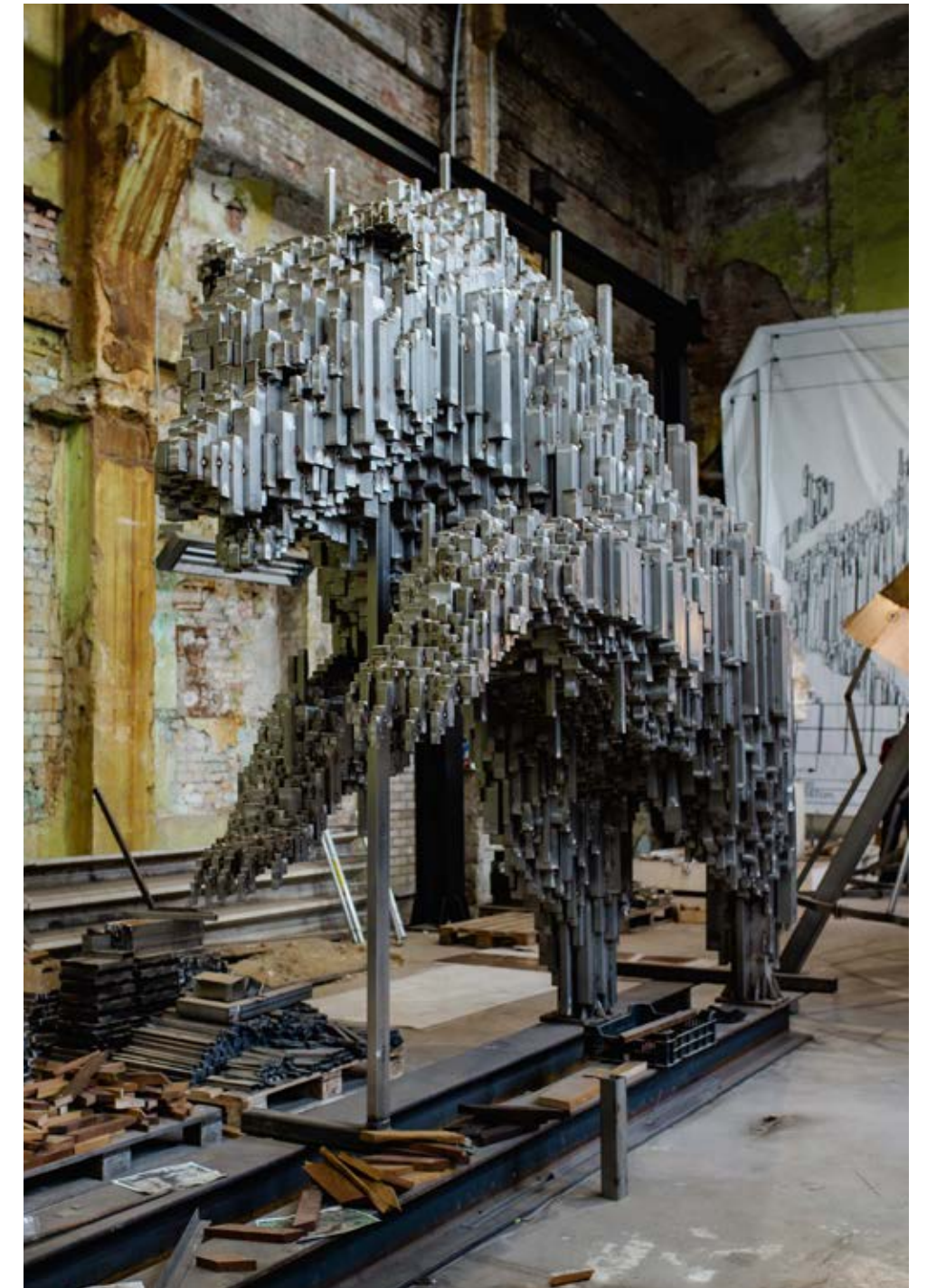
He imagined The Clash of the Stock Exchange public sculpture composition as if the abstract graphs from the monitors screen were to become a reality in physical space in the form of fighting animals. The two fighting statues, depicted in a dynamic situation, were inspired by one of Szőke's favorite periods in art history, one of the main avant-garde trends of the first half of the 20th century, Italian futurism. In particular he drew inspiration from the stepping figure of the most prominent figure of futurism, Umberto Boccioni, is one of the most beautiful sculptures in art history to date, according to the artist (this statue has also been placed on the back of the 20 Euro cents).

The character of the futuristic bear-bull sculpture group is further strengthened by its harmony with the building behind it, as the character of the building is also consciously influenced by the sculpture composition. The exterior façade of the building is broadly reminiscent of Italian rationalist architecture, to which the Italian futurist-inspired contemporary sculpture composition may well resonate.





Szoke's statue, which is currently under construction, will be located at the main entrance of the Hungarian stock exchange, the figures are made up of vertical candle diagrams. The two animals are being formed from hundreds of vertical metal columns of different diameters and lengths. The bull is to be made of "fiery corten steel reflecting the bull market," and the silvery-shining bear, reflecting bear market is to be made of stainless steel, representing the cold, the frost.





visual plan of the 3D animation



PALLAS ATHENE

Gabor was asked by the Foundation of the Hungarian National Bank to design an iconic work for its House of Science building. The imposing institution in the Buda Castle was created to be a spiritual center of the age of consciousness and value creation, where Nobel Prize-winning scientists from different parts of the world could meet together and strengthen the value-creating and creative work of the foundations.

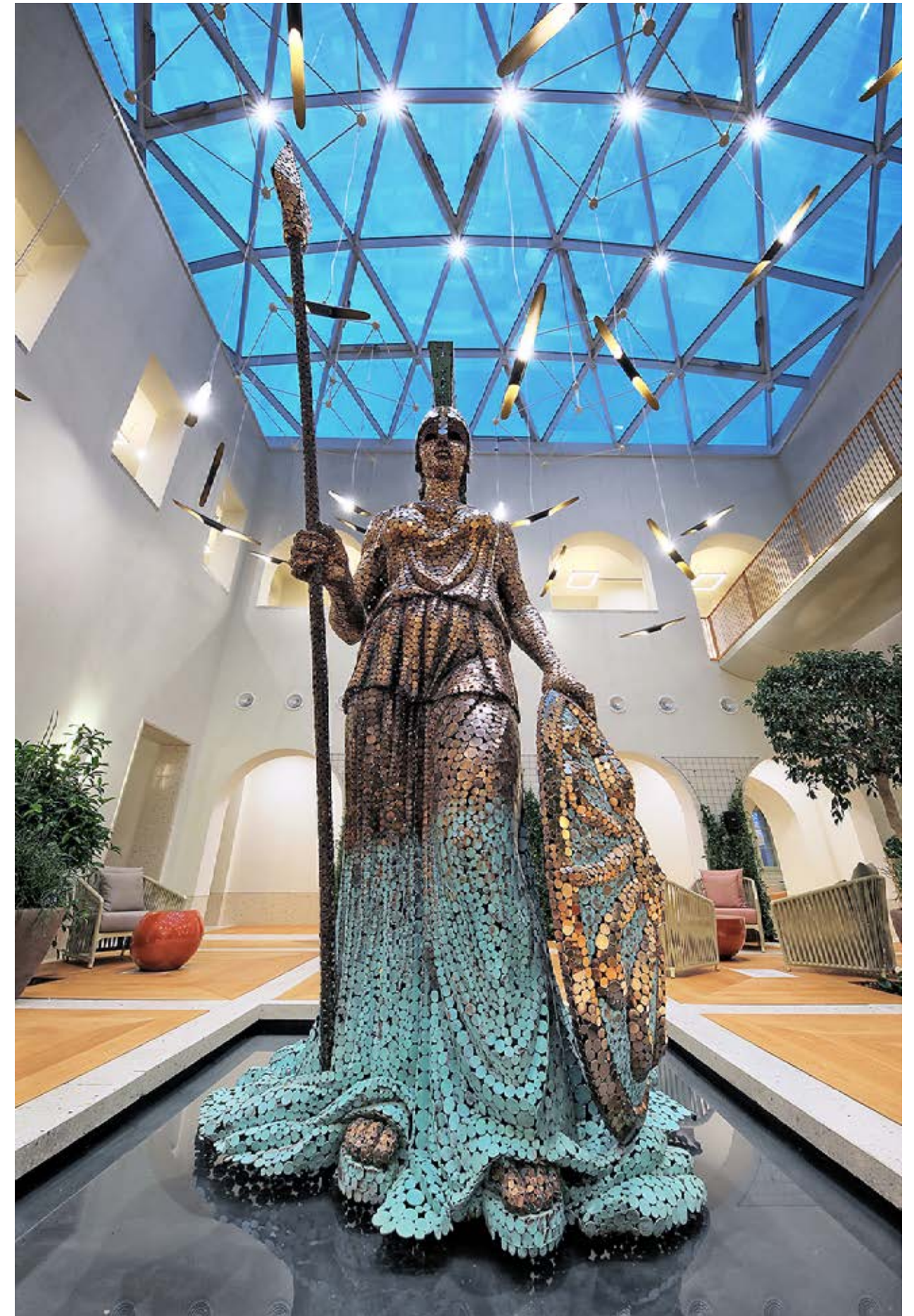
Szoke thought of a symbol system that represented constant values, radiated strength and origin, and reflected on money and consciousness.

In today's changing world, it is important, according to the artist, to save the veins that define European culture, and therefore often draw strength and inspiration from the world of ancient art.

The artist recognises that the need for answers in today's world of global change is akin to the desire to find the sunken city of Atlantis. And according to Plato, the ideal world can only be created by ideal citizens who embody common sense and moral life. The essence of this aesthetic of the ancient arts is the embodiment of beauty, as it is for Szoke himself as well. As such, the need to create the goddess out of oxidized materials was evident to the artist, it was as if she had sprang ready made from the underwater realm as an ancient sculpture.

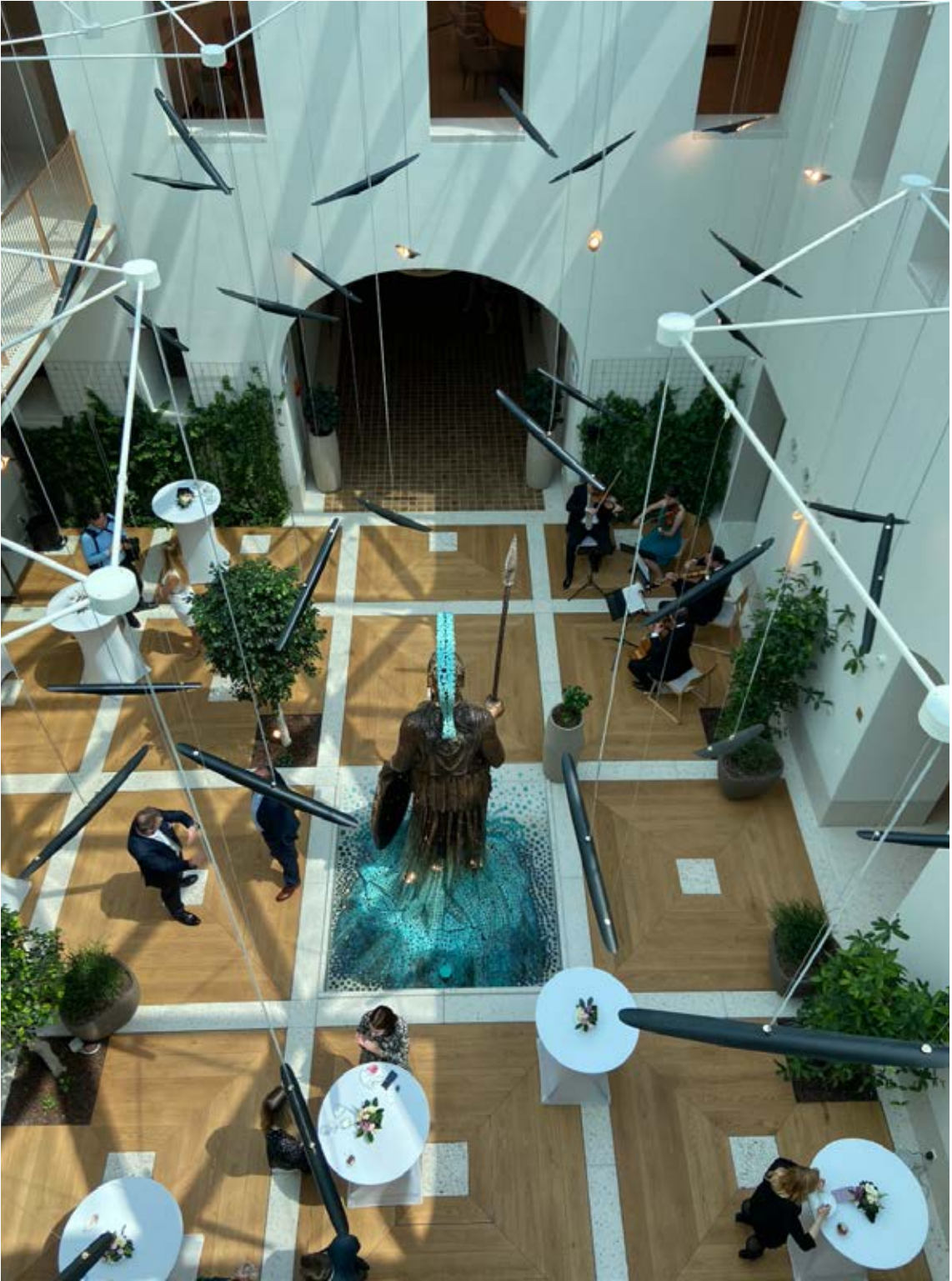
He imagined the statue in the middle of a pool of water, her body rising from thousands of pieces of coins-like disk, as if lucky coins thrown into water had clung together in space to capture the goddess of knowledge and power.

Szoke developed this unique sculpting technology for the Hungarian National Bank.



LIGHTING REHEASAL

at Gabor M Szoke Studio



**PALLAS ATHENE
IN THE HOUSE OF SCIENCE**



FTC EAGLE

THE BIGGEST BIRD SCULPTURE IN EUROPE

Budapest, Hungary, 2014



The FTC Eagle is currently the biggest bird representation in Europe. The well-received piece appeared on many art and design blogs as the best contemporary artwork of 2014. The artwork is made of nearly 3000 stainless steel plates, it was constructed over a period of 7 months, 8 engineers perfected the static plans, and finally the 16-meter-wide bird was erected. This is the first stainless steel sculpture created by Gábor Miklós Szőke.

Photo by iambarrie.com



MAKING OF THE FTC EAGLE



Photo by Mark Vizslay



MONUMENTAL SIZES

16 meters wide, 18 tons, 3000 stainless steel plates. The “three E” special plaster designed by Gábor Miklós Szőke is the abbreviation of the FTC sports club’s motto.



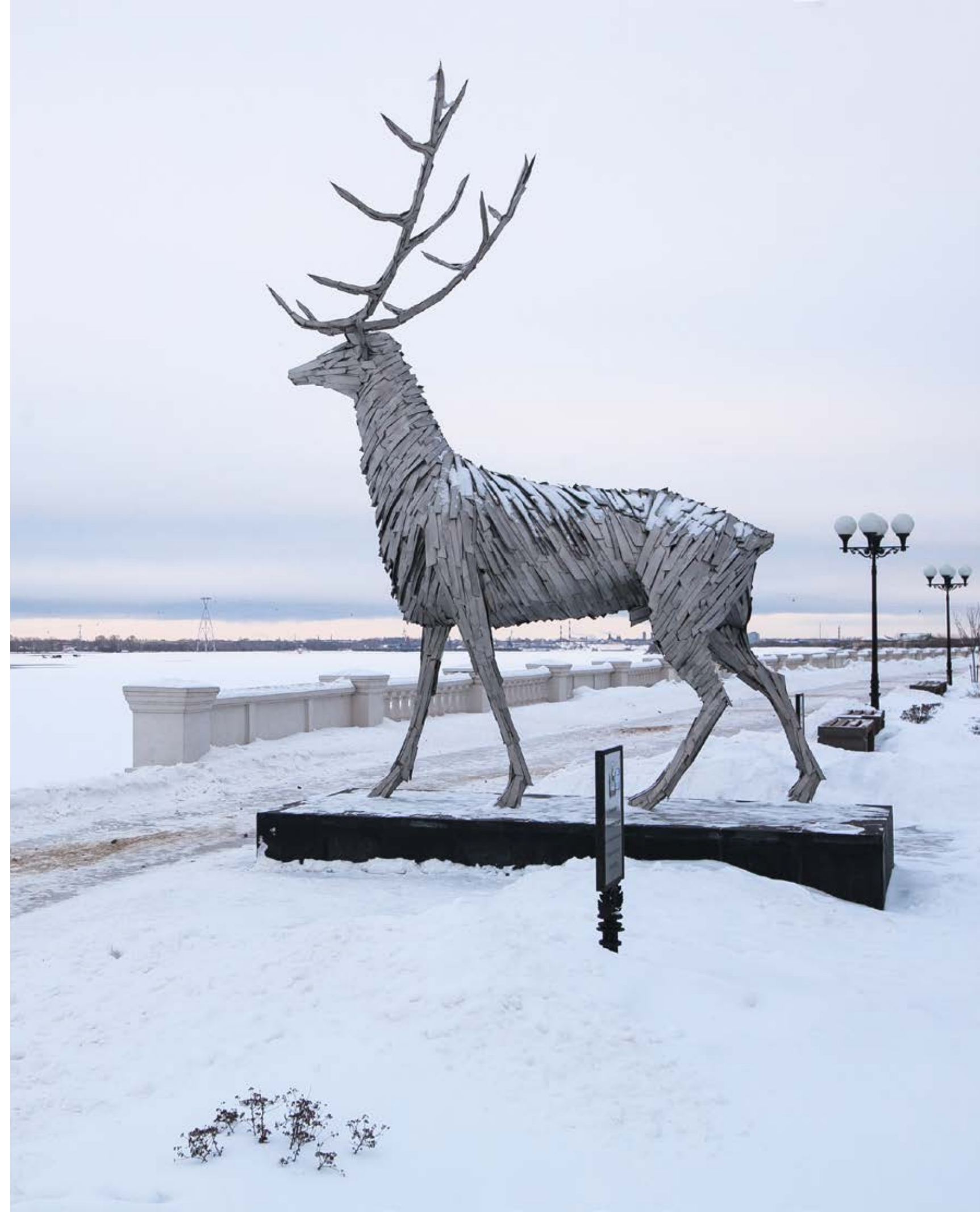
Photo by iambarrie.com

THE DEER OF NIZHNY NOVGOROD

Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, 2014



The stainless steel deer became a symbol of Nizhny Novgorod, one of the biggest cities of Russia. The graceful piece is conveniently situated on the bank of the river Volga between the old town and the popular promenade of the city. The 5-meter-long artwork was commissioned by the mayor of Nizhny Novgorod and the Honorary Consulate of Hungary, who personally asked the artist to create a new symbol for the city. The artwork was built in Budapest and was transported to Russia.



WATER LEGENDS CAMPAIGN

For the 2017 World Aquatics Championship



The public animal sculptures of Gábor Miklós Szóke were the central elements in the international promotion campaign of the 17th FINA World Championship. The idea behind the video for the championship was to embody six disciplines in the form of aquatic animals. These animals show similarities both in their abilities and their features to certain sports: swimming is symbolized by the most fearsome animal of the seas, the shark; open water swimming is represented by the "wanderer", the whale; with their characteristic movements,

the dolphin became the symbol of acrobatic diving, the orca that of high diving, a school of fish of synchronized swimming, and finally, the octopus was found to be emblematic of water polo. The different pieces of the Water Legends sculpture series were displayed at different venues of the championship in Budapest, Hungary. After the event, the sculptor's unique creatures got a permanent place in the capital city.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE WATER LEGENDS PROMO FILM

Film Production by 235 Productions
3D Design Concept by Gabor M. Szoke
3D Designer: Mark Filus
Client: Trinity Communications



The Whale, the open water swimming



The Octopus, the water polo



The Shark, the swimming

THE MAKING OF WATER LEGENDS AT THE GABOR M. SZOKE STUDIO

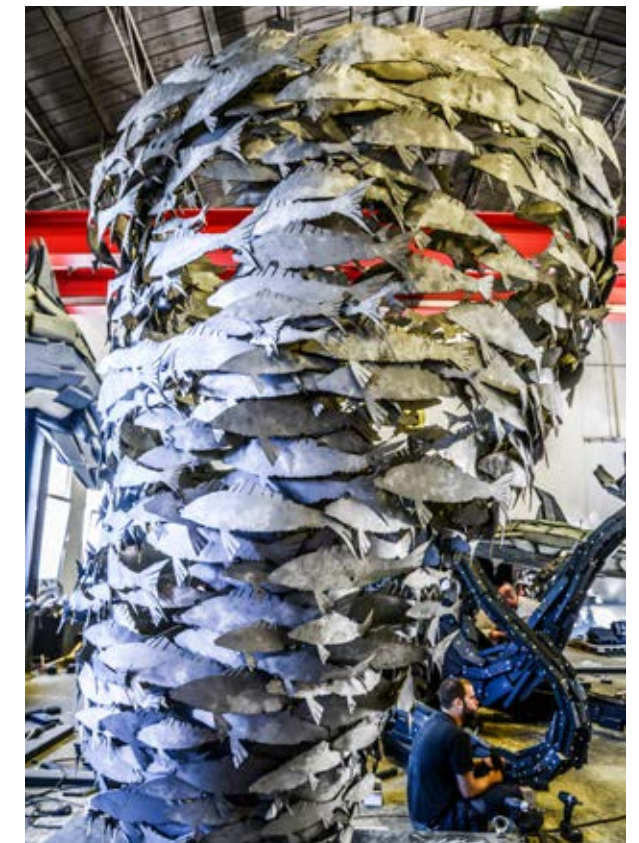


Photo by Timi Szoke

WATER LEGENDS SCULPTURE SERIES



The Octopus, the water polo

Photo by Timi Szoke

KOMONDOR POWER - MOSCOW

Gorky-park, Moscow, Russia, 2015



This is the third public sculpture of Gábor Miklós Szőke in Russia. The piece titled Komondor Power can be found in the center of Moscow in Gorky Park. It was made for the event Days of Hungarian Culture and since then it has become a permanent inhabitant of the park. The robust and resilient dog runs freely with its long and characteristic hair blowing in the wind. The dog is a defining element of Hungarian culture. Thousands of photos of the popular sculpture are uploaded onto social media. Another permanent public artwork of Szőke can also be found in Gorky Park, the Maslenitsa.



THE FLYING PULI - WASHINGTON DC

Washington DC, USA, 2013

As part of the 2013 Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program “Hungarian Heritage: Roots to Revival”, the artist Gábor Miklós Szőke created a sculpture of a Puli dog using narrow cuts of lumber painted black. Puli dogs are a 1,000-year-old, medium-sized breed of Hungarian herding dog that are known for their long, curly coats, which are almost waterproof.

This particular Puli dog is currently making his home on the National Mall, between the Smithsonian Castle and the Washington Tower.



THE DRAGON

Kazincbarcika, Hungary, 2014

The Chinese Dragon was designed by Gábor Miklós Szőke in the framework of a cooperation between the city of Kazincbarcika and Chinese-owned Borsodchem, the biggest chemical factory in Hungary. The dragon is very popular among the locals, they also organized a festival for the inauguration. Similarly to the artist's other wooden creations, the outdoor sculpture has a metal skeleton in order to be resistant to changing weather conditions and to provide stability for the artwork.





Photo by iambarrie.com

SAD PIG PROJECT

Tollwood Festival, Munich, Germany, 2014

The sculptor was asked to create a symbol for the Tollwood Festival in Germany, which is known for its environmental awareness and animal protection campaigns. In 2014, the focus of the festival was farm animals, so the artist wanted to call attention to animal rights with a giant pig stuck in a narrow steel cage.



Photo by Eva Szombat



Photo by Eva Szombat

RACKA

Szentendre, Hungary, 2014



The Skanzen of Szentendre is a popular tourist attraction. For the entrance of this open-air museum, Gábor Miklós Szőke created a sculpture of a Hungarian sheep breed called Racka, which is guarding the Skanzen as an ancient lamassu. The sculpture has a steel skeleton. The head, the horns and the legs are made of rusty steel and the body is built from ash wood, which has received a special natural varnish.

Photo by István Várfi

UNICORN IN THE FOREST

Vyksa, Russia, 2013

Gábor Miklós Szőke installed a lovable spectacle, which guards the people in Vyksa, Russia. This special wooden Unicorn lives in the Russian forest, which gives magical meaning to the artwork. The project involved local volunteers, so the combined efforts of the artist, his team and the locals produced a very unique artwork. The statue was made during the 2013 Art Ovrage Festival, which deals with new waves of contemporary design, landscape architecture and sculpting.



Photo by Mark Vízslay

ARTWORKS &
PERFORMANCES

MASLENITSA

Moscow, Russia, 2016



Photo by Mark Vizlay

MASLENITSA PROJECT: WINTER IS BURNING

A popular Russian artist is invited every year to create a sculpture for Maslenitsa in Gorky Park, which is ritually burnt at the end of the festivities. 2016 was the first time that a foreign artist was asked to build this sculpture for the festival. One of the most well-known contemporary sculptors

Gábor Miklós Szőke reinterpreted the Russian tradition to realize the project Greeting of Spring.

The cold, grim, slushy winter was represented by a cave. The artist incorporated elements from his old sculptures into the wooden installation, which had also been ritually burnt during Maslenitsa symbolically chasing away winter and darkness. According to Hungarian tradition, winter ends when the bear leaves its cave, so by burning the symbol of winter the artist lured the bear out of its cave bringing forth spring. The bear – made of more than a hundred steel elements – is a constant resident of Gorky Park. The artist would like to bring joy to many generations to come with this kind, sitting bear.

The 7-meter-tall and 6-meter-wide cave installation was made of pinewood and the surprise waiting inside was the bear, which came out from its wooden lair at the end of the Maslenitsa festival in 2016.





Photo by Mark Vizlay



GREETING OF SPRING, BURNING PERFORMANCE IN
FRONT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN GORKY PARK, THE
HEART OF THE CONTEMPORARY ART SCENE IN MOSCOW

WIZ KHALIFA AND HIS ROLLING PULI

Island of Freedom, Budapest, Hungary, 2017



Photo by iambarnie.com



"When I travel or work at my studio, I often listen to rap, hip hop. My playlist is very diverse, and Wiz Khalifa is one of my favorites, so I was honored to make a sculpture for him. I sometimes visualize different people through animals. A skateboarding purple puli dog perfectly captured Wiz's dreadlocks and his cool, aerial character. The puli is barreling on his skateboard, his hair blown back from the speed of its flight, he has broken free from his golden leash. I put a wooden spliff in the dog's mouth. I cannot imagine Wiz without one. For me, the Rolling Puli embodies the feeling of the song Young, Wild and Free. Beside the Doberman, the puli is one of the most special dog breeds in my opinion, it is a Hungarian dog breed, which is very popular all around the world. In Washington D.C., I have already erected a black puli in Smithsonian Park, the older brother of the Rolling Puli." - said Gábor Miklós Szőke.

ARABIAN HORSE FOR THE PRINCE NASSER OF BAHREIN

Kingdom of Bahrain, 2015



Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, a member of the Bahraini royal family, the commander of Bahrain's Royal Guard and president of the Bahrain Olympic Committee asked Szőke to create an artwork for his wife, the daughter of the King of Dubai for their wedding anniversary. The artist sculpted a life-size Arabian horse out of chestnut. The artwork was transported by the prince's private jet to the Bahraini royal palace.

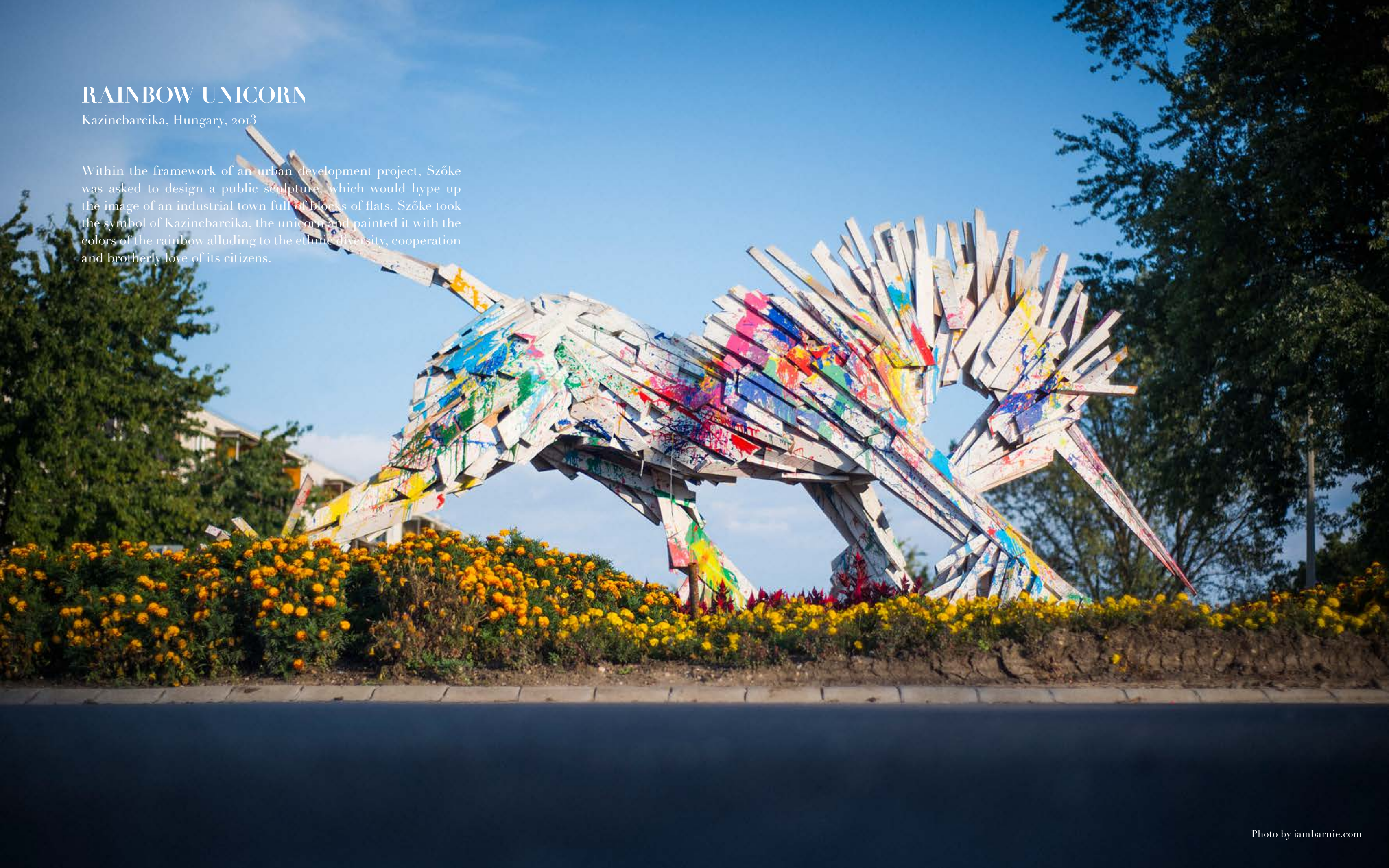


Photo by Mark Viszlay

RAINBOW UNICORN

Kazincbarcika, Hungary, 2013

Within the framework of an urban development project, Szőke was asked to design a public sculpture, which would hype up the image of an industrial town full of blocks of flats. Szőke took the symbol of Kazincbarcika, the unicorn and painted it with the colors of the rainbow alluding to the ethnic diversity, cooperation and brotherly love of its citizens.



HORSES IN THE HELIKON CASTLE

Keszthely, Hungary, 2010



Reflecting on the playfulness of the baroque, the nine equine sculptures in the old park of the palace summon the horses of the late Count Festetics. Far from the red horse a green one is grazing, behind the bushes colorful horses are fornicating, the one in the middle is rolling around on the lawn, a bit further horses of different colors are galloping through the garden of the palace.



Photo by András Vikman



The exhibition "Horses of the castle" took place at the Helikon Castle Museum, one of the most beautiful 17th century castles in Hungary. During the preparation of the installation, he staged the sculptures in a way that they drive the spectator from one point to another.



THE LAST STURGEON

Vienna, Austria, 2010



Creative room design project at the Collegium Hungaricum Vienna in the framework of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Collegium Hungaricum Vienna invited creative designers from Austria, the Czech Republic and Hungary to compose a complex interior design art work based on a common concept, which was the Danube, the biggest river in Central Europe.

The once virulent wildlife of the Danube has been decimated by civilisation. The regulation of the river bed turned the Blue Danube into an oily smudge, and devastated and contaminated its natural habitats. The artwork of Gábor Miklós Szőke grants a tribute to the last specimen of the sturgeon, the biggest species of fish that ever lived in the river.

The use of the material, the manner of formulation, the fractured skin of the animal refer to its unnatural way of perishing. This is a tribute to the creature once living with us, having suffered a painful death by humans. All of us are responsible for changing this negligent attitude and saving the species that cohabit with us.

INSTALLATIONS,
WALL WORKS

THE THRONE

Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary, 2011

The Throne was exhibited in the central hall of one of the most famous contemporary art galleries of Budapest. The huge throne was assembled from different objects and pieces of furniture from different ages, which are organically sewn together by re-used wooden elements entwining the installation like a climbing plant. The piece is trying to allude to nature, the supernatural, timelessness and sustainability.



Photo by Eva Szombat



THE WHALE

Budapest, Hungary, 2009



“The whale is a monument that I nailed together from logs. The message of the statue is rebirth, the embrace of innovative values, permeability and change. It was made for a cultural foundation that represents a new style in Hungary: the CET Culture Centre. The monumental sculpture is also a reception area. It is a mother whale with her foetus growing inside her. The guests can become a part of the insemination by entering the statue through its genitals, visiting the unborn embryo. The inner and outer parts are separated and complemented by lighting and sound effects. The whale was constructed in three weeks from wooden slats with the help of sixteen people. This was my first public sculpture.”

INSIDE OF THE WHALE

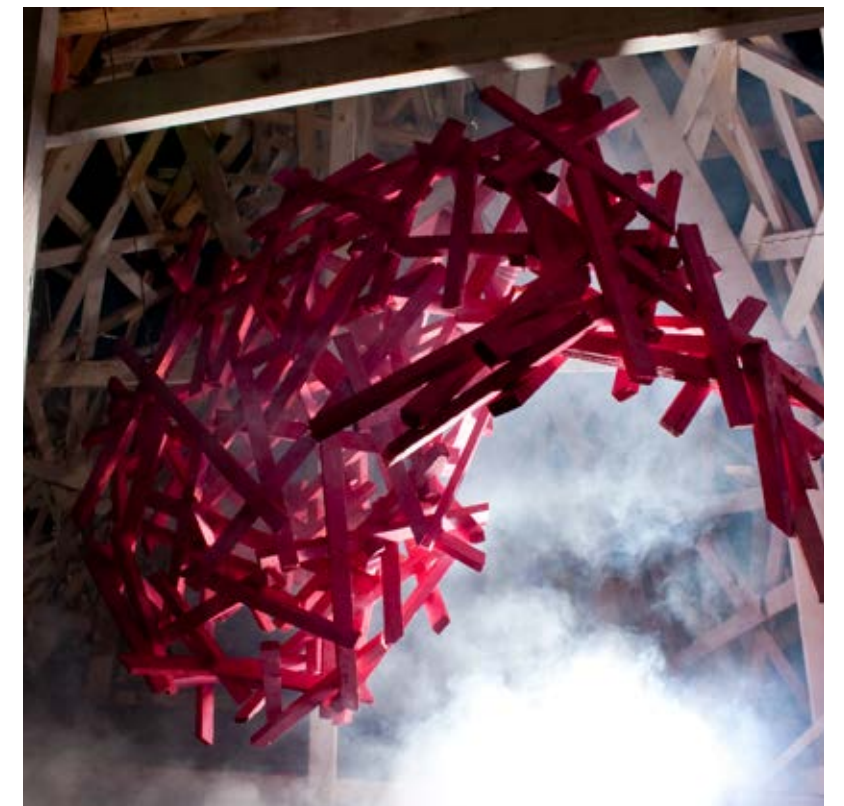


Photo by Eva Szombat

DINOSAUR

Csongrád, Hungary, 2010



Photo by Mark Viszlay



Dinosaur In The City, Budapest, Hungary, 2012

Photo by András Vikman

Szőke got the idea for a sculpture of a huge, 16-meter-long dinosaur at an art camp. The dinosaur was inspired by the untouched nature of the Hungarian countryside and the nomadic lifestyle of the Hello Wood art camp, where architecture and art students create new worlds with their own two hands.

Szőke involved volunteers as well in the creative process. The installation was so popular that the Dinosaur was transported to the capital, where it continued to graze peacefully in one of the central parks of Budapest.

DANTE DOG ENTRANCE

Island of Freedom Festival, Budapest, Hungary, 2014



Photo by Eva Szombat

At the biggest music and art festival of Central Europe, Szőke's installation titled Dante Head has been immensely popular, through which visitors can enter one of the stages. Szőke has numerous installations, which he made for well-known, international festivals.



GUARDIANS OF DANTE

Heroes square, Budapest, Hungary, 2011



The two Dobermans, Dante's guardians, were watching the entrance to Szőke's famous Dante Conference exhibition on the two sides of the Kunsthalle in Budapest.

ROCKING HORSE

Rathaus, Vienna, Austria, 2010



Photo by Eva Szombat



Szőke was the one behind a giant interactive public art installation called "The Rocking Horse", which could accommodate 70 riders. Designed by Szőke in collaboration with the architect András Huszár, the 11-meter-long and 6-meter-high, 3.5-ton sculpture was displayed at several locations throughout Europe. It then made its way to Vienna to be a part of the World Harmony Run closing event.

DANTE
EMPIRE

DANTE EMPIRE

The most important source of inspiration for his earlier works is his late doberman, Dante, who is the central character in his own private mythology. Dante is the key figure in many of his performances and exhibitions, and during his university years, the dog appears several times in his paintings, sculptures and installations. He is also the essence of Szőke's own design furniture line, Dante Home.

HALFWAY

In the year of the dog, the artist returned to his muse, Dante. The sculpture titled Halfway fills the largest hall of the Ybl House. The deliberately exaggerated scale of the dog has a dream-like effect between the neo-renaissance walls. It levitates in the air, which only adds to its mysterious character. With this enormous Dante running in a closed space, the artist brings his monumental sculptures closer to the visitor. The sculpture was inspired by a water-colour painting depicting a Chinese foo dog flying above the mountains. Dante dominates the space, but he is only halfway, he wants to develop and form his surroundings.

(2018, mixed media)



DANTE CONFERENCE, DIPLOMA WORK

Kunsthalle Budapest, Hungary, 2010



Photo by Eva Szombat



"Dante Conference" is a huge installation consisting of nine sculptures surrounded by a cage. The nine participants of the conference are the nine most powerful masters of the Universe, rulers of life and death. The nine dogs are from nine circles, these are the provinces of Dante's Universe. Most of their body is made of plastic bottles and re-used materials from the artist's everyday life. They are cyborg creatures living on the edge of the organic and inorganic world. Machines are built into their monstrous bodies. They communicate in a secret language behind closed doors. They stand in front of us like mirrors endowed with human characteristics but still inhuman. They carry records of past ages, of timelessness and of the ancient unalterable truth. The nine monarchs are sitting around the table each in its own throne. The pieces of furniture are part of an imaginary Dante collection.

THE SEATING PLAN

1. DANTE

The dog, whose head is made of a chainsaw, is sitting at the head of the table. He is Dante, the headless absolutist-anarchist monarch. A chainsaw clatters in the place of his head.

2. FILIPPO

Filippo is an elegant dog from a past century, probably a gangster or a businessman.

3. BALTHASAR

Balthasar is sitting on the left side of Dante. He is a feminine man, a more graceful dog, a complex creature. A roebuck's skull can be seen under his rotten scalp and meat.

4. CIACCO

An over-developed robot is seated next to Filippo, whose features are so excessive that he became an uninhibited, degenerate monster. That is why he got the name Ciaccio from the Divine Comedy. His gluttony is also mentioned by Boccaccio.

5. TOMMASO

Opposite Ciaccio next to Balthasar, another complex creature is sitting called Tommaso. He is Dante's shark-self. His skin is similar to the surface of a dead shark. In his mouth among his rotten iron teeth, there is a knife, which can cut metal. Filippo and Tommaso are the first names of Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, author of the Futurist Manifesto.

6. ALEXANDROS

Next to Ciaccio, there is the most merciless conqueror of the Universe: General Alexandros. There are knives placed in his upper and lower jaw instead of teeth. He can turn his head real fast. The conflict between Alexandros and Tommaso is inevitable at the table.

7. VELTERO

Next to Tommaso, there is a greyhound-like mister from the future. His bodily functions differ from the others. His brain is replaced by a machine, which starts to malfunction if overloaded and emits steam through a pipe. His body is covered by rotten mucous. He is Veltero, the Greyhound, the most mysterious character in the Divine Comedy. Many people identify him as Can Grande della Scala, the Veronese lord who hosted the outcast Dante for many years. The name means "Grand Dog". He is a symbol of hope and redemption.

8. GIACOMO

Next to Veltero, a sneaky and cunning beast creeps towards us with a muzzle on his head. He is Giacomo, the traitor, who committed the most horrible sin in Hell. He got his name after Giacomo Balla the futurist painter. You can hardly recognize the little clattering chainsaw placed on his back.

9. LUIS

On the other side of the table opposite Giacomo, we can see a charming conservative gentleman from the beginning of the century. He is Luis, the most sophisticated dog.



Photo by Eva Szombat



Photo by Eva Szombat

The history of the Dante Empire as well as the circumstances of its birth, its wars and its laws came to life and were first published in the "Dante book" by Gábor Miklós Szőke to be followed later by a series of installations, sculptures, paintings, photos, music, a self-branded furniture line, Dante Home, performances, and parties.

Dante, the protagonist appears in the form of a Doberman. Dante can take the form of anything, he may have an infinite number of incarnations. He can be a tyrant, the Lord of the world, God of Fertility or victim of an accident, he can turn into a dandy, a gangster or a politician. Dante is omnipotent. He is myth itself, the mixture of cultures, the symbol of globalization, a lovable creature made by a juvenile child. Through his stories by putting on all his disguises, the young artist reflects on the world around us.

DANTE RITUAL
EXHIBITION/EVENT

Bad Church, Eger, Hungary, 2011





Zagar Vs. Dante organ duel



Ritual meat



Entrance of the Bad Church



Photo by Eva Szombat



Danteist people



Photo by Eva Szombat





DANTE IN ROME

Rome, Italy, 2012



Photo by Eva Szombat



Photo by Eva Szombat



CONCRETE MIXER

Salone Satellite, Milan, Italy, 2013



Photo by iambarrie.com

DANTE HOME



The DANTE HOME interior design brand came from a long experimental process inspired by both the fictive creatures from the mythology of Dante and Szőke's sculptures. The artist describes his own style as industrial-imperial. He uses heavy, natural, high-quality materials for his furniture line. In his style, he reinvents the archaic times in a contemporary way. Tables and cabinets with Doberman feet made out of welded steel sheets, arm chairs and couches made from solid wood with iron straps around them.

His furniture has been influenced by various historical eras, movies and journeys.

The rich universe of Szőke, the story and statues of Dante, details and inspirational plans of sculptures can be seen on the different textiles of DANTE HOME. The Danteist realm created by the artist incorporates rustic and clear interior furniture, and playful luxury items.

The DANTE HOME collection was created by the artist and his team at the Gabor M. Szoke Studio.

BED CONCEPT

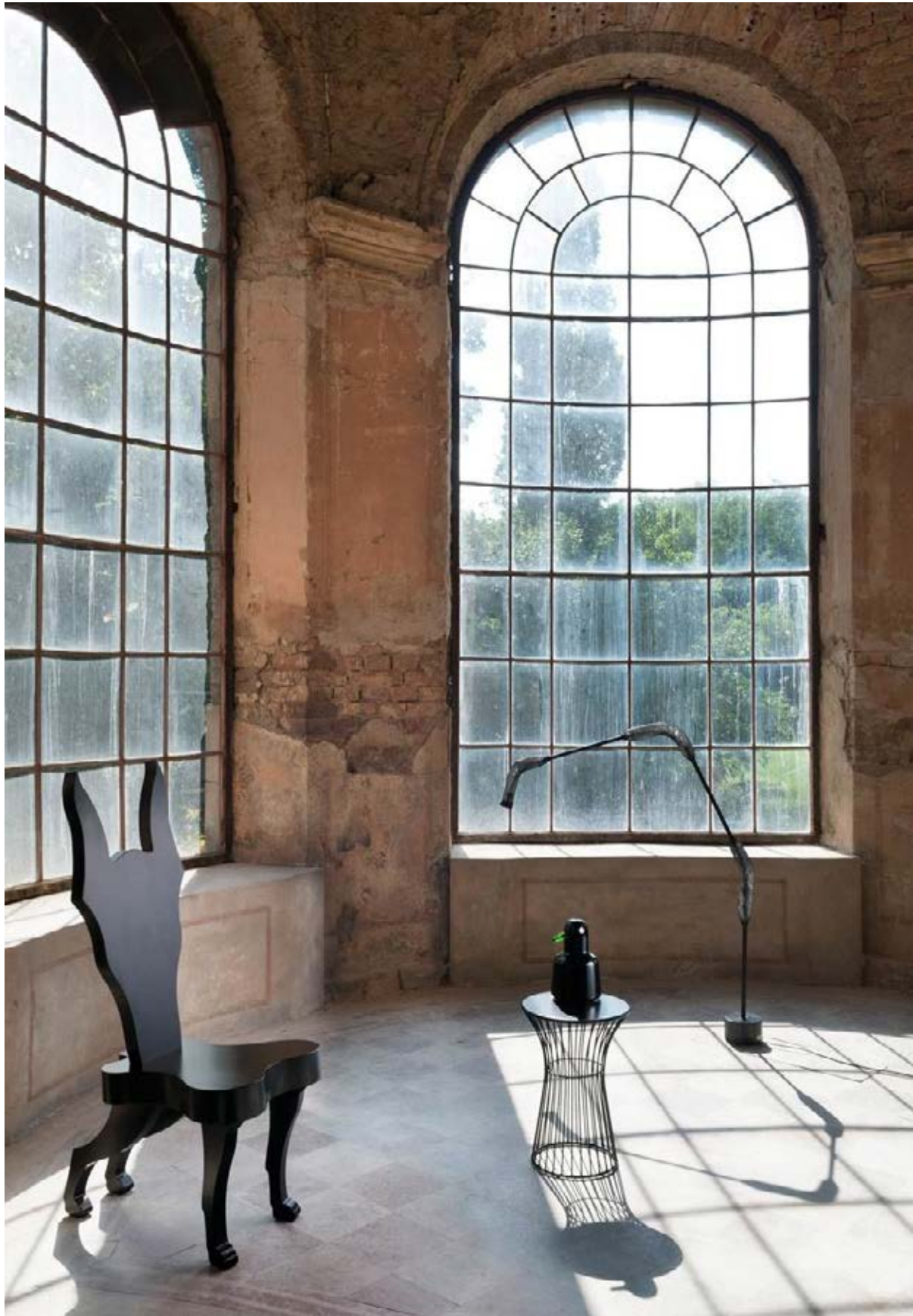
Code Studio, Budapest, Hungary, 2010



Photo by Andras Vikman

ORIGAMI COCKTAIL TABLES





**DANTE
CHAIR AND
TABLE**

Tura Castle, Hungary, 2012



Photo by Andras Vikman

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