



NEW EUROPE COLLEGE
Institute for Advanced Study
Founder and Rector: Prof. Dr. Andrei Pleșu

Bucharest, March 14, 2013

I wish to express my strong support for Mr Barnabás Bencsik as Director of the Ludwig Museum, and my firm conviction that he should be entrusted with the mandate enabling him to continue his work as Director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

Over the years I had many occasions to visit the Museum, undoubtedly one of the most interesting and rich museums in this part of the world. It was a captivating place during its previous director, the much regretted Katalin Néray, and it continued to develop and thrive with Barnabás Bencsik at its head. In recent years, under Mr Bencsik's directorate, the museum organized a number of very important exhibitions that confirmed its major importance among the museums of contemporary art in Central Europe and beyond. It is an institution of which Hungary can be proud, and which constitutes a model for similar museums in the neighbouring countries. Mr Bencsik, a specialist of high repute, an experienced, original and innovative curator, gathered around him a team of extremely competent and knowledgeable specialists, with some of whom I am personally acquainted and had occasions to collaborate.

I am confident that Mr Barnabás Bencsik and his excellent team are best placed to continue on the lines defined during the previous five years in their efforts to build on the legacy of the Ludwig Museum. Their achievements are the most telling proof of the quality of the Director and of his team, and a guarantee for the Museum's future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anca Oroveanu
Professor, Department of History and Theory of Art, National University of Arts, Bucharest
Academic Director, New Europe College-Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest

Andrzej Szczerski
Associate Professor
Institute of Art History
Jagiellonian University
Kraków



UNIWERSYTET
JAGIELLOŃSKI
W KRAKOWIE

Kraków, 25.03.2013

To whom it may concern

Wydział Historyczny

Instytut Historii Sztuki

I have known Mr. Barnabás Bencsik since 2004, first as curator and an art critic, and then as director of Ludwig Museum Budapest. I consider this great privilege that I had several opportunities to work with him on different research and exhibition projects. Mr. Bencsik participated in several conferences I organized in Poland, including international events in Institute of Art Wyspa in Gdańsk (2005) and most recently in Kraków (II International Congress of Polish History 2012). He was also a guest lecturer at the post-graduate curatorial studies in Institute of Art History, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, which I directed. Among other collaborative projects let me also mention his promotion of contemporary Hungarian art in Poland, which resulted i.a. in purchase of an installation by Little Warsaw for a public art collection of Małopolska Foundation Museum of Contemporary Art in Kraków in 2007.

Mr. Barnabás Bencsik achievements as director of Ludwig Museum are indisputable. He profoundly and consequently promoted new interpretations of Hungarian 20th century art, showing both artists who worked in the country and abroad. Ludwig Museum also provided Hungarian public with innovative exhibitions of international art. I particularly value his attachment to regional exchange and promotion of the idea of Central Europe as important and autonomous part of the Old Continent. The institution which he directed emphasized the creative potential of the region and itself became a leading institution, which defined what "Central Europe" means today. Mr. Barnabás Bencsik was able to demonstrate the importance of each of national cultures in the region and their essential contribution to European culture.

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Date 14 maart 2013

Subject Support for Barnabas Bencsik

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Sincerely,

Ann Demeester
Director, De Apple Arts Centre

Białystok, 14.03.2013

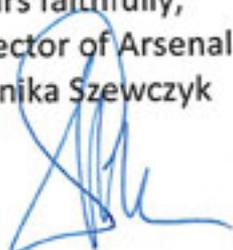
To all interested,

I would like to express my strong support for Mr. Barnabás Bencsik , the hitherto director of Ludwig Museum. The Director Bencsik, an excellent curator and critic, is well-known and respected figure in the art world as well as enjoys wide recognition. He has contributed a lot to the promotion and dissemination of Hungarian art. Thanks to his efforts, the Hungarian artists are becoming more and more recognizable, present in international art presentations, art collections, including our.

I believe that his presence as a director of Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art in Budapest increases its prestige and deepens a confidence in this great institution.

I hope for the further development of this important for Hungary and Europe museum and Barnabás Bencsik it its guarantor.

Yours faithfully,
Director of Arsenal Gallery in Białystok
Monika Szewczyk



Jane Lombard
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Amei Wallach

Fritzie Brown
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 14, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

I write as the Executive Director of CEC ArtsLink, a 50 year old, non-profit cultural exchange organization based in New York City. We have successfully administered an avenue of cultural exchange between the U.S. and Eastern Europe known as ArtsLink Residencies for the past 21 years. In that context, and informed by an appetite for excellence, I have come to know and respect the work of Director Barnabus Bencsik. I wish to express my support for Mr. Bencsik's continuing in his role as Director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

I was shocked and saddened to hear that Mr. Bencsik's contract was not, as a matter of course, renewed as his work has greatly advanced Hungary's reputation abroad. His programming is challenging yet accessible and the rigor he brings to his position adds great luster to the cultural production of the national capital and the country as a whole. I stand with many colleagues who are similarly perplexed that his work and reputation may not be appreciated by the country whose reputation, in cultural spheres, he has so greatly advanced. Together with the excellent team of stellar professionals that he has assembled, he stands poised to bring even more brilliance to the Museum.

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss my endorsement further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Fritzie Brown
Executive Director



March 14, 2013

LETTER OF SUPPORT

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Barnabás Bencsik whom I consider a very responsible person and the most appropriate professional for the Director's position at the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

Barnabás Bencsik has been active in the field of contemporary art for several years now and is concerned one of the most active curator of his generation. He has had quite a long list of curatorial and educational posts and projects that he prepared as an author or a collaborator of some of the prominent culture organisations in Hungary and worldwide, also in Slovenia.

He is innovative, energetic, extremely self-initiative, and internationally linked professional and I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

I strongly support Barnabás Bencsik to continue his work as the Director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

Sincerely,

Barbara Borcic, Director



March 19, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's application for second-term Director of the Ludwig– Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

I am the current Program Director at the Trust for Mutual Understanding (TMU), a private foundation that awards grants for arts and environmental exchange activities between the United States and Central and Eastern Europe and Russia. TMU was founded in 1984 to assist individual to individual, cross-border connections as a means to encourage understanding between nations. (More information is available at www.tmuny.org.)

Our foundation was first introduced to Mr. Bencsik when he was with the non-profit Trafó Gallery and later was able to partner on several important exchanges between American and Hungarian artists and curators when he founded the ACAX – Agency for Contemporary Art Exchange. ACAX has been an exceptional promoter of Hungarian artists in the international art scene, a task to which Mr. Bencsik has been committed throughout his career. In his post as Director of the Ludwig– Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest, we feel he has excelled at opening up mutual channels of

communication promoting spaces and situations in which people can meet and creativity can flourish.

It is our firm belief that Mr. Bencsik has enlivened and internationalized the programming at the Ludwig and has bolstered programming and partnerships. As a deeply invested observer and someone who regularly visits centers for the arts all over the world, I can say that Barnabás Bencsik and his team have left a profound mark on the culture and reputation of the contemporary art scene in Hungary, helping to grow the institution to a new level as far as the quality of collaborators it attracts and, thus, the quality of work being shown. He has also enriched the climate of the Ludwig by opening its doors to professional opportunities internationally and by bringing in guest artists of the highest caliber. Mr. Bencsik has truly helped put the Ludwig on the map in the global arena and is constantly looking for ways to continue to raise its profile. His level of passion, talent, and organizational capabilities are unmatched.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Lanciers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Lanciers

Program Director

+1 (212) 843-0374

19 March 2013

Ludwig Múzeum–Kortárs
Művészeti Múzeum
Ludwig Museum–Museum of
Contemporary Art
H-1095 Budapest, Komor
Marcell u.1.

Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

To whom it may concerns

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

The building of an identity and strength of a place and institution strongly is depending on the continuity of a vision and the engagement of people.

Mr. Barnabás Bencsik and his team have proven to be able to do so to strenghten and expand the reputation and visibility of this exceptional instituion locally, nationally and internationally.

With very best wishes

Sincerely



Beatrix Ruf
Director and Chief curator
Kunsthalle Zürich



**İstanbul
Biennial**

**İstanbul
Biennial**

İstanbul Kültür Sanat Vakfı
Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts
Nejat Eczacıbaşı Binası
Sadi Konuralp Caddesi No: 5
Şişhane 34433 İstanbul - Turkey
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F: +90 (212) 334 07 05
ist.biennial@iksv.org
www.iksv.org/bienal

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To whom it may concern,

This letter is to express our strong support for Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's application to continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

We have been working in collaboration with Mr. Bencsik and the curatorial team in Ludwig Museum in scope of our research focusing on the cultural and artistic practice in Hungary for the last editions of the Istanbul Biennial. With their in depth knowledge of the Hungarian art scene, and profound professional vision and experience in contemporary art, Mr. Bencsik, together with his team, has always been very supportive and cooperative and offered valuable contribution and insight during our collaboration.

We are confident that Mr. Bencsik and his professional team are best fit and qualified to continue working as the directorial team for the next five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already demonstrated. To this end, we sincerely hope that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik will be reappointed as director of Ludwig Museum.

Sincerely yours,

Bige Örer

Director

Istanbul Biennial

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Öncü Sponsor
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IKSV
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Branka Stipančić and Mladen Stilinović
Ljudevita Posavskog 9 / 10000 Zagreb / CROATIA
Phone: 003851. 4658 004 / branka.stipancic@zg.t-com.hr

To:
Whom it May Concern

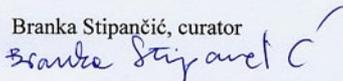
Letter of support for Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's application for the directorship of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

We have been working with Mr. Barnabás Bencsik for many years but the project of the retrospective exhibition of Mladen Stilinović „Sing!“ and the accompanying catalogue in Ludwig Museum in 2011, convinced us ones more of the exceptional professionalism with which this Museum has been directed.

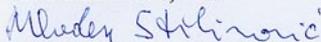
Mr. Barnabás Bencsik is one of the leading experts in contemporary art, his knowledge, his dedication, his effort and wisdom with which he organized his curatorial team and the museum is well known over the boundaries of Hungary. His deep understanding of contemporary art and his familiarity with the functioning of the art world make trustful cooperation with art experts as well as with a broader audience possible. We see Mr. Barnabás Bencsik as the one who has succeeded to lift the name of the Ludwig Museum high among the most important museums of contemporary art in Europe.

We would like to express our strong support that Mr. Barnabas Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. We are confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years and we believe in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Branka Stipančić, curator



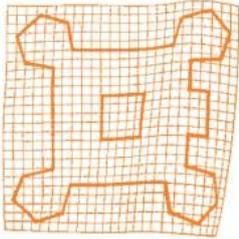
Mladen Stilinović, artist



Zagreb, 16th of March 2013

Centre
for Contemporary
Art
Ujazdowski
Castle

March 28th, 2013,
Warsaw



Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my deepest support for Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's application for the post of Director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art in Budapest, Hungary. I know that the strategy Mr. Bencsik employed whilst director was, in previous years, very professional and fruitful. I believe that his vision and exhibition policy should be allowed continuation in the subsequent years and that it is the best solution to keep the Ludwig Museum as important for the art world and worth seeing for the public as it is now.

My support for this candidature comes from the conviction that there are still many projects that Mr. Bencsik can and should organize in the Ludwig Museum, as well as in cooperation with other institutions. Personally, I have realized how important the international cooperation that keeps the cultural institution vivid and flowing is for him. Right now, we are working together on Marina Abramovic's exhibition. The exhibition is being prepared very carefully, and without doubt it will be an amazing project; moreover, once shown in Budapest and Warsaw, it will be something of which we can be proud of. It is my great pleasure to work with Mr. Bencsik on this project and I would truly regret if this cooperation would be interrupted. I think that the Ludwig Museum will only continue to gain if it is inclined to have a director who values the exchange of experiences and artistic achievements between institutions and people.

I highly recommend Mr. Bencsik's candidature as I know him as a reliable and effective professional. I would like to underline how important it is for the Museum that he be allowed to continue to work as director.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Fabio Cavallucci in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Fabio Cavallucci
Director

São Paulo, March 12, 2013

To whom it may concern

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.


Cristina Freire
Vice-Director



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art and Design

17 March 2013

To whom it may concern

In recent years, the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art under director Barnabás Bencsik has been a major centre in the international network of museums of modern art in the world. Since his appointment in 2008, Bencsik and his team have produced a series of outstanding exhibitions which have done much to promote public engagement with contemporary art, particularly that produced in Central Europe. Under his leadership the Ludwig Museum has done much to put Hungarian contemporary art in dialogue with the international art world, both in the region and further afield. This has required serious research into the practices of artists as well as very high quality curation. The programme in the last five years (and in fact since the opening of the Museum) has been particularly impressive when judged by *any* international standards.

I write this to express my strong support for Mr Bencsik and his team in the face of the decision not to renew his contract. I strongly believe that he should continue in his role as director of the museum. He will ensure the success and continued relevance of the Ludwig Museum. Hungarian cultural life needs robust public institutions which operate without political interference. This has to be one of the clearest lessons of forty years of communist rule.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Crowley'.

Professor David Crowley
Head of the Critical Writing in Art & Design Programme

To whom it may concern

Kulturstyrelsen

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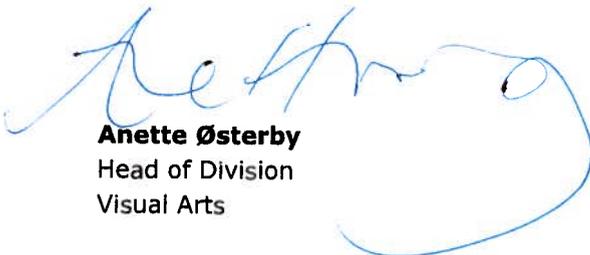
March 15, 2013

Support for Mr. Bencsik

This letter is to express a strong support for Mr. Barnabás Bencsik and his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

We have worked with Mr. Bencsik on several occasions. Most recently was in 2010 when the Ludwig Museum showed an exhibition of Danish Contemporary Art during the Spring Festival in Budapest. The exhibition was opened by the Danish Minister of Culture Mr. Per Stig Møller, who was extremely impressed by the professionalism of the museum. As partners in the exhibition we, the Danish Agency of Culture, can only express our satisfaction with the cooperation and with Mr. Bencsik and his staff.

We therefore highly recommend Mr. Bencsik as an extremely competent, and important international museumleader.



Anette Østerby
Head of Division
Visual Arts

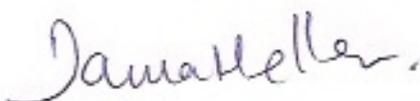
Danish Agency for Culture
Dir. tlf. +45 33 74 47
E-mail: aoe@kulturstyrelsen.dk

March 12, 2013

Letter of support for Mr Barnabás Bencsik's
application for the directorship of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of
Contemporary Art, Budapest

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.



Sincerely,

Danna Heller

Art Curator, Tel Aviv

Wrocław, 14 March 2013

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to express my strong support and recommend Mr Barnaba Bencsik as a director for the second term of Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art in Budapest.

I know personally Mr Bencsik since the end of 1990 as a serious art theoretician and gifted curator of contemporary art exhibitions and also as a person deeply devoted to the methodological reflection on functioning of art institution. Serving as a director of Museum Ludwig in Budapest he proofed that he is not only a strong theoretician, but also a very successful and efficient director of a Museum. He managed to promote his Museum and Hungarian contemporary art abroad (e.g. Societe Realiste). He managed to maintain various collaboration projects with partners inside and outside the country. Thanks to his work Ludwig Museum became internationally recognized institution, as one of only few in Hungary. Ludwig Museum attained a high professional profile and I intend to collaborate with the Museum in the nearest future.

It would be a great loss for culture, if this situation had changed, because of a change of a director.

Yours faithfully



Dorota Monkiewicz
Director



Generali Foundation

Ludwig Museum –
Museum of Contemporary Art Budapest

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1040 Wien, Austria

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Telefax +43 1 504 98 83

foundation@generali.at
<http://foundation.generali.at>

2013 03 18

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

this letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sabine Folie
Director Generali Foundation

GALERIJA GREGOR PODNAR

Ludwig Múzeum
Kortárs Művészeti Múzeum
Museum of Contemporary Art

H-1095 Budapest, Komor Marcell u. 1.

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Mobile: +49 178 390 89 84
St.-Nr.: 14/474/60402
UST.-Ident.-Nr. / VAT: DE255872671
berlin@gregorpodnar.com www.gregorpodnar.com

Berlin, 29.03.2013

Letter of support

Dear Sirs, dear Madams,

From beginning of this year the position of the director of Ludwig Museum in Budapest is vacant. The former and current interims director Barnabás Bencsik is waiting for confirmation of his position as director of the institution for the upcoming mandate. Mr. Bencsik is one of the most valuable personalities in the context of the museum scene for contemporary art in Europe. He happen to show that he is the most skilled professional in Hungary to combine an exhibition program of the lightest international standard with the most exciting elements of contemporary from Hungary. Although I am following well the contemporary art development and the research of art since the 70s in Hungary from mid 90s on, I can say that Mr. Bencsik and his museum team gave me in the past years a tremendously big and new insight into the Hungarian art scene. The exhibition program that I have learned during the directorship of Barnabás Bencsik was irreplaceable not only for Central European standards but on the highest artistic and intellectual level that I have experience until now in Europe and abroad.

Please, consider that Mr. Bencsik's capability and professional skills should not be put under danger because of political issues and believes as a loss of Mr. Bencsik as director of the Ludwig Museum in Budapest would mean an irrevocable loss to the Hungarian people and its contemporary culture. Please, give the Hungarian people a chance, do not act against great national achievements, which have been made by this extraordinary person and help to confirm Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's position as the future director of Ludwig Museum for the next mandate.

Gregor Podnar



Bremen, 25 March 2013

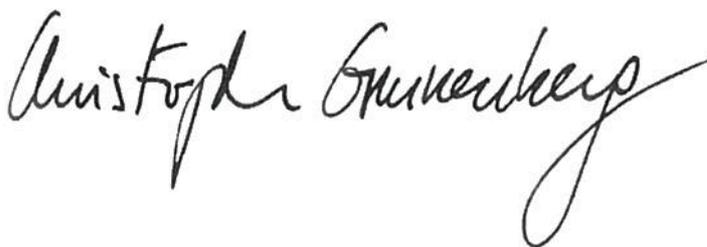
To Whom It May Concern

Letter in Support of Mr. Barnabás Bencsik, Director, Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art

I would like to express my strong support for Mr. Barnabás Bencsik to continue his work as the Director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art in Budapest. I have known Mr. Bencsik for the past five years and had close professional contact with him. We had the pleasure to collaborate with him on the exhibition of the British artist Glenn Brown in 2010, which toured from Tate Liverpool to the Ludwig Museum in Budapest. We were impressed by the extremely high professional standards of the Ludwig Museum in all aspects of its operation, from the installation to the press coverage. I have closely followed the Ludwig Museum and its program is notable through its originality, intellectual standard and international orientation.

I am convinced that Barnabás Bencsik is best qualified to build on the successes of the past five years and to continue to lead the Ludwig Museum as one of the foremost cultural institutions in Hungary and Europe. I would be happy to answer any further questions you may have regarding Mr. Bencsik.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Christoph Grunenberg
Director

Centre Pompidou



Paris, 16 mars 2013

I met Mr Barnabas Bencsik in October 2011, when he showed me the two current exhibitions "East of Eden. Photorealism : versions of reality" and "Yona Friedmann". I was very impressed by the program which was combining innovative research and social concern. One exhibition was reviving an old forgotten artist who had been a pioneer for the futuristic ideas he developed in the sixties, which become solutions for the present urbanistic questions. The other one was focusing on images of our societies (East and West) during the same period and revealed surprising similarities and differences. Because of its realism, it was certainly a popular exhibition.

Mr Bencsik is obviously a director who has the ability to combine innovativity with social awareness, in order to appeal to the local public. I am convinced that he is an excellent professional.

This is why I think that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Jean-Hubert MARTIN

General curator of the exhibition Dali

Lodz, March 20, 2013

To whom it may concern,

As a Director of Muzeum Szuki Lodz I would like to fully recommend Mr. Barnabás Bencsik and express my deep hope that he will be able to continue his mission as a Director of Ludwig Museum Budapest.

I had a pleasure to meet Mr. Barnabás Bencsik in 2001 on the occasion of Art in General New York project that supposed to lead to tighten artistic cooperation among Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and USA. Since that time I have attentively followed his consistent activity for promotion of Hungarian art as well as consolidation of its position on the international scene. I had an occasion to encounter Mr. Bencsik many times and I was always impressed by his unusual competences, great knowledge and creativity. Thanks to his efforts Ludwig Museum Budapest became one of the leading artistic institutions in the region, contributing to the museum world many valuable and original qualities. In recognition of them, Ludwig Museum was invited to a newly created Translocal network, which gathers distinguished European museums of modern art. As one of the cofounders of this network I would be happy to develop, within its frame, cooperation with Mr. Barnabás Bencsik as a Director of Ludwig Museum Budapest.

Mr. Barnabás Bencsik is undoubtedly one of the pillars of the Hungarian art world as well as outstanding ambassador of Hungarian culture. It would be a great loss for the culture, if he could not continue his activity at his current position.

Sincerely yours,



Jarosław Suchan
Director



To whom it may concern

Letter of recommendation concerning Mr Barnabás Bencsik

Stuttgart, March the 14th 2013

Dear Sirs,

Since more than ten years I have been in close contact with Mr Barnabás Bencsik. Akademie Schloss Solitude was lucky enough to use Mr. Bencsik's profound knowledge of the Hungarian contemporary art scene in order to select young artists from Hungary for its fellowship program in Stuttgart. During my many visits in Budapest I could appreciate Mr. Bencsik's work as a curator in the Trafó Gallery, in Műcsarnok and last but not least in the Ludwig Museum, Museum for Contemporary Art. Especially our collaboration with ACAX under Mr. Bencsik's direction was for Akademie Schloss Solitude an extremely positive experience. ACAX contributed largely to the success of our international exchange program with NGOs in Budapest, Sofia and Warsaw.

In my opinion Mr. Bencsik is one of the best connoisseurs of the Hungarian contemporary art scene, well connected for many years with the international art scene. In Europe and abroad Mr. Bencsik is highly appreciated and estimated by the artists in general and by his colleagues in particular. With his previous work as director of the Ludwig Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest, Mr. Bencsik has proved that he is an excellent director and an outstanding art curator. For all these reasons I strongly support his application for a second term as director of the Museum.

With kind regards

Prof. Jean-Baptiste Joly
Director
Member of the Order „Pro Cultura Ungarica“

**Letter of support for Barnabás Bencsik
and his candidacy for the directorship of the Ludwig's Museum Budapest.**

When I was a child, the story struck me every Easter that Jews were voting for the Barnabas, not for Jesus Christ. Though the truth was clear, but nobody would see it. I used to think that it will stay like this forever. But this year I realized that situation has changed a bit... at least in Budapest, Hungary.

I have known Barnabás Bencsik for many years and I am following his career through different institutions. In Ludwig's Museum Budapest he initiated many processes that should be recognized internationally as well. All reputable curators are concentrated in the Ludwig Museum at the moment and many freelance curators are participating at the museum's programs, if there is any institution that must be visited by international professionals, it is the Ludwig Museum. However it is not only the international context, but also the local one, where Ludwig's Museum pays a lot of attention to education of the local public that is nowadays necessary for all cultural institutions.

I would like to support by this letter of candidacy the personality of Barnabás Bencsik for a directorship at the Ludwig's Museum and do believe that this competition will follow according to the international standards and will not be manipulated.

Juraj Čarný
Vice-President AICA Internationally
President AICA Slovakia

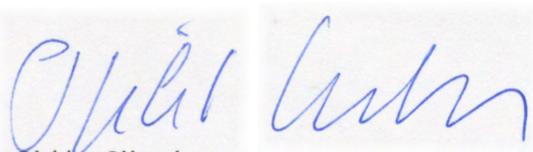


18.3.2013

To the board of election,

Here in Kiasma, Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, we very much appreciate the achievements that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik has accomplished in Ludwig museum, Museum of Contemporary Art in Budapest. We strongly recommend that he could continue his successful efforts within contemporary art and that he would be re-elected as the director of Ludwig Museum. We are convinced that he and his professional team are the best people to continue to develop the program of the museum and answer, also in the future, to the challenges of contemporary art. By appointing Mr. Barnabás Bencsik as director, the legacy of the museum and the future of contemporary art in Hungary would have a worthy continuation.

Sincerely,



Pirkko Siitari

Museum Director

Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma

Helsinki

KIASMA

NYKYTAITEEN MUSEO MUSEET FÖR NUTIDSKONST MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Mannerheimin aukio 2, FI-00100 Helsinki, Finland

Info +358 (0)9-1733 6501, Fax +358 (0)9-1733 6503, www.kiasma.fi

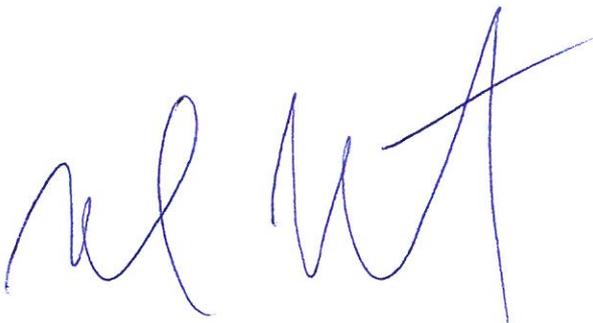
Valtion taidemuseo Statens konstmuseum Finnish National Gallery

Ludwig Museum-Museum of Contemporary Art
Komor Marcell u.1.
H-1095 Budapest
HUNGARY

In Ústí nad Labem, March 22, 2013

Dear friends,

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.



doc. Mgr. Michal Koleček, Ph.D.
dean
Faculty of Art and Design, UJEP

Univerzita J. E. Purkyně
v Ústí nad Labem
Fakulta umění a designu
400 06 Ústí nad Labem, Pasteurova 9

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached

Katarzyna Kozyra (artist)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Kozyra', written in a cursive style.

Centre Pompidou-Metz

Le Directeur

Metz, le 13 mars 2013

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

I thank you in advance for your kind attention and understanding.

Yours Sincerely,



Laurent Le Bon

Établissement Public de
Coopération Culturelle
Centre Pompidou-Metz

1, parvis des Droits-de-
l'Homme
CS 90490

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Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art and Design

Letter of support for Mr Barnabás Bencsik's application for the continuing directorship of the Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

08.04.2013

To whom it may concern

I am writing in a personal capacity in support of the renewal of Barnabás Bencsik's contract as Director of the Ludwig Museum for a second term. The international programme he has been running is so important as it enables real cultural exchange between our different countries, to understand our different and also shared local interests.

I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michaela Crimmin".

Michaela Crimmin

Curating Contemporary Art, School of Humanities

Tensta konsthall

صالَة تينستا للفنون

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Stockholm 28 March 2013

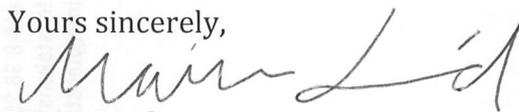
This letter is in support of the candidacy of Barnabas Bencsik for the directorship of Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art Budapest.

Barnabas Bencsik has made an excellent program at the museum, giving space for art from Hungary as well as important international tendencies. His tireless support of artists from Hungary and efforts to place them in fruitful dialogue with international colleagues is widely appreciated, far beyond the borders of Hungary. Personally I have followed his work since 1997 and his contribution to making art from Hungary known outside the country should not be estimated.

Barnabas Bencsik is a valued professional and colleague who surely will continue making a highly qualitative and influential program at the Ludwig Museum. In light of this I hope to see him continue his great practice at this well-respected institution.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Lind

Director Tensta konsthall

Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Univ.-Prof Dr. Marina Grzinic

Lehargasse 6-8

1010 Wien

M.Grzinic@akbild.ac.at

Vienna, 13.03.2013

A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's reelection/confirmation as director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are the best option to continue the previous five years of program and engagement with the institution for the domestic and international public and for contemporary arts.

It is a great opportunity now to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik and his team have already reached.

I had numerous outstanding collaboration with the institution and Mr. Bencsik personally and his professional team, the last was in November 2011 when I came with a group of 30 students from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna to visit the Museum. It was powerful exchange and discussions that empowered a big group of international students that study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna.

Therefore I extend all my support to Mr. Barnabás Bencsik and endorse the wish of many that he should continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

Best regards, Dr. Marina Grzinic



ABRAMOVIĆ LLC

Ph. +1 212 685 4494
180 Varick St #1010
New York, NY 10014

New York, January 23, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I was first contacted in July 2009 by the Ludwig Museum Budapest for the organization of a solo exhibition of my works. The preparation of the project has started in 2010, and since then we met several times with Róna Kopeczky, curator in charge of the exhibition.

Barnabás Bencsik, director of the Ludwig Museum, invited me personally to Budapest in the coming months to visit the exhibition spaces and discuss and finalize the conceptual framework of the planned exhibition. We are presently scheduling a preliminary trip which would suit both our agendas.

This exhibition is planned to be the first large scale overview of my work in the Central Eastern European Region, and would be, as commonly agreed, a travelling show with its first venue in Ludwig Museum Budapest. Consequently, if the present personal, professional and institutional conditions, as well as the agreed conceptual frame of the project remain, I hereby declare my intention to exhibit in Ludwig Museum Budapest in 2014 or 2015.

Warmest regards,



Marina Abramovic

Extra City Kunsthal

Antwerpen

Antwerp, 13.03.2013

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's application for a second term as director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

Under the directorship of Mr. Bencsik, the Ludwig Museum has become one of most interesting and vibrant institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The programming that Mr. Bencsik and his highly competent team have articulated has had a very positive resonance both with the local audience and on the international scene.

Their achievements indicate Mr. Bencsik and his colleagues should be entrusted with the evolution of the Ludwig Museum over the next 5 years.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mihnea Mircan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mihnea Mircan
Artistic director
Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerp



Bucharest, March 14, 2013

I am writing in my name and in the name of my colleagues at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest (MNAC) to express our strong support for Mr Barnabás Bencsik, the current Director of the Ludwig Museum in Budapest, as its future Director.

The contacts between MNAC and the Ludwig Museum, Budapest go back to the time when its director was Katalin Néray. Thanks to her, we established a privileged relationship with this Museum, and we remain deeply attached to her memory. This relationship continued during Mr Bencsik's directorate, leading to common projects, such as the recent exhibition *Société Réaliste*, which has just closed at our museum. We are also most eager to continue and enlarge this collaboration in the framework of the project initiated by the Ludwig Museum, Budapest, devoted to a common research and display of art in Central and Eastern Europe.

Continuing on Katalin Néray's footsteps, Barnabás Bencsik strengthened the position of the Ludwig Museum, Budapest as a truly European institution, ranking among the best of its kind. I have a high appreciation for his professionalism, for his deep and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Central and East European art before and after the downfall of communism, for his balanced views and his sensitivity to local particularities. My colleagues and I are confident that this open-minded, European approach to the complex questions raised by contemporary art and its display will continue to inspire Barnabás Bencsik and the excellent team on which he relies in his work.

With my best wishes,

Mihai Oroveanu
General Director

Extra City Kunsthal

Antwerpen

Antwerp, 13.03.2013

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Mr. Barnabás Bencsik's application for a second term as director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

Under the directorship of Mr. Bencsik, the Ludwig Museum has become one of most interesting and vibrant institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The programming that Mr. Bencsik and his highly competent team have articulated has had a very positive resonance both with the local audience and on the international scene.

Their achievements indicate Mr. Bencsik and his colleagues should be entrusted with the evolution of the Ludwig Museum over the next 5 years.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mihnea Mircan', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right and ends in a small hook.

Mihnea Mircan
Artistic director
Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerp

Hungarian Government
Ministry of Human Resources - State Secretariat for Culture
Hungary

Arnhem, 20 March 2013

Ref: Request for a letter of support for Mr Barnabás Bencsik's application for the directorship of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

To whom it concerns,

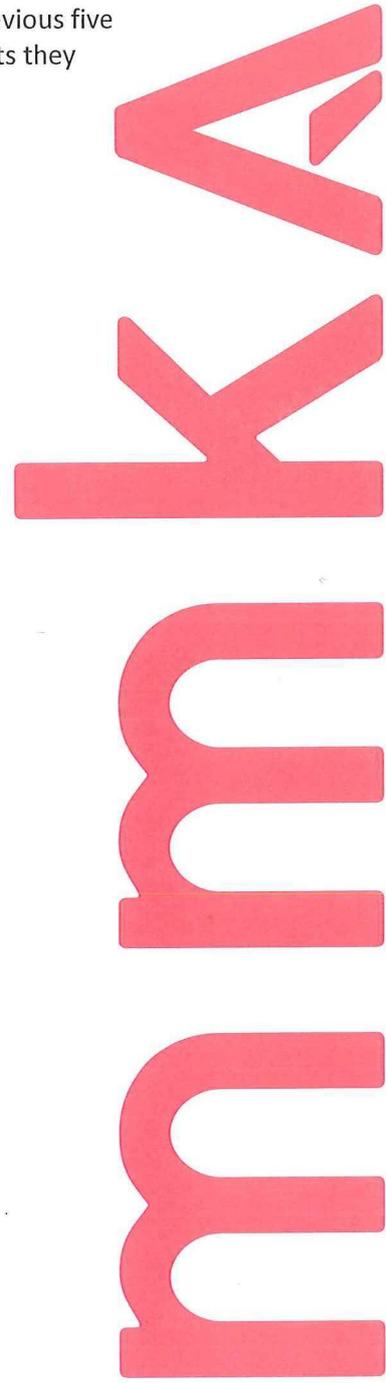
This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Kind regards,



Mirjam Westen
Curator contemporary art

Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem
The Netherlands
www.mmkarnhem.nl



The Museum of Modern Art

Christophe Cherix
The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Chief Curator
of Prints and Illustrated Books

March 27, 2013

Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art
Palace of Arts, Komor Marcell u. 1
1095 Budapest
Hungary

To Whom It May Concern:

As the leader of the Fluxus group within The Museum of Modern Art's C-MAP (Contemporary and Modern Art Perspectives in the Global Age) research initiative, together with my colleagues I collaborate with individuals and institutions in many countries of Central and Eastern Europe. One of the few institutions that we have identified as a potential partner for the C-MAP initiative is the Ludwig Museum in Budapest, led by Mr. Barnabás Bencsik. The Ludwig Museum was selected due to its strong exhibition program and involvement in cultural production on both a national and international level.

We look forward to an active future partnership with the Ludwig Museum, as a part of the C-MAP initiative, and we would find it disappointing if changes in the museum's management would interrupt these plans.

Sincerely,



Utrecht, March 18th, 2013.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

This letter is to state my strong support to my colleague Barnabás Bencsik, and to express my opinion that he should continue being the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, in Budapest. It is crucial that he can maintain the very relevant work that he has done as head of this institution, which has gained international reputation for it.

As artistic director of PHotoEspaña, I invited Mr. Bencsik to be a keynote speaker in an international conference that I organized last year in Madrid, together with José Jiménez, former Deputy Minister of Culture of Spain; Martin Barnes, Chief Curator of Photography, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and Akiko Miki, Chief Curator, Palais de Tokyo, Paris. The prominent level of these participants shows clearly the high esteem in which I have Mr. Bencsik.

I consider that he and his professional team are best placed to continue their efforts to build on the legacy of the Ludwig Museum and increase the achievements they have already reached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerardo Mosquera', written in a cursive style.

Gerardo Mosquera
Independent curator and critic
Artistic Director of PHotoEspaña



To whom it may concern

Luxembourg March 20, 2013

Since many years I follow with great attention Barnabas Bencsik's curatorial projects at Ludwig Museum and elsewhere. I first encountered Barnabas in the 1990s at the Studio Gallery in Budapest. Under his management the Gallery has become an internationally recognized institution.

In 1998 Barnabas was invited to give a public talk during the Manifesta 2- European Biennial of contemporary art in Luxembourg. We have further closely collaborated and co-curated in 2010 together with the Hamburger Kunstmuseum the exhibition *Attila Csörgö*, the first large-scale retrospective exhibition of this outstanding Hungarian artist. As a colleague, I highly acknowledge a great number of important group shows on themes of significance that Barnabas Bencsik curated.

Since 2009 Barnabas Bencsik is a member of the acquisition board with the aim to advise Mudam about its acquisitions policy and to validate the quality of selected artworks and their pertinence with regard to international production.

I appreciate very much his professionalism and his engagement towards contemporary art as much as his big knowledge and many years experience in the field of culture and I know that Barnabas is also very appreciated by all my international colleagues.

Having in mind all the qualities I have described, I can only say that the Ludwig Museum in Budapest is lucky to have him at his head.

Sincerely yours,

Enrico Lunghi
General Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Enrico Lunghi", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

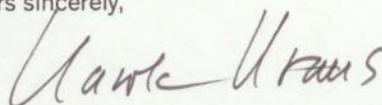
Vienna, March 15, 2013

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. As the director of the Museum of Modern Art Ludwig Foundation Vienna I am proud to say that the Ludwig Museum in Budapest was and still is one of our central partner institutions thanks to the excellent directorship of Mr. Bencsik and the always superb cooperation with him. We are very thankful for his exceptional competence and generous support which he always showed towards our shared projects. The extraordinary international prestige of the Ludwig Museum in Budapest is mostly due to Mr. Bencsik's contacts and work. He connected the Museum to the international art world and with the most important modern and contemporary artists. We want to stress and emphasize the high responsibility and importance which the Ludwig Museum in Budapest got due to its precious collection built up by Irene and Peter Ludwig and supervised and presented by directors like Mr. Bencsik. His high recognition in the international art and museum world brought a much larger international interest and presence to the Hungarian museums and art scene than ever before. We are sure that with him and his open minded spirit and engagement the Hungarian art spring will continue to spread. And we are in great worry that without him things could fall back and end up in isolation. Furthermore, we would be very disappointed not to be able to continue our partnership with Mr. Bencsik and the Ludwig Museum in Budapest in the excellent way we do now.

Considering all the positive experiences we had with Mr. Bencsik, I am confident that he and his professional team are best suited to carry on the vital work they have built up during the past five years, and continue to build on the legacy of the Ludwig Museum and the many achievements they have already accomplished.

Yours sincerely,



Karola Kraus
Director

LA FABRICA

Verónica,13
28014 Madrid, Spain
T. +34 913 601 320
F. +34 913 601 322
www.lafabrica.com
lafabrica@lafabrica.com

Madrid, March 15th, 2013

To whom it may concern,

During the last five years I have been following the program of the Ludwig Museum in Budapest and I have always found interesting and stimulant the combination of the solo and group exhibitions. For the Museum has passed artist of International relevance in solo exhibition, such as Martin Munkácsi or Yona Friedman. I have also found the group and thematic exhibition really stimulating and appropriated. That's the reason why the Museum Ludwig has reached international reference.

As a curator, I had the opportunity to work with the Museum with the exhibition of *László Moholy-Nagy: The Art of Light* which was celebrated at the Ludwig Museum from June 9 to September 25th 2010. During my experience working in the Museum I could see the high professional level of all the team, its enthusiasm and involvement in the project. From the mounting people to the coordinators, from the responsible of educative programs to the responsible of press and public relations, all of them worked so professionally that I was not surprised of the success of the exhibition: Crowdiess press conference and opening as well as the following reception from the general public. During the exhibition time some foreign people that had visited the exhibition at Ludwig Museum in the Summer sent me messages saying that it was one of the most interesting to see in that moment in the city of Budapest.

Such an extraordinary work it is not possible without the work of the director, Barnabás Bencsik, who has known to surround of highly-trained professionals who love their job, only way for things to work and have success.

Otherwise, the relationship between La Fábrika and the Ludwig Museum went smoothly to carry out the László Moholy-Nagy exhibition.

Taking into account the previous, I give all my support to the Ludwig Museum in order to continue the work they have been realizing to approach contemporary art to the grand public and to his director Barnabás Bencsik, for the work made in the program of exhibitions as well as the direction of the Museum.

Yours faithfully,

Oliva María Rubio
Curator and Artistic Director
LA FÁBRICA

Prof. Dr Piotr Piotrowski
Professor *ordinarius*
Art History Department; Adam Mickiewicz University
Al. Niepodległości 4; 61874 Poznań POLAND
www.arthist.amu.edu.pl www.amu.edu.pl/~piotrpio
piotrpio@amu.edu.pl

March 15, 2013

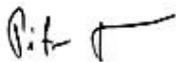
To whom it may concern:

A letter of support to **Mr. Barnabas Bencsik**

Mr. Bencsik, Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Ludwig, Budapest, is worldwide recognized museum person, who keeps this institution on the highest international level. What is important to me, a scholar dealing with Central-East European art history, this internationalism – corresponding with Peter Ludwig legacy – does not neglect regional, and local, Hungarian art. This is what differs Budapest Museum from other such institutions in Europe and around the world.

I am absolutely convinced that Barnabas Bencsik's affords to keep the highest rank position of the Museum in the world has been successful, and on behalf of myself and many colleagues, art historians, curators, art critics, I am sure that he is the best person to continue his job as the director of the Museum, providing at the same time the best opportunity to maintain this Hungarian cultural institution among leading museums of contemporary art in Europe.

Sincerely,



Piotr Piotrowski

NASJONALMUSEET FOR KUNST, ARKITEKTUR OG DESIGN

Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art
Palace Of Arts
Komor Marcell u. 1
H-1095 Budapest
Ungarn

Oslo, 19. March 2013

Recommendation and support for Barnabas Bencsik as Director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest

To whom it may concern,

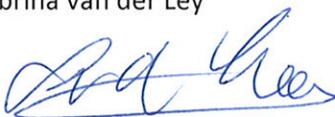
This letter is to express my strong support of Mr. Barnabás Bencsik to continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

I am confident that he and his professional team are best suited to continue to build on the previous five years, in their efforts to further the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached. They have presented both national and the international public an excellent and diverse exhibition programme and have promoted numerous Hungarian artists to receive recognition in important art events worldwide.

I have collaborated several times with Barnabás Bencsik, most recently on the touring solo exhibition of Attila Csörgő which I took over from the Ludwig Museum Budapest, when I was the senior curator at Hamburger Kunsthalle. I have always experienced him as a highly professional and profoundly considerate museum colleague with a wide reaching international network and profile.

Thank you for your consideration which will be in the best interest for the future success of the Ludwig Museum, Budapest.

With kind regards
Sabrina van der Ley



Sabrina van der Ley
Avdelingsdirektør Samtidskunst / Director of Contemporary Art
Tlf +47 21 98 21 36
sabrina.vd.ley@nasjonalmuseet.no
Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design
The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design
Postboks 7014 St. Olavs plass, NO-0130 Oslo
www.nasjonalmuseet.no

Nasjonalmuseet for kunst,
arkitektur og design

The National Museum of Art,
Architecture and Design

Pb 7014, St. Olavs plass
NO – 0130 Oslo, Norge

Telefon +47 21 98 20 00
Telefaks +47 21 98 20 91

www.nasjonalmuseet.no
info@nasjonalmuseet.no

Org.nr. 985 686 092
Bankkonto: 9046.11.46642



To whom it may concern

Linz, March 26, 2013

Dear Madam, Sir

There are few art professionals in Hungary who are as well-respected and internationally renowned as Mr Barnabás Bencsik.

In fact, as I write these lines, I have just returned from Budapest where I attended the spectacular and happily crowded opening of our mutual exhibition project "The naked man".

Although I have know Mr Bencsik's work for many years – I first took notice during his years at Múcsarnok|Kunsthalle Budapest – the last two years have brought us in continuous contact. Since 2011, together we developed the exhibition "The naked man" in an intensive discourse as well as in matters of production and organisation.

Besides Mr Bencsik's excellent abilities as a museum professional, an exhibition maker and an art manager, there are his social skills to praise. I was impressed how motivating and supportive he leads his team at the Ludwig Museum, and the staff reward his positive leadership with enthusiasm for their work.

During the last five years, the Ludwig Museum's sparkling reputation as Hungary's leading institution for contemporary art has ever increased. I admire how Mr Bencsik has shaped a program which seamlessly integrates the great achievements of Hungarian art in recent history as well as contemporary with the most influential international names and movements.

At this moment, I doubt that there would be a more qualified person to direct Ludwig Museum than Mr Bencsik. I wish that the museum will be strengthened by another five year term of Mr Bencsik in the position of its great director.

Sincerely,

Stella Rollig

Director LENTOS Kunstmuseum Linz

Bonnefantenmuseum Maastricht

Maastricht, March 23, 2013

To whom it may concern.

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

In my position as the director of the Bonnefantenmuseum Maastricht, it is with great pleasure that I can express to you my satisfaction and admiration regarding the professional strategy and exhibition policy developed by my colleague Barnabas Bencsik for the Ludwig Museum in Budapest.

In the past years the program of the Ludwig Museum has set the standard in central Europe and has been valued and appreciated highly by professional colleagues, international art-critics and audiences in the broadest sense. As such the Ludwig Museum has developed into a Lighthouse to which the international professional artworld is directing its compass for inspiration, exchange and collaboration.

For those who are interested in the artistic production in Hungary and central Europe the Ludwig Museum, and especially director Barnabas Bencsik with his extensive network, have proven to be an invaluable source of information. Moreover the establishment of ACAX and its check-in program has fostered international exchange and exhibition opportunities for both Hungarian artists and curators.

Personally I feel privileged to be able to work with Barnabas Bencsik on the occasion of the exchange of exhibitions regarding the work of Hungarian and Dutch artists in the near future. Concrete intentions have been formulated recently regarding the work of Istvan Csakani and Jan Dibbets.

It is with great confidence that I look forward to our future collaborations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stijn Huijts', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Stijn Huijts
Director

Avenue Céramique 250 | 6221 KX Maastricht

Postbus 1735 | 6201 BS Maastricht

t +31 (0) 43 329 0190 (di-vr) | f +31 (0) 43 329 0199

info@bonnefanten.nl | www.bonnefanten.nl

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
12 QUINCY STREET • BARKER CENTER • CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138-3879
TEL. (617) 495-4065 FAX (617) 496-4466

Professor Svetlana Boym

March 15, 2013

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to express my admiration and support for the contemporary art programming at the Ludwig Museum 2009-2013 under the inspired and visionary directorship of Barnabas Bencsik. As a scholar, curator and artist I have worked with many international institutions. I came to the Ludwig museum in 2010 and after visiting several exhibitions featuring Hungarian and international artists, I chose the museum as a site for international collaboration with Harvard University. I was particularly impressed by innovative, bold yet comprehensive and thoughtful approach to the material in the shows and pioneering curating. I particularly enjoyed Yona Friedman retrospective that was truly spectacular and pioneering by international standards, as well as the exhibition of the work of Attila Csörgö, exhibition on Photorealism and Art and Science Fiction.

We organized an international group of curators and scholars led by the director of Ludwig Barnabas Bencsik and curator Hajnalka Somogyi and proposed a plan for the first international exhibit dedicated to the Off-Modern Art and Nostalgic Technologies scheduled for 2013-2014. Barnabas Bencsik's strong international reputation, his unique expertise in Hungarian and international arts of the past thirty years, his excellent eye and organizing and administrative acumen combined with Hajnalka Somogyi's innovative, creative and dedicated curating as well as her high reputation in working with many international artists provided a necessary framework for the project. We worked together for the past two years and organized a special seminar at Radcliffe Institute of the Advanced Studies at Harvard University in November of 2011 entitled: *Modernities Out of Synchrony: Nostalgia and New Media in Transnational Art Practices*

The seminar was an inspiring and intellectually challenging event, that offered a new platform for the international and cross-disciplinary collaboration. It brought together an international group of scholars from the Humanities, Social Sciences and Architecture as well as curators and artists to investigate new tendencies in contemporary art and culture related to the critical uses of nostalgia in the production of new artistic media. Focusing on the practices that were often considered "belated" or "peripheral" vis-à-vis the dominant Western conceptions of modernity and modernization we develop the concept of the "off-modern" that offers an alternative understanding of the artistic evolution from a cross-cultural perspective. Together we formulated the proposal for the exhibition based on some of my theoretical work on Nostalgia (The Future of Nostalgia) and Off-Modern. We already contacted and got agreement from several major international artists including William Kentridge, Anri Sala, Tobias Putrih, Cesare Pietroiusto, Attila Csörgö and others as well as intellectual support of leading scholars in the field such as Professor Giuliana Bruno (Harvard), Professor Jeffrey

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
12 QUINCY STREET • BARKER CENTER • CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138-3879
TEL. (617) 495-4065 FAX (617) 496-4466

Schnapp (Harvard), Dr. Gabi Scardi (Milano), Professor Andreas Huyssen (Columbia University) and others.

I value greatly Ludwig Museum of Budapest as an excellent platform for international collaboration combining exhibitions, scientific research and international collaboration. It is my hope that the administration of the museum will keep the promise to go ahead with the exhibition in 2013-2014. I plan to participate and I have no doubt that it will make a major contribution to understanding of contemporary art in the Hungarian and cross-cultural context.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Boym', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Svetlana Boym
Curt Hugo Reisinger Professor of Slavic and Comparative
Literature
PhD Program in History and Theory of Architecture, Graduate
School of Design
Harvard University

.....

LV4.1 Art Turning Left

15 March 2013

Barnabás Bencsik
Director
Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art
Komor Marcell u.1
1095 Budapest
Hungary

cc. Nikolett Erross

Dear Barnabas

Art Turning Left

Tate Liverpool, 2 November 2013 – 16 February 2014

Palazzo Reale, Milan, Spring/Summer 2014

Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, date tbc

Further to our recent correspondence, we would again like to thank you for your collaboration in relation to the exhibition *Art Turning Left*. As you are no doubt aware, major international exhibitions such as this rely upon the sharing of resources and a layering of institutional expertise. We are therefore delighted to be working with yourself and Nikolett Erross, and thrilled that that this important exhibition will be presented at Ludwig Museum. Please find enclosed the contract that lays out the terms for this partnership.

Following the signing of this contract, we hope to share with you the current list of works to finalise the artists involved, and discuss plans for the related publication. At this stage it would also be good to have your preferred dates to present the exhibition in Budapest so we can devise a suitable tour schedule.

With thanks, again, for your collaboration in this exhibition project,

I look forward to working with you
yours,
Francesco

Francesco Manacorda
Artistic Director
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e-mail francesco.manacorda@tate.org.uk

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Nyilatkozat

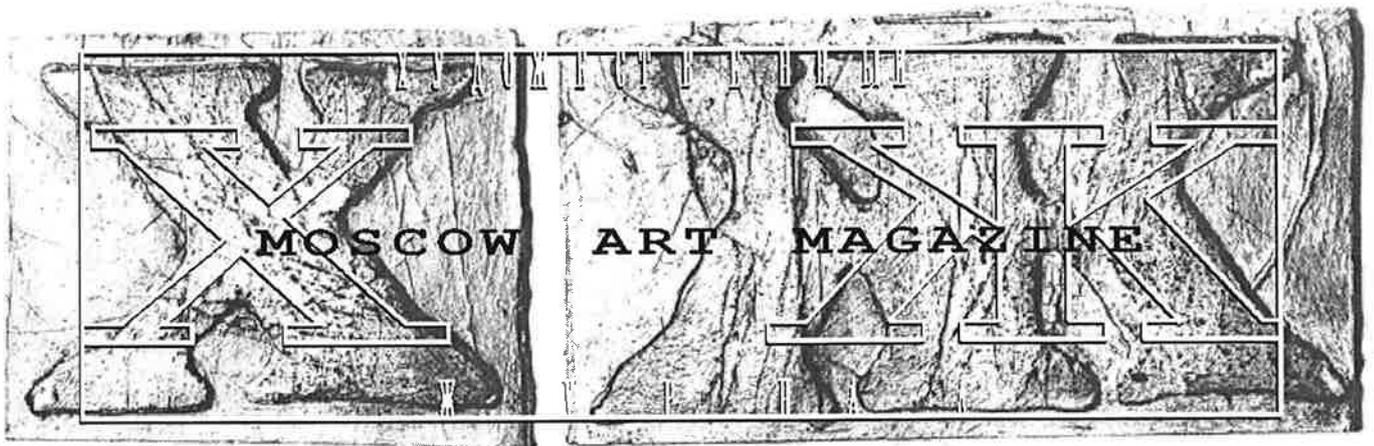
Ez úton kívánok hangot adni véleményemnek, miszerint a budapesti Ludwig Múzeum – Kortárs Művészeti Múzeum igazgatói pozíciójának betöltésére a széles körben elismert **Bencsik Barnabást** tartom a legalkalmasabb magyarországi szakembernek. Az öt éve folytatott sikeres vezetői tevékenysége alapján, meg vagyok győződve arról, hogy az a munka, amit ő és kiváló szakmai csapata elkezdett, irányítása alatt tovább növeli az intézmény pozitív megítélését, a gyűjtemény gyarapodását, a magyarországi művészeti szcéna értékét.

T-A

Tordai-S. Attila

a tranzit.ro kolozsvári fiókszervezetének vezetője

2013. március 18.
Kolozsvár



Moscow, 16.03.2013

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Yours,

Viktor Misiano,
Editor in Chief,
“Moscow Art Magazine”
and
Chair IFM (International Foundation Manifesta)

March 25, 2013

To Whom it may Concern,

I wish to write in support of Bencsik Barnabás, outgoing Director of the Ludwig Museum—Museum of Contemporary Art, to be renamed to that position for a second five-year term. Barnabás is one of the most talented, respected, and accomplished individuals I have had the pleasure to know in more than 25 years as an art-world professional, and he has given the Ludwig Museum a stature at home and internationally of which all Hungarians can be proud.

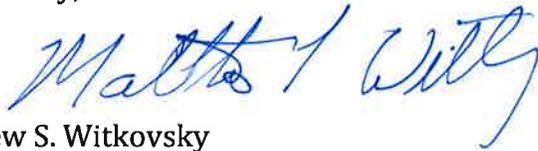
I first had the pleasure of meeting Barnabás around the time of my survey exhibition *Foto: Modernity in Central Europe, 1918-1945*, organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington. This exhibition was made possible thanks to a significant and generous grant from the Hungarian government, secured with great help from H.E. Károly Dan, currently Consul General in New York. The exhibition contained significant representation of Hungarian artists and was presented at the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Milwaukee Art Museum; and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, to a collective audience of nearly half a million visitors.

The partnership with Hungary led me to make the acquaintance of Barnabás, who also proclaimed a dedication to photography in the program of the Ludwig Museum. I had the pleasure of visiting the museum three times under his tenure, once as a guest of the ACAX program. The exhibitions mounted at that museum, and the acquisitions that they have made, are ambitious and have earned great international recognition for important Hungarian artists. This includes artists who have lived abroad for decades, such as Denes Ágnes, whose retrospective exhibition I was able to see in person at the Ludwig—a more important showing of her work has not been mounted to date anywhere else in the world, including in her adopted country, the United States. It also includes native talents such as Maurer Dóra, several of whose works were purchased by the Ludwig Museum around three years ago. Ms. Maurer has since achieved great recognition, being asked to visit The Museum of Modern Art in New York, and also the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work is in the collection of both museums now, and it was featured in a recent exhibition, *Light Years: Conceptual Art and the Photograph, 1964-1977*, that I had the pleasure of curating in Chicago. Our museum now owns several other works of art by Hungarian Conceptual artists, and I became familiar with them thanks to Barnabás.

The ACAX program that the Ludwig Museum has managed is simply fantastic. It has given Hungarian artists an opportunity to meet professionals from Europe and overseas, and has undoubtedly led to many further projects and collaborations. The representation of Hungarian artists at major international venues such as (d)OCUMENTA, held in Kassel, Germany, or biennales in Istanbul and Sao Paulo, is truly significant and must be credited to the leadership of Bencsik Barnabás as well.

In five years, Barnabás has made outstanding strides to bring Hungary to international attention and to demonstrate the professionalism possible in a great Hungarian museum. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

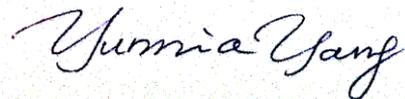


Matthew S. Witkovsky
Richard and Ellen Sandor Chair and Curator
Department of Photography
The Art Institute of Chicago

The Support Letter

My name is Yunnia Yang, an independent curator from Taiwan. This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Thanks to the efficient operation of the ACAX mechanism, which Mr. Barnabás Bencsik has especial and broad vision to set up, he highlights excellent Hungarian contemporary artists in the international art stage and creates a international art network for the Hungarian contemporary art world. Moreover, he curated numerous inspiring but popular contemporary art exhibitions with his curatorial team during the previous five years. I truly believe that the Ludwig Museum lead by Mr. Barnabás Bencsik in further future will bring the significant meanings for the Hungarian contemporary art and its public.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yunnia Yang". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Yunnia Yang
Independent Curator from Taiwan
March 20, 2013. Taipei



Zachęta Narodowa Galeria Sztuki
Zachęta National Gallery of Art
D. N. L. de. 36/2013.

Warsaw, 17th March 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in my capacity as Director of Zachęta – National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, to express my profound support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

It has been the privilege and pleasure of the Zachęta Gallery to collaborate on numerous occasions with the Ludwig Museum over recent years on joint exhibition and cultural projects. On each occasion, we have been impressed by the professionalism and insight of the team at the Ludwig Museum, whose consistently innovative work over a number of years have led to the Ludwig Museum becoming one of the bright lights on the cultural landscape of Central and Eastern Europe. The invaluable work of Mr. Bencsik's team has enabled the museum to continue and build on the widely respected image of Hungary as a place of vibrant artistic creativity, earning deserved international recognition for the museum as an important location for the production and exhibition of contemporary art of the highest quality.

It is our deeply held belief that the most benefit is done for a national culture when art institutions are independent from political influence, and led by those with a passionate commitment to art and to developing their institutions as part of a dynamic environment of local and international artistic innovations and connections. It is our conviction that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik is precisely such a figure, and we are confident that he and his highly professional team are best placed to continue the work they have instigated over the previous five years, and should be given the chance to continue in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and on the significant achievements they have already succeeded in attaining.

It is for these reasons that, in the name of the institution that I represent, I strongly assert the Zachęta – National Gallery of Art's support for Mr. Barnabás Bencsik to continue his work as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest.

Yours faithfully,

Hanna Wróblewska
Director



muzej suvremene umjetnosti
museum of contemporary art

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No: 01-24/4-SP/rs
Zagreb, 18.03.2013.

Ludwig Museum Budapest
Komor Marcell St 1
1095 Budapest
Hungary

LETTER OF SUPPORT

For Mr. Barnabas Bencsik, director of Ludwig Museum Budapest.

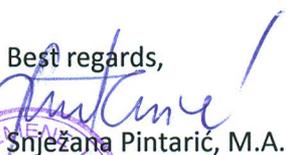
This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabas Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

I visited Ludwig Museum Budapest for few times in last years and followed through years very ambitious programme of this institution, which positioned not only the Museum, but also the Hungarian Art on the map of relevant institutions in the field of contemporary Art in Europe. Mr. Bencsik was leading Ludwig Museum under high museological standards, taking care of all aspects of museological work – from restauration and adequate presentation of art objects to the educational activities which brought many visitors to the Museum.

Colleague Bencsik was also very active in international cooperations and opened Museum to many extraordinary projects on international level.

I hope that Mr. Bencsik would be given the opportunity to continue his work as director of Ludwig museum Budapest and I wish a lot of success in the future!

Best regards,


Snjezana Pintarić, M.A.

Director of Museum of contemporary Art Zagreb



MG+MSUM

To Whom it May Concern

This letter is to express my strong support that Mr. Barnabás Bencsik should continue his works as the director of the Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I am confident that he and his professional team are best placed to continue the previous five years, in their efforts to build on the legacy of Ludwig Museum and the achievements they have already reached.

Ljubljana, 29 March 2013

Zdenka Badovinac,
Director Modernagalerija

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

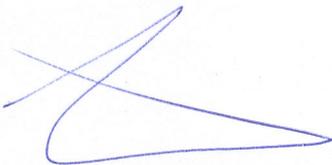
Belgrade, March 15, 2013.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Hereby, I would like to express my strong support to Mr. Barnabás Bencsik on his position of the director of the Ludwig Museum -Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest. I have met Mr. Bencsik long time ago and I had a privilege to take part in the ACAX program for international curators. On this occasion I have witnessed that Mr. Bencsik and his team has set high professional standards in their programming. I had a pleasure of visiting together with him the comprehensive exhibition of Amerigo Tot in Ludwig Museum and our dialogue had strong impact on my understanding of the local context and the thoughtfulness of the curatorial approach in this exhibition.

Having this insight in mind, I am confident that the work of Mr. Bencsik and his professional team is of utmost importance for future profiling of Ludwig Museum in Budapest. With continuation of their work in Ludwig Museum, that I see as extremely positive example of managing and profiling the program of important cultural institution in Hungarian, regional and international context, Mr. Bencsik and his team would be able to strengthen further the legacy of the institution and build on the achievements they have already made in last five years.

In hope that the voice of colleagues and international art community of experts will be appreciated, I am sending you my warm greetings from Belgrade,



Dr. Zoran Erić
Curator of the Centre for Visual Culture
Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Serbia

Mr. Barnabas Bencsik, Director
Ludwig Múzeum Budapest
Komor Marcell St 1
HU - 1095 Budapest

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Telefon 041 725 33 44
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info@kunsthauzug.ch
www.kunsthauzug.ch

Zug, March 28, 2013

To whom it may concern

Herewith I confirm in my function as the Director of Kunsthau Zug, Switzerland, that we were in contact with the museum of contemporary art Ludwig Museum, Budapest during the past two years and that we collaborated closely for the following large exhibition at the Kunsthau Zug: „Péter Nádas. In der Dunkelkammer des Schreibens. Übergänge von Text, Bild und Denken“, September 1 to November 25, 2012. For this project we were granted numerous loans by different hungarian artists from the Ludwig Museum: paintings, sculptures, reliefs, etc. The transport, installation as well as the de-installation of these works was accompanied and supervised by two museum couriers from Budapest in a very professional manner.

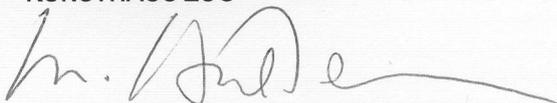
Barnabas Bencsik actively supported Péter Nádas during his research at the museum and also accompanied me through the museum several times during my stay of several weeks in Budapest in 2011. He made the museum deposits available to me for my reseach and showed me current exhibitions as well as the collection. We had detailed professional discussions about art.

I experienced Mister Bencsik as a very dedicated, competent, well informed, very friendly and helpful museum director and curator with an extensive international network and I appreciate his work.

The different temporary exhibitions as well as the thematically presented exhibits of the permanent collections that I visited impressed me for their content and for their presentation. The programmation of the museum confirms this very good impression. It is as multifaceted as it is independent and includes international positions of contemporary art, virtually unknown hungarian art of the past decades as well as important modern art. All medias are presented, from painting to sculpture, photography, video and installations. The program attracts a wide audience from Hungary as well as from abroad. I therefore think that the museum is very attractive and interesting and congratulate the Director and his team for this big achievement on a truly international level. I hope very much that the pioneering work of this institution can be secured for the future and that it can continue with such a high profile. Continuity and quality are essential for a successful museum – and for a culturally vibrant capital. It takes a lot to build up an independent new museum of this quality on such a professional level and very little to destroy it. Therefore I hope that the established collaboration with Barnabas Bencsik will continue.

Best regards

**Zuger Kunstgesellschaft
KUNSTHAUS ZUG**



Dr. Matthias Haldemann, Director