

Budapest

12/10/2017

Guy raz – curator - opening

Mr Yossi Amrani

Ambassador of Israel to Budapest

Mr Attila Ledenyi

Founding Director of Art Market Budapest

Dear Guests

I am excited to stand here before you as the representative of the Jewish Hungarian photographer Zoltan Kluger and to open his first solo exhibition ever in Hungary "MODERNIST EYE IN A NEW LAND", 40 years after he died in New York and 120 years after he was born in Kecskemet, Hungary.

Between his childhood in Hungary and his later years in New York Kluger was a military photographer in the First World War, a photojournalist in Berlin until the rise of the Nazis in 1933, and since 1933-1948 he was the most important photographer of the Zionist foundations in the Land of Israel and documented the establishment of the State of Israel with a camera and 60,000 negatives. The last photograph that closes this fascinating period is the one he took during the 1948 declaration of the State of ISRAEL.

Kluger's exhibition in Hungary come- to my point of view- to give Kluger his lost honor - for unlike other Hungarian-Jewish photographers of his generation who remained in Europe and were glorified in the world. Kluger that documented the Jewish people and nation in its creation. Kluger is almost unknown photographer in the world of documentary photography.

I hope that this exhibition will open the door to the presentation of early Israeli photography around the world, because the archives in Israel have a fascinating photographic heritage, as can be seen in the exhibition presented here today.

I would like to thank Dorka Kaposi from D17 gallery Which hosts the exhibition

And finally to Attila Ledenyi who invited me to curate this exhibition and to Lilla Boros and Fruzsina Kigyos that produced it

"Kluger - Welcome back to Hungary"