

## Activist practice from 2012

### NeMMA blog > 2012 (no HAA) (initiator, editor)

is a blog established in 2012, containing the documentation of the recent illiberal cultural-political developments in HU and the related laws, protests, petitions, interventions. It contains appr. 1500 posts in 11 languages (mostly Hungarian, English and German). See link in the footnote <sup>1</sup>



**free artists > 2012-15** Free Artists (establishing member) was an open gathering of university students and teachers in the arts, artists, art historians, aestheticians, curators and civilians, who demanded the restitution of the independence and freedom of Hungarian culture. The group mostly followed a protest strategy of media hijack. The group consisted of appr. 10 active core members and 40-70 casual supporters, and it organized 11 protest actions with a large Hungarian and international media coverage. See link in the footnote <sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <http://nemma.noblogs.org>

<sup>2</sup> <http://nemma.noblogs.org/2013/08/21/free-artists-who-they-are>

### Occupy LUMU > 2013 May 9-12

(initiator, spokesperson)

In May 2013 together with some fellow artists we have initiated and organized the protest occupation of the Ludwig Museum Budapest, the most significant venue for contemporary art in Hungary. Thus, the United for Contemporary Art group was formed. We stayed in the museum for 12 days organizing forums, debates, discussions and workshops. See link in the footnote <sup>3</sup>



### Living Memorial > 2013 (establishing member)

The Living Memorial is a grassroots initiative in the form of a counter-monument, a critique of the official politics of remembrance of the actual government, which distorts the collective memory, the historical consensus and the discursive freedom of the public space/sphere. It has been initiated by a group of artists (including members of the Free Artist), art historians, sociologists and activists. The group has been organizing regular, daily, outdoor protest-discussions since April 2014 up to the present day. See link in the footnote <sup>4</sup>



<sup>3</sup> <https://nemma.noblogs.org/category/occupy-lumu-international>

<sup>4</sup> <http://mezosfera.org/public-space-and-resistance/>

**Third Sector > 2014** (establishing member)

The Third Sector was a long-term research project initiated by Free Artist members, that surveyed the history, motivations, methods and experiences of three Hungarian community initiatives with the objectives of sharing knowledge and establishing a new long-term cultural paradigm. The project produced 12 short documentary interviews, each being accompanied by a critical text centered around the main issues of the civil organizations from Hungary. See link in the footnote <sup>5</sup>



**The City is for All** (ally)

The City is for All is an advocacy group founded in 2009 by people who are committed to working for a just and egalitarian society. Their members are currently or formerly homeless people, those experiencing housing poverty and their allies. They defend the rights and interests of homeless people trying to demonstrate that together homeless people are able to stand up for their rights and dignity. They are also dedicated to fighting against all forms of discrimination and stigmatization and open to cooperating with other socially oppressed groups.



I worked with the group as an ally between 2014-17, participating in various actions, sit ins, demonstrations and protests, that occasionally led to police detainment.

**Rhythms of Resistance** (member)

The Rhythms of Resistance Budapest is a drum crew, playing samba batucada as a political action. Founded in October 2010, as a member of the international RoR network. Its membership varies between 10-20 people. I played with the group in various demonstrations between 2014-18.



**Identity correction – public intervention > 2013**  
(individual action)

The legislative measures that took place in Hungary (since the year 2010) point towards an authoritarian transformation of the institutional structures and funding system of cultural life, by giving an ultra conservative artist group close to the rightwing government an unassailable position of power. As a result of these decisions, the government has endangered the long term autonomy, professionalism and democratic procedures of Hungarian contemporary art. Hungary's most important exhibition venue, the Kunsthalle Budapest was also given to the above-mentioned group. In the year 2013 a weekly series of clandestine artistic interventions took place around the institution, that expressed the indignation and protest of some of the most important Hungarian contemporary artists.



# intervention: on 21 November, 2013 I exchanged one out of the two national flags in front of the Kunsthalle Budapest with the EU-flag, as a protest intervention against the conservative and nationalistic and Eurosceptical cultural

<sup>5</sup> [http://kettosmerce.blog.hu/tags/Harmadik\\_Szektor](http://kettosmerce.blog.hu/tags/Harmadik_Szektor)

policy of the actual government which outlaws the critical art. See link in the footnote <sup>6</sup>

### Temporary monument *Ukraine*

– public intervention > 2022 (initiator)

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, on 8th of March 2022 we organized with my students an autonomous intervention in Budapest, that aimed at renaming the metro station next to the Embassy of Russian Federation into station 'Ukraine'.<sup>7</sup> The public action was a reaction on the international call released by the French artist group [#StandWithUkraine](#), who performed a similar intervention in Paris on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.



<sup>6</sup> <http://www.kivultagas.hu/kisspal-szabolcs>

<sup>7</sup> <https://amu.hvg.hu/2022/03/08/magyar-muveszek-atneveztek-a-budapesti-orosz-kovetseg-elotti-metromegallot/>