

## Julius Koller U.F.O.-naut? (Bratislava, 23-26 Apr 09)

Ina Mertens

Július Koller, U.F.O.-naut?

The Július Koller Society and the Slovak National Gallery are proud to present the first international conference on the oeuvre of Július Koller (1939-2007).

Date: 23-26 April 2009

Slovak National Gallery

Riečna 1

Bratislava

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[www.sng.sk](http://www.sng.sk)

Conference information: [sjk@sjk.sk](mailto:sjk@sjk.sk)

In Bratislava: Silvia Morávková, [uz@sng.sk](mailto:uz@sng.sk), T: 421 254 43 0746

In its stringency, obsession and peculiarity, the oeuvre of Július Koller is one of the most erratic and consistent in European art since the 1960s. Yet Koller is not only a seminal figure in the history of the neo- and post-avant-garde; his work has long been a critical inspiration for artists and intellectuals. In the most recent past, Koller's concepts of the Anti-Happening, the Anti-Picture, the Universal-cultural Futurological Operation (U.F.O.), his actions, objects, texts and the enormous referential archive he built up, have attracted growing interest on the part of a broader art public, and his works have found their way into major collections and museums all over Europe and beyond.

This first international conference on the oeuvre of Július Koller aims to discover new methodological and theoretical prospects for interpreting and presenting the artist's practice, the vast extent, comprehensive approach and conceptual rigour of which is becoming increasingly evident. This and the topicality of Koller's artistic method - his strategy of using real objects, the real world, everyday life as a given program for an aesthetic operation, an endless aesthetic displacement intended to put an end to aesthetics - are subjects of analysis and debate between local and international scholars. The conference provides new opportunities to meet and hear from Koller's most important and influential contemporaries as well as younger artists

from both Eastern and Western Europe, thus enabling a reappraisal of the influence of Koller's work on post-conceptual tendencies in contemporary art. During the conference, the Slovak National Gallery and the Július Koller Society present a research exhibition of Koller's works from their collections.

The conference lays the groundwork for a catalogue raisonné and a large monographic exhibition at the Slovak National Gallery, scheduled for spring 2010, and followed by an international tour through major museums and art institutions.

#### Conference Programme

Thursday, 23 April 2009

17:00

Screening of films on Július Koller

Friday, 24 April 2009

10:00 Welcome address, Katarína Bajcurová (Director of the Slovak National Gallery)

Introductory note, Georg Schöllhammer (The Július Koller Society, Bratislava)

First Session 11:00-13:30

Moderated by Mária Hlavajová (BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht)

11:00 Insight Július Koller

Petra Hanáková (Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava)

"Diagnosis of Koller's inheritance"

11:30

Aurel Hrabušický (Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava)

"About the intelligible Július Koller and the non-intelligible Stano Filko"

12:15 Panel

László Beke (Research Institute for Art History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest), Branka Stipancic (freelance curator, Zagreb) and Aurel Hrabušický

13:00-13:30 Discussion

13:30-15:00 Lunch Break

Second session: 15:00-17:30

Moderated by Mária Hlavajová

15:00 Insight Július Koller

Daniel Grún (Academy of Fine Arts, Bratislava)

"Július Koller as a collector of cultural situations"

15:30

Jan Verwoert (frieze, Berlin/London)

16:15 Panel

Silvia Eiblmayr (co-commissioner for the Austrian Pavilion, 53rd Biennale di Venezia), Vít Havránek (tranzit.cz, Prague), Tom Holert (Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna) and Jan Verwoert

17:00-17:30 Discussion

17:30 Coffee Break

18:00 Insight Július Koller

Dušan Brozman (Bratislava)

"Yes-no: ambiguities in Slovak conceptual art during normalisation era"

18:30 Artist's Panel

Moderated by Kathrin Rhomberg (6th Berlin Biennale, Berlin)

Josef Dabernig (Vienna), Jirí Kovanda (Prague), Boris Ondreicka (Bratislava), Florian Pumhösl (Vienna), Katerina Šedá (Prague), Mladen Stilinovic (Zagreb)

20:00 Dinner

Saturday, 25 April 2009

Third Session 10:30-13:00

Moderated by Charles Esche (Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven)

10:30 Insight Július Koller

Lucia Gregorová (Bratislava)

"The artist and his Central-European Destiny (Reading Koller in the Socio-Political Context)"

11:00

Lukasz Ronduda (Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw)

11:45 Panel

Zuzana Bartošová (Institute of Art History, Slovak Academy of Science, Bratislava), Nataša Ilic (WHW, Zagreb and 11th Istanbul Biennale), Jirí Ševčík (Academy of Fine Arts, Prague) and Lukasz Ronduda

12:30-13:00 Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

Fourth Session 14:30-17:00

Moderated by Charles Esche

14:30 Insight Július Koller

Katarína Müllerová (Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava)

"Reflections on Koller's work in foreign expert texts, taking into account the terminological difficulties in translations"

15:00

Andrea Giunta (University of Texas, Austin)

"Conspiracy & Conceptualism in Latin American Art. Imageries of Institutional Destabilization"

15:45 Panel

Lynne Cooke (DIA Art Foundation, New York/Centro Reina Sofia, Madrid),  
Joanna Mytkowska (Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw), Georg Schöllhammer and  
Andrea Giunta

16:30-17:00 Discussion

17:00 Coffee Break

17:30 Insight Július Koller

Vladimíra Büngerová (Bratislava)

"Koller in a team (Koller's cooperation with other authors, especially in association with Nová vážnosť; [New Seriousness])"

18:00 Artist's Panel

Moderated by Vít Havránek

Peter Bartoš (Bratislava), Peter Cepec (Bratislava), Lubomír Durcek  
(Bratislava), Peter Rónai (Bratislava)

19:30 Dinner

Sunday, 26 April 09

10:30 Hans Ulrich Obrist: Július Koller Interview Marathon

Milan Adamciak, László Beke, Stano Filko, Klaus Groh, Jirí Kovanda,  
Alex Mlynárcik, Jirí Ševčík, Mladen Stilinovic, Tomáš  
Strauss, Timm Ulrichs, Jirí Valoch and others

14:00

Lunch/ Conference concludes

The programme is subject to change.

Shuttle Service from Vienna:

Between Friday 24 and Sunday 26 April 2009 a free daily bus service  
Vienna - Bratislava - Vienna is available.

Information: [www.sjk.sk](http://www.sjk.sk); reservation: [sjk@sjk.sk](mailto:sjk@sjk.sk).

"Július Koller U.F.O.-naut?" is a co-production of The Július Koller  
Society and The Slovak National Gallery

The Július Koller Society

Honorary President: Kvetoslava Fulierová

Founding Members: Georg Schöllhammer (chair), Mária Hlavajová, Aurel  
Hrabušický, Nada Lovišková, Roman Ondák, Boris Ondreicka, Kathrin  
Rhombert

Researcher: Daniel Grún

Organization: Ina Mertens

Slovak National Gallery

Director General: Katarína Bajcurová

Researchers: Vladimíra Büngerová, Petra Hanáková, Aurel Hrabušický,  
Katarína Müllerová

Organization: Communication centre SNG, Secretariat of Art Collections  
SNG - Luba Maceková, Silvia Morávková

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2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/31520>>.