

PHOTO | BRUT in Context (Budapest, 9 Mar 26)

Robert Capa Center, 8 Nagymező Street, 1065 Budapest, Mar 09, 2026
capacenter.hu/en/kiallitasok/photo-i-brut-instinctive-photography/

Felix Hoffmann, Wien

"PHOTO | BRUT in Context – Instinctive Photography and Perspectives on the Bruno Decharme Collection" at Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center (Event Hall), Budapest, March 9, 2026.

This international conference examines photo brut as an instinctive photographic practice at the crossroads of photography, psychology, psychiatry, art history, art market, and art brut. Organized by the Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center in cooperation with Foto Arsenal Wien, the event accompanies the exhibitions in both institutions, featuring works from Bruno Decharme's collection. Through thematic panels and a roundtable discussion, the program addresses art historical, medical, ethical, and art market-related perspectives on photo brut.

Art brut – and specifically photo brut – represents a relatively young and evolving branch in the history of art. The conference builds on the growing momentum of the field, exploring a medium that is only now beginning to be fully integrated into the broader art historical canon and institutional research.

The conference also offers a rare opportunity to explore the Psychiatric Art Collection of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and to meet the collector himself, Bruno Decharme.

Accompanying event of the exhibition PHOTO | BRUT – Instinctive Photography – Insights into the Bruno Decharme Collection from Paris.

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PROGRAM

Monday, March 9, 2026

Location:

Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center
1065 Budapest, Nagymező utca 8.
(Event Hall)

09:15 - 09:30 (15 min.)

Coffee & registration

09:30 - 09:40 (10 min.)

GREETINGS

- Bruno Decharme, Collector, abcd Collection – Paris, France

- István Virágölggyi, Artistic Director, Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center, Budapest, Hungary

- Felix Hoffmann, Artistic Director, Foto Arsenal Wien – Vienna, Austria

09:40 - 10:40 (15+15 min. lectures, 30 min. Q&A)

ART BRUT AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- Barbara Safarova, Exhibition Curator, Art Writer, President of abcd Collection – Paris, France

- Stefanie Hoch, Curator, Director of Kunstmuseum Thurgau – Ittingen, Switzerland

Moderated by Emese Mucsi, Curator, Capa Center – Budapest, Hungary

10:50 - 12:00 (70 min.)

GUIDED TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION

Bruno Decharme, Collector, abcd Collection

in conversation with curators Emese Mucsi and András Váradi

12:00 - 13:00 (60 min.)

Lunch break

13:00 - 14:00 (15+15 min. lectures, 30 min. Q&A)

PSYCHIATRY, MEDICINE, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- Katrin Luchsinger, Art Historian, Curator, Researcher, Zurich University of the Arts – Zurich, Switzerland

- Monika Perenyi, Art Historian, Photo Historian, Psychiatric Art Collection, Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Budapest, Hungary

Moderated by Monika Pietrzak-Franger, Professor, University of Vienna – Vienna, Austria

14:10 - 15:20 (70 min.)

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Ethical issues surrounding the presentation of works by individuals living with psychiatric conditions

- Benedek Farkas, Artist, Independent Researcher, Liliput Theatre Archive – Budapest, Hungary

- Bruno Decharme, Collector, abcd Collection – Paris, France

- Judit Szalipszki, Curator, Trafó Gallery – Budapest, Hungary

Moderated by István Virágölggyi, Artistic Director, Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center – Budapest, Hungary

16:15 - 17:15 (60 min.)

VISIT TO THE PSYCHIATRIC ART COLLECTION OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Address: 1097 Budapest, Tóth Kálmán Street 4, Building B, 6th floor (30 mins. by public transport)

Monika Perenyi, Art Historian, Photo Historian, Psychiatric Art Collection, Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Budapest, Hungary

Max 12 people/visit. Registration required: emese.mucsi@capacenter.hu

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We reserve the right to make changes to the program.

Partners:

- FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

- System B / Collection Bruno Decharme

- Psychiatric Art Collection of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences / ELTE RCA – Institute of Art

History

- French Institute of Hungary
- Embassy of Switzerland in Hungary

Reference:

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