

Gusztáv Hámos, Katja Pratschke

In Limbo

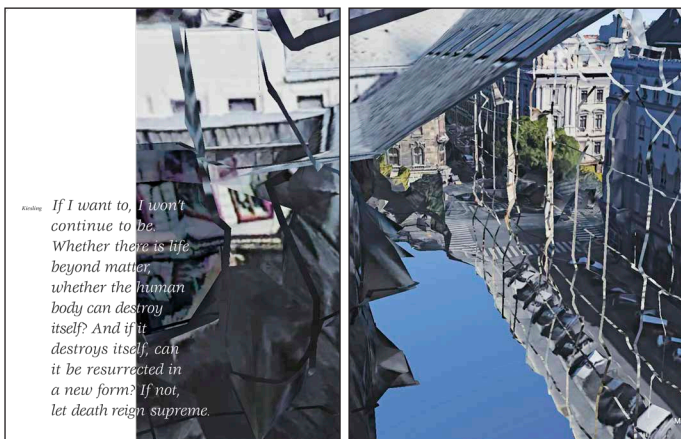
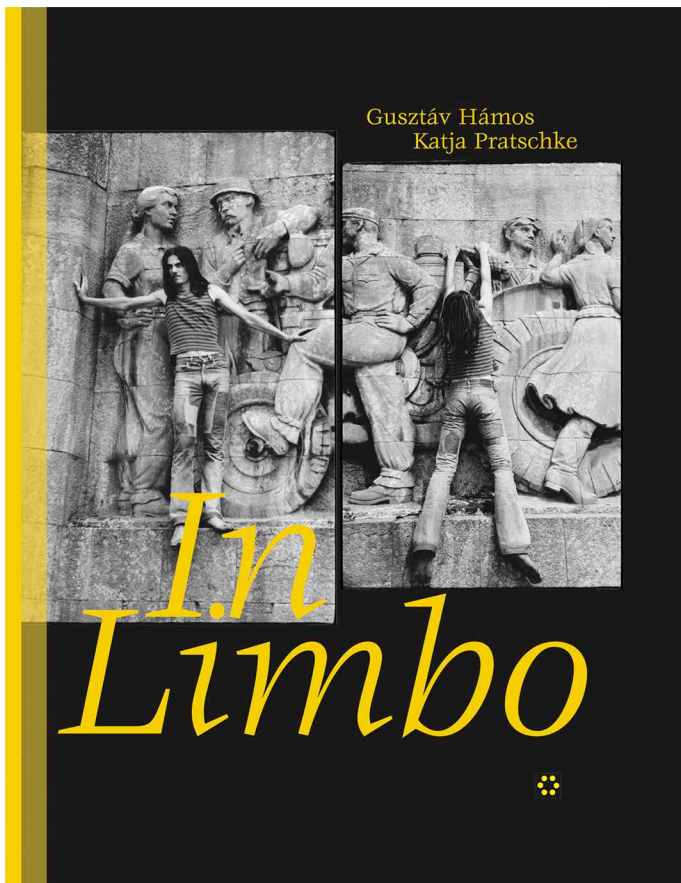
limited edition

The publication reflects the ongoing debates and current artistic strategies of the Berlin-based artist duo Gusztáv Hámos and Katja Pratschke.

The book contains the early photographic work of Gusztáv Hámos, who fled from Hungary to West Berlin in 1979, "processed" in order to place autobiographical experiences—such as his conscription into the People's Army for military duty, medical examination and his refusal – into a contemporary context. The photographic series show photo performances that document artistic strategies of resistance and self-realisation in dictatorial systems.

In the book, the attempt at self-determination is set parallel to the history of Liberty Square in Budapest. Since the demolition of the imperial barracks in 1897 and the construction of Liberty Square, those in power have erected sculptures, statues and monuments here to commemorate the struggle for freedom and the loss of liberty.

By using deconstruction as a strategy to uncover hierarchies, the artists initiate a critical discourse on the current removal and replacement of monuments that do not fit into the political narrative of those presently in power.



Gusztáv Hámos, Katja Pratschke – *In Limbo*

With texts by András Forgách, Miklós Peternák, Monika Perenyi, Klaus Honnef and Lili Boros and an interview with Silvio Grasselli, Gusztáv Hámos and Katja Pratschke

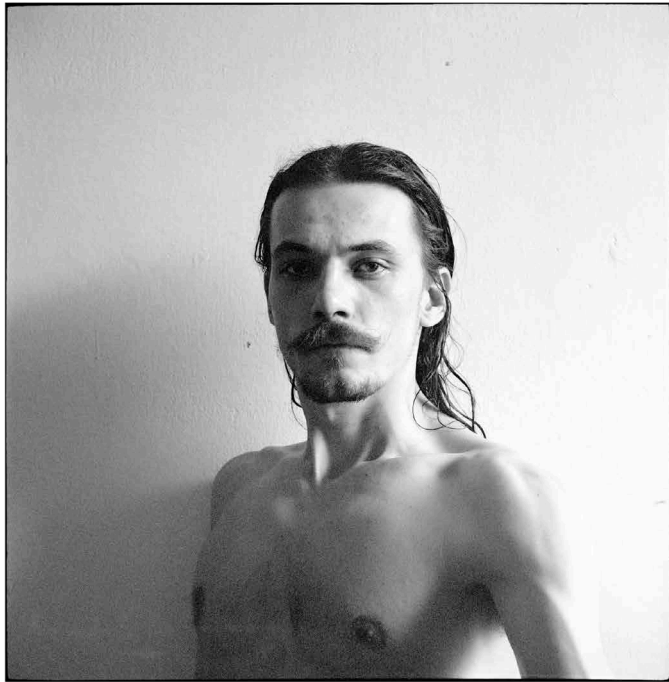
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Books can be ordered via
Katja Pratschke, email: katjapratschke@snafu.de

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The book is based on the film *IN LIMBO* (2022), dir. Gusztáv Hámos and Katja Pratschke, produced with the support of Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and MOIN Film Fund Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein.



Narrator Kiesling's talk obviously surprised the doctor.
Doctor You're unbelievable! I mean you're unsuitable, for now.
You need to be put under medical observation.

III 38|39

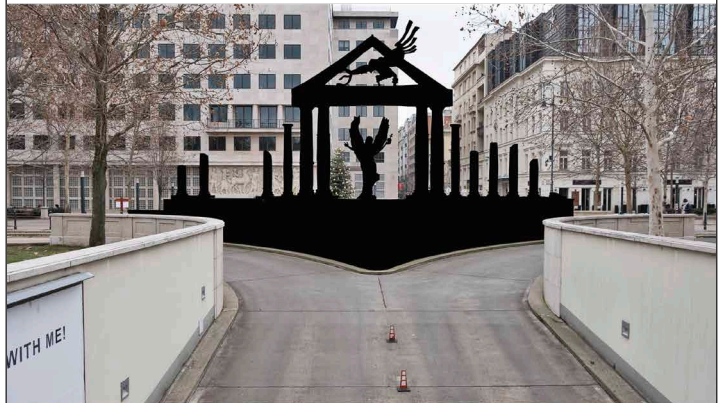
Narrator Temporarily discharged and free for now, yet on a long rope, so-to-speak, Kiesling stepped out of the military building and into freedom.

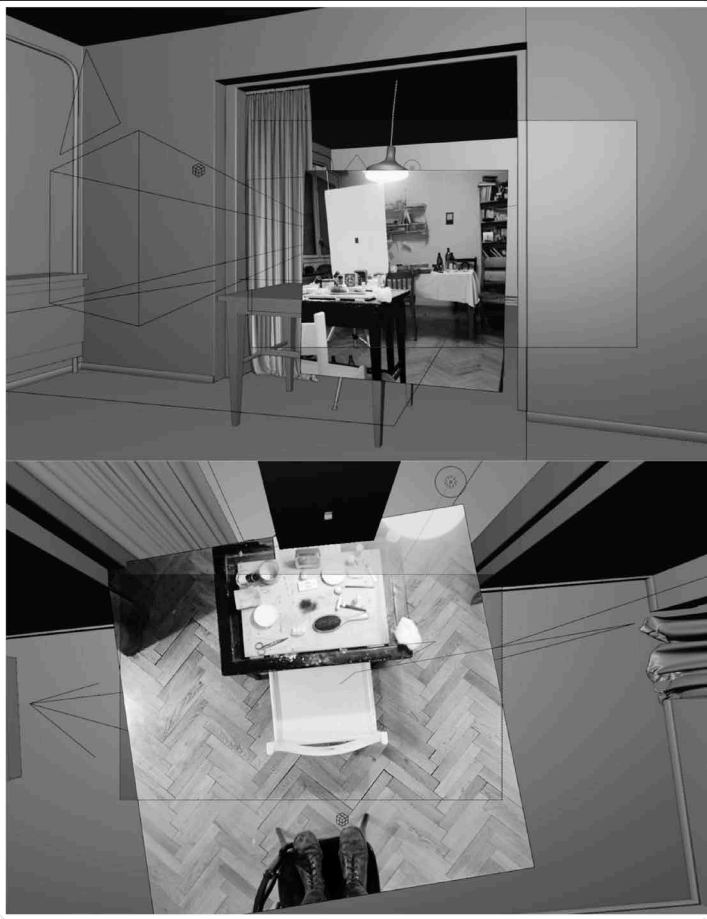


Narrator Since the imperial buildings were demolished and Liberty Square constructed in its place, those in power have placed sculptures, statues and monuments there to commemorate the struggle for freedom and the loss of liberty.



IV 42|43



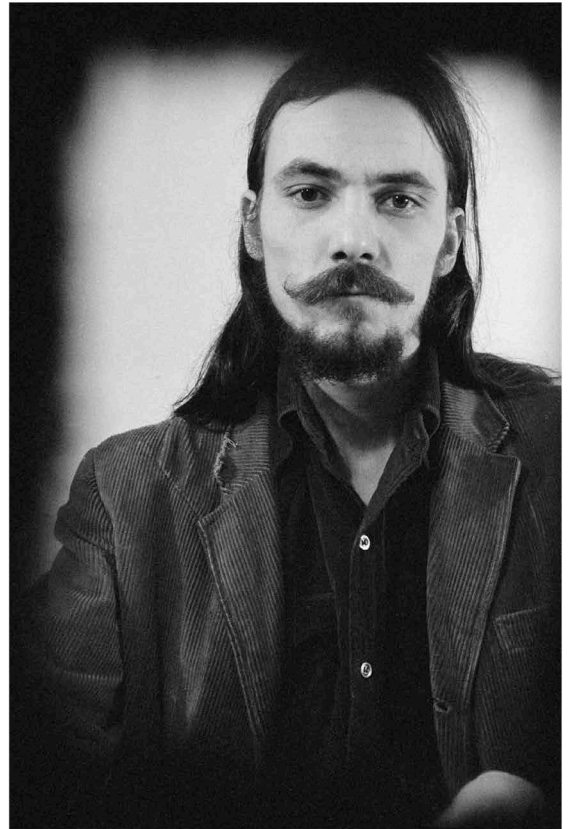


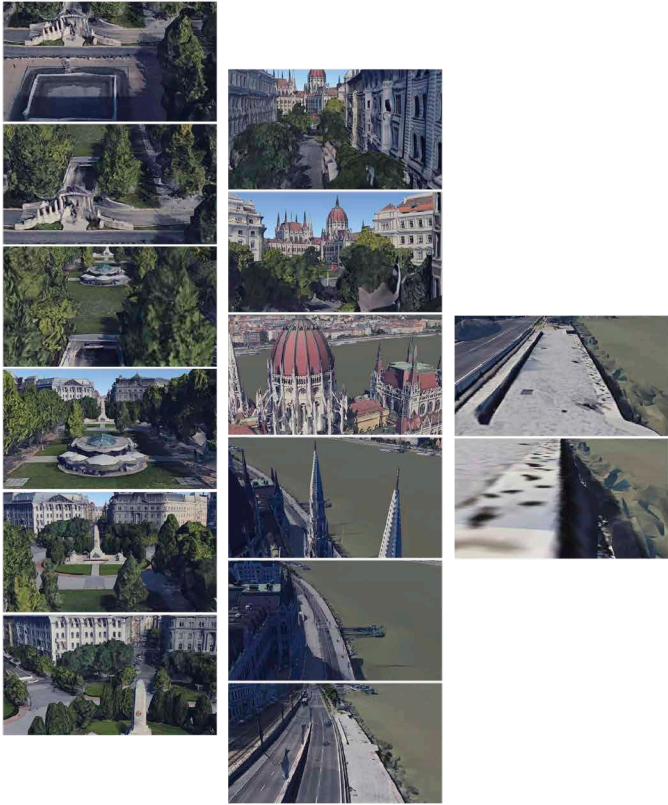
ZX 100|101

Kiesling I invited friends over to my apartment. I placed a camera on a tripod behind a mirror there that has been prepared with a hole in the middle. Through the opening, my guests could photograph my performance, in which I cast aside my alter ego and created a new identity.



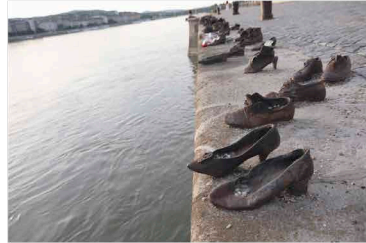
ZX 102|103





XII 142|143

Narrator Kiesling searched for a way out. As long as he was stuck in his own skin, he was identifiable and physically graspable, like his Jewish relatives in 1944 who were arrested by the Hungarian police and shot to death in the Danube.



Narrator The construction is intended to show that Hungary was a passive, innocent victim of the German occupation ...

XIII 156|157

