



2929 Richmond Road  
Beachwood, Ohio 44122  
p: 216.593.0575 f: 216.593.0576  
[www.MaltzJewishMuseum.org](http://www.MaltzJewishMuseum.org)

For Immediate Release

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## **Private Collection of Hungarian Art Comes to Maltz Museum**

### **Works Collected in 9/11 aftermath by founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure; Brinker Visits Cleveland for Opening Reception**

**Cleveland, Ohio, July 16, 2007** – In 2001, while Ambassador to Hungary, The Honorable Nancy G. Brinker developed a passion for Hungarian art which grew into a world-class collection. *The Nancy G. Brinker Collection of Hungarian Art: Works of Passion, Interludes and Progress*, has its first major showing and exclusive Cleveland appearance at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, July 29 – August 19, 2007. Visit [www.maltzjewishmuseum.org](http://www.maltzjewishmuseum.org) or call 216.593.0575 for details.

The collection spans 100 years, from just before the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the present, and the story of its collection is remarkable. Brinker was sworn in on September 6, and took her post soon after September 11, 2001. The world was in chaos, travel difficult. Unable to ship artwork from the United States, she invited some contemporary Budapest artists to display their work in the American Residence, and came to know and love the art of Hungary. “It began as an effort to honor Hungarian artists as seen through the eyes of an American,” she recalls.

The collection mirrors Hungary’s tumultuous past, with portraits, emotion-filled genre scenes, landscapes, abstracts and group scenes, some reminiscent of the Impressionist and Cubist movements. It features 32 pieces, including *Encounter of Lovers (Rendezvous)*, circa 1902, by Csontváry Kosztka Tivador (1853 – 1919) – thought to be the world’s most valuable Hungarian painting. Despite Hungary’s stormy twentieth-century history, its artistic tradition has remained strong and consistent. Most of the early Hungarian modernists studied and exhibited in France, Germany and the U.S., but few had access to international markets, and thus few gained recognition for their contributions.

Recently, Brinker decided to tour her collection, for two reasons close to her heart: to give visibility to the artists, and to provide a creative new method of support for Susan G. Komen for



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the Cure, which she founded in memory of her sister, Suzy. She had particularly asked to be posted to Hungary because of the country's high rate of cancer deaths. This exhibition recognizes the 25th anniversary of the organization's signature event, the Race for the Cure, and coincides with the Cleveland premiere of a newer event, the Breast Cancer 3-Day, August 17 – 19, 2007.

“The Maltz Museum is honored to host this special collection,” comments Executive Director Judi Feniger. “Cleveland was once home to the largest Hungarian population outside of Hungary itself, and the contributions of various ethnic groups form the backbone of our permanent collection, *An American Story*. You’ll see works by and references to Hungarian and European culture throughout our galleries. And the story of how this work was collected combines a positive action after the tragedy of 9/11, how great treasures can be found in unexpected ways, and how creativity and determination are what make things happen - just the kind of themes that resonate here.”

A number of activities and events are being held during the exhibition; see attached sheet for detail. An exhibition catalog and brochure will be available for sale in the Museum Store, and a self-guided mini-tour of Hungarian references and works in the Museum's permanent collection is also offered.

### **Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage: An American Story**

Opened in 2005, The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage joined an elite group of world-class institutions as a living testament to the courage, conviction and achievements of Cleveland's Jewish community. The stories of individuals and families – past and present – come to life through state-of-the-art exhibitions, interactives and films, oral histories, photographs and artifacts. The Museum includes The Temple-Tifereth Israel Gallery, an internationally-recognized collection of Judaica, and a special exhibition gallery featuring important exhibitions of national and international acclaim.

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage is a partnership of The Maltz Family Foundation, the Jewish Community Federation's Centennial Initiative and The Temple-Tifereth Israel with research support from the Western Reserve Historical Society.



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For information about hours, admission, programs, the Museum Store and special exhibitions, visit [www.MaltzJewishMuseum.org](http://www.MaltzJewishMuseum.org) or phone 216.593.0575. The Museum is located at 2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood, Ohio 44122, between South Woodland and Shaker Blvd. East.

**The Nancy G. Brinker Collection of Hungarian Art: Works of Passion,  
Interludes and Progress  
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, July 29 – August 19, 2007**

**Related Programs and Events**

**Saturday, July 28-** Susan G. Komen for the Cure Opening Reception, which Ambassador Brinker will attend, features cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres and Hungarian wine; a private viewing of the exhibition; docent-guided tours of the Museum's permanent collection, *An American Story*; and a special performance of Hungarian music featuring the "Pink Strings" quartet. Proceeds benefit the Northeast Ohio Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, providing outreach and screening services to women in Northeast Ohio as well as support for research through the national Komen Research Grant Program. Individual tickets are \$100; tickets for the VIP reception are \$250 to \$1,000 and include a gallery talk with Ambassador Brinker. Call (216) 791-CURE for tickets or more information.

**Sunday, July 29-** The Maltz Kávé Ház - Members-Only-and-Guests Preview, 9-11 am (before the Museum opens). Enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of the Hungarian people, savor their



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richly brewed coffee and sample delicious pastries. Take a mini-tour of Hungarian artifacts and stories in the permanent galleries. \$10 admission (reservations recommended, RSVP by July 27 216-593-0575); or \$15 at the door (unless sold out in advance).

The kávé ház ambiance continues throughout the exhibition with celebrations of Hungarian culture. All activities listed below are free with paid museum admission:

**Sunday, August 5-** Music with Béla Czirjak. Hungarian favorites with interpretation by George Nemeth, 2-4pm

**Wednesday, August 8-** Hungarian Embroidery and Costuming with Mary Temesvary, 7-8:30pm

**Sunday, August 12-** Herend porcelain with Mary Slosarik from Saks Fifth Avenue, 2-4pm

**Wednesday, August 15-** A Night of Hungarian Culture, 7-8:30pm

*The Nancy G. Brinker Collection of Hungarian Art: Works of Passion, Interludes  
and Progress*

**July 29 – August 19, 2007**

Brinker Collection Statement

In September, 2001, Nancy Goodman Brinker was sworn in as Ambassador to Hungary. As founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, begun in memory of her sister, Suzy, she had particularly asked to be posted to Hungary because of the country's high rate of cancer deaths.





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After 9/11/01, the world was in chaos, travel difficult. Shipping the artwork from the United States was delayed due to 9/11, so she invited contemporary Budapest artists to display their work in the American Residence, and came to know and love the art of Hungary. *"It began as an effort to honor Hungarian artists as seen through the eyes of an American,"* she explains. *"These pieces capture a unique time and place in history. I am proud to bring Hungarian art to the American public and raise awareness about the artists, just as we continue to raise money and awareness to cure breast cancer."*

The work spans 100 years, from just before the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the present. The collection mirrors Hungary's tumultuous past, with portraits, emotion-filled genre scenes, landscapes, abstracts and group scenes, some reminiscent of the Impressionist and Cubist movements. Despite Hungary's stormy twentieth-century history, its artistic tradition has remained strong and consistent. Most of the early Hungarian modernists studied and exhibited in France, Germany and the U.S., but few had access to international markets, and thus few gained recognition for their contributions.

This exhibition recognizes the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization's signature event, the Race for the Cure, and coincides with the Cleveland premiere of a newer event, the Breast Cancer 3-Day, August 17-19, 2007.

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## Maltz Museum Statement

What will captivate you first, of course, is the purely visual pull of the art itself - the colors, composition, vibrancy and sheer spirit of this most fascinating group of paintings.

Next, look deeper at the stories told by each work of art. People you've never seen before, yet their faces are familiar. Evocative scenes of places that are far away but somehow feel like home. Who are these people, where are these magical places? Who are the artists who created them?

Each was created by a Hungarian artist, and that's one reason we're so glad to welcome them to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage for their first major public viewing in the United States. Cleveland was once home to the largest Hungarian population outside of Hungary itself, and the contributions of various ethnic groups forms the backbone of our permanent collection, *An American Story*. You'll see works by and references to Hungarian and European culture throughout our permanent galleries.

Another reason we're proud to display *The Nancy G. Brinker Collection* is what we've learned about how and why it came to be. The story combines a positive action after the tragedy of 9/11, shows how great treasures can be found in unexpected ways, and reminds us how creativity and determination are what make things happen. Just the kind of themes that resonate throughout this Museum.



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*The Nancy G. Brinker Collection of Hungarian Art: Works of Passion, Interludes  
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**July 29 – August 19, 2007**

**Programs**

All events will be at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage and are free with museum admission unless otherwise indicated. For more information or to purchase tickets call 216.593.0575 or email [info@mmjh.org](mailto:info@mmjh.org).

**JULY**

**MEMBERS (AND GUESTS) RECEPTION**

**The Maltz KávÉ Ház (coffeehouse)**

**Sunday, July 29**

**9 – 11 am**

**\$10 advance/\$15 day-of (unless sold out)**

Hungarians love their kávé ház, the famed coffee houses where people of all ages gather to enjoy each others' company, relax, debate issues important and mundane, and sample delicacies. Wander through the galleries and you'll feel like you're spending a delightful day on the streets of Budapest. Enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of the Hungarian people, savor their richly brewed coffee and sample delicious pastries. Take a mini-tour of Hungarian artifacts and stories in the permanent galleries.

**Note: You must be a Maltz Museum member or accompanied by a member to attend.**

**AUGUST**

**Hungarian musician Béla Czirják**

**Sunday, August 5**

**2-4pm**

Hungarian favorites with interpretation by George Nemeth

**Hungarian Embroidery and Costuming with Mary Temesvary**

**Wednesday, August 8**

**7-8:30pm**



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**Saks Fifth Avenue Presentation on Herend porcelain**  
**Sunday, August 12**  
**2 – 3:30pm**

**A Night of Hungarian Culture**  
**Wednesday, August 15**  
**7-8:30pm**

**3-Day Walk for the Cure**  
**Friday, August 17 - Sunday, August 19**

Cheer on the participants of this first-time Cleveland event. The Cleveland Breast Cancer 3-Day is an inspirational 60-mile walk that raises money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. On **Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**, The Maltz Museum will be an official 'cheering location' along the route. Please contact the Museum for further details, or call The Breast Cancer 3-Day directly at **800.996.3DAY (800.996.3329)**.





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**Admission & Tours**

**ADMISSION**

Admission rates include access to both the permanent exhibition and *The Nancy G. Brinker Collection*.

- Adults: \$12
- Seniors and Students ages 12+: \$10
- Children ages 5–11: \$5
- Maltz Museum members and children under 5: FREE

Purchase a Maltz Museum membership and receive FREE admission to *The Nancy G. Brinker Collection*, among other privileges.

**TOURS**

Group Tours are available by advance reservation daily except Saturday. Admission includes a guided tour of the permanent exhibition or *The Nancy G. Brinker Collection* led by knowledgeable docents; seamless, no-wait access to the exhibitions and a 10 percent discount to the Museum Store. Advance reservation required for groups of 10 or more.

Special discounted rates for groups of 15 or more.



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**Drop-In Tours:**

Drop-In Tours will be available on Wednesdays for the permanent exhibition or *The Nancy G. Brinker Collection*. Groups of 10 or more should secure an advance reservation.

Contact [groupsales@mmjh.org](mailto:groupsales@mmjh.org) or call 216.593.0575 to schedule a tour or for more information.

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*Portrait of Countess Ilona Batthyány*  
János Vaszary  
1905



*Circus*  
Jenő Gábor  
1929



*Villagers*  
István Szőnyi  
1932



*Trattoria*  
Vilmos Aba-Novák  
1929



*Self Portrait with Staircase*  
László Fehér  
2001



*Tallow-Dream*  
Károly Kelemen  
2000



*Continuation I*  
Endre Bálint  
1963

*High resolution images of these and other paintings available on request*