

“József Domján”

Kálmán Magyar

American Hungarian Museum, Passaic New Jersey, USA

magyar@magyar.org

www.magyarmuzeum.org

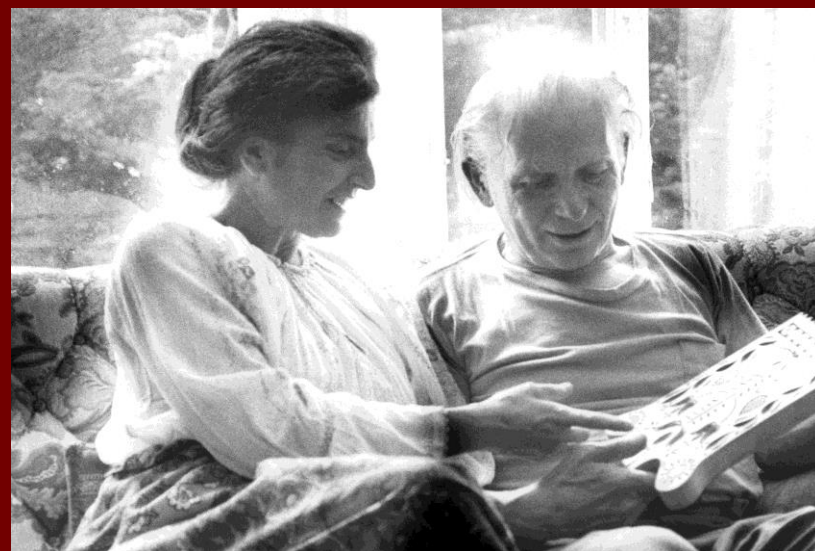
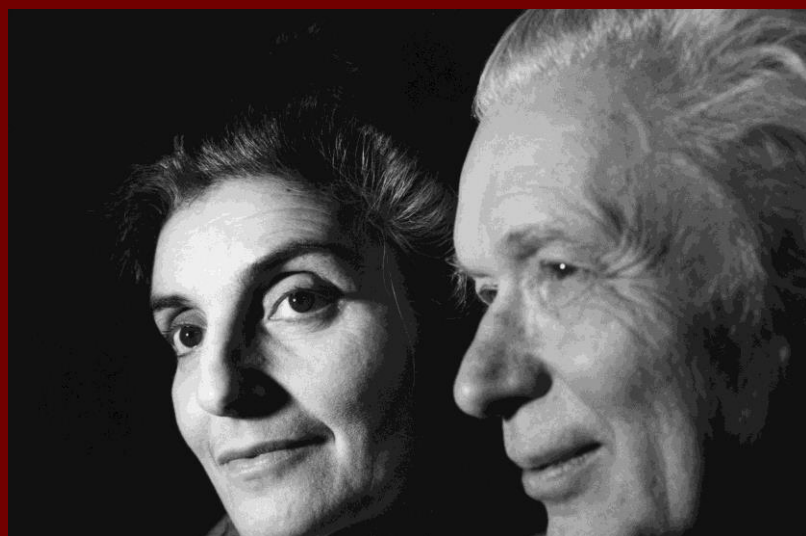
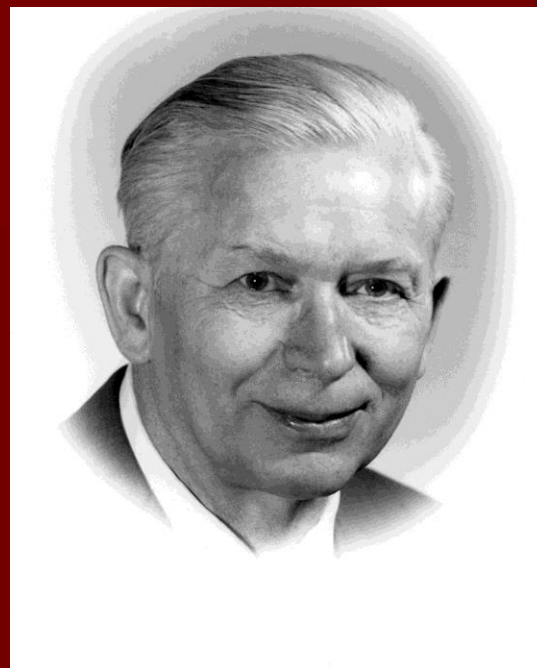
www.domjanart.hu

www.magyar.org

József Domján

[1907 – 1992]

- Probably one of the most important visual Hungarian artists of the 20th Century.
- A XX. Század egyik lefontosabb képzőművésze.
- Achieved the highest recognitions from the Hungarian government before his immigration in 1956.
- Emigrációja előtt az ország legmagasabb kitüntetéseit magkapta.
- Became a celebrated artist in North America and major museums exhibited his art.
- Észak amerikai sikerei kimagaslóak és több száz kiállítása volt, beleértve fontos muzeumokat.
- Developed color woodcut art to an artistic form which is unique and unmistakably attributable to him.
- Magas fokra kifejlesztette a sajátos színes fametszet művészetét amely azonnal felismerhető mint „Domján mű”.
- His images incorporate the vision of a contemporary [spiritual] painter, and a disciplined technician as a woodcutter inspired by folklore.
- Művei vegyítik a modern „spirituális festő” és a kitűnő fametsző művészetét, mindig a népi kultúrából vett behatásokkal.
- His works may be considered to be executed in the spirit of Bartók and Kodály: creating a contemporary modern art form, based on traditional folkloric elements.
- Képei Bartók és Kodály művészetére és gondolkodására emlékeztetnek.
- Due to the 50 years of hiatus of showing his art in Hungary, he is not generally known to the younger generation of his homeland.
- Miután emigrációja miatt művei nem lehettek Magyarországon bemutatva, nem általánosan ismert hazájában.
- Domján is an important part of Hungarian cultural heritage and his art should become an integral part of Hungarian fine art history.
- Domján művészete fontos része a magyar képzőművészetnek.



Chronology of Domján [1]

- 1907, March 15 – Born in Kispest, Budapest district, and family moves to Köbánya while he is a baby. [Harmat utca 1-3]
- 1924 - Becomes an engine fitter and works in a large factory as iron worker.
- 1930 - Becomes unemployed due to the economic depression in Hungary and sets out on foot to travel through Western Europe – covers 10,000 miles, visiting major museums and places of art.
- 1933 – Returns to Hungary, still unemployed and takes a job as a hermit at Csátka, a remote pilgrimage place in the Bakony mountain area, meets contemporary artists who “discover him”.
- 1934 – Formal training in fine art begins at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Learns from the leading artists in Hungary.
- 1938 – Exhibition of non-figurative “Spiritual Paintings” bring him recognition.
- 1940 – Meets his wife, Evelyn, at a Summer art colony in the Miskolc area. The life long collaboration begins.
- 1945 – Rebuilds his bomb out studio in Budapest and continues his art.
- 1948 – Extended study and work trip to Scandinavia, organizes first one-man exhibits.
- 1949 – First exhibit of 30 color woodcuts at the Szépművészeti [Fine Arts] Gallery in Budapest.
- 1950 on – Exhibitions in Hungary and London. Works of Chain Bridge, Big Poppy, Hungarian Heros, János Hunyadi, Medimpex medical herb series, build new studio in Rózsadomb area.
- 1955 – Munkácsy Prize, Retrospective exhibitions of 240 woodcuts at Ernst Museum, Budapest. Invitation to China and a six months study and work visit as a celebrity, received “Master of Color Woodcut” recognition given once in every century.
- 1956 – Awarded the Kossuth Prize, October 20th opens his exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland at the Musée d’Art et d’Histoire

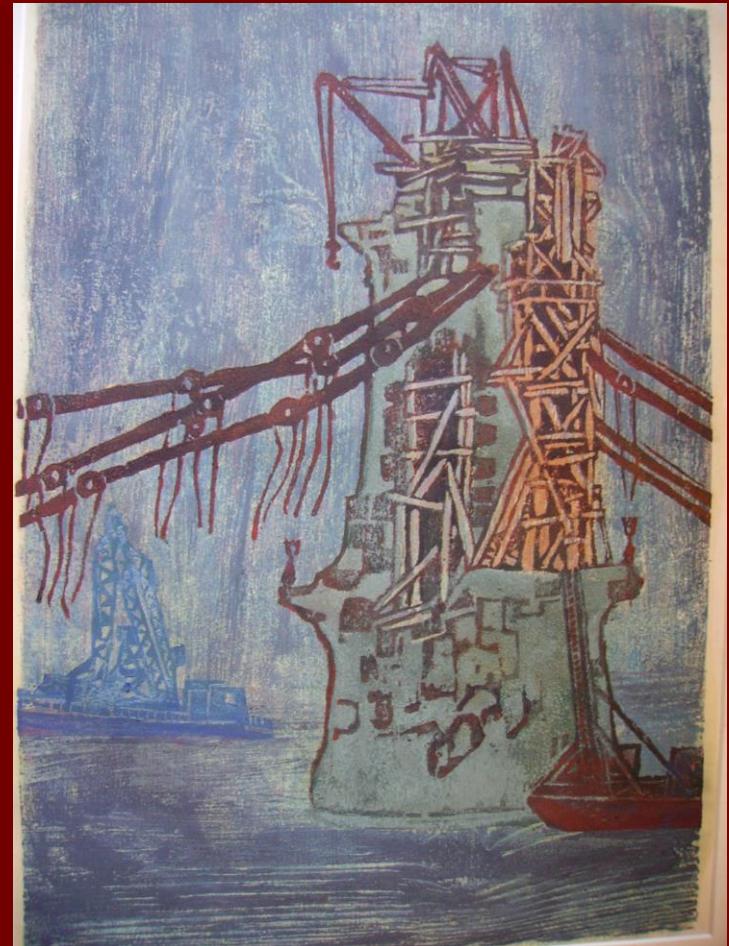
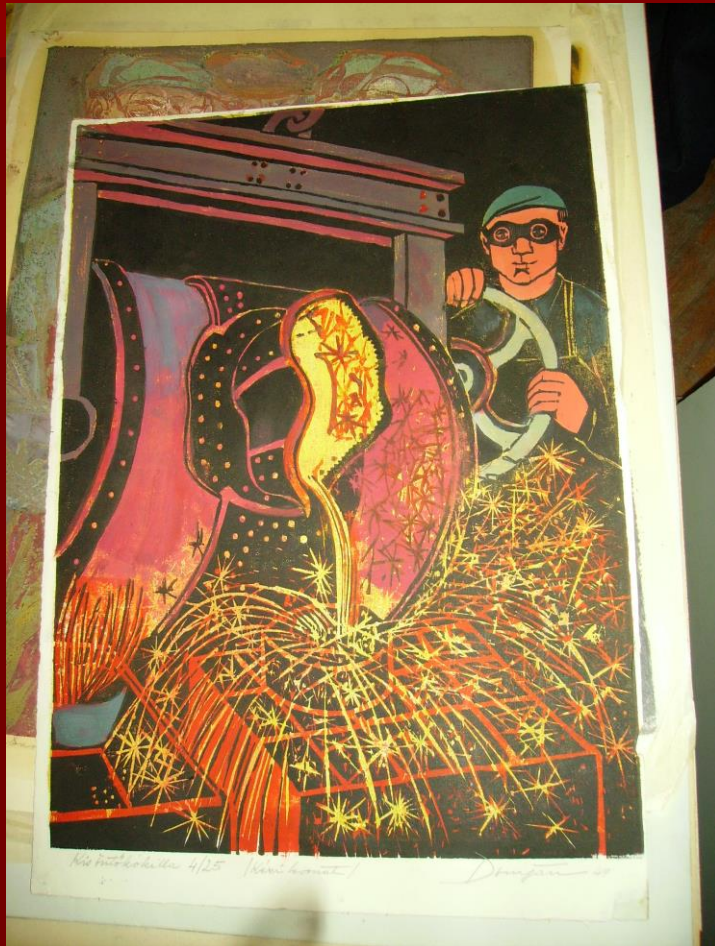
Early works



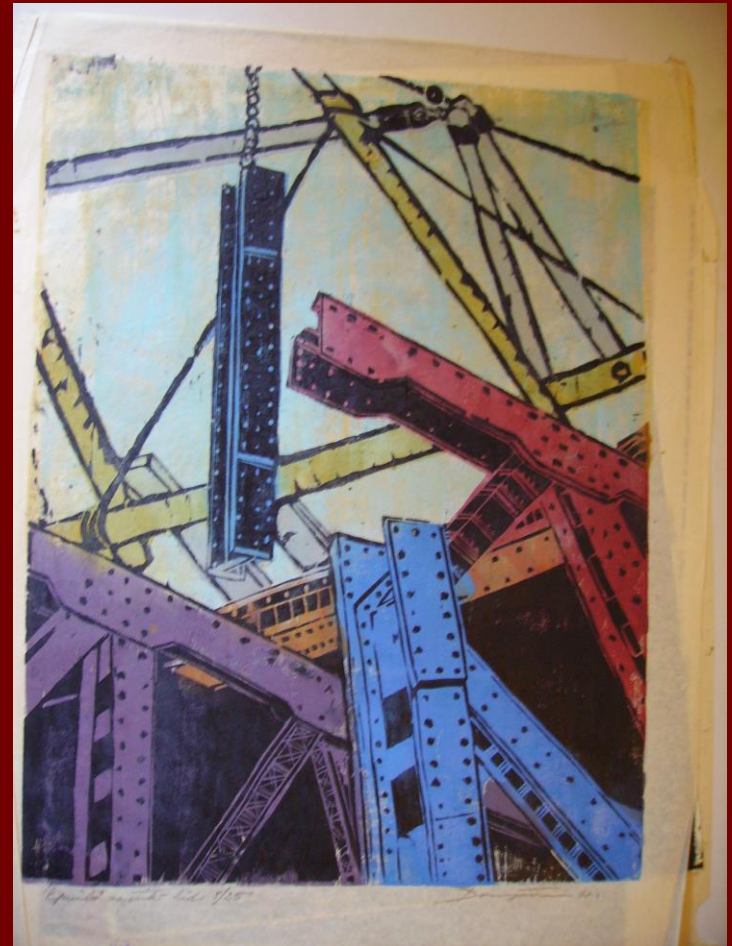
Early works



Early works



Early works



Early works



Chronology of Domján [2]

- 1957 – Joined by wife and three children in Switzerland, continue work, and arrives in New York on August 31. First American exhibition is in the United Nations.
- 1958 – Exhibitions continue, most important major exhibit in Cincinnati Art Museum.
- 1959 – Exhibitions in Europe and USA, “Angel” is commissioned by the Metropolitan Art Museum, New York.
- 1960 – Invited by President Eisenhower in the White House, UNICEF publishes Christmas Card.
- 1961 on – Works included in “Prints of the World” travel exhibit originating from London.
Peacock Festival exhibitions of 44 color woodcuts at the Montclair Museum, NJ.
- 1963 – Becomes a USA citizen
- 1964 – World’s Fair in New York, movie is shown about Domján at the New Jersey Pavilion.
[Magic of Woodcut].
- 1966 – Major show at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, exhibitions in Paris, Mexico City. Tapestries are created in France and Spain.
- 1967 – Builds studio in Tuxedo Park, New York.
- 1968 on – Gobelin Tapestries, Carpi Italy exhibit, Tokyo publication, one man show in Reading Museum, Pennsylvania.
- 1970 – June 26 his house and studio burns to the ground. ***Everything is lost.***

Family

A család 1965-ben



Phoenix bird period



Pacatus 7/79 Domènec Melé

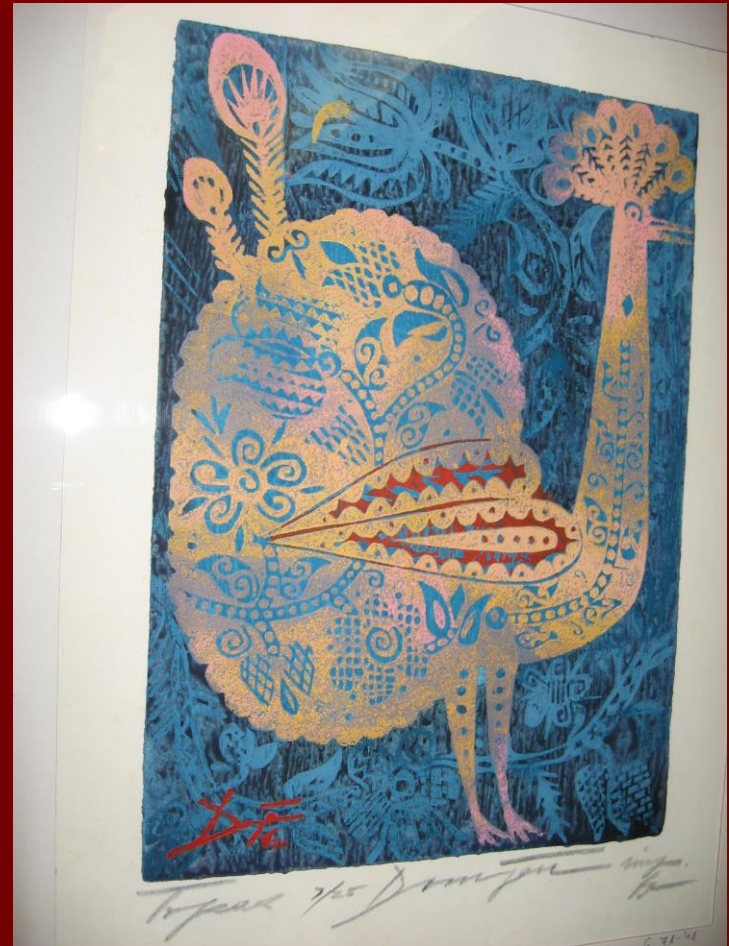


Pomegranate Domènec Melé

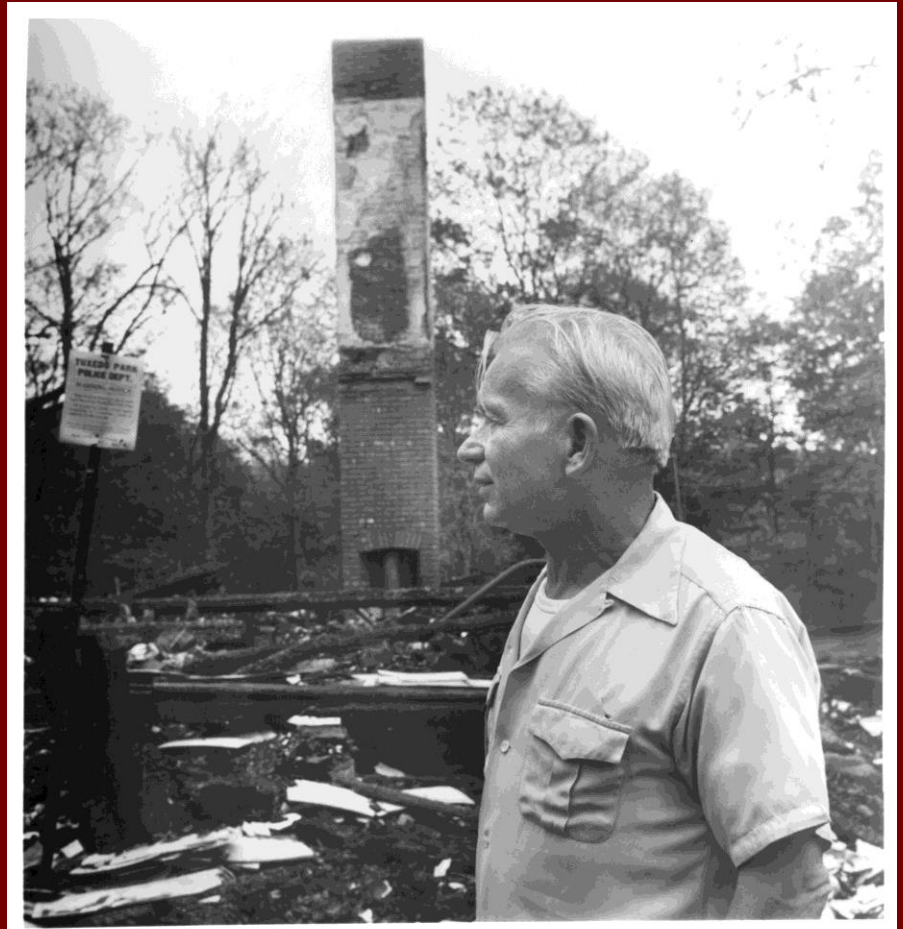
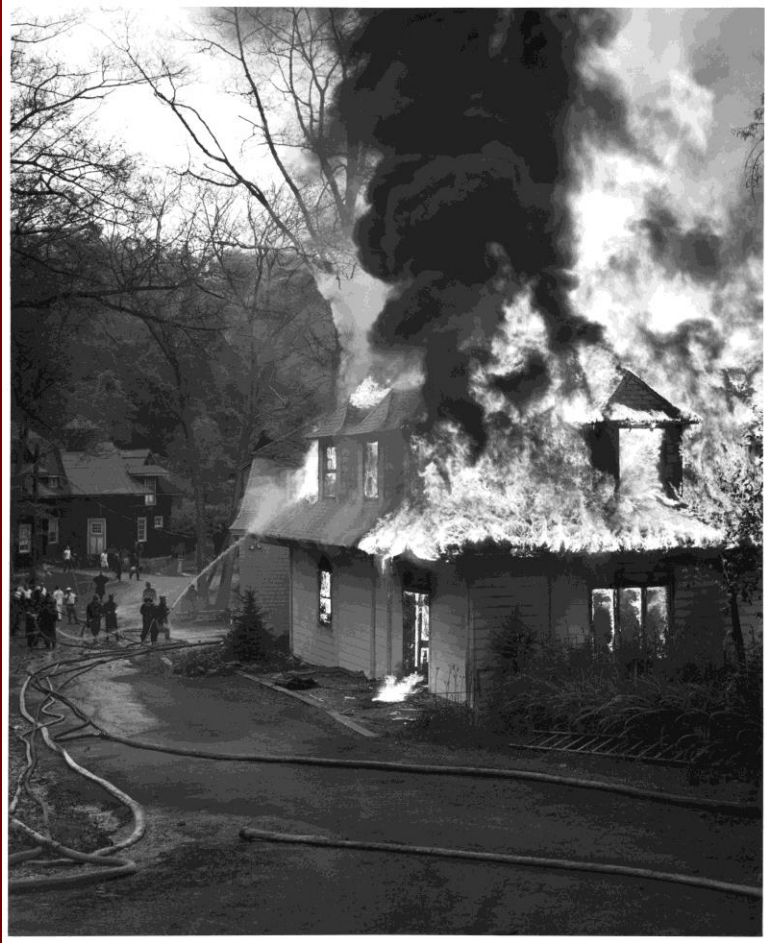
Reinvention



Reinvention



Reinvention



Chronology of Domján [3]

- 1971 – Builds new larger studio at Tuxedo Park, all cement and cinder block – the “Sanctuary of Art”. The MET published Unicorn note card, sterling silver Snowflake, the Phoenix images emerge.
- 1972 – Dürer and Domján exhibition in New York City to commemorate the 500th birthday of Dürer. Two masters of woodcut are exhibited side by side. Commissions from the MET; Taos, NM event.
- 1973 on – Tapestry one man shows in Austin, TX, New Jersey State Museum, Cincinnati, Washington D.C., commissions from The MET.
- 1976 – Among the many exhibitions The Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C shows within the Centennial Exhibition Domján works. Exhibitions in Sárospatak, Hungary commemorating Rákóczy's 300th anniversary of his birth, receives key to the City.
- 1977 – In May the Domján Museum opens in Sárospatak, and all early works are housed there. Exhibitions in America of woodcuts and tapestry.
- 1978 on – New color woodcuts and exhibits, creation of Toldi, Sun-Gates, Round Table Conference in Paris by UNESCO – woodcut presentation, Rákóczy award, Béla Bartók diploma by the Hungarian Ministry of Culture, Blue Beard's Castle series, the book Toldi is published,
- 1982 - Alice Tully Hall Exhibitions in conjunctions with Zoltán Kodály's Centennial – Székely Fonó [The Spinning Room] series is revealed. The Most Beautiful Folk Ballad series is released in Budapest – more works created more exhibitions held in USA.
- 1982 on – Hollóháza porcelain factory produces peacock plates, Folk Ballads exhibited. Large retrospective exhibition at the Hungarian National Gallery [1984]. After 500 exhibits no accurate records are not kept, but frequent show continue.
- 1992 November 22 – Dies at Pascack Valley Hospital in New Jersey, after a brief illness at age 85.

"Phoenix" period



Pomegranate Dong Jiamin



Phoenix, Color Woodcut, 1/2 Dong Jiamin

“Phoenix” period



“Phoenix” period



“Phoenix” period



“Phoenix” period



The block [duc]



SÁROSPATAK COLLECTION – ART GALLERY

- The American Hungarian Museum, Passaic signed a cooperative agreement to work together in the management and preservation of the Domján Collection.
- The new permanent exhibition opened on March 25, 2007 as part of the Centennial program.
- The Sárospataki Képtár houses the most significant collections of the artist, which was donated to the City by the artist after the Hungarian Government did not allow the contents of his Budapest gallery to be taken abroad.
- Domján invested significant funds into the original Domján Museum in 1977, but the City could not afford to keep up the building beyond the late 90's.
- We are planning programs around the Gallery to keep it in sight of the interested public.







COLLECTIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

No other Hungarian artist has more works included in the holdings of North American museums and institution than József Domján.

Magyar képzőművészek között Domján József munkái a leggyakoribbak, észak amerikai múzeumok gyűjteményeiben.

Domján Exhibitions

<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>Asia</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>South America</i>
Budapest	Austria	Canton	Mongolia	Alabama	Nebraska	Mexico
Debrecen	Denmark	Chunking	Japan	California	New Jersey	Venezuela
Miskolc	England	Fushion		Colorado	New Mexico	
Sárospatak	France	Fuyang		Connecticut	New York	
Sátorajújhely	Germany	Hankow		Florida	North Carolina	
Szeged	Italy	Kaiteng		Georgia	Ohio	<i>Canada</i>
Székesfehérvár	Netherlands	Kiangsu		Illinois	Oregon	Ontario
Veszprém	Poland	Nanking		Indiana	Pennsylvania	
	Portugal	Peiping		Indiana	Tennessee	<i>Australia</i>
	Spain	Sanghai		Iowa	Texas	Sidney
	Sweden	Shangsha		Kansas	Vermont	Cambera
	Switzerland	Shenyang		Maine	Virginia	
	Yugoslavia	Tietsin		Massachusetts	Washington D.C,	
		Wuchang		Michigan	Wisconsin	
		Wuchow		Montana		

Domján Exhibitions

Evelyn Domján in her book of “Pavologia” [1984] offers the following information:

Important “one man” exhibitions	Important group exhibitions	Exhibitions in China
61 +	308 +	15

Domján collections

major private and institutions

Evelyn Domján in her book of “Pavologia” [1984] offers the following information:

Hungary	Europe	USA	South America	Asia
11	31	72	1	17

North American Sampling

We selected those museums, whom we believed were either important regarding Domján exhibitions or may have holdings of his works. The study is a complete sampling of ten museums which were selected, we did not approach other collections or eliminated any institutions during the study.

Summary of holdings in 10 USA museums

City/ város	Museum - muzeum	State állam	total	color	mono	other
New York City	The Metropolitan Museum of Art	NY	48	21	26	1
Brooklyn	Brooklyn Museum of Art	NY	2	2	0	0
Montclair	Montclair Art Museum	NJ	2	2	0	0
Trenton	New Jersey State Museum	NJ	63	?	?	2
Philadelphia	Philadelphia Museum of Art	PA	20	11	6 ?	3
Cincinnati	Cincinnati Museum of Art	OH	26	20	5 ?	1
Dallas	Dallas Museum of Art	TX	2	2	0	0
San Francisco	Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco	CA	5	5	0	0
Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara Museum of Art	CA	3	3 ?	0	0
San Diego	Mingei International Museum	CA	38	22	5	11
			209			

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

[48]

Dance, 1963 - 1/25

Dance, 1963 - 1/25

Proud Peacock, 1963 - 1/25

Moon Lamb, 1974 - 1/50

Star, 1972 - 1/15

Full Moon

Starlit Night

Snowflakes, 1972

Stars, 1972

There Was a Princess

Pink Lily

The Palace

Ah Dear

The Unicorn

Starlight

The Lovely Princess

Dream

Princes Goodnight

The Park

Her Dragon

Peacock at Night

That Will Never Do

That Will Never Do

There Was a Princess

Dream

The Palace

The Park

Good Night

Pink Lily

Peacock at Night

The Unicorn

Ah Dear

The Lovely Princess

Her Dragon

Star Light

Fire Peacock, 1961

Peacock, 1957

Still Life with Flowers, 1959

Mourning, 1958

The Looking Glass, 1958

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Yellow Fur Coat, 1958

Magic Bird, 1957

The Black Poppy, 1957

Miska, 1957

Angel, 1959

Untitled, Heart 1 - Christmas Greeting card

Untitled, Heart 2

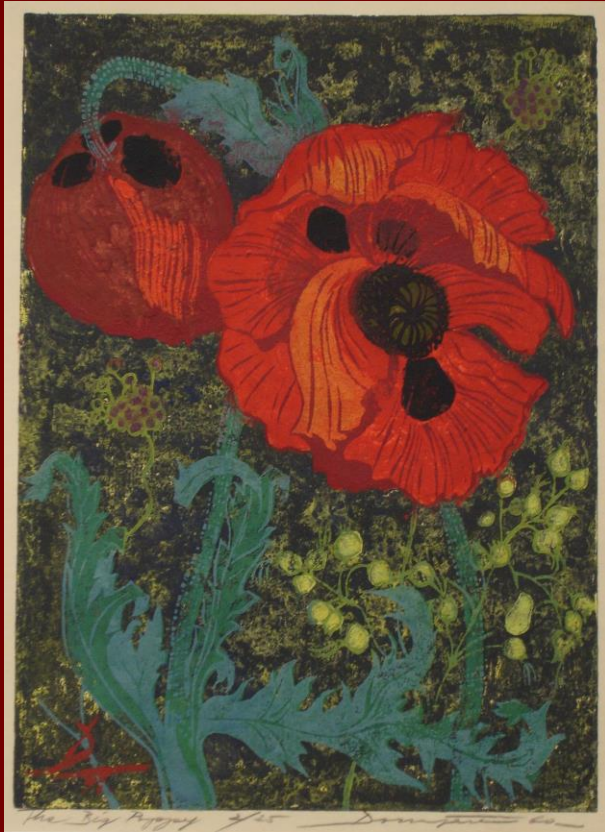
Untitled, Peacock



Brooklyn Museum of Art [2]

Thistle 51 - 15/25 - Domjan '51 [1951]

The Big Poppy - 2/25 - [1962]



Montclair Art Museum

[2]

Peacock Festival - 1962

Kiss



Stay, Color Woodcut by Peacock Festival

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton

[63]

Spinning - 1958

Young Man and Shepherd 9/25 - 1957

Holiday Wine

Girl with Flower

The Flute - 1958

Peasant Drinking - 1956

Columbines - 1959

Yellow Orchid

Violets

The Proud Peacock

Peacock Festival

Gold Leaf Peacock

Bird with Flowers

Mother and Child - 1969

Budding Poppies - 1969

Scarlet Columbines

Domjan/First Exhibition in the USA March 5 - April 5, 1958

Wedding XI - 1957

Churchbuilder - 1960

Meadow I - 1958

Meadow II

Three Winged

Bellringer - 1961

Sunset Phoenix - 1971

Sunset Phoenix - 1971

Sunset Phoenix - 1971

Midnight Phoenix - 1971

Phoenix at Dawn - 1971

Phoenix at Dawn - 1971

Blue Phoenix - 1971

Forest Phoenix - 1971

Phoenix in His Nest - 1971

Rose Phoenix - 1971

Spring Bird - 1971

Mirage - 1971

Burnished Cooper - 1971

Velvet red - 1971

Aquamarine - 1971

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton

Jeweled Beast - 1971

Balance - 1971

Rose-Gray-Moon - 1971

Moon & Star - 1971

Sunset - 1970

Sunset - 1970

Sunset - 1970

Sun-Eruption - 1970

Sun-Eruption - 1970

Palm Tail - 1971

Palm Tail - 1971

Eagle - 1970

Eagle - 1970

Lotus Bird - c. 1970

Star Beast - c. 1970

Arbella [15 Battles] - 1971

Chalon [15 Battles] - 1971

Chalon [15 Battles] - 1971

Tours [15 Battles] - 1971

Valmy [15 Battles] - 1971

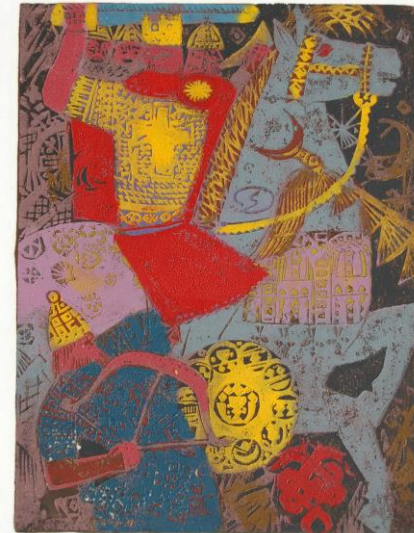
Valmy [15 Battles] - 1971

Saratoga [15 Battles]

Peacock Pair - 1971

Hawk - 1971

Mother Bird - 1970



Philadelphia Museum of Arts

[20]

Starting - 1957 - 2/25

Miska - 1957

Mourning - 1957 - 2/25

The Proud Bride - 1963 - 1/25

Wild Carrot - 1963 - 1/25

Mullein - 1963 - 1/25

Peacock at Night - 1966 - 6/25

Frolicking Deer - 1963

Untitled [Rearing Unicorn] - 1962

The Looking-glass - 1958

Holiday Wine - 1958-62

Liberty - 1976 - 2/50

Liberty Eagle - 1976 - 2/30

Bell Eagle - 1976 - 6/30

Spinning Girl - 1976 - 6/30

Love Deer - 1976 - 5-30

Sundoores V - 3/30

Enchanted Sky - 1973 - 3/15

Pava - 1976 - 1/15

Good Fishing [Season's Greetings] 1961



Cincinnati Art Museum

[26]

Black Poppies - 1957 - 2/25

The Black Poppy - 1957-8 - 14/25

Grape Eater - 1974 - Artist's Proof

Aquamarine - 12-15

Rain Dragon - 1975 - 8/15

Bird-Antlered - 1976 - 5/30

Stag Sensation - 1976 - 6/30

Star Eagle - 1976 - Artist's Proof

Sun-Cock - 1976 - 13/15

Mother and Child - 1962 - 1/25

Domjan/First Exhibition in the USA March 5 - April 5, 1958

Peacock Festival - 1962 - 1/25

Miska - 1958 - 15/25

Handkerchief of Engagement - 1958

Man and Bird - 1957

Girl with Embroidered Handkerchief - 1957 - 12/25

Hunter - 1957-8 - 15/25

Kiss - 1957-8 - 16/25

Yellow Fur Coat - 1957 - Artist's Proof

Yellow Fur Coat - 1957 - 16/25

Purple Peacock - 1957 - 17/25

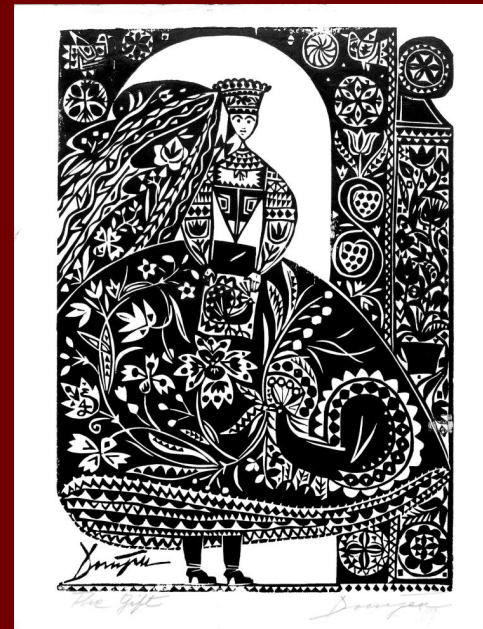
Starting - 1958 - 1/25

Magid Bird - 1958 - 16/25

Fire Bird - 1957 - 16/25

Digitalis - 1958 - 13/25

Queen Ann's Lace - 1958 - 19/25



Dallas Museum of Art

[2]

Bagpipe - 1962

Bird and Butterfly - 1962



Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco

[5]

Merry Christmas - 1961

Wedding - 1959

Spirit Bird - 1962

Purple Peacock - 1962

Golden Hair - 1962



Rauschenberg 5/19 *Robert Rauschenberg*



Robert Rauschenberg 3/19 *Robert Rauschenberg*

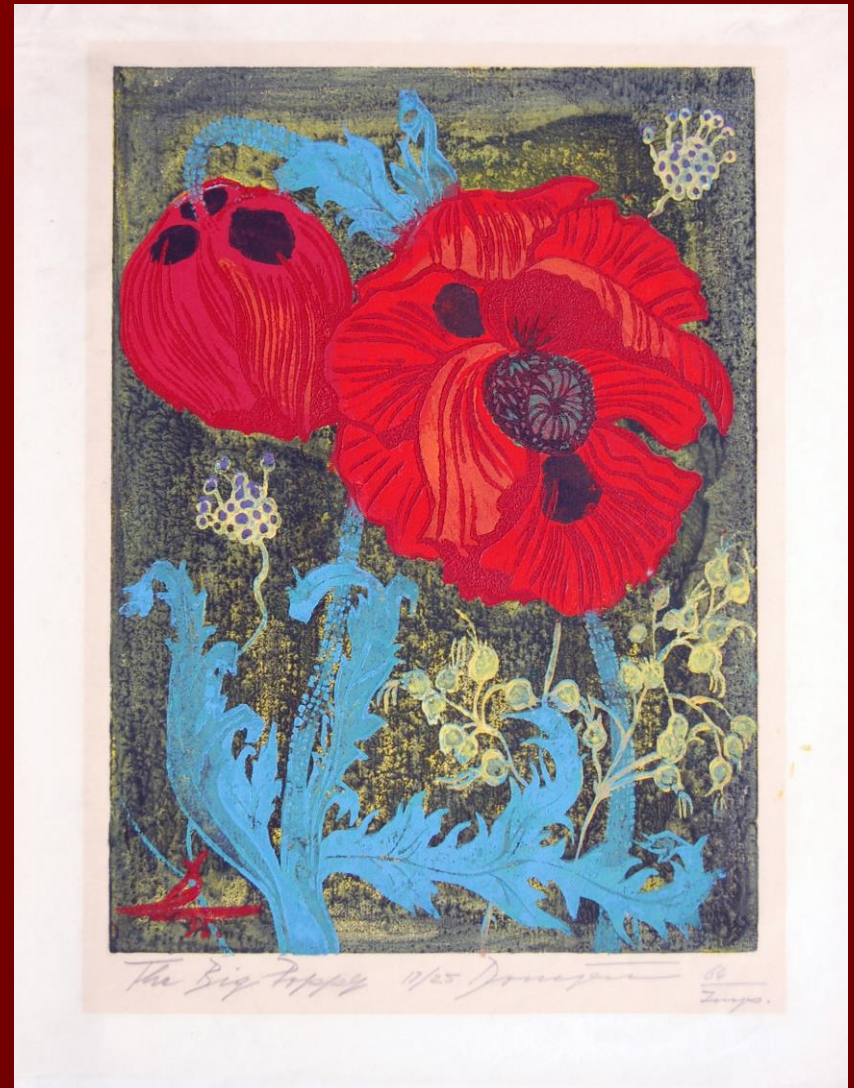
Santa Barbara Museum of Art

[3]

Dahlias - 1959 - 12/25

Forest Flowers - 1956 - 1/25

Sea Robbin - 1965



Mingei International Museum

[38]

Master of Woodcut Poster

Laguna Gloria Art Museum Poster - Nov. 25, 1972

Beautiful Ilona

The Treasure

Spinning

The Treasure

Julia

Far Away

Moonlit Shepard

Doorpost

Portfolio - 8 color woodcuts

The White Deer - book of woodcuts

Peacock Promenade

Edge of a Cloud

Double Edge

Edge of Love

Wing Edge

Rose Dove

Double Edge

Edge of Paradise

Bold Eagle

Old Faith

Edge of Love

Fish Paradise - 1985

Forest's Edge

Kunstsalon Wolfsberg - May 1967

Proud Peacock - November 1966

Color Woodcuts by Josef Domjan

Rejoice in Art

New Jersey Art Museum - November 1966

Master of Color Woodcuts

Angelica II - 1979 [?]

Pavo del Mondo - Large Peacock - 1985

Lotus Eagle - 1975

Barcarolla - 1985

Queen Ann's Lace 1980

Sunset Spectacle - 1985-6

Night Edge - 1972-3

Tate Britain Gallery, London, England

[10]

Alpine Moon

Bird Song

Blue Poppy

Golden Queen Ann's Lace

Happy Dragon

Heraldic Eagle

Moon Dragon

Morning Star

Ornate Vision

Pink Sunset Cloud



Ornate Vision William Morris