

## Kamilla Szij

### The Path of the Sun

26 November 2024 – 17 January 2025

The Sun is essential for our existence, it's the focus of scientific studies and a powerful source of artistic inspiration. It has consistently appeared in visual art, clearly symbolized in ancient mythological works, and it keeps reappearing in contemporary art. But why is this? Because it is an inevitable part of our lives: it marks the passage of time and impacts everything around us—our health, our diet, and nature itself.

In her latest series, Kamilla Szij follows the path of the Sun, aiming to capture the presence of sunlight by recording the forms it creates on paper. These drawings, created between April and October of 2024, are on display in the current exhibition. Szij has transformed a phenomenon observed in her own home—the early morning light patches that appear during the sunny months—into the subject of her art. The light, filtered through her blinds, paints her room, which serves as both her living space and studio, with oval shapes.

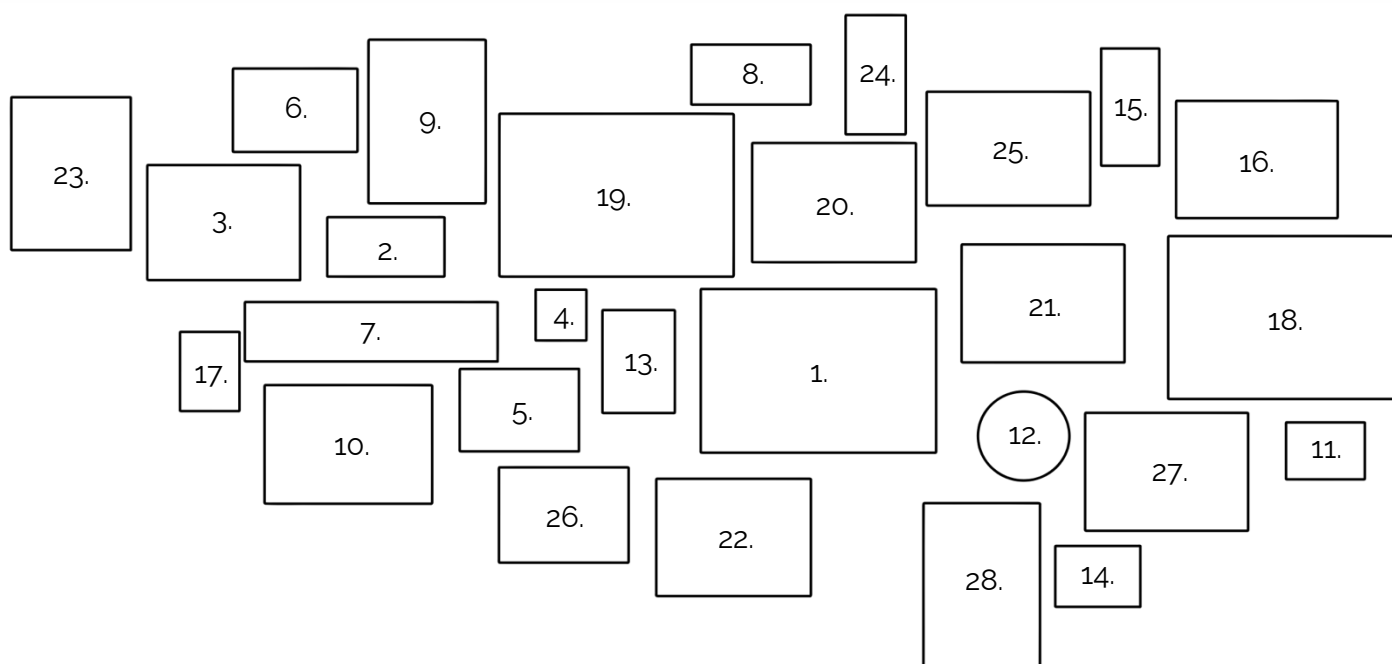
Szija's drawings are always realized according to a preconceived structure. This process requires intense concentration and involves constructing an artwork from repeated shapes that form a complete composition on paper. Following previous series utilizing motifs of rice grains and tin cans, her latest series centers around an oval line that serves as the base unit of each drawing.

While some of Szija's drawings are created following strict, predetermined rules, in this series, she decided only to follow the Sun's path. She let nature to decide which mornings brought particular light patterns through her window and what shapes the Sun would cast for her to work with. Since she could not predict how much time she would have for drawing each day, she allowed more room for improvisation. She did not decide in advance on the number of rows in each column, nor did she plan exactly when she would switch drawing tools. This approach gave the series an experimental feel, quality of the series, reflected in the variety of paper materials and sizes, the color and softness of the pencils, and the rotated and layered drawings across different days. Each work's timeframe was recorded on the back of each sheet as documentation.

Can a moment be captured, or sunlight preserved in its present state? Szija's conclusion suggests it may not be fully possible. As the video displayed in the exhibition shows, within the 1-2 seconds it took her to trace an oval, the light had already shifted. These light patches remain in constant motion, making them only fragmentarily capturable.

Boglárka Tóth

Kamilla Szij (1957) visual artist. Kamilla Szij is a significant representative of contemporary drawing in Hungary. Her work is centered around the line itself that forms the basis of drawing and graphics. In the beginning of her artistic practice Szij created unique works using reproductive graphic techniques, applying her plates as modules, then later on she started creating drypoint drawings and pencil drawings. To realize her monochrome or multicolour works, Szij reduces her tools and motifs to a minimum, and creates structures and systems from repetitive signs by excluding direct composition. Her first solo show was held in 1990 at the Óbuda Cellar Gallery, her further solo exhibitions were organised at the Budapest Gallery (2003, 2022), the Art Gallery Paks (2012) and at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Dunaújváros (2017), among others. In 2017, she obtained a DLA degree at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, her works are consequently presented at both Hungarian and international exhibitions. Her works can be found in the collection of the Amt für Wissenschaft und Kunst (Frankfurt am Main), Bibliothek Alexandrina (Alexandria), Kiscell Museum (Budapest), Ludwig Museum – Museum of Contemporary Art (Budapest), Hungarian National Gallery (Budapest), Museum Ritter (Waldenbuch).



1. The Path of the Sun 1, April 2024, pen, pencil, paper, 70x100 cm
2. The Path of the Sun 2, April 2024, pencil, paper, 25x50 cm
3. The Path of the Sun 3, April 2024, pen, pencil, paper, 50x65 cm
4. The Path of the Sun 5, 25 April 2024, pen, pencil, paper, 21x21 cm
5. The Path of the Sun 6, 25 April 2024, pencil, paper, 34.5x51 cm
6. The Path of the Sun 7, 25 April 2024, pen, pencil, paper, 34x52 cm
7. The Path of the Sun 8, 1&4 May 2024, pencil, paper, 25x107 cm
8. The Path of the Sun 9, 4 May 2024, pencil, paper, 25x50 cm
9. The Path of the Sun 10, 5 May 2024, pen, pencil, paper, 70x49.5 cm
10. The Path of the Sun 11, 10 May 2024, pen, pencil, paper, 50x70 cm
11. The Path of the Sun 12, 10 May 2024, pen, pencil, pastel, paper, 24x34 cm
12. The Path of the Sun 13, 10 May 2024, pencil, paper, ø40 cm
13. The Path of the Sun 14, 12 May 2024, 6.15–7.44, pencil, paper, 43x30.5 cm
14. The Path of the Sun 15, 12 May 2024, pencil, paper, 8.15–9.13, 25x36 cm
15. The Path of the Sun 16, 14 May 2024, 6.45–7.44, pencil, paper, 50.2x25 cm
16. The Path of the Sun 18, 16 May 2024, 6.45–7.39, pencil, pastel, paper, 50x70 cm
17. The Path of the Sun 19, 16 May 2024, 8.05–8.20, pen, pencil, paper, 33x24 cm
18. The Path of the Sun 20, 20 May 2024, 6.03–7.32, pen, paper, 70x100 cm
19. The Path of the Sun 21, 27 May 2024, 7.15–9.02, pen, pastel, paper, 70x100 cm
20. The Path of the Sun 22, 28 May 2024, 6.08–8.14, pen, pencil, paper, 50x70 cm
21. The Path of the Sun 23, 30 May 2024, 6.16–7.33, pen, pencil, paper, 50x70 cm
22. The Path of the Sun 24, 31 May 2024, 6.20–6.34, 1 June, 6.15–6.24, 6 June, 6.24–7.19, pen, pencil, pastel, paper, 50x65 cm
23. The Path of the Sun 25, 7 June 2024, 7.30–7.54, pen, pencil, paper, 65x70 cm
24. The Path of the Sun 26, 12 June 2024, 7.28–7.43, pencil, pastel, paper, 50.3x25 cm
25. The Path of the Sun 27, 18 June 2024, 7.43–8.48, pen, pencil, pastel, paper, 49x70 cm
26. The Path of the Sun 30, 30 September 2024, pen, pencil, pastel, paper, 39.5x55.5 cm
27. The Path of the Sun 31, 1 October 2024, 7.14–10.10, pencil, paper, 50x70 cm
28. The Path of the Sun 32, 30 September 2024, 4.13–7.20, 8 October, 8.30–8.46, pen, paper, 70x50 cm