

Exhibition Title: Fog turned into an elephant

Artist: Gábor Pintér

Curator: Péter Bencze

Venue: Institute of Contemporary Art - Dunaújváros

Duration: 12 Apr 2025 - 23 May 2025

Photo: Áron Weber

Tags: @gabor_painter @longtermhandstand @everybodyneedsart
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Text: Péter Bencze

Fog turned into an elephant

A world where fog solidifies into form, and memory takes on the shape of a giant fish—this is the ever-evolving visual realm of Hungarian painter Gábor Pintér. In *Fog turned into an elephant*, Pintér invites visitors into an expansive and immersive journey through his artistic universe, occupying all three gallery spaces at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Dunaújváros (ICA-D).

At the heart of the exhibition, in the main gallery, a monumental mural dominates the space, incorporating one of his smaller-scale paintings. The focal point? Ruby, the painter elephant, a mesmerizing figure that seems to emerge from the artist's signature interplay between color and narrative. This grand-scale work is not only an anchor within the gallery but also visible from the outside—a 24-hour spectacle that extends the exhibition into the public sphere, making it an open invitation to contemplation and wonder.

The two adjoining galleries present a selection of Pintér's works from the last five years, offering insight into the evolution of his visual language. A special focus is placed on his 150x130 cm paintings, including pieces from his *Giant Fish Shaped Memory* series, previously exhibited in Belgium. These bright, bold compositions demonstrate the artist's mastery of composition, evoking a dreamlike atmosphere where past and present coexist. Alongside these, brand-new works make their debut, such as *Melancholic Lab Meat (Impossible Is Nothing)* or *Simply Baking*, where a couple prepares a meal using the fundamental ingredients of Malevich's Suprematism. This painting, like much of Pintér's work, reveals his unique blend of conceptual rigor and playful irony—an invitation to reconsider the weight and lightness of everyday existence.

Descending into the basement, visitors encounter *Romeo & Eve* and *Adam & Julia*, a striking pair of large-scale paintings that exemplify Pintér's practice of evocative and unconventional titling. These works challenge traditional narratives and prompt a rethinking of familiar archetypes, embodying the artist's capacity to fuse humor with profound reflection.

Finally, Pintér's smaller oblong landscapes punctuate the exhibition, populated with his recurring characters and objects—visual echoes that tie together his rich, interwoven storytelling. His paintings balance between the familiar and the surreal, often prompting viewers to experience the depth of his vision before even seeing the images themselves.

Written by Péter Bencze