

Olympics and Politics Berlin / Barcelona 1936

23 JUNE - 28 AUGUST 2016

Galeria Centralis, Blinken Osa Archives

Partners: Goethe-Institut Budapest,
Cervantes Institute

Exhibition design by **László Rajk**

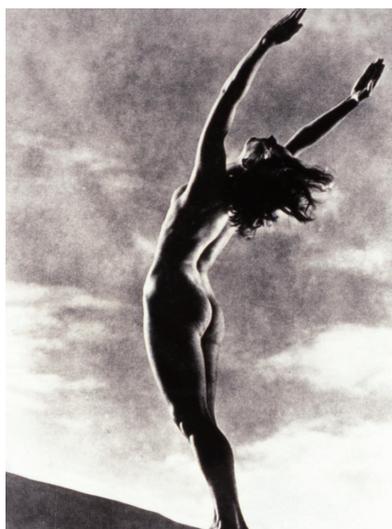
Curated by **Gwen Jones, Katalin Székely,**
Blinken Open Society Archives



On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Berlin Summer Olympics and the Olimpiáda Popular, the exhibition **Olympics and Politics - Berlin / Barcelona 1936** examines how these international sporting events became the terrains for ideological and physical battles in the heavily politicized 1930s, and how the two Games acquired different political significance. Using archival sources (newsreel footage, films, photos, etc.), the exhibition views the two-week spectacle of the Berlin Games through the lenses of its counterpart, the Workers' Olympics, and the war the Nazi ideology so pompously and magnificently promoted through its Olympics.

In the summer of 1936, two European cities planned to host major sport events. Berlin was preparing for the Games of the XI Olympiad and at the same time, Barcelona was getting ready for the Olimpiáda Popular (the People's Olympics, or: the Workers' Olympics), which was intended to offer an alternative to the highly controversial Olympic Games organized by the Nazi regime. The opening of the Berlin Games was announced by fanfares,

the music of Richard Strauss, and the sounds of the Olympic Bell. In Barcelona the noises of war swept away the singing of thousands of workers who wished to take part in the Olimpiáda. One day before the scheduled opening ceremony, General Francisco Franco and his troops staged a military putsch. Although the Workers' Olympics was cancelled, some of the athletes remained in Spain to fight on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War. These two sporting events differed not only in terms of their inauguration. The organizers of the Berlin Summer Games and the Olimpiáda Popular held fundamentally different concepts of the social and political significance of sport, and used radically different approaches to present these ideas to international sporting communities and to the public. The Nazi regime went to great lengths to demonstrate its magnificence and splendor through spectacular buildings, decorations, and propaganda with the Berlin Games. However, it was the Spanish Civil War where the world could, for the very first time, experience the realization of such propagandistic endeavors.



Vernissage: 23 June 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks by

István Rév, Director, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives

Michael Müller-Verweyen, Director, Goethe-Institut Budapest

Iñaki Abad Leguina, Director, Cervantes Institute Budapest

Music and film screening:

Richard Strauss: Olympische Hymne (recorded by Leon Botstein & American Philharmonic Orchestra) with a short sequence from a Hungarian home documentary (OSA, Forgács- Archives), *"Richard Deutsch: My German Journey, 1936"*

Live Choir Performance and film screening

Hanns Eisler: The Anthem of the Olimpiáda Popular (Barcelona) by the **OSINGERS** Small Choir, conductor **Nikolett Hajzer** and a 1936 Newsreel about the start of the Civil War in Barcelona

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