

**curated by**  
Blinken OSA Archivum

**co-curators**  
KÓCZÉ Angéla / *CEU Romani Studies Program*  
HANZLI Péter / *Háttér Archive and Library*

**exhibition design**  
NEMZETES Ferenc

**graphic design**  
BENKŐ Bálint, GÓCZEY Luca / *Stúdio VAN*

**in cooperation with**  
Budapest100 – KÉK Hungarian Contemporary  
Architecture Centre  
CEU Romani Studies Program  
Fortepan  
Háttér Archive and Library  
Verzió International Human Rights  
Documentary Film Festival

Blinken OSA Archivum  
Galeria Centralis  
Arany János u. 32,  
1051 Budapest

Tuesday-Sunday  
10:00AM – 6:00PM

**further information**  
Nóra Bertalan  
bertalan@ceu.edu +36 30 271 2709

blinken  
osa  
**Archivum**



**Centralis  
Galéria**

# FACTS FOR REAL

June 21 – August 25  
2024

**Collections  
and Communities**

The Blinken OSA Archivum, currently updating its public image with a new logo, website, and catalog, launched a research-based program to continuously (re)contextualize its documents and themes. This initiative exemplifies “collective curating” and “community archives” through its community-driven research and exhibition project, ***Facts for Real: Collections and Communities***.

The exhibition is the first to showcase a carefully selected collection of items from the Archivum’s versatile holdings, creating a web of interconnected stories that cover the main historical events as well as private histories of the Cold War era and its aftermath. Based on extensive discussions among ourselves and with the communities we have been working with, the goal was to present the interwoven and multivocal narratives of various organizations, communities, and individuals who had lived through and shaped the second half of the 20th century in Hungary and in the Central and Eastern European region, as well as other countries like Rwanda, Nigeria, Chile, and Cameroon.

The exhibition at the Galeria Centralis of the Archivum presents previously unseen materials from the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute’s collection, such as the correspondence of the popular music program of the Hungarian station, Teenager Party, as well as photos depicting the inner workings of the Radios. Samizdat materials, such as György Dalos’s novel, 1985, are on display, with the original illustrations made by László Rajk. The exhibit also includes numerous materials from our extensive audiovisual collection, such as videos documenting the major events of the Hungarian regime change made by the Fekete Doboz Foundation, and the home movies of the Private Photo and Film Foundation offering insiders’ perspectives of personal lives in Hungary throughout almost the entire 20th century. We also present photos from the collection of the periodical Index on Censorship, depicting various press freedom or human rights violations from all over the world.

These materials relating to major historical events are complemented with more down-to-earth, personal narratives, such as the letters sent to the Radio Liberty from the Soviet Union, or a selection of the drawings by Gertrud Bortstieber, the wife of philosopher György Lukács, included to the letters sent to her family from the post-1956 exile in Romania, on public view for the first time.

The connections found between the various items reveal a larger story of (slowly) awakening societies in Central and Eastern Europe from the 1950s onward, and tell the stories of indefatigable people striving to build and protect trust (and community) and to give people a voice during the Cold War and beyond. Despite their varied and unique nature, the Archivum’s collections exemplify consistent values and ideals that support the development of societies, communities, and democracies. Our exhibition highlights these values alongside our materials, while also drawing attention to the collective process of immersing ourselves in the Archivum’s holdings and the joy of (re)discovering hidden stories within our archives.

**Exhibition opening:**

June 21. 2024 / Friday  
6:00 PM

**Opening remarks by**

RÉV István  
Director / Blinken OSA Archivum

**Opening speeches by**

KÓCZÉ Angéla  
*Chair / CEU Romani Studies Program*  
HANZLI Péter  
*Program Director / Háttér Archive and Library*  
SZILÁGYI Csaba  
*Chief Archivist / Blinken OSA Archivum*