

PRESS RELEASE

MY DIARY – YOUR NEWS

Daniela Comani: *It was me. My Diary 1900–1999 in the Context of the 1956 Revolution in the Western World*

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the Goethe-Institut Budapest and the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, present MY DIARY – YOUR NEWS. It was a deliberate decision to present the exhibition with a perspective that looks back at the days of the revolution from the outside. On one hand in time: the Berlin based artist, Daniela Comani's large art installation entitled *It was me. My Diary 1900–1999* depicts the whole of the 20th century through 365 entries of an imaginary diary, while constantly forcing the viewer to take the position of the principal actor. On the other hand we position ourselves outside Hungary to reflect upon the events of 60 years ago. How did the media in other capitals react to the events unfolding in Hungary? Alongside Daniela Comani's installation, items from OSA's own collections of newspaper clippings, photos and newsreels document the intensity of reactions all over the world, from Reykjavík to Buenos Aires.

Daniela Comani's work, *It was me. My Diary 1900–1999*, offers a personalized account of 356 days of the history of the 20th century, listing major historic moments, (among others, the outbreak of the Hungarian Revolution on October 23, 1956), recounted in the first person. The eschewed chronology and the diary format give history an intimate, almost fictional character, at the same time as they remind us how different historical moments from the past continually re-surface in the present. This diary is both personal and universal, combining 356 events from world history into a single narrative, and extending one year of a single person's lifetime into a whole century of universal historiography.

By switching vantage points between personal and public narratives, between national and international contexts, the exhibition MY DIARY – YOUR NEWS reexamines a single national narrative – that of the 1956 revolution – through the

reactions of the Western world. The international media concentrated their attention on Hungary: the events of the revolution truly transfixed the world. The Hungarian Uprising, along with the parallel Polish events, was welcomed by many not only as the first major threat to Soviet control in Central and Eastern Europe, but also as a "second October Revolution", a chance to reinvent Communism after the failures of the Stalinist regimes. After the crushing of the Revolution, the disappointment was immense. The heated debates over the Soviet invasion stirred strong emotions across the globe that led to (sometimes violent) mass demonstrations, and widespread actions expressing solidarity with all those who fled the country. The Hungarian Revolution brought the tension of the Cold War home to the Western World; for many it turned events happening in a foreign country into a personal affair.

VERNISSAGE: October 19, 2016, AT 6:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks by

Iván Székely, Senior Research Fellow, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives

Michael Müller-Verweyen, Director, Goethe-Institut Budapest

András Mink, Research Fellow, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives

Curated by András Lénárt, Michael Müller-Verweyen, Márta Nagy and Katalin Székely

Exhibition design by Zsolt Alexa, Donát Rabb, Ákos Schreck and Balázs Turai / Minusplus

Daniela Comani's *Ich war's. Tagebuch 1900–1999* was translated by Gábor Duró into Hungarian.

The exhibition is open between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day except Monday from October 20th until November 27th, 2016.

Because of related events, the exhibition will be only partially open on the following days during the afternoons:

October 21, November 4, 10, 11, 12, 16, 23

For more information visit: www.osaarchivum.org

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Full program: www.osaarchivum.org

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Organized by the Goethe-Institut Budapest and the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives.



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