



GYULA KONFAR
MIHÁLY SCHNER:
Two contemporary
Hungarian artists
paintings & drawings
3-24 March 1964

Grosvenor Gallery

Gyula Konfar

1	Hungarian poet	oil on board	50×42	15	Cottages, mountains and trees	oil on board	27×38
2	Portrait of a boy	oil on board	35×27	16	Village, blue mountains	oil on board	27×38
3	Seated woman	oil on board	66×46	17	White cottages, red roofs	oil on board	26×39
4	Woman with a red scarf	oil on board	38×27	18	Village street	charcoal/chalk	24×35
5	Two girls	oil on board	27×38	19	Industrial landscape	charcoal/chalk	24×35
6	Girl with long hair	oil on board	66×47	20	Village and hills	charcoal/chalk	24×35
7	Still life with kettle	oil on board	27×38	21	Village street II	charcoal/chalk	24×35
8	Still life with two mugs and pitcher	oil on board	27×38	22	Village with trees	charcoal/chalk	24×35
9	Still life with apples and bottle	oil on canvas	38×27	23	Coal miner	charcoal	23×17
10	Still life with blue table	oil on board	39×35	24	Woman's head	charcoal/chalk	21×18
11	Still life with jug and pitcher	oil on board	27×38	25	Anna	charcoal	23×18
12	Summer landscape with village	oil on board	23×31	26	Nude	charcoal	23×15
13	Landscape with four trees	oil on canvas	23×31	27	Young man	charcoal	23×16
14	Summer landscape	oil on board	27×38				

Mihaly Schener

28	Self-portrait in a mirror	oil on board	27×39	41	Husband and wife with candle	oil on board	27×39
29	Breakfast	oil on board	27×39	42	Peasant resting	oil on board	27×39
30	The card game	oil on board	27×39	43	Peasants in the fields	oil on canvas	27½×40
31	Market day	oil on board	27×39	44	Evening	oil on board	27×39
32	Solitary drinker	oil on board	27×39	45	Feeding the birds	oil on board	27×39
33	The Artist and his wife	oil on board	27×39	46	A present for my wife's birthday	oil on board	27×39
34	Self-portrait with bowl	oil on board	27×39	47	Household Cavalry I	oil on board	21×31
35	Man and wife	oil on board	27×39	48	Household Cavalry II	oil on board	25×30
36	Two peasant women	oil on board	27×39	49	Tower of London	oil on canvas	38×27
37	Death in the family	oil on board	27×39	50	Beefeater and Raven	oil on board	20×30
38	Self-portrait at work	oil on board	27×39	51	Swan Upping	oil on board	30×20
39	Farmer and wife	oil on board	27×39	52	London	oil on board	30×20
40	At the Inn	oil on board	27×39				

Mihaly Schener

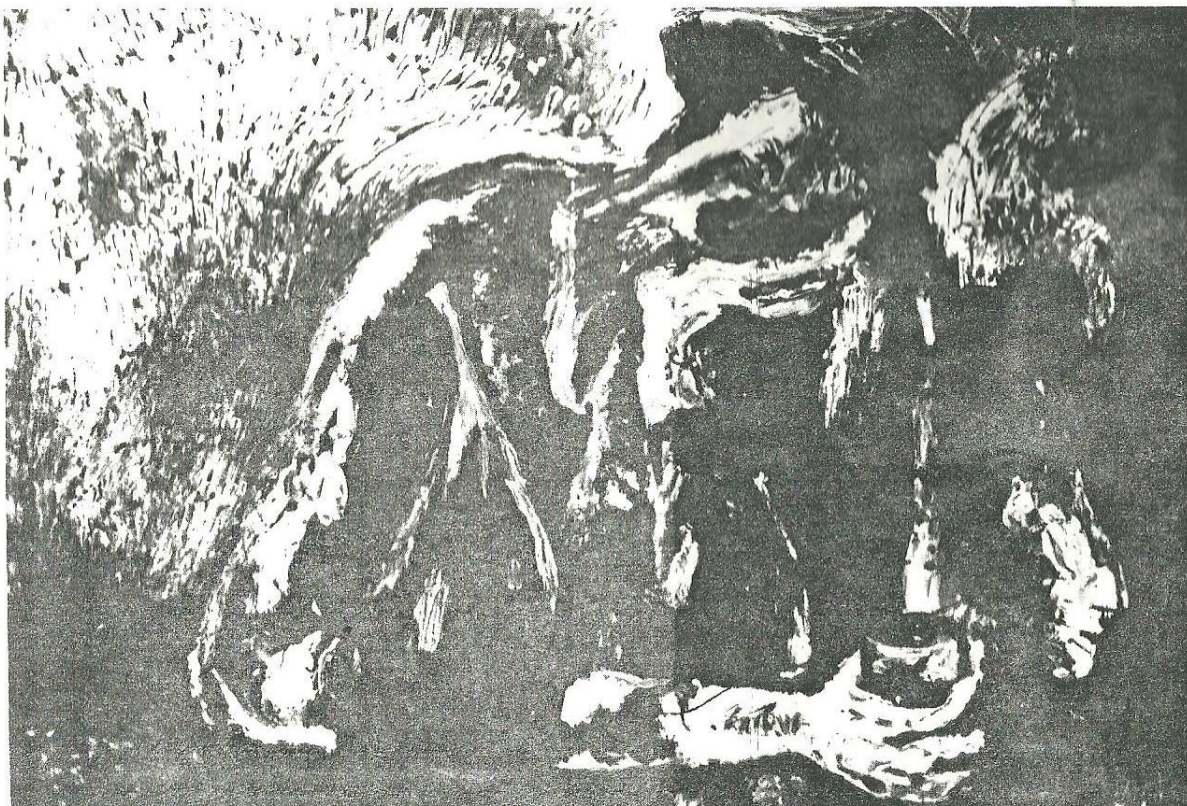
Mihaly Schener was born in 1923 in the ancient province of Transylvania where life is even now rather archaic. The son and grandson of peasants, he won a scholarship to the Budapest Art Academy where he studied under the Master, Rudnay. The strength of his peasant origins is distinct in the work of the mature Schener. Two years ago he wrote 'one of my chief concerns is the multiple and intricate relationship of man and nature. It is not enough to perceive the exterior of man, one must also reveal his inner world'. He paints time and again, peasants whose knarled, strong hands dominate the canvas. To Schener hands are the symbol of the whole person – they are the contact with the soil; ergo with one's roots. If the lifeline is broken then man falls victim to all the anxiety and disturbance which haunts the twentieth century.

He explores the nature of man and of himself through his self-portraits. Of them he says 'they are all the time widening and deepening my own self-knowledge, and by the same token my knowledge of others'.

Since 1956 he has devoted himself entirely to experiment in art, culminating in a one-man show of 72 works in Budapest in March 1962. Of this exhibition a leading Hungarian critic wrote 'it was a stimulus to intellectual life in general and one excellent result was that this kind of experiment became recognised in Hungarian art as an official trend.'

Four periods of Schener's work are represented in this selection – his formative period, his blue period, transition, and the latest series painted in London during the summer of 1963.

32 Solitary drinker



Gyula Konfar

Gyula Konfar was born in 1934 of a foundling mother and casual labourer father in the worst slum area of Budapest, the 'Angyalföld' (district of Angels), the toughest and most radical district of the city. He won scholarships to the Budapest Academy where he studied under Domanovsky, graduating in 1957. His first one-man exhibition was held in Budapest in 1958. Konfar has won every prize available to a young Hungarian artist, including travel grants to Italy, Roumania, the U.S.S.R. and other East European countries. His work has been exhibited in New Delhi, Berlin, Warsaw, Moscow, Sofia, and at the XXXth Biennale in Venice in 1960.

Konfar works with tremendous concentration of energy – his paint is applied with heavy impasto and with enormous vitality. His landscapes in particular are painted in the heavy, brooding, passionate colours traditional to Hungarian art. He is fascinated by the Hungarian school of the late 19th century to whose work he repeatedly returns. This influence gives a formality to his painting within whose precisely set limits the force of his expression explodes in emotional vitality.

In the six years which have elapsed since his one-man exhibition in Budapest in 1958, he has become one of the most highly esteemed artists in Hungary.

5 Two girls

