

Gábor Tari PhD - Landscape and Cityscape Abstraction as a Genre to Develop the Compositional Skills of Architecture Students

Up until recent years, almost 150 years of living art history has formed the base of the education of the BME Department of Graphics, Form & Design. The water color *oeuvre* of late professor István Balogh contains elements from the late 19th century impressionism to a large extent, while the student research mentored by dr. Gábor Üveges usually draws inspiration of Concept Art, Happening, Ready-made and Street Art. Nevertheless, a wide range of transitional chapters in between these two extremes of the historical timeline of art could and should be considered as valuable resources when for visual education.

Prior to abstract art maturing to its peak and attaining its final form, painters in different parts of the world already started to simplify natural forms, thus gaining a new perspective in their perception.

Reduction - Abstraction - Transformation have been the three main instruments of creating a new face of reality on canvas. The early period of Piet Mondrian, the works Lionell Feininger, Jenő Barcsay and many others provide a good example to this phenomenon. The compositions of these artists omit a great number of details, but the reason for this is not the lack of interest or ignorance, but rather an effort to create a higher level of visual order, the context and relationship between the elements, and an individual graphical vocabulary. These works could help the development of the compositional skills of students and provide them with useful insight and inspiration in the creation process of architectural forms, or the rhythm and proportions of facades. Education at the Department's summer *plein-air* art colony course in Falerone could also benefit from these methodologies.

This paper intends to present a series of relevant examples of works of art of this period, as well as a demonstrative exercise from a 3rd year course of the Department - graphical reductions of the historic townscape of Budapest Castle District, with water color and alternative experimental tools.