

Light and laser-environment in The Hague

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The Embassy of the Republic of Hungary organised a grandiose artistic light- and laser-show in the monumental Grote Kerk of The Hague on 31 January 2011. The show opened a series of events in the Netherlands that are associated with the Hungarian presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The illustrious venue, the Grote Kerk was once the main church of The Hague, but now functions as a cultural events hall. The laser-show of Mr Attila Csáji, entitled "Returning", was introduced by Mr Kas Oosterhuis, architect and director of ONL - which also worked on the CET projekt by Közraktárak in Budapest - , who drew the audience's attention to several famous Hungarian Nobel-prize winners and the innovative art of the late György Kepes, which inspired the laser-show.

Csáji was born in Szepesi, the Uplands (nowadays Slovakia), in 1939. He took part in organising the Hungarian avant-garde movement in the '60s and '70s and started artistic experimentations with laser in the '70s, working together with physician Norbert Kroó. Csáji earned several prizes for his works, which were displayed more than 500 times at various events. He also had a number of independent shows in the Hungarian National Gallery. The most significant of his installations took place in the Kunsthalle in 1988.

After the welcoming words of Mr Gyula Sümegi, ambassador of Hungary, Mr Zsolt Németh, Minister of State of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened the event by thanking the Dutch people for all the past support provided for Hungary. He also underlined that the Hungarian presidency would utilise the Dutch perspective of "seeing all in the flow of time, viewing matters in their context, not just in the moment" (Sándor Márai).

The show was made possible with the support of the Hungarian-Dutch community in The Hague, in particular, Katalin Kovács, Tineke van Keulen, Machteld Doekes and József Barkaszi, who organised the music, and György Pathó camera-man. Other supporters were Cees H. Boer and Jhr. Ir. J.B. Jankovich de Jeszenice, honorary consuls of Hungary, and the DBH Group and Miranda Beems wine importeur, who sponsored the event.