

# JUDIT REIGL DANCE OF DEATH

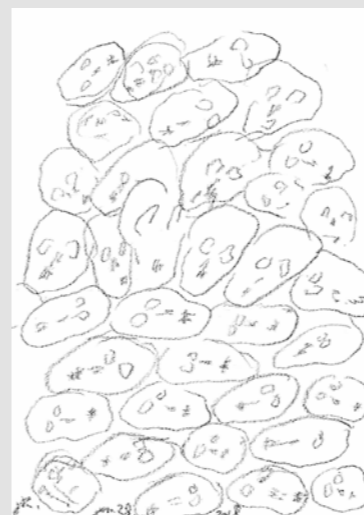
25 MAY – 3 SEPTEMBER 2023

Celebrating the centenary of Judit Reigl's birth, the Museum of Fine Arts - Hungarian National Gallery presents the last series of drawings of one of the most original artists to emerge in European art after World War II. Reigl's basic visual language was acquired in her youth, when, in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, she discovered many of the paintings that impacted her vision. True to her wishes, the drawings are displayed in concert with some of her favorite paintings from the Budapest museum's own collection.

*Judit Reigl Dance of Death* belongs to the tradition of Hans Holbein the Younger's epochal book of woodblock prints, the *Dance of Death* (1526), not simply because of the recurrent image of the skull. In both series, the figures do more than merely dance: they wrestle, pull, push, and tug at one another vigorously. Reigl drew the transient *before*, not the eternal *after*. Her skulls, our own doppelgangers, are tokens of life, not the afterlife. *Judit Reigl Dance of Death* offers a remarkable pictorial account of a life of ceaseless creativity, recapping episodes and experiences that stood out in the way that one's life can only be truly understood with hindsight.

The presentation features a movie with footage of the artist in her studio working on *Dance of Death*, interspersed with images of all the drawings of the series. In them, Reigl repeatedly recalls pieces by Courbet, Leonardo, Delacroix, Fra Angelico, Cranach, Dürer, Gaddi, Goya, El Greco, Hans Baldung Grien, and other masters whose works she first admired in the museum during her student years. After viewing the installation in the Michelangelo Hall, visitors will have a fresh view of many of the masterpieces in our Permanent Collection.

Eugène Delacroix  
*Horse Frightened by Lightning*, 1825-1829  
Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest



Leonardo da Vinci  
*Studies of Horses' Legs*, ca. 1490  
Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest



Judit Reigl  
*Jacob Wrestling with the Angel (Two Men)*, 1947  
Hungarian National Gallery - Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest



Judit Reigl  
*Jacob Wrestling with the Angel (Embrace)*, 1947  
Hungarian National Gallery - Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest



Judit Reigl  
*Jacob Wrestling with the Angel (Friends)*, 1947  
Hungarian National Gallery - Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

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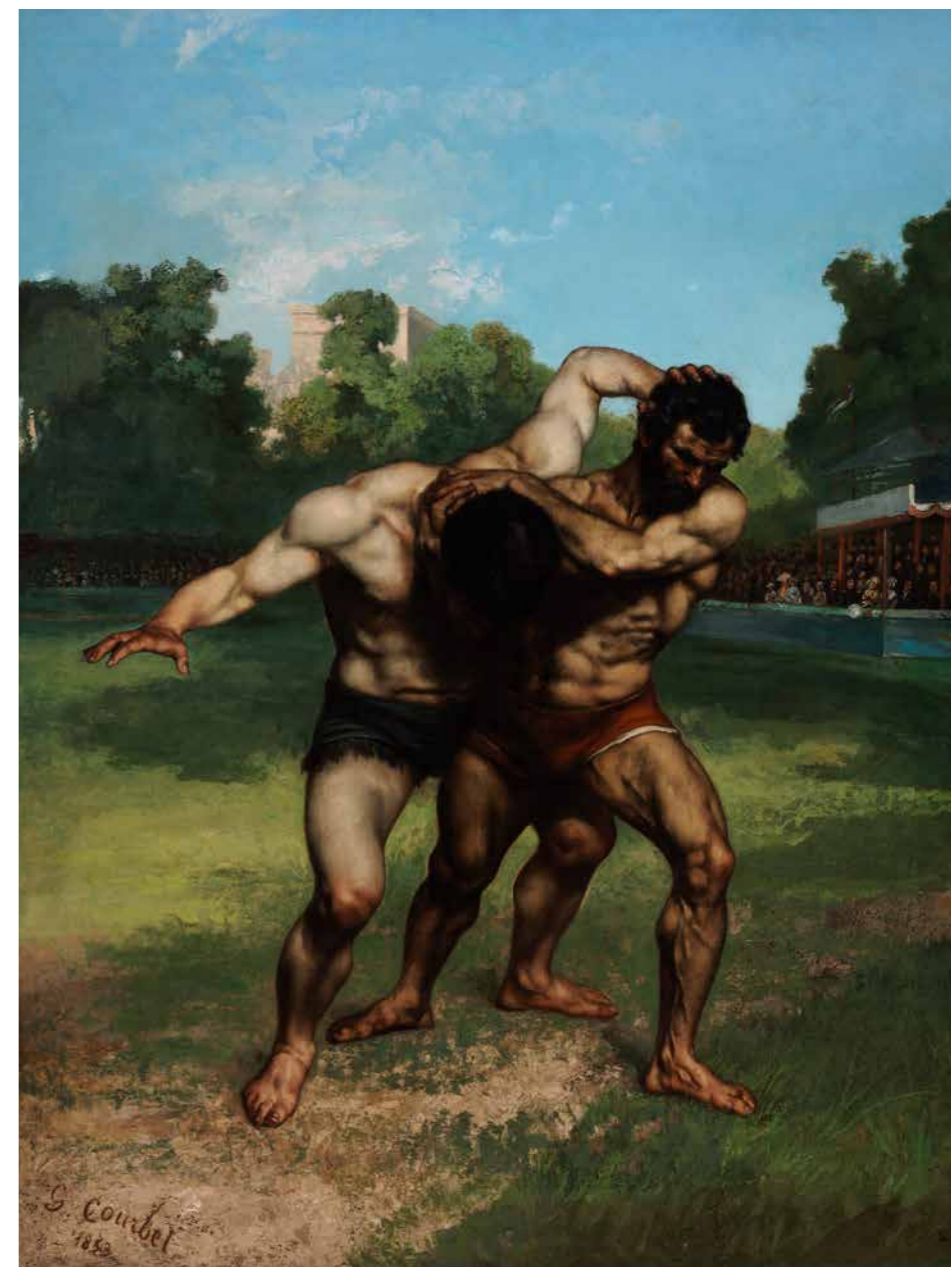
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Judit Reigl  
*Worker-Peasant Friendship*, 1948  
Janos Gat Gallery



Judit Reigl  
*Wrestlers*, 1966  
Musée Maillol, Paris



Gustave Courbet  
*Wrestlers*, 1853  
Hungarian National Gallery - Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest