

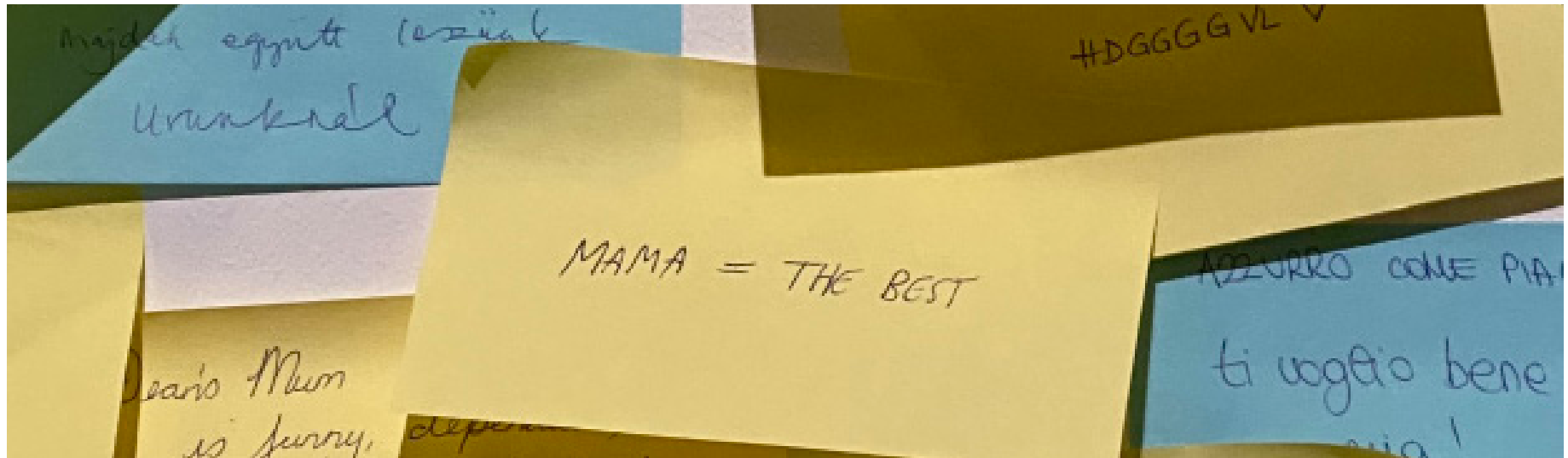
## “ REVIEW

## Yoko Ono's Latest Exhibit At The Hungarian National Museum Is A Thought-Provoking, Instructive, Significant, And Relevant Display.

“War is Over! If you want it” a title that speaks loudly enough for itself and can inspire many people to work toward and believe in world peace.

By **Solomiia Vatsyk**

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Tribute to Yoko Ono: My Mommy Is Beautiful (2022, Budapest) | Credit: Solomiia Vatsyk / Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum

“War is Over! If you want it,” a Yoko Ono tribute, exhibits works that are centred around the ideas of freedom from war, peace, and nonviolence. Started on November 27, 2022, and running until February 18, 2023, the exhibition is on display at the National Hungarian Museum. The artist has previously displayed her work in Hungary, where pop culture gave her fame. But this is her first and largest exhibition, showcasing more than 30 pieces from her extensive career as an activist, multimedia artist, musician, and writer.

Yoko Ono is the most well-known contemporary Japanese artist of the post-World War II modern era and an internationally acclaimed artist. Born in Tokyo on February 18, 1933, she has released 33 albums, filmed more than 60 films, and authored numerous books, but her most significant contribution to the arts has been in the visual realm. Her work has been displayed in international galleries, museums, and festivals. With a career spanning over six decades, Ono has produced a truly diverse body of work that has left an indelible mark on the art world and the global community.

But, while being both special and controversial due to many of her connections with other well known figures, she still attracts a lot of attention and interest from the public. not only about herself and her work but also about her and John Lennon’s relationship, which has certainly made her famous, which is not in dispute. But not only did he make her famous, but she also made a name for herself through hard work and a strong message that resonated with people from all walks of life.

The current exhibition provides the opportunity to recognise this extraordinary artist’s accomplishments and her influence on multiple generations of viewers. The exhibition highlights Ono and Lenon’s diverse body of work, which consists of sculpture, photography, painting, music, and multimedia installations. This concept examines their ongoing political and social activism through that exhibition and places greater emphasis on this context than on the art itself.



“Why?” music, animated film Plastic Ono Band (1970) / Credit: Solomiia Vatsyk / Magyar Nemzeti Muzeum

Despite the fact that each viewer may interpret Ono’s work differently, it is evident that it continues to inspire and challenge the audience. This is because some of her installations captivated viewers of all ages, races, and nationalities and caused them to reflect on their own meanings. This is not Ono’s first and certainly not her last interactive exhibition, so if you haven’t already seen it, it’s worth a look, as installations like “My Mommy is Beautiful” and “Add Colour (The Refugee Ship)” will not disappoint, but will make you creative, feel something, and understand current world events in a more intricate way.

By allowing the audience to interact with her work, Ono was able to draw attention to the importance of examining one’s identity and worldview, as well as their relationship with those around them. As a result, her work serves as an important reminder of how art can be used as a tool for political and social commentary.

This is why one of the reasons for such an exhibition taking place right now in Budapest happened to be inspired by the country’s neighbour, Ukraine, which is currently involved in an ongoing war. Therefore, Ono’s art is an invitation to take part in a conversation about our place in the world and how we can have a positive impact on it. By visiting this small but impactful exhibition, not only will you make yourselves happy and come out replete, but you will also help somebody else living in this beautiful world, as the money from the ticket sales will go on donations for those who have suffered from the war in Ukraine.

## References:

WAR IS OVER! IF YOU WANT IT (2022). Available at: <https://mnm.hu/en/exhibitions/temporary/war-over-if-you-want-it>.

Rowland, H. (2012) Yoko Ono: The World's Most Famous Unknown Artist. Available at: <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/japan/articles/yoko-ono-the-world-s-most-famous-unknown-artist/>.