

VARIATIONS ON SYMMETRY

FERENC LANTOS

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Fields of interest: Interdisciplinary relationships in painting and art education, organic relations of geometric forms.

Awards: Mihály Munkácsi Award, 1993.

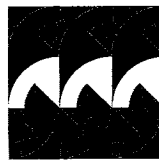
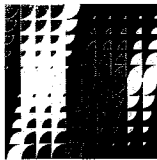
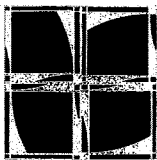
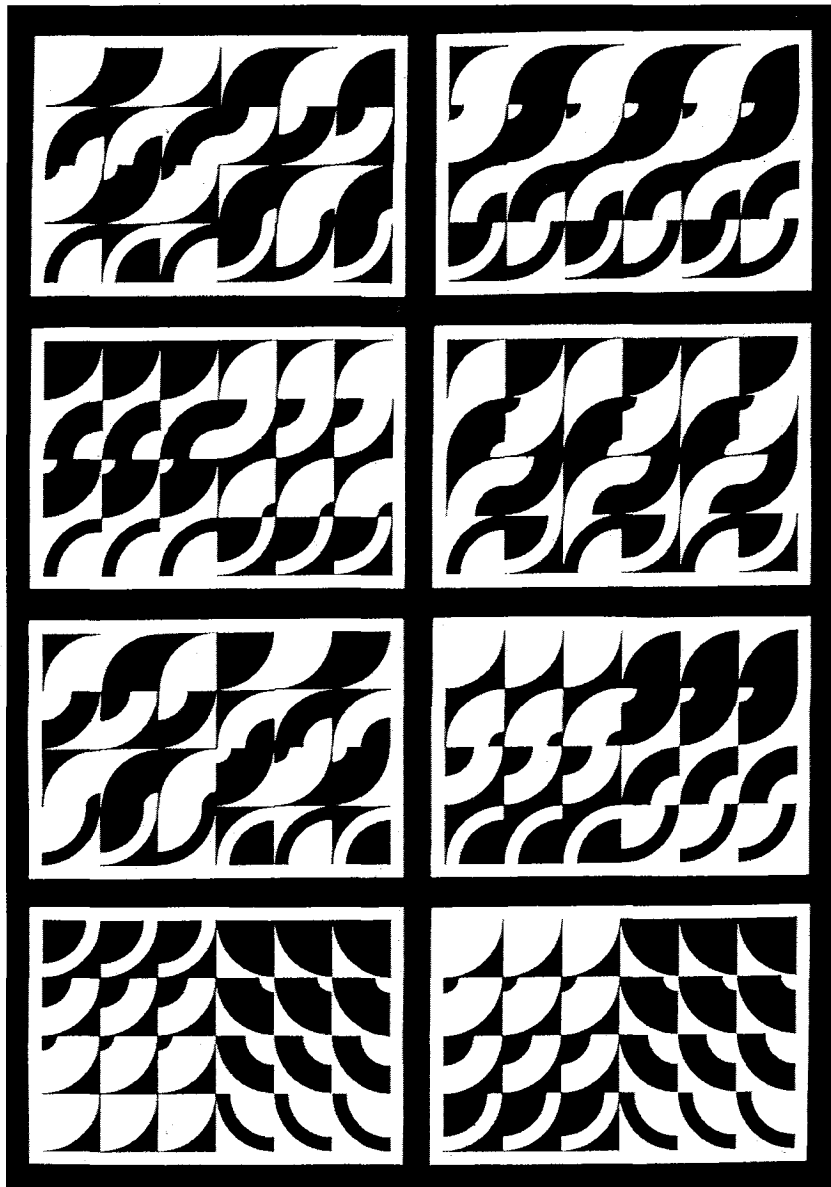
Publications: From geometrical rigor to visual experience, *Symmetry*, [Pergamon Press], Vol. 2, 1989; *Természet-látás-alkotás* [Nature – Vision – Creation, in Hungarian], 4 Vols., Pécs: Janus Pannonius Museum, 1972-1975; *Rokonvilágok* [Related Worlds, in Hungarian], Budapest: Móra Ferenc Könyvkiadó, 1980; *Képekben a világ* [The World in Images, in Hungarian], Budapest: Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó, 1994.

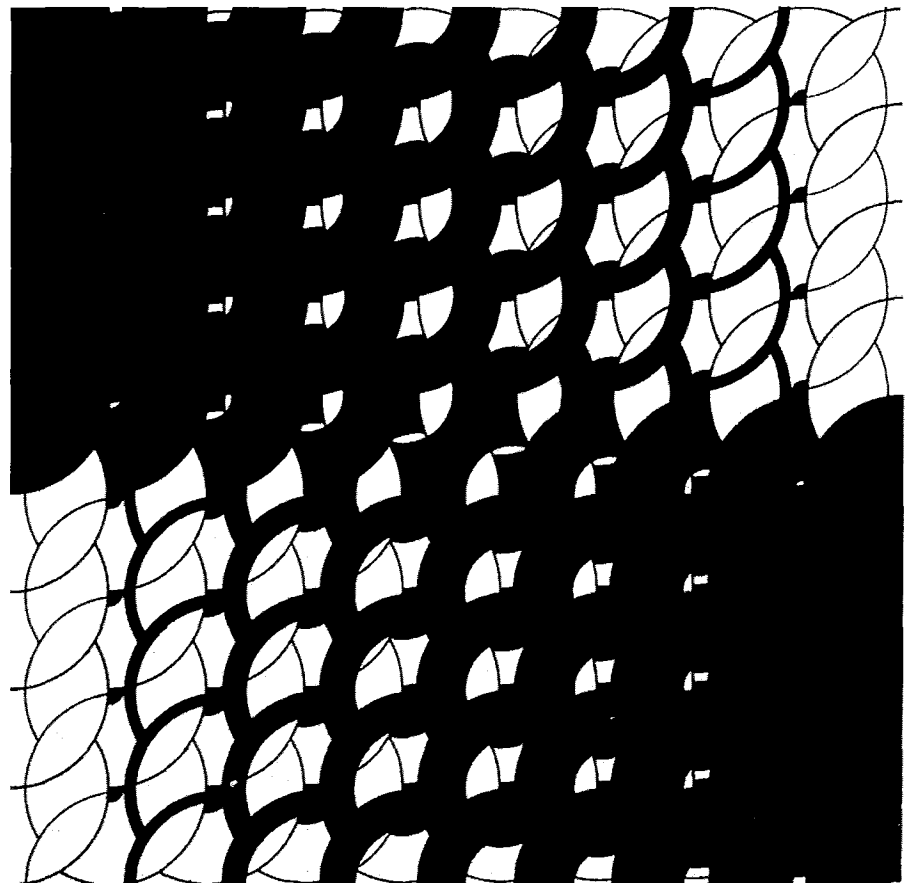
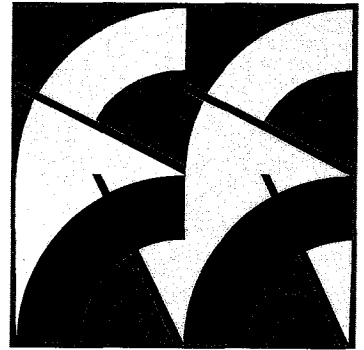
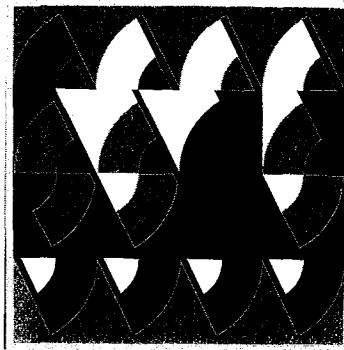
Exhibitions: *Természet-látás-alkotás* [Nature – Vision – Creation, in Hungarian], Pécs, Hungary, 1977; Magyar Nemzeti Galéria, Budapest, Hungary, 1977; Pécsi Galéria, Pécs, 1983; Taidenmuseo, Lahti, Finland, 1985; Ernst Múzeum, Budapest, Hungary, 1999; Academia della Ungheria, Rome, Italy, 2003.

Abstract: *It is well known that symmetry, as a structural principle, has many forms. In case of visual compositions symmetry is either immediately visible or is hidden in case of more complex structures. In the later case symmetry is not obvious as it may get indeed hidden through a number of operations performed on and with the initial visual unit. Each operation may be viewed as an added/superimposed layer yielding an aggregated picture. In case of complex visual systems the basic symmetry becomes visible only if various structural layers are disaggregated. The paper presents examples both for simple and for more complex compositions.*

1 SIMPLE COMPOSITIONS

The following compositions have been generated by repeating certain elements of a visual structural unit. In these cases the visual unit chosen was identified as two concentric quarter circles and the relevant intersecting diagonal of a square that contains them. Sequential repetition and translation were used in generating the following images:





2 COMPLEX COMPOSITIONS

The two compositions, seen on the left below, were used as visual structural units. These units, if superimposed and rotated in various degrees, yield more complex symmetries as illustrated below.

