

	Object:	Golden Age
	Museum:	Magyar Nemzeti Galéria Szent György tér 2. 1014 Budapest (20) 439 7325
	Collection:	Festészeti Gyűjtemény
	Inventory number:	FEO_1614

Description

The emblematic chef d'œuvre of the Hungarian art nouveau, Golden Age was first exhibited in 1898 in Budapest's Hall of Arts, where it was awarded the grand prize by the National Hungarian Association of Fine Arts. Subsequently, at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900, the painting earned a bronze medal. The conception of the painting shares affinities with the mixture of symbolism and naturalism that typified the German Jugendstil, and its unique atmosphere and fine sensuality are derived from the duality of traditional academic-type modelling and the contrasting decorativeness. In the foreground of a park fringed by ancient statues – Apollo and Diana – the embracing naked couple are burning their offering to Venus, the goddess of love. The dreamlike atmosphere is generated by the opalescent green colouring of the picture, and by the contrast between the dark green background and the fluorescent figures. The ornately carved frame, also designed by Vaszary, is an integral part of the composition; the art nouveau motif of the painting, the wavy wisps of the smoke of sacrifice, continue to flow and spread across the richly worked ornamentation of the wooden frame.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	canvas / oil
Measurements:	92.5 × 156 cm

Events

Painted	When	1898
	Who	János Vaszary (1867-1939)
	Where	

Keywords

- Painting
- festészet