

	Object:	Portrait of Lajos Kassák
	Museum:	Magyar Nemzeti Galéria Szent György tér 2. 1014 Budapest (20) 439 7325
	Collection:	Festészeti Gyűjtemény
	Inventory number:	FEO_70.134T

Description

Lajos Tihanyi, an associate of the art group, the Eight (Nyolcak), achieved his greatest level of success with his series of expressive portraits of the major intellectuals of the day. He held a mirror before his sitters, and as well as their facial features, he also conveyed their characteristic individuality. Tihanyi was interested in portraying the anatomy of the head, the structure of the face, the vitality of the eyes, but above all, the human spirituality of the model. Lajos Kassák, the leading light of the Hungarian avant-garde, is depicted as the spokesman of social progress. Dressed in his customary Russian-style shirt, with his long, smooth hair, the poet's broad, reflective forehead and serious demeanour give him the gaunt asceticism of a preacher. Tihanyi was inspired first and foremost by the expressive portraits painted by the Austrian Oskar Kokoschka, who paid closest attention to capturing the transitory psychic state of his subjects. By contrast, Tihanyi's main focus was on the hidden aspects of the personality, with the defining features of the sitter's character given greatest prominence.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	canvas / oil
Measurements:	86 × 70 cm

Events

Painted	When	1918
	Who	Lajos Tihanyi (1885-1938)
	Where	

Keywords

- Painting

- festészet