

Attila Csörgő: "Fluid Shapes"

Opening: 13 November 2025, 6 PM

Exhibition: 14 November 2025 – 17 January 2026

Gregor Podnar is pleased to announce *Fluid Shapes*, the new solo exhibition by Attila Csörgő, featuring a dialogue between the artist's latest works alongside selected earlier pieces. Through photographs, animation, and kinetic constructions, Csörgő playfully engages with the laws of physics and geometry, transforming them into poetic visual entities.

Here below you can find detailed descriptions of the exhibited artworks.

Fluid Shapes (2025) is a new kinetic video installation inspired by 19th-century photographic experiments in capturing motion. The work draws particularly on the studies of the French physiologist Étienne-Jules Marey (1830–1904) and the Austrian physicist and philosopher Ernst Mach (1838–1916). Marey, a pioneer of *chronophotography*, developed an early photographic technique that recorded multiple sequential phases of movement within a single image — a precursor to modern motion capture. Mach, in turn, explored supersonic motion and the visualization of pressure waves produced by projectiles exceeding the speed of sound. His iconic Schlieren photographs made visible the invisible, revealing air disturbances with striking realism. Csörgő also references Marcel Duchamp's fascination with optical illusion and mechanical art. Duchamp's *Rotoreliefs* (1935) — a series of double-sided discs designed to spin at 40–60 rpm — created hypnotic spirals reminiscent of water ripples. Early experiments with these discs, filmed with Man Ray in *Anémic Cinéma* (1926), anticipated the interplay between perception, motion, and light central to Csörgő's installation. *Fluid Shapes* refers to the *Schlieren technique*, developed in the period 1859–1864 by August Töpfer. The technique is based on two physical principles. First, the index of refraction varies as a function of the density of the medium. Second, when the index of refraction varies, light is refracted in the direction of the gradient. This same physics underlies mirages, where light is bent because the index of refraction changes with temperature. In a Schlieren apparatus, un-refracted light is blocked, enhancing visibility of refracted light and revealing subtle disturbances in transparent media such as air or water. These motions — ordinarily imperceptible to the human eye — become visible through technical imaging. In *Fluid Shapes*, Csörgő employs a live video stream as the medium. Between the camera and mirror, aquariums filled with water respond to various physical forces, generating wave patterns. The actual outcome of the work is to examine and shape to a certain extent the resulting primary and secondary reflected forms.

The exhibition also displays a new iteration of Csörgő's ***Inverse Cartography (2022-2025)***. Through this project, Csörgő expresses his fascination with the distortions inherent in map projections—viewing them not as mere imperfections, but as transformations that reveal new forms and possibilities. Csörgő's inverse cartography reverses the logic of three cartographic projections and reflect them back into space by representing the points on the inner surface of an imaginary sphere (celestial globe) instead of on the surface of the sphere (terrestrial globe), thus shifting the viewpoint from the outer, all-seeing position to the centre of the sphere. The juxtaposition of different perspectives and mapping schemes — Lambert-Lagrange (1779); August (1874); Pierce (1879) — created at different historical times and developed for different purposes, creates a multi-viewpoint system in which the heap of random sweepings is reassembled in order again and again. This process can be seen as a unique form of *anamorphosis*: an image that becomes meaningful not from a specific physical viewpoint, but through an abstract, mathematical perspective.

The title of the light sculpture ***Squaring the Circle (2013)*** is an expression of the human drive to pursue what is, by definition, impossible to achieve. Here Csörgő points out how geometric shapes transcend their mathematical definition as relationships between sets of points, to carry a profound metaphorical weight. The work is born from the attempt to transform a circle into a square. A curved mirror surface reflects the light of a lamp placed below, so that the rays first trace a circular form, and then, as they reach the floor, unfold into a square of shadow. Each element — the size of the shapes, the lamp's position, the mirror's height — is precisely calibrated. Their relationship allows for only one possible configuration, even if this hidden geometry remains unseen.

Fluid Shapes is paired with *Peeled Spaces*, Attila Csörgő's solo exhibition at [Vintage Galéria](https://www.vintagegaleria.com) in Budapest opening on the 25th of November. The show will run until 16 January 2026.

Fluid Shapes (2025) has been realized thanks to the scholarship of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Poland.



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland

The exhibition is made in collaboration with Collegium Hungaricum Vienna.



Biography

Attila Csörgő (*1965, Budapest) lives and works in Warsaw, Poland. He studied painting and intermedia at the Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts between 1988 and 1994, and in 1993 he was a student of sculpture at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. In 1998 he received the Smohay Prize, in 2001 the Munkácsy Prize and in 2008 the Nam June Paik Award. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including the 22nd São Paulo Biennial (1994), the Venice Biennial (1999 and 2017) and Documenta 13 (2012). His solo exhibitions have been on view at ŠKUC Gallery and Galerija Gregor Podnar in Ljubljana/Berlin, Art in General in New York, Galeria Arsenal in Białystok, MUDAM in Luxemburg, Kunsthalle Mainz, Palais de Tokyo in Paris, secession in Vienna, Museum Folkwang im RWE Turm in Essen and Hamburger Kunsthalle – Galerie der Gegenwart. His solo exhibitions in Hungary have been held at Ludwig Museum, Szent István Király Museum in Székesfehérvár, Light Art Museum and Trafó Gallery, among others.