HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD 2022



AUTHOR NOMINEE

LÁSZLÓ HERBSZT

HUNGARY

About László Herbszt

László Herbszt is one of the most prominent Hungarian illustrators today, and he has been a defining figure in children's book publishing since 2000. At a time when Hungarian children's books were, from the perspective of their illustrations, still groping in the dark as they gradually emerged from the shadows, the book *The Miraculous Spectacles* offered a rethinking of the traditions of children's book illustrations which was almost postmodern in its sophistication. As a graphic artist who comes from the world of advertising and who has not abandoned the insights he gleaned in this world, Herbszt crafts captivating blends of computer technology with an array of elements of diverse styles, including the postmodern, pop, and even steampunk, and he does this without fuss or flurry, as if it were second nature. The Elizabeth Bridge in the form of a dinosaur's skeleton, the father sitting in an armchair with a vinyl record of Sonic Youth – *The Miraculous Spectacles*... The collection of tales entitled *The Rabbi and the Lion*, which conjures the golden sun, a golden death mask, and geometrical art... The hundreds of different motifs and the unusual symbolism and even the *Star Wars* poster – *The House of the Stone Monkeys*...

These works are merely a few of the unforgettable book illustrations Herbszt has done in recent years, illustrations in which every word, object, and visual element (all of which are crucibles of childhood memories or other shared memories) becomes part of a symbolism so striking and strong that we could not even begin to consider which enjoys priority, text or image. They seem, rather, to flourish side by side. László Herbszt has added an arresting array of images and techniques to the palette of Hungarian book illustration which constantly present new challenges to his readers.

Five Titles Selected for the Jury

- A csodálatos szemüveg, by Finy Petra [The Miraculous Spectacles] Naphegy, 2011
- 2. A bűvös puska, by Frankovics György [The Enchanted Rifle] Móra, 2015
- 3. Éjféli harangszó, by Fekete István [Midnight Bell] Móra, 2017
- A rabbi és az oroszlán, by Bajzáth Mária [The Rabbi and the Lion] Kolibri, 2018
- **5.** *Ők is boldogan éltek?* by Czinki Ferenc, *et al* [Did They Also Live Happily Ever After?] Cser 2019









