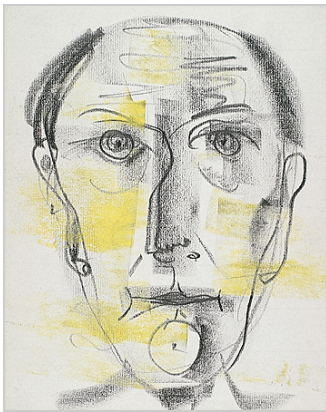


# Call for Support – Andor Weininger Project

By Dr. Olivér Botár

**Andor Weininger** was an artist of international significance who lived in Toronto from 1951 to 1958, before moving to New York City, where he died in 1986. Born into a devout Catholic family at Karancs, Hungary in 1898, his father was later an organist at Pécs Cathedral. Weininger achieved fame for his work at the famous “Bauhaus” school of art in



Self Portrait by A. Weininger

Germany from 1921 to 1928. He painted geometric abstract works on paper exquisite in proportion and refined in colouration. Weininger became most famous for two projects he did at the Bauhaus: the *Mechanical Stage-Revue* (1923-), a kind of stage-sized, animated de Stijl painting, and the *Spherical Theatre* (1926-), a concept for theatrical space that, had it been built, would have revolutionized the relationships between performance and spectatorship. Both became widely admired examples of avant-garde theatrical imagination during the late 1920s and beyond. A major monograph on this artist, *Andor Weininger:*

*From Bauhaus to Conceptual Art*, was written by Jiri Svestka and Katherine Jánszky Michaelsen in 1991, and published by Edition Cantz in Stuttgart, Germany. Since that time, several more exhibitions have been organized and books have been published on Weininger, including the Magyar Nemzeti Galéria; the Busch-Reisinger Museum, Harvard University; the Ulmer Museum, Ulm, Germany; the Roman Catholic Diocese Museum in Cologne (now known as the Kolumba), Germany; the Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Holland; and the Kunstsammlungen zu Weimar. Quite simply put, Weininger was the only important Bauhaus artist to have lived in Canada, and, along with Gyula Marosán, the only Hungarian artist of significance in Europe to have become a Canadian citizen. On the other hand, his Canadian period is almost completely unknown, forgotten. Each and every one of the books I listed above gloss over or completely ignore Weininger’s fascinating Canadian period and production. It is up to us to demonstrate how productive he was in this country as an artist.



Untitled work by A. Weininger

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**Dr. Olivér Botár**, professor of art history at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, is currently writing a book on Weininger's Canadian years, and is preparing an exhibition on the subject to be opened at the Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery in Oshawa, Ontario on May 9, 2009. If anyone has any memory of, or information on Weininger in Canada (he attended St. Elizabeth Church), or owns any artworks by him, please contact Dr. Botár at [obotar@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:obotar@cc.umanitoba.ca), or 204-774-6290. Equally important, we are seeking financial support for the publication of the book. There is no government support available for the publication of art historical books in Canada. This means that we are dependent on private donors and foundations. We urgently require funding in order for the project to be realized. This will be the first scholarly, full-length book on a Canadian-Hungarian artist published in Canada. It will be published by the McLaughlin Gallery and Gallery One One One of the University of Manitoba. Donations toward the publication of this book will be fully tax-deductable. If you are interested in making a donation, however modest, please contact Dr. Botár. It is important that the Canadian-Hungarian community support this important initiative, and we thank you in advance for your support.

Dr. Botár has already organized an exhibition of Weininger's work at Gallery One One One in 2004. Please see the following website for a full description of that project, including installation shots, dozens of images of Weininger works in the U. of M.'s collection, a short essay, and a catalogue of the works: [www.umanitoba.ca/schools/art/content/galleryoneoneone/111.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/schools/art/content/galleryoneoneone/111.html) Click on "Weininger".

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