



Stella B. Lazetky (1924-2012)

Lazetky Stella was born in Budapest, in 1924, as daughter of Rezső Lazetky, a textile pattern designer and water color artist.

As member of a Catholic family, she attended the Catholic Gimnazium of the Orsolyita Order (today, St. Angela Franciscan Gimnazium, Budapest). In 1943 she commenced her higher art education at the Hungarian National Royal Academy of Fine Arts as graphic artist.

She completed her studies with excellent results and received her diploma in 1948, qualifying her not only as a graphic artist but also as an art teacher. She joined the newly established National Center of Museums as graphic artist, working at various museums across the countryside and in Budapest. While working for the County Museum of Szekszárd, she met István Bán, a Gobelin and wall-textile artist. They married in 1953.

Later, Stella Lazetky worked as independent artist, designing picture postcards and children's painting books and other illustrations that were published by *Képcsarnok Vállalat*. By the early 1970s, the most dominant feature of the art publishing company was the publication of calendars, picture postcards, and other colored art works.

An important goal of socialist art politics at that time was to present quality art work of contemporary artists of graphic art and applied art in the form of picture postcards, children's book illustrations, and other color publications. The importance of this art form was demonstrated by the exhibition, *The 100 Years of Picture Postcards*, organized in 1970 by Műcsarnok (Museum of Applied Art).

The graphic art of Stella Lazetky is of high artistic value, representing a unique, playful style, demonstrating her deep knowledge of drawing and pictorial quality. Her compositions, for several decades, were determinant in the history of Hungarian picture postcards.

Stella Lazetky passed away in 2012, at the age of 87.