

AZ ÁLOM Kft.

The Art of Decoration



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Az Álom is an initiative of two Dutch people, involved in what, at first sight, looks like a broad range of different activities. At a closer look you may see that all those activities have a lot in common. They all have to do with “decorating life”: always people have been looking for ways to bring some light and colour into their daily existence. They decorated their utensils, even the simplest ones, their houses, their clothing. The rituals at different festive occasions throughout the year can be seen as a way of decorating life too.

We brought together a wide range of those elements and we invite you to participate in them through Az Álom.

WHO

We are: **Eddy Smid** and **Frouke Schouwstra**. We have travelled through Hungary since 1984 and from 1998 on we are spending a big part of the year in a beautiful old house in Nagypall, a lovely little village in Baranya-region, about 20 kms from Pécs.

We restored and decorated this house with a lot of love.

Together with the romantic courtyard the house has become an inspiring place for us and other people. They love to come and find new ideas. On the other side of the street you find an enormous wine-cellar, which we also restored in style.

Both locations offer a quiet atmosphere, colour and beauty.

Under the name of **AZ ÁLOM**, meaning “the dream”, we offer the opportunity to get acquainted with a variety of aspects of Hungarian culture in and around the wine-cellar and the courtyard.

We are quite multilingual and co-operate with a group of very motivated neighbours and people from the region who represent a great variety of talents.

WHAT

-In the wine-cellar and the presshouse which belongs to it we run a gallery, the **Nagypalli Pince Galéria**. Every year you can find a new exhibition there from the beginning of May until the end of September.

-Those exhibitions always consist of two elements: **photographic art** of Eddy Smid, under the name of Oszkar, and a choice out of the rich production of **folkart** and **handicrafts** such as (luckily) still are made by a lot of people in Hungary.

Hungary is always the theme in the pictures. The device of the gallery is:

Csak párosan szép az élet!
Only together life is beautiful!

-From the spring of 2005 there will be a little **shop** annexe to the gallery where you will find a choice of the beautiful products of the same people who show their skills in our exhibitions, photographic postcards, photographs in different sizes, information about the neighbourhood, home-made honey, home-made paprika, and a lot of other elegant and tasteful little things.
All, of course being of Hungarian origin.
A good place to find really authentic souvenirs.

-Other activities:

- *organising creative workshops of one or more days on request
- *organising cultural, creative and educational holidays
- *demonstrations of different handicrafts and folk-art-techniques
- *writing and editing publications, such as photobooks and (illustrated) informative articles
- *advising and supporting people who want to renovate and restore and/or decorate their second home in Hungary in a comfortable and yet traditional style.
- *restoring painted pieces of old farmers furniture
- *organising concerts, dance- and theatre-performances
- *activities for children

HOW

In all those activities there is much room for your own wishes and interests: we listen to your requests and then get at work to try to fulfill your wishes as well as possible.

We work for and with all different kinds of groups: Hungarians and foreigners together, open activities, closed groups, travelcompanies, editors of illustrated magazines, children. That is why we cannot give you standard-prices. They being fully dependent of what you want us to do for you.

Are you interested/curious? Please contact us! E-mail will provide you with the quickest possible answers.

If you just would like to have information about the yearly exhibition, please just send us your e-mailaddress and we will keep you informed.

We really hope to meet you!

