

Julije Knifer – one of the most significant Croatian artists of the 20th century – was born on 23 April 1924 in Osijek. At the beginning of the 1950s, he studied fine arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb and in 1959, co-founded the Gorgona Group. In 1961, he participated in the first exhibition of the New Tendencies movement in Zagreb as an artist close to the movement. In the 1970s, he participated in the Sao Paulo and Venice Biennales. He spent the last ten years of his life in Paris.

The painting “AP XP” (acrylic on canvas), found in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in Osijek, depicts the meander – a recognizable motif in Knifer’s art since the 1960s and the single central point of his artistic production. It was depicted in numerous variants and in different techniques – from pen and oil on canvas, to collage and murals. During his long and prolific career, the artist consistently created and explored this motif - a driving force behind his oeuvre. In Knifer’s interpretation, the meander reached far beyond the ornamental and decorative concept and came to represent a symbol and an icon.

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