

Before Sunset

László Nemes Jeles's "Sunset" from 2018 is an intimate picture inviting the spectator to feel in some way the end of the Austro–Hungarian Monarchy through the lens of a young girl in search of her brother throughout chaotic situations in Budapest just prior to the outbreak of World War I.

"Before Sunset" is another movie by Richard Linklater from 2004 with Julie Delpy and Ethan Hawke where nine years after their brief romance in Vienna, Jesse and Céline meet in Paris and spend the whole day together discussing and roaming throughout Paris. Somehow, the spectator understands that Jesse will stay this time with Céline instead of catching his flight he is supposed to take in the evening.

Therefore, the metaphor "Sunset" employed in these artworks can simultaneously mean the end or the beginning of something and/or that there is no beginning without end. Whatever it means, it is about change.

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man." The wisdom of Heraclitus of Ephesus (around 500 BC) coming from another time and another world is timelier than ever.

Is the world changing us within or we change the world as a result of our internal changes? Could the same actions not lead to the same result if repeated? Or does this mean that the world never "is" but always "becomes"? But what if "becoming" is "being" or "being" equals to "becoming"?

The reflection can be stretched ad infinitum, but it is a fact that the world has changed and in truth has never ceased to change, and the European Union cannot escape such reality, either.

The European Union faces so many challenges that it is hard to list them all. The closing edition of the Special Issues of *Európai Tükör – European Mirror* dedicated to the Hungarian EU Presidency tries nevertheless to shed light on a couple of them including challenges related to energy, climate change or digitalisation from the pen of Tibor Navracsics, Anna Taraczközi, Réka Csepeli, Tibor Tóth, Csaba Fási, Petra Szűcs, Ádám Ferenc Kossuth, Bettina Tóth and myself.

Hopefully, the Hungarian EU Presidency is not the end but rather the beginning of a long period of positive development for the European Union.

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