

# SPOTLIGHT ON HUNGARY - PART 2

It is impossible to mention Feltmaking and Hungary without including some of the artists who did - and still do - so much to put Felt on the world map. So I have featured the Vidák family - István, Mari Nagy and two of their children Anna and István Junior. Their legacy stands proud for all to follow. I am also delighted to include Judit Tóth-Pócs who is both an amazingly talented artist and a very generous teacher. Those of you, like myself, who have been lucky enough to attend one of Judit's workshops will know what I mean. I have still only scratched the surface of all the talented felt makers in Hungary ... who knows, there may even be a Part 3!

**JANINE REES - PUBLICITY OFFICER & COORDINATOR REGIONS 2 & 3**

## JUDIT TÓTH-PÓCS



Judit is a feltmaker and teacher of felt, well known to many of us in the felt making world. Judit's parents are both artists and she learnt many things from them. At the age of 15, she discovered felt, and since 1992 it has become her passion. Judit also enjoys leatherwork and sewing.

In the beginning, Judit mostly made items for personal use, such as bags, purses, carpets etc. After a while, she wanted more and so started experimenting to develop 3D felt. This is how she found her "feltplastics", which now characterises her work with its statue-like

structure. The interesting thing about this work is that it is made in one piece, with no sewing required, except to decorate. It is, of course, much more intricate than it sounds.

Judit likes the freedom of felt in both shape and colour. Coloured fibres are used, mixed and washed into each other like watercolour paints, and the different coloured layers interweave and create new colours. She likes to originate order from chaos, arranging the tangled fibres into a whole under her hands. She also incorporates different materials, rubbing them together to give the feeling

that they have always belonged.

Judit is, of course, many more things - an ambassador and master of feltmaking, and a regular exhibitor of her work worldwide since 1994. She has also created animated films illustrated with her felt designs, and all this has been achieved while bringing up a young family and teaching worldwide.

**W:** [pocsjuditstudio.hu](http://pocsjuditstudio.hu)  
**E:** [pocsjudit@gmail.com](mailto:pocsjudit@gmail.com)

## VIDÁK FAMILY



Mari Nagy and István Vidák have created their own dynasty within the feltmaking world. They are professional textile artists, teachers and researchers, and members of the Hungarian Academy of Arts and Masters of Feltmaking and Hungarian Folk Art. Additional skills also include basketmaking, weaving, wood carving, toy making, leatherwork, batik and block printing. Their life's work is based on 3 pillars - research, creating and teaching. Since 1979, they have been visiting Europe and Middle Asia, and anywhere else where felt making is still a living tradition. This, together with their practical experiences, has resulted in 28 books and a great collection of original work gathered on their travels. In the early 1980s, they started teaching both Hungarians and other nationalities, and the first World Felt Meeting took place in 1984. During the years that followed, these month-long felt camps hosted hundreds of participants from

at least 17 countries. Folk artists were invited from Central Asia to teach the techniques of making big felts using a variety of patterns. In 2004, the 8th World Felt Meeting had 400 participants and was followed by four international felt exhibitions.

Mari and István have held many international courses in their studio at the Toy Museum in Kecskemét, and have also started felt schools in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Their early felt works were dominated by traditional patterns, but later they invented many new techniques; combining leather and felt, including Turkoman motifs on tied bags and chair seats, using Indian tie-dye cotton and silk for shawls, incorporating blue print on felt and creating felt toys. In their life, they have set up more than 100 exhibitions from their own and others' work, both in Hungary and abroad.

"Felt brings forth purity, and for this reason, it is a craft pleasing the skies. Physical clarity initiates spiritual purity. All occasions of felt making are a collective piety and common rejoicing. The pattern which is the most beautiful, is love itself. This carries you on your spiritual journey."

**E:** [vidak.istvan47@gmail.com](mailto:vidak.istvan47@gmail.com)  
**E:** [marinagy7@gmail.com](mailto:marinagy7@gmail.com)  
**F:** [www.facebook.com/mari.nagy.357](https://www.facebook.com/mari.nagy.357)  
**B:** [nagyvidak.blogspot.co.uk](http://nagyvidak.blogspot.co.uk)

**Visitors are welcome to the workshop at Napraforgó utca 2.6000 Kecskemét, Hungary**

### IMAGES

**Top row:** István Vidák  
**Bottom row:** Mari Nagy

# ANNA VIDÁK



Anna is a textile artist and Master of Folk Arts in Feltmaking. She is the daughter of Mary Nagy and István Vidák, and part of the world famous felt making family. They have been building an abiding work in the research, documentation and education of ancient crafts. Anna creates dresses and accessories, using not only the inherited knowledge of feltmaking, but also the ability

she has gathered during international studies in Central Asia, Norway and Germany. Her wearable pieces involve traditions and endow the Hungarian spiritual heritage with a renewed meaning. She started her own studio in Kecskemét in 2002, where she is offering courses as well as exhibitions. Her speciality is mosaic nuno felt making - combining silk fabric and wool to achieve

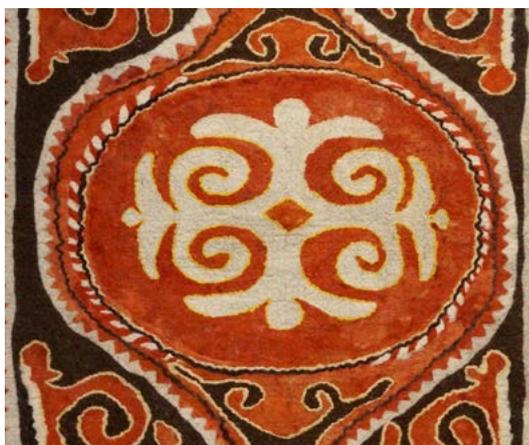
an elegant, lightweight and unique piece of clothing. The goal of her artistic work is that Hungarian heritage should not only be a memory but, through renewed artistic experience, become a living actuality.

**E:** [ginannani@gmail.com](mailto:ginannani@gmail.com)

**F:** [facebook https](https://www.facebook.com/ginannani)

**W:** [www.facebook.com/ginannani](https://www.facebook.com/ginannani)

# ISTVÁN VIDÁK JUNIOR



István Vidák Junior is the fourth member of the Vidák family to be featured. He was appointed a Young Master of Hungarian Folk Art in 2003. In addition to felt making, he also works with basket making, weaving and toy making. Since his childhood, István

Jnr has been working with felt, a skill that he learnt from his parents. He is now a professional feltmaker, and his speciality is making patterned felt balls to be sold at fairs. One of his favourite activities is making felt rugs: he can create beautiful, big pieces using

ancient motifs which speak to today's people. Besides his own work, he takes part in all the activities that the family does together.

**E:** [vidakistvan77@gmail.com](mailto:vidakistvan77@gmail.com)