

BEDŘICH DLOUHÝ – WHAT I LIKE

1 November 2019 – 16 February 2020

Prague City Gallery

Municipal Library, 2nd floor

Mariánské náměstí 1, Prague 1

Open every day except Monday from 10 am to 6 pm, and on Thursday to 8 pm

Exhibition concept and curator: Mahulena Nešlehová

This exhibition by the painter Bedřich Dlouhý (1932), a key figure in Czech modern art and one of the co-founders of the legendary group The Šmidras (1957), is the first comprehensive retrospective to present the full range of the artist's work from 1956 to the present day. It is structured thematically to reveal the breadth of Dlouhý's creative imagination and the originality of his ideas and techniques, and it shows how his experimentation went beyond the contemporary concept of the medium of painting.

The exhibition features more than 120 exceptionally diverse works, many of which are iconic and well known, others less familiar or entirely unknown and never previously exhibited. They illustrate the visual and conceptual richness of this artist's work and outline how his art has developed. We explore Dlouhý's still topical Dadaist and "Šmidra-esque" strategy of bridging seriousness, flippancy and absurdity. We discover the brilliance of his painting, his ironic takes on pop art and photorealism, and his witty paraphrasing of the old masters. We also examine his inventive use of assemblage and collage, two techniques that came to dominate his work. They offered him freedom of expression, they brought into play the principle of chance to stimulate his imagination, and they allowed him to extend his sense of humour and his ironic use of illusion.

However stylistically diverse Dlouhý's oeuvre may be, his concern is always with each painting as a whole. This is why all the different elements he employs, be they painting, drawing, found objects, handmade objects, reliefs or lightbulbs, have equal weighting. He enjoys using the tension produced by contradictions and the unexpected, which opens up an arena where the irrational intersects with reality, stimulating the imagination that is the foundation of his art.

An integral part of the exhibition is a film that Aleš Kisil made in 1999 as part of Czech Television's *Ateliéry (Studios)* series. The exhibition is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue designed by Zdeněk Ziegler, with Czech and English versions.

Bedřich Dlouhý

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| 1932 | born on August 2 in Pilsen |
| 1935 | moves to Most and then (1938) to Prague |
| 1948–1950 | State Vocational Ceramics School |
| 1952–1959 | Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (Miloslav Holý and Karel Souček's painting studios) |
| 1957 | member of The Šmidras |
| 1964 | member of the Art Society |
| 1965 | painting prize at the Quatrième Biennale de Paris. Manifestation Biennale et Internationale des Jeunes Artistes |
| 1972 | marries Vlasta Bláhová |
| 1987 | one of the founders of The Backward |
| 1990 | heads a painting studio at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague; receives a grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation |
| 1991 | appointed an associate professor and subsequently a professor of painting |
| 1995 | member of the Mánes Association of Fine Artists; stops teaching at the Academy |
| 1996 | gold medal awarded by the Academy for his teaching work |
| 1998 | awarded the Franz Kafka diploma and medal for his art |

Bedřich Dlouhý has had solo exhibitions since 1962 and has taken part in group exhibitions since 1954. His work is featured in noted public and private collections at home and abroad. He lives and works in Prague.

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Curator: Mahulena Nešlehová

Graphic design: Zdeněk Ziegler, Jan Bouček

Media partners: Art&Antiques, A2, ArtMap, Artiki, Český rozhlas, ExpresFM, Flash Art, Literární noviny, protisedi.cz, Radio 1, XANTYPA

Admission: 120 CZK full (adults) / 60 CZK reduced (students, seniors)

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Additional information: www.ghmp.cz, www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Guided tours with the curator Mahulena Nešlehová

Thu 12. 12. 2019, 6 pm

Thu 6. 2. 2020, 6 pm

Jiří Machalický: *Bedřich Dlouhý and The Šmidras*

Thu 21. 11. 2019, 6 pm

Jiří Machalický is an art historian and exhibition curator who is an expert on the work of Bedřich Dlouhý and the author of *The Šmidras* exhibition at Museum Kampa.

This talk will discuss The Šmidras' strategy and the art of Bedřich Dlouhý, who was the co-founder of this legendary group and its most prominent member.

Barbora Kundračiková: *Model, Assemblage, Painting*

16. 1. 2020, 6 pm

Barbora Kundračiková is an art historian and exhibition curator who has edited a forthcoming monograph on Bedřich Dlouhý.

Idea – model – artwork is the standard process in art. What happens if all three components coalesce: if they are created, operate and expire in parallel? This talk will examine the medium of painting in the work of Bedřich Dlouhý, his contemporaries and other artists.

Saturday art workshops

Sat 11. 1. 2020, 1–6 pm, *Paraphrases and Reinterpretations*, Municipal Library, 2nd floor

Sat 1. 2. 2020, 1–6 pm, *Collages and Assemblages*, Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

These art workshops will be inspired by a cross-section of the artist's work, above all the items on display at the exhibition. One of the most numerous groups can provide rich inspiration: Dlouhý's paraphrases of well-known paintings, to which he brought humour, irony and exaggeration. Similarly we will try to reinterpret selected paintings by old masters, adding present-day attributes to place them in new contexts and looking for parallels with contemporary situations. The workshops will also use Dlouhý's collages and assemblages as a starting point for creativity, where we will take panels and add layers of clippings from newspapers and magazines and cut-outs from posters and photographs, and then combine them with painting and drawing, and we will also follow Dlouhý's example by incorporating three-dimensional items, found objects, natural materials and used and redundant artefacts. We will also create a group assemblage measuring several metres, which we will gradually fill up during the workshops to create a large, collective and constantly changing work in progress.

Art studio for adults and seniors

Thu 21. 11. 2019, 3–6 pm, *Watercolour and Ink I*, Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 22. 11. 2019, 3–6 pm, *Watercolour and Ink II*, Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 24. 11. 2019, 3–6 pm, *Watercolour and Ink III*, Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 12. 1. 2020, 3–6 pm, *Glazes and Waxes I*, Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 30. 1. 2020, 3–6 pm, *Glazes and Waxes II*, Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 31. 1. 2020, 3–6 pm, *Glazes and Waxes III*, Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

These art workshops will respond to Bedřich Dlouhý's art strategies. In the first part we will apply



Prague City Gallery is one of the most important galleries in the Czech Republic, which in its exhibition activity focuses in particular on modern and contemporary art. It collects, protects and professionally processes art collections of the City of Prague. Currently, the Prague City Gallery exhibits at seven venues: The Stone Bell House, Municipal Library – 2nd floor, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, The House of Photography, Villa Bilek, Troja Château and František Bilek's House in Chýnov.

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Dadaist approaches by using the principles of chance, the intersecting of irrationality and reality, and creative association. We will try our hand at pen drawing, which we will combine with watercolour painting. In the second part of these interactive workshops we will look at how the artist worked with paraphrases and references to historical works, including Baroque paintings. We will also try a special painting technique that uses layers of coloured glazes and waxes on paper.

Interactive guided tours of the exhibition are suitable for all types of schools and other age and interest groups, with an opportunity for visitors to subsequently create their own art in response. We can adapt the duration, subject matter and difficulty level of these events to meet each school's requirements.

Price: children aged up to 10, art school students, teachers: 5 CZK; children aged over 10: 20 CZK
Contact: Lucie Haškovcová, lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz, 606 612 987, 608 216 418

In addition to the above events there will also be education activities for other target groups such as disabled visitors or parents with young children.

Contact:

E-mail: edukace@ghmp.cz

Education Centre, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Karlova 2, Prague 1



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