

## START UP ELIŠKA HAVLÍKOVÁ HUNGRY. FOR MORE.

24 January – 24 March 2019

Prague City Gallery / Start Up

Collredo-Mansfeld Palace, ground floor

Karlova 2, Prague 1

Open daily except Mondays, 10am to 6pm

Curator: Jitka Hlaváčková

**In its latest exhibition from the Start Up series for young artists, Prague City Gallery presents Hungry. For More, a fifteen-minute video and selected texts by Eliška Havlíková, a student of Anna Daučíková's New Media Studio at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague.**

An associative series of visual, text-based, and audio collages breaks free from the canvas and enters the gallery space in an irregular rhythm. The alternation of poetic and repulsive sensations, romantic scenes and visions of violence and sickness evokes feelings of inappropriateness. In the original texts and video presented at Hungry. For More, Eliška Havlíková creates stories that depicts physical reality as if through a strong magnifying glass. Intimate reality feels perverse when we look at it close-up in all its physical detail.

When editing her video collage, Havlíková uses the a similar approach as in her professional work for advertising studios, except that she fills them with negative meaning, with a visual description of decline and decay. Collages of unconscious personal associations and sentimental scenes alternate with fragments of pop-cultural trash references, most distinctly to the films of Stanley Kubrick and to Harmony Korine's Gummo. The American film Gummo (1997), which is the central reference of Havlíková's video, was filmed in the style of home videos. It is set in the town of Xenia, Ohio, right after it was hit by a tornado that left behind a society in absolute moral and mental decay. A tornado can be a metaphor for many things – one image that insinuates itself is the chaotic spread of technology and its unstoppable onslaught of deforming materialism, combined with xenophobic nationalism.

In the catalog that forms a part of the exhibition Hungry. For More, Havlíková publishes one of her texts on the subject of "abjection" – meaning disgust, repulsion, and rejection. The concept of abjection comes from an experience of loathing, whose source is primarily and most frequently the body, including the dead body. Besides a detailed description of unpleasant physical details from the students at a primary school (from chewed-on nails to an obsession with hairstyles), she works with emotions in which disgust is mixed with an intense feeling of guilt and failure. With this, she joins other artists who have challenged societal taboos ever since the first half of the 20th century: the accursed poets, decadent expressive art, the films of David Lynch, the art of Ana Mendieta, the Viennese actionists, and many others. There is also a direct connection to the increased wave of interest in physicality as a source of fear, tabooisation, and physical disgust, which has been growing, intermittently, since the 1960s.

Eliška Havlíková (\*1994, Jablonec nad Nisou). She has been a student of Anna Daučíková's New Media Studio at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague since 2014.

# G PRESS RELEASE HMP

Exhibition Curator: Jitka Hlaváčková  
Graphic Design: Studio Anymade

Media Partners: Radio Wave, jlbjlt.net, Artmap, protisedi.cz

Entrance Fee: CZK 1

Press Contact Person: Michaela Vrchotová, +420 725 818 721, vrchotova@ghmp.cz  
More Information: [www.ghmp.cz](http://www.ghmp.cz), [www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz](https://www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz)

## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

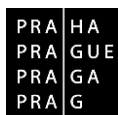
Interactive tours of the exhibition for all types of schools and other age and interest groups with the possibility of subsequent creative response in the form of their own work. We adapt the events in terms of time, theme and performance levels according to the specific requirements of each school.

Reservation required

Price: Children under 10, students of art schools, teachers – CZK 5; children over 10 years CZK 20

In addition to the above-mentioned events, there will be other educational activities for other target groups, such as the disadvantaged visitors and parents on maternity and/or parental leave and their children.

Contact Person: Lucie Haškovcová, [lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz](mailto:lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz), 606 612 987, 608 216 418



**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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, The House of Photography, Villa Bilek, Troja Château and František Bilek's House in Chýnov.