

JIŘÍ HANKE PHOTOGRAPHS 1973–2018

19 March – 18 August 2019

Prague City Gallery

House of Photography

Revoluční 5, Prague 1

Open daily except for Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Thursday to 8 p.m.

Exhibition Curator: Josef Moucha

Jiří Hanke (born 1944) inherited his photographic talent from his father. He deals with long-term, socially focused projects. The main themes of his realistic photography were determined by his continuing interest in his native town of Kladno, coping with the decline of metallurgical industry and the loss of revenues from black coal mines. The social conditions and their transformations over time are also worthy of attention even though in Hanke's photographs they were of secondary importance. Such effect is unavoidable because the prevailing conditions and their changes concern most of us, especially in terms of their impact.

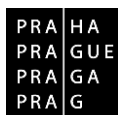
The locally and historically grounded testimonies of human existence represent a general statement reaching beyond the borders of the given region. It is because Hanke presents typical situations and their characteristic features to us in a very personal way.

His oldest closed photographic series is entitled People from Podprůhon 1974–1989 (published in book form in 1995). The historical value of documenting the lifestyle of a vanishing workers' colony was obvious even at the time of its inception. The symptoms of the Communist rule quickly disappeared: The gray sloping outskirts, with their stone steps descending to the town center, eventually became an attractive area, albeit disrupted by the brutal redevelopment...

The series Views from the Window of My Flat makes us slowly realize that the photographed place is made exclusive by the focused attention paid to it. We look at the changing images, one after another, without seeing the bigger picture we can understand... This series has a key position in Hanke's oeuvre (published in book form in 1994 and 2013). It consists of snapshots taken from September 1981 to January 2003. Hanke closed this series when he had to move out of the house of the Česká spořitelna savings bank, where he lived and worked.

The series Echoes of a Generation was inspired by a snapshot of Jiří Hanke with his father, taken by Hanke's friend Petr Koudelka. Since 1986, Hanke has been extending this collection of portraits by other diptychs or more comprehensive series of portraits of parents and children. The photographs are in a square format and are usually taken indoors in the persons' environment – most often at their home or workplace (published in book form in 1998).

Since 1990, a zone has been growing in Central Bohemian fields around the Kladno center. There is a large concentration of services to the motorized population, consisting of garages, parking lots, depots, petrol



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stations and driving schools with training grounds as well as food and other goods stores. However, this has not become a place of life. That is why Hanke meets so few pedestrians when photographing the Periphery.

The series TV Image (1992–1994) consists of probes into living rooms where the iconostasis takes the form of a television set; in assembling the images the photographer employed his earlier experience with collage (1968–1976).

Occasional forays into foreign territories – Paris Fragments (1979) and Texas 1990 – take us outside the town of Kladno. The diptychs Echoes add a remarkable accent to Hanke's retrospective. His American expedition, and the comparison of his homeland with what he saw overseas, probably assured him that it is possible to find images similar to those he went to the other side of the planet to see right in his own backyard.

A cross-section of his extensive oeuvre, prepared on the occasion of Hanke's 75th birthday, also includes his other series featuring classic black-and-white images. As he himself puts it, "Of course, the use of color is justified for some themes, but it would distract and divert from those themes I am photographing. I am not a fan of digitization anyway. I just like classic photography."

Josef Moucha

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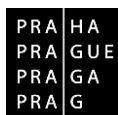
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Entrance Fee: CZK 120 full (adults) / CZK 60 reduced (students) / CZK 30 (senior citizens)

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

Guided tours with Jiří Hanke and the exhibition curator Josef Moucha

Thursday, 11 April 2019, 6 p.m.

Thursday, 16 May 2019, 6 p.m.

Lecture by the Kladno publisher and cultural activist Roman Hájek:

Kladno Phenomenon: A Message from in between the Cultural Worlds

Thursday, 25 April 2019, 6 p.m.

Mines, Poldi Steel Plant, Lego, hockey, Jágr. In the collective image of Kladno, culture – perhaps with the exception of Zdeněk Miler and his Little Mole loved by children – is not too strongly represented by personalities and institutions. Perhaps the reason for this may be that Kladno originated as the workers town, perhaps it consists of the fact that social life in Kladno has always concentrated in pubs and brothels rather than in cafés and theaters. Perhaps this can be attributed to the shadow cast by Prague, the Mother of Cities at its smaller neighbor.

And yet, these conditions have given rise to something that we could call the Kladno cultural phenomenon. They have created an environment that is “within reach” and at the same time mentally distant from the center of action, a kind of outskirts that is, however, too close to be considered exotic. They have created the Kladno cultural world in between. The main part of the lecture will consist of historical and social examination of Kladno, aiming to rehabilitate its collective image as the town of the Válová Sisters, Bouda, Aleš, Souček, Kolář, Hoffmann, Hrabal, Havlíček, Stříbrný... and Hanke.

Saturday Art Workshops

Saturday, 13 April 2019, 1 – 6 p.m., *Photographer's Views*, House of Photography

Saturday, 29 June 2019, 1 – 6 p.m., *Classic Black-and-White Photography*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

During the educational activities and art workshops, we will follow from Jiří Hanke's work. We will focus on the themes of documenting the human condition and the diversity of life environment. We will emphasize the importance of the photographer's personal relationship to the photographed places and people. Next, we will focus on the transformation of places where we will juxtapose several photos of a particular place with photos taken at another stage of time, adding a new stage – a fictitious situation that could take place there. Through collages, we will also try to put the photographed people in different interiors and exteriors and examine the overall impact of the photos modified in this way. As part of the workshop in the dark chamber of the Educational Center, we will use the technique of classical analog photography to create enlargements of photographs of the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace. In this way, participants will get acquainted with the principles of classic black-and-white photography and at the same time they will create a documentary of the place visited by them.

Art Workshop for Adults and Senior Citizens

Sunday, 24 March, 1 – 4 p.m., Camera Obscura I, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 7 April 2019, 1 – 4 p.m., Camera Obscura II, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace



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Sunday, 5 May 2019, 1 – 4 p.m., *Camera Obscura III*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
Sunday, 19 May 2019, 1 – 4 p.m., *Camera Obscura IV*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
Friday, 26 April 2019, 3 – 6 p.m., *Portrait Photography I*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
Sunday, 28 April 2019, 3 – 6 p.m., *Portrait Photography II*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Photographic workshops will respond to Jiří Hanke's creative work and his exhibited photographic series. The first series of workshops will focus on “camera obscura”, the predecessor of modern camera. We will explore the principles of creating images using a simple optical device within the group work outside and inside of the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, where participants will take photographs using a pinhole camera. Then we will proceed to the background premises of the Educational Center and work in the dark chamber to develop black-and-white photographs we have taken.

In the second series of workshops we will deal with studio portrait photography. When shooting, we will take a creative approach to working with light and composition. From the point of view of form and content, we will make a studio portrait. We will take advantage of the nature of the environment or of the possibility of highlighting one's identity with objects in the form of diverse artifacts, attributes and symbols. During the group work, each participant will be able to try the role of a model or become a photographer.

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

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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.



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