

Stone Treasures from Prague Gardens

Prague City Gallery

Troja Château, U Trojského zámku 1, Prague 7

28 March – 4 November 2018

Opening Hours: Tue–Thu, Sat–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. / Fri 1–6 p.m., gardens until 7 p.m.

Curator: Marie Foltýnová

In the cellar of the Troja Château, the Prague City Gallery presents the originals of sculptures and art decorations from Prague gardens, made in the 18th and 19th century. The exhibition of the same artworks that were presented last year in the upper floors of the Château will be open for visitors for at least two upcoming seasons.

The sculptural works such as vases, busts, statues, stone benches or fountains, exposed to weather for decades or even centuries, can't resist the ravages of time forever. The original art decorations and sculptures gradually disappear from the gardens; either they were irrecoverably destroyed, or they must be replaced by copies. The Prague City Gallery manages the collection of the public sculptures of the capital, including the Troja Château. The gallery's depository is used to store many original items from the Prague gardens, and now they can be presented to the public, though the access is still limited.

The medium-term exhibition "Stone Treasures from Prague Gardens" consists of several parts focusing on different gardens – Troja Château Garden, Vrtbovská Garden, former garden of Summer Château Portheimka and the Cibulka Park.

The exhibition enables the visitors to admire the authentic imprint of the artistic style of a sculptor or modeler, and to see details that are hardly visible outside. Moreover, people can also realize the connections between the specific artworks and the ideas, themes or scenarios of the garden, the connections that used to be clear but now they are hard to grasp.

Marie Foltýnová

Curator: Marie Foltýnová

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Entrance fee: Czk 120 Kč (adults) / Czk 60 Kč (students) / Czk 30 (seniors)

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Accompanying Program to the Exhibition:

Saturday art workshops

Sat, August 25, 2018, 1 – 6 PM Vases, fountains, embossments,

Eco-studio in the Troja Château orangery

Sat, October 6, 2018, 1 – 6 PM Ornaments and decorations,

Eco-studio in the Troja Château orangery

The educational activities will be inspired by the current exhibition as well as the sculptural decorations in the whole Troja Château area (the Baroque staircase aka Tartarus, fountains, vases etc.). We will examine, visually and by touch, various materials used in sculptural work – stone, wood, metal, and various kinds of ceramic clay (such as terracotta, earthenware material, or fireclay). We also will use them as material for our own art (spatial objects, engravings, etc.). In addition to the ancient mythological themes, we will also focus on baroque allegories, and period chinoiserie trends. Using traditional drawing as well as engraving, we will design decorations for baroque vases to be placed in the gardens. Part of the exhibition is also designed for visually impaired visitors who can explore some of the artworks by touch. The eco-studio in the orangery will offer suitable background for activities involving environmental issues. For the visually impaired visitors, the eco-studio will offer another tactile presentation of fragments and details of the sculptures from the Prague City Gallery collections (made of various materials). You can therefore book a special guided tour or art workshop for visitors with visual impairments.

Art workshops for adults and seniors

Fri, July 27, 2018, 3 – 6 PM, Decorations and engravings, Eco-studio in the Troja Château orangery

Sun, July 29, 2018, 3 – 6 PM, Decorations and engravings II, Eco-studio in the Troja Château orangery

Sun, August 5, 2018, 1 – 6 PM, Garden Party III, Eco-studio in the Troja Château orangery

Sun, September 30, 2018, 1 – 6 PM, Garden Party IV, Eco-studio in the Troja Château orangery

At the art workshop, we will focus on sculptural works of Prague parks, and on the materials of garden decorations. In formal terms, we will primarily focus on the set of the decorative terracotta vases that adorn the parapets on the southern and eastern side of the large terrace, and the staircase in the courtyard of the Troja Château. We will try out the ways the lines can be made in the ceramic clay. The participants will engrave the visual motifs of the sculptural works in Prague gardens (silhouettes and decorative patterns of the terracotta vases, iconographic patterns, ancient mythological themes etc.) to the flat and firm surface of the clay.

Interactive guided tours for all types of schools and other groups, with the possibility to respond by creating the participants' own artworks. The events will be tailored to the specific needs of each school, in terms of time and length, themes and difficulty level.

In addition to the aforementioned events, more educational activities will focus on other target groups, such as disabled visitors or families with children.

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