

**CARNATIONS AND VELVET  
ART AND REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
(1968–1974–1989)**

**30 April – 29 September 2019**

**Prague City Gallery**

**Municipal Library of Prague, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Mariánské Square 1, Prague 1**

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

**Exhibition Curators: Sandra Baborovská (GHMP), Adelaide Ginga (MNAC, Lisbon)**

Surprising similarities, parallels and paradoxes of epoch-making events in Portugal and Czechoslovakia. Borders of a democratic continent, as well as borders of an epoch – Carnation and Velvet Revolutions as the first and last of the “third wave” of world revolutions and their reflection in visual arts.

The curatorial project *Carnations and Velvet / Art and Revolution in Portugal and Czechoslovakia* presents the first comprehensive overview of Portuguese visual arts in Czechia and Slovakia conceived of in a historical and political dialogue with Czechoslovak artists. The common starting point is the year 1968, the time of the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia and the spring of Marcelo Caetano in Lisbon. This year brought about first hopes for the end of the existing undemocratic regimes – the hopes that were thwarted by the Soviet occupation in Czechoslovakia and by the continuation of the colonial war in Portugal. Afterwards, the years 1974 and 1989, the dates of peaceful revolutions, brought freedom to both countries. The Carnation Revolution in Portugal took place on 25 April 1974, and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia on 17 November 1989.

The exhibition features works of Czechoslovak and Portuguese artists who responded to totalitarian regimes and were of crucial importance for the formation of contemporary art of both countries.

They include, in particular, Adriena Šimotová, Eva Kmentová, Olbram Zoubek, the sisters Květa and Jitka Válová, Pavel Nešleha, Karel Nepraš, Václav Havel, Jiří Kolář, Milan Knížák, Petr Štembera, Karel Miler, Jan Mlčoch, Vladimír Ambroz, Jiří Valoch, Jiří Kovanda, Jiří David, David Černý, Július Koller, Ľubomír Ďurček, Mária Bartuszová, Jana Želibská, Dezider Tóth, Juraj Meliš and many others. They will be juxtaposed with their Portuguese contemporaries such as Helena Almeida, Lourdes Castro, Ana Vieira, Ana Hatherly, Maria Helena Vieira da Silva, Fernando Calhau, Manuel Alvess, António Barros, Silvestre Pestana, Alberto Carneiro, Ernesto de Sousa, Álvaro Lapa, José de Guimarães, Pedro Cabrita Reis, Salette Tavares, Sá Nogueira, Bartolomeu Cid dos Santos, Artur Rosa and Vítor Pomar. Space will also be given to the younger generation of artists who reflect the theme of both totalitarian regimes and revolutions, such as Zbyněk Baladrán, Jan Pfeiffer, Filipe Marques, Carla Filipe and the Czech-Portuguese artist Ana de Almeida, who has also prepared an artistic rendition of an introductory timeline using period documents. The timeline features the historical moments connecting Czechoslovakia and Portugal, especially during the onset of authoritarian regimes. The timeline reflects the news coverage of the then Czechoslovak Television, contemporary press, literature, posters and documentary photography – all this within the context of selected works of art. The exhibition project is divided into sections devoted to existential expressions, corporeality, happenings, performances, action art and visual poetry. Contemporary reflections of Czech and Portuguese artists lead to contemplation on the issues of revolution and totalitarianism.

Passed through the prism of the Carnation Revolution, the Velvet Revolution together with the Czech experience of totalitarianism is shown from a different perspective. Iconography and individual symbols differ in their message or even stand in direct opposition.

The CARNATIONS AND VELVET exhibition is the result of a four-year international research collaboration, established in a dialogue between curators and authors of the exhibition project with different cultural and historical experiences.

In addition to works of art, the exhibition features extensive research by Czech Television, Rádio e Televisão de Portugal, Václav Havel Library and Fundação Mário Soares. For the first time in our country, it gives us insight into private archives of Portuguese who, as the first foreign delegation, came to support the democratization of Czechoslovakia. 50,000 roses which they handed out to the people assembled at the rally on Národní třída (National Avenue) became a symbol of solidarity. It was they who mediated the contact between the Portuguese President Mário Soares and Václav Havel, and the gift of a car which took our first Democratic President to Prague Castle for his inauguration.

Thirty years later, these Portuguese have returned to Prague to commemorate the importance of freedom and the values for which citizens in Czechoslovakia rose during the Velvet Revolution.

The large-scale research project will be accompanied by a trilingual publication with articles by Sandra Baborovská, Adelaide Ginga, Pavel Szobi, Vít Havránek and Ana de Almeida. The publication and exhibition have been created in association with Prague City Gallery and the Museu Nacional Contemporânea do Chiado.

Sandra Baborovská, Adelaide Ginga

Exhibition Curators: Sandra Baborovská (GHMP), Adelaide Ginga (MNAC, Lisbon)

Expert Consultant: Pavel Szobi

Architect: Zbyněk Baladrán

Graphic Design: Studio Anymade

The exhibition is held under the patronage of Her Excellence Manuela Franco, the Ambassador of Portugal in the Czech Republic, and Hana Třeštíková, Prague City Councilor for Culture, Heritage Preservation, Exhibition Organization and Tourism.

Main Media Partner: Czech Television

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

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

**Press Contact Person: Michaela Vrchotová, +420 725 818 721, [vrchotova@ghmp.cz](mailto: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

**30 April 2019, 7 p.m.**

### **Discussion – Václav Havel Library**

A meeting with Portuguese guests who came to support the democratization of Czechoslovakia in December 1989. The discussion will be attended by Álvaro Beleza, Diogo Cabrita, José Pedro Aguiar-Branco, António Tavares, José Campelo, José Viegas and Paulo Barros Vale; the Czechs will be represented by Monika Pajerová and Martin Mejstřík.

The meeting will be moderated by Jakub Železný.

**23 May 2019, 6 p.m.**

### **Guided tour of the exhibition with the curator Sandra Baborovská and the historian Pavel Szobi**

**5 June 2019, 5:30 p.m.**

### **Guided tour of the exhibition with the curator Sandra Baborovská and the historian Pavel Szobi**

**5 June 2019, 7 p.m.**

### **Film: Paper Heads**

Director: Dušan Hanák (1995, 96 min, SK)

The artistic documentary *Paper Heads* is a unique testimony of the well-known Slovak filmmaker Dušan Hanák about totalitarianism in postwar Czechoslovakia.

To be seen at the Municipal Library Cinema

### **Saturday Art Workshops**

31 August 2019, 1 – 6 p.m., *Text and Visual Messages*, Municipal Library

21 September 2019, 1 – 6 p.m., *Imprints of Corporeality*, Municipal Library

In our artistic responses we will follow up on the exhibited works of Czech and Portuguese artists. We will also look at the political situation at the time of the Carnation Revolution in Portugal in 1975, our Velvet Revolution in 1989 and the context of the parallels and similarities between them. We will focus, for example, on working with text not only in terms of its form but also its content. Marginally, we will also use period as well as timeless slogans and visually apply the motifs of flowers, lights, keys and human hands in a gesture of victory. Václav Havel's *Anticodes* will inspire us to implement experimental poetry and calligraphy. Similarly, we will continue with works by Ana Hatherly and Maria Helena Vieira de Silva. We will also create collages, rollages, prollages and assemblages from texts, paintings and objects modeled after the works of Jiří Kolář and Běla Kolářová. In this, we will draw inspiration from some other Lettrist works such as textual paintings by Július Koller. In some workshops we will also deal with the theme of the book (Milan Knížák's book as an object). We will also create a spatial self-portrait – a book in the shape of a human head which can be flipped through and in which one can note down one's own (Adriena Šimotová's book to browse through).

On many levels, we will deal with the human corporeality and its record with our own imprints (hands, lips, cheeks), involving the bodies of participants as a means of expression. Following the example of Adriena Šimotová, we will record human silhouettes by ripping and cutting tracing paper or by drawing. We will also work with Eva Kmentová's *Traces* and we will continue with this motif throughout the exhibition space. Traced and cut out footprints of visitors will thus form a chain as long as possible – a symbolic record of the passage through the gallery. Following the example of Květa Válová, we will also elaborate on the motif of human eyes (of various sizes, colors and shapes) which the participants will create, cut out and spread in interaction with the exhibited works of art and the exhibition space, giving rise to a group work. In the style of action art we will follow up on the work of Helena Almeida who impressed parts of her body into the framed canvas, similarly to Mária Bartuszová's objects - through performance we will realize a physical passage through a large canvas. In response to Jana Želibská, Adriena Šimotová and Eva Kmentová, we will trace silhouettes of visitors on large-format paper; by

layering them on top of each other we will produce another interesting group work. We will create portraits and figures from various technical components in connection with the work of Karel Nepraš.

### **Art Workshops for Adults and Senior Citizens**

10 May 2019, 3 – 6 p.m., *Forms of Monotype I*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

12 May 2019, 3 – 6 p.m., *Forms of Monotype II*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

7 June 2019, 3 – 6 p.m., *Skin as a Landscape or Border I*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

9. 6. 2019, 3 – 6 p.m., *Skin as a Landscape or Border II*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

During the art workshops we will acquaint ourselves with the works of the exhibited artists and we will focus on various techniques and methods of print making. In the first series of artistic reflections, we will focus on the technique of monotype from the point of view of prints as well as paintings. The way to visual records will be formed on the emotional level, letting go of the concrete and using spontaneous gestures and lines. Using a brush, comb, a piece of cloth or finger touch, we will create an interesting texture on the surface of a wet paint applied to a glass plate. In the second, follow-up series of art workshops, we will develop the figurative theme and the phenomenon of imprints one's own body. In our work we will use the touch, supported by color or sculptural material, in order to explore the artistic possibilities of our skin. We will also look at the issue of imprint as structure, detail and landscape-like shapes. When recording physical gestures on the paper surface, we will also explore the boundaries of spontaneity and consciousness as manifestations of human identity.

### **Special Events:**

7 June 2019, from 2:30 p.m.

A tour for gallery educators as part of the seminar of the Chamber of Educational Workers of the Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic and presentation of educational activities for the exhibition

9 July 2019, 1 – 6 p.m.

A special workshop within the *Creative Week* event

**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

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

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.