

LUKÁŠ MACHALICKÝ: ECLECTICISM HOUR

29 May – 1 September 2019

Prague City Gallery

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, Piano Nobile

Karlova 2, Prague 1

Open daily except for Monday from 10 am to 6 pm

Exhibition Curator: Hana Larvová

A style making possible the combination of elements dating from different times and originating in different cultures, involving the choice of often entirely disparate shapes, colours and materials, yet yielding an end product (artwork, collage, interior design) that conjures a most harmonious and visually appealing impression.

Eclecticism Hour is the title of an acoustic-visual intervention installed by Lukáš Machalický in the Baroque interior of the piano nobile (principal floor) of Prague's Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace. In terms of concept, the project links up with the artist's two previous solo shows, namely, *A Body Immersed in a Liquid*, mounted in the MeetFactory, Prague, two years ago, and the project *In the Park*, at the New Jörg Kunstverein, Vienna, in 2018.

The common denominator between these earlier exhibitions and the current intervention is their emphasis on thoroughly thought-out dramaturgy, and maximum attention given to individual details. This corresponds with Lukáš Machalický's approach to the format of art exhibition as a highly comprehensive concept, a medium overlapping onto several other levels of meaning where it blends with text, graphic visual elements and various other components.

Architecture, and more specifically, the principles of architectural forms, has been the key subject of Machalický's conceptual output. Hence its decisive impact on the definitive form of each realization. In the industrial environment of Prague's MeetFactory, it was determined by the peculiar disposition of the gallery's interior space measuring 10 × 10 × 10 metres, whereas at New Jörg the crucial element was the venue's organizing structural pattern set by eleven windows of the venue's two rooms. In the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, it is the underlying geometrical order which assigns to this unique historical exhibition space its character.

Thus, the high Baroque style with its characteristic interior disposition happens to be one of this installation's key defining elements. Its form is guided by the Baroque principle of symmetrical composition, and the geometrical arrangement of the individual spaces. There, Machalický toys with the various architectural patterns, transforming them by his intervention. In the process, he is not primarily concerned with their original order and the specific set of strict rules to which they are subordinated, but much rather – and indeed, primarily – with their ambivalence. His source of inspiration, therefore, is not symmetry, but rather on the contrary, its loss leading to some degree of deformation, often occurring randomly. The final effect is one of a permanent polemic with the categories of perfection and imperfection.

By bringing in new architectural elements, Machalický turns the piano nobile floor to an entirely new, fictitious environment. There, certain sections of the space evoke the impression of tunnel-like cavities harbouring concealed developments or one-off acts frozen in time, bordering on mystification. The artist borrows for his art concept from the Baroque terminology notions such as imitation, illusion, fiction, stage sets, or model. Coupled with scale and perspective manipulation, they recur all through the intervention, transforming the original space into fantasmagoric scenery. The above-listed notions which, incidentally, happen to resume a good deal of relevance for today's world, are further elaborated by the artist here, in videos and photographs complementing the installation. There, a

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video featuring a seemingly static image relates to an imitation of the piano nobile's marble wainscoting; and photographs of various details mapped with a 3D scanner straddle the thin borderline between reality and its imitation.

Exhibition Curator: Hana Larvová

Graphic design: Martin Odehnal, Štěpán Malovec

Partner of the exhibition: AV MEDIA

Media partners: Art&Antiques, A2, Art for Good, ArtMap, Český rozhlas, Literární noviny, protisedi.cz, Radio 1, XANTYPA

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

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More Information: www.ghmp.cz, www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

Guided tour of the exhibition with the artist and the curator

Thu 20 June 2019, 6 pm

Saturday art workshop

06/07/2019, 1–6 pm, *Virtual World*, Colloredo-Mansfeld palace, Education Centre

Participants' creative response will reflect the artist's site-specific intervention conceived to harmonize with the Baroque and Rococo-style interior of the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace. There, we will focus primarily on the installation's concern with the contrast between reality and fiction. Participants will use photographs of the palace's historical piano nobile floor in making drawings and collages, recording visions of their own potential interventions, ranging from banal minor adjustments to monumental-scale architectural annexes. On the whole, this approach will draw on the potential offered by a unique authentic environment, exposing it to elements of artificiality and fiction. Participants will likewise be encouraged to use copies of photos of one of the show's features – a tunnel – for their own collages capturing unexpected fragments of reality (architecture, interior space, and contextually bound situations), thereby achieving unorthodox alternative effects of thus structured fiction.

Art studio for adults and senior citizens

Fri 02/08/2019, 3–6 pm, *Forms and Structures in Architecture I*, Colloredo-Mansfeld palace, Education Centre

Thu 22/08/2019, 3–6 pm, *Forms and Structures in Architecture II*, Colloredo-Mansfeld palace, Education Centre

Fri 23/08/2019, 3–6 pm, *Forms and Structures in Architecture III*, Colloredo-Mansfeld palace, Education Centre

These interactive workshops will reflect the architectural principles Lukáš Machalický has been applying in his output. Their programme will focus on the fundamental tenets of the Baroque architecture of the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace. Participants will assign to their reflections material form through work in plaster, trying out diverse experimental approaches. Inspiration for their own creative practice will be sought in the repertory of characteristic features of the Baroque style (opulent sculptural forms, dramatic rendition of movement, monumental appeal, as well as ornamental and decorative wealth). Participants will concentrate on the making of plaster objects in a process involving the exploration of different surfaces and materials, and work with a wide variety of structures.



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 in seven buildings: The Stone Bell House, Municipal Library – 2nd floor, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, The House of Photography, Villa Bílek, Troja Château and František Bílek's House in Chýnov.

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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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