

START UP ONDŘEJ VICENA 4D CARRIAGE

2 April – 19 May 2019
Prague City Gallery / Start Up
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, ground floor
Karlova 2, Prague 1
Open daily except Mondays, 10 am to 6 pm
Curator: Jakub Král

The future is uncertain. Ever since the oceans began to warm up, the glaciers began to melt, and the birds stopped flying south for winter, each of us has had to save. In the real world, at least: Things are different in today's expanded reality. The screeching of brakes, the sound of engines revving, a thousand horses, my new wheels. The zero-waste stage of life. The contact lenses that I've been wearing since yesterday let me see much more clearly than the previous model. Producing one electric car has minimal carbon impact. I wanted different chrome plating for my motorized carriage, so I downloaded a more expensive model. Of course it costs more if you want to be different from everyone else. You pay extra. I wanted a Colloredo-Mansfeld 4D Carriage.

Ondřej Vicena

Ondřej Vicena (* 1988) is an artist with two complementary careers. In one, he works with artistic crafts, and in the other he creates works of fine art. In his installations, he seeks out lost categories of beauty within archives of visual garbage from recent history – trash both real and virtual. Today – in a manner reminiscent of Clement Greenberg's famous thesis – we, too, are restoring the pluralist form of traditional categories of art through the intersection of culture with parallel expressions of high and low art, whose relationship has in the meantime been turned upside down.

Vicena's exhibition 4D Carriage works with the category of beauty as a sign of power, which becomes a representation of our status and the yearning for luxury. His work's social and institutional critique is apparent in its title, which is a reference to the original use of the exhibition space. It calls attention to the importance of the carriage house in an urban aristocratic palace, which corresponds to that of a garage in a luxury villa. Just as Archbishop Troyer's carriage, today a prized possession of the Olomouc Museum of Art, represented the power of the Moravian archbishops, so too does Vicena's exhibition reflect how the attributes of luxury and status once associated with carriages have been transferred onto luxury automobiles.

But the social status of beauty is also reflected in the bowl that forms the focal point of the entire exhibition. Our yearning to possess beauty as a reflection of power and luxury in the form of its fetishes is transformed into the acquisition of its substitutes, which in Vicena's mind help rid the world of much of the waste material produced by contemporary design. Just as Instagram is a tool for rapidly browsing through an immense volume of images connected to each other through an endless chain of linkages, so too do the carriage and its quasi-luxurious economically accessible faithful copy possess the potential for an endless chain of contemporary products of ersatz beauty that this yearning leads us to acquire.

From his position as an artist, Ondřej Vicena explores critical aspects of the activities of a designer while working with the tools of design itself. Specifically, he explores the historical use of the space by exhibiting a lens-shaped glass bowl depicting images – mere imaginary reflections of the actual objects – of representations of power in the form of a carriage and automobile. It isn't important that these images recall pictures from social networks, which have become just another medium for broadcasting their and our own personal status.

Jakub Král



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

Exhibition Curator: Jakub Král
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, 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, 606 612 987, 608 216 418



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