

# G PRESS RELEASE HMP

**J/P/K**

## **JASANSKÝ POLÁK KARNY**

17 September – 12 January 2019

Prague City Gallery

House of Photography

Revoluční 5, Prague 1

Open every day except Monday, from 10 am to 6 pm, Thursdays till 8 pm

Curated by: Olga Malá

*The photographer duo Lukáš Jasanský (1965) and Martin Polák (1966) first became involved in current events on the art scene in the late 1980s, and they have since become an important and inseparable part of it. For over three decades, this stable photographic tandem has been producing precisely formulated conceptual projects.*

The two photographers are presenting their new exhibition project, *Jasanský Polák Karny*, in Prague City Gallery's House of Photography. On two floors of the gallery, visitors are confronted with photographic series of sculptural portraits of various prominent personalities. All of the images are conceived in a similar way, featuring one or two portraits in stereotypical frontal views. All of the sculptures in Jasanský & Polák's photographs are by the Polish sculptor Alfons Karny (1901–1989), who is listed as a co-author in the exhibition's title. The photographed works come from the Sculpture Museum of Alfons Karny in Białystok, dedicated to the lifelong work of this now-forgotten artist, who in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was an outstanding Polish portrait sculptor.

Alfons Karny was a true patriot. He showed personal bravery in his youth as a soldier in the Russo-Polish War (1920), and later as a participant in the anti-Nazi resistance. His national convictions were also reflected in his sculpture, which, with some exceptions, consists of busts – he himself referred to his works as “heads” in general. He did not create these sculptural portraits on commission, but chose to represent people whom he respected. He created a number of likenesses of international artists and scientists such as Ernest Hemingway, Vincent Van Gogh and Albert Einstein, but his oeuvre's main idea is the “Gallery of Portraits of Great Poles”, featuring, for example, Frederic Chopin, Maria Curie-Skłodowska, the statesman Józef Pilsudski, General Władysław Sikorski, the poet Adam Mickiewicz, and the pianist Arthur Rubinstein. In addition to famous personalities, we can also find portraits of “ordinary” people (*Partisan Dzidek, Jola Korzybska*), genre portraits (*Boxer, Girl*) and family members and friends (*Madzia Kuna*).

The moment of conception for the J/P/K Jasanský Polák Karny series was an incidental visit to that Polish city by both photographers, during which they “discovered” the Alfons Karny Museum. Many interesting facts and details are known about Karny's life and work, but it was not just his sculpture that captivated both photographers. Although the exclusive theme of Jasanský & Polák's photographs, documenting Karny's work in long, monotonous sequences, is Karny's sculptural portraits, both photographers are primarily interested in the framework and method of their presentation, which reflect an entire complex of societal, social, historical and regional contexts. The seemingly unbiased, indifferent, objective photographs contain a number of very subjective messages and observations.

Olga Malá



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

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Curated by: Olga Malá

Graphic design: Lenka Jasanská

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

Admission: CZK 120 full price (adults) / CZK 60 reduced (students, OAPs)

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**More information available at: [www.ghmp.cz](http://www.ghmp.cz), [www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz](https://www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz)**

## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

**Guided tour with the artists and the curator Olga Malá**

Thu 17 October 2019, 6 pm

Thu 28 November 2019, 6 pm

**Saturday art workshops (House of Photography)**

9. 11. 2019, 13–18 h, Podoby portrétu / *Forms of Portrait*

30. 11. 2019, 13–18 h, Archiv vs. expozice / *Archive vs. Exposition*

**Art workshops for adults and senior citizens (Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace)**

Reservation required

Thu 10 October 2019, 15–18 h, *Portrait Studio Photography I*

Fri 18 October 2019, 15–18 h, *Portrait Studio Photography II*

Thu 7 November 2019, 15–18 h, *Digital Record I*

Fri 8 November 2019, 15–18 h, *Digital Record II*

Sun 10 November 2019, 15–18 h, *Portrait Studio Photography III*

Interactive tours of the exhibition for all types of school and other age and interest groups with the possibility of practical follow-up creative work. We will make every effort to meet the specific requirements of every school in terms of date, theme and level of difficulty.

Reservation necessary

Fee: children up to 10, art-school students, lecturers – CZK 5; 10-years old and above – CZK 20

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

In addition to the activities referred to above, there will be other educational activities aimed at other target groups, such as disadvantaged visitors or parents with children on parental leave.

**Contact:**

**E-mail: [edukace@ghmp.cz](mailto:edukace@ghmp.cz)**

**Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace**

**Karlova 2, Praha 1**



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