

## ROMAN ŠTĚTINA: FOREWORD

21. 11. 2018 – 24. 2. 2019

Prague City Gallery

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, 2nd floor

Karlova 2, Praha 1

Open daily except Mondays 10am to 4pm; Tuesdays until 6pm

Curator: Jitka Hlaváčková

The exhibition was created in collaboration with fashion designer Mia Jadrná

Radio has been a major interest and source of inspiration for Roman Štětina since the beginning of his artistic career. In his audiovisual works, he brings to light disappearing technologies and the hidden art of radio professionals. He is interested in the things that precede our encounter with broadcast sound – what exists in the “fore-word.” Over time, Štětina turned radio from an object of study and artistic creation into his second artistic medium, for which he created several radio shows.

Štětina returns to the subject of radio broadcasts in his most recent work, the audiovisual *Předmluva* (Foreword), which he created for the dance hall at the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace. Through several interconnected storylines, this installation consisting of physical objects, textile samples, and a sound recording refers to various physical aspects of radio work.

One part of the exhibition consists of an experimental composition for male and female voice/breath, exploring the genesis of sound within the human body, the point when breath becomes word – the moment of the “fore-word.” This audio installation is set against an architectural backdrop reminiscent of the scenography of radio broadcasting. The architecture and the sections of sound-proof studio systems are a reference to the autonomous “radio dimension” of recording studios, which are removed from their natural physical relationships to their immediate surrounding. This dimension creates a closer relationship with the space defined by broadcast signals – i.e., with the places and people connected to this space through radio receivers.

Within the narrative of his story, Štětina and fashion designer Mia Jadrná present remarkable textile designs used to cover historical radio speakers, into which the radio broadcast is thus “dressed.” These fabrics are highly diverse but they also possess a very specific character reflecting their functional design: they are solid but also permeable, and they possess an aesthetic quality based on the unusual nature of their patterns, which usually contain a certain level of irregularity.

One source of inspiration for **Foreword** was the ancient Greek literary form known as the *cento* – a poem that is *sewn* or *woven* together using verses or passages from classical authors, most frequently Homer and Virgil. The creation of the literary *cento* highlights the shared foundation (and principles) of the words *text* and *textile*, which is the Latin word *texere* – *to weave*. Like the authors of Antiquity, Roman Štětina masterfully weaves motifs, texts, sounds, and objects borrowed from various different contexts into complex structures resembling woven textiles that take on new meanings and forms in his videos. The interweaving of previously existing elements of metalanguage helps us to understand the *cento* – and thus also Štětina’s work – as a kind of “textile text” or a “text to the second degree.”

Roman Štětina (\*1986) is a multimedia artist and teacher at the Academy of Art, Architecture, and Design in Prague. After graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts in 2015, he spent two years studying under Judith Hopf and Douglas Gordon at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main. He is one of the youngest recipients of the Jindřich Chaloupecký Award (*Ztracený případ / Lost Case*, video, 2014), and his work has been shown at various exhibitions, including *Manifesta 11* in Zurich (curator Christian Jankowski, 2016).

[www.romanstetina.com](http://www.romanstetina.com)

Jitka Hlaváčková

# G PRESS RELEASE HMP

Curator: Jitka Hlaváčková

Creative support – clothing design: Mia Jadrná

Audio support: Bart Bieliński

Graphic design: Studio Anymade

Main media partners: Czech Radio, Czech Radio Vltava

Media partners: Art&Antiques, ArtMap, Literární noviny, protisedi.cz, Radio 1, XANTYPA

Admission: CZK 60 full (adults) / CZK 30 reduced (students, seniors)

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**More Information: [www.ghmp.cz](http://www.ghmp.cz), [www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz](http://www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz)**



Prague City Gallery is one of the Czech Republic's leading galleries, with a focus on modern and contemporary art. The gallery is responsible for the City of Prague's art collections, including acquisition, preservation, and research activities. Currently, Prague City Gallery organizes exhibits at seven locations: the Stone Bell House, the 2nd floor of the Municipal Library, the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, the House of Photography, Villa Bilek, Troja Palace, and the František Bilek House in Chýnov.

## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

### **Guided tours with the artist and curator**

29 January 2019, 6 p.m.

20 February 2019, 5 p.m.

### **Saturday art workshops**

Saturday 9 February 2019, 1–6 p.m., Rhythm and Arrhythmia, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Saturday 23 February 2019, 1–6 p.m., In Hiding, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

In these workshops, we will apply principles of visual poetry and conceptual art. Our artistic projects will respond to one of the artist's sources of inspiration, namely the notion of the close similarity between weaving and writing texts. The participants' creations will be inspired by the rhythmic repetition of verses and the rhythm of textile weaving. By weaving together scrap material, we will create entirely new structures that will form the basis for further artistry. Fragments of texts will be color-differentiated in order to search for the logical and poetical messages contained therein. The new content thus creates a random pattern on the structure at hand, while elsewhere a clearly defined patterns determines the contents of the resulting text. By using a wide range of insulation materials to create small art objects, we will further develop the idea of being separated from the surrounding environment.

The Saturday workshops are intended for children, families, and any other interested persons of all ages, including seniors and socially disadvantaged members of the public. You may come and go at any time during the workshop hours.

### **Art studio for adults and seniors**

Friday 25 January 2019, 3–6pm, Textile and Space I, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday 27 January 2019, 3–6pm, Textile and Space II, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

In these workshops, we will focus on the concept of weaving and on creating works similar to woven textiles. On one level, we will be working with textile experiments. For the workshop's participants, the cardboard loom will form a field in which they can apply basic relationships and explore the various structures created by arranging, squeezing, weaving or combining the materials' diverse structures. The textile element will take on the main role and function. On a deeper level, the workshop is inspired by the spaces of the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace and the site-specific installation created especially for the dance hall. The textiles and objects will thus refer to the historic baroque building and the visual motifs of Prague's palace architecture.

**Interactive guided tours for all types of schools** and other age and interest groups, with the option of responding to the exhibition by making your own art. We can adapt the events in terms of time, subject matter, and level of difficulty, depending on the school's needs.

Reservations required

Price: children age 10 and under, art school students, teachers: CZK 5; children above 10: CZK 20

In addition to the above-described events, we will also organize educational activities for other target groups such as socially disadvantaged visitors or parents with children on parental leave./

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