

AN UNCERTAIN SEASON

13 May – 31 October 2021

Prague City Gallery

Troja Chateau

U Trojského zámku 1, Prague 7

Open Tue-Fri 1–6 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am – 6 pm

From 1. 6. open daily except Monday from 10 am to 6 pm

Curator: Magdalena Juříková, Jitka Hlaváčková, Jakub Král, Olga Malá

For the traditional sculpture exhibition at the Troja Château, we have this time chosen a selection of works from our collections which should fully or metaphorically thematize not only uncertainty but also feelings of danger, balancing between different possibilities, instability - all in various contexts.

At first it seemed that we would not have enough material to realize this ambition but, surprisingly, it is a motif relatively close to the thinking of many artists of different generations. We decided to go in this direction partly for a reason that is obvious and which has haunted us for more than a year, without any guaranteed turning point to indicate the end of our critical pandemic situation. We wanted to spare artists the disappointment of investing their energy in a monographic exhibition here that would eventually not be open to the public. This gave us the opportunity, after a long period of time, to look at the content of our collections from a certain, as yet untested, angle.

We have been wracked by uncertainties and a degree of hopelessness since last spring. However, we have to experience this condition during our lives many times, with varying intensity and under various circumstances. References to it therefore appear in art just as naturally and inevitably. Sometimes it is a very inward and traumatising experience that permeates the final work, other times, it is a more general reflection on the meaning and nature of our existence or a manifestation of the search for spiritual harmony or faith. It is characteristic that this topic appears in acute social situations (e.g. in the so-called “magic 8 years” – years ending with the number 8 in modern Czech history), but also in the traumatizing years of normalization or post-revolutionary disillusionment. We present a particular sample of views, which are connected both with fateful social movements and with the personal dilemmas of each of the artists, or both at the same time.

Magdalena Juříková

G PRESS RELEASE HMP

Jiří Beránek, František Hodonský, Vladimír Janoušek, Stanislav Kolíbal, Radoslav Kratina, Petr Lysáček, Karel Malich, Karel Nepraš, Jaroslav Róna, Pavla Sceranková, Matěj Smetana, Jitka Svobodová, Aleš Veselý, Jindřich Wielgus, Hana Wichterlová

Exhibition Concept: Magdalena Juříková

Exhibition Curators: Magdalena Juříková, Jitka Hlaváčková, Jakub Král, Olga Malá

Graphic Design: Studio Anymade

Media partners: Art&Antiques, ArtMap, Artalk, Flash Art, A2, Artikl, Revolver Revue, Artyčok.tv, protisedi.cz, Radio 1, Radio Wave

Admission: 150 CZK full admission (adults) / 60 CZK reduced admission (students)
/ 20 CZK (senior citizens)

Restoration Work

As part of the new season, we would like to present to you the recently approved restoration works on the ceremonial staircase and its sculptural decoration, as well as the rebirth of the figural reliefs and perspective vistas on the chateau's enclosure wall, which were damaged beyond recognition by the last two floods. We can also boast of the reconstruction of the southern side of the monumental terrace walls which took place last year. Similar interventions take place in the grounds of the chateau constantly, and its unique atmosphere, formed by the symbiosis of the extraordinary architecture and the French garden, requires our constant attention and activity to keep it in authentic form and in excellent condition.

Bio Troja

The BIO TROJA center for culture fermentation was established in the Troja Château – a complex with large baroque gardens, which is in the immediate vicinity of the Vltava river and Botanical and Zoological Gardens. It is conceived as a space for local and international dialogues of experts and amateurs and for the local community interested in connecting the fine arts, music, natural and human sciences and ecology. Prague City Gallery created an innovative platform dedicated to collaboration with wide public as well as with various civic organizations and individuals as a stimulus for active thinking about our environment, nature and climate changes.



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 Bílek, Troja Château and František Bílek's House in Chýnov.

G PRESS RELEASE HMP

Many of our activities are designed for the outdoors, and this year we hope to be able to devote ourselves to them. In cooperation with the Institute for Planning and Development of the City of Prague, we will present the Troja basin and Vltava riverbank revitalisation project and will actively participate in the cultivation of the area adjacent to the southern gate of the Troja Chateau gardens. We are preparing dance performances in the gardens within the artist-in-residence programme, and in cooperation with the TANEC PRAHA festival, collaborating with artists on various actions, workshops, thematic walks, concerts and short-term installations for all ages.

On Sunday, June 13th, we invite you to a full-day programme as part of the Open Gardens Weekend.

For more information visit www.ghmp.cz/bio-troja

Dancing Museums

The *Dancing Museums* exhibition gives the public a glimpse of the three-year collaboration between the Tanec Praha dance festival, Tereza Ondrová, Nina Jacques, Dominik Žižka and the Prague City Gallery, who are involved in a pan-European research project of the same name.

The installation, created in collaboration with Kateřina Šedá, is a follow-up to the Prague International Workshop called *How Can We Embody the Artwork and the Art Space, and How Does It Change Our Perception?* with a new subheading *How to be together when we can't be together?* Due to the ongoing risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic, not all of the international artists and project partners were able to attend the workshop in person last June. It was necessary to find new, untested ways to present the project. Despite the difficulty of the situation, the Tanec Praha team, in collaboration with Tereza Ondrová, Nina Jacques, Dominik Žižka and partners from GHMP, successfully created an intensive six-day workshop that connected working teams from all over Europe through online and offline activities. The programme included Kateřina Šedá's workshop *Tourists, Welcome Home!* which activated participants in their own homes and challenged them to explore a familiar space in a new way. Participants turned into guides to their own homes.

Kateřina Šedá's installation recalls the time of this virtual workshop and provides space for a physical encounter between *Dancing Museums* and the public.



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 Chateau and František Bilek's House in Chýnov.

G PRESS RELEASE HMP

“The last year changed many people's view of 'normal life'. Staying at home and the radical restriction of movement has become a new phenomenon of life for a large part of the population. Restrictions on travel and the transformation of tourism have fundamentally changed our public space. Popular destinations have been depopulated. Being brought to a standstill and staying in one place has thus contributed to new familiarisation with the immediate vicinity of one's home as well as to the radical development of a new form of travel, which is clearly 'long-distance bridges'. Not only in the form of online connection but also mutual help and solidarity,” says Kateřina Šedá.

**Press contact: Michaela Vrchotová,
+420 725 818 721, vrchotova@ghmp.cz
More information: www.ghmp.cz
www.facebook.com/ghmp.cz
www.instagram.com/ghmp.cz**