

JIRÍ THÝN: SILENCE, TORSO, THE PRESENT

26 June – 3 October 2021

Prague City Gallery

House of Photography

Revoluční 5, Prague 1

Tue-Wed, Fri-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, Thu 10 am – 8 pm

Curator: Sandra Baborovská

Jiří Thýn's latest exhibition project, *Silence, Torso, the Present* at the House of Photography, follows on his earlier exhibition *Archetypes, Space, Abstraction*, held ten years ago (23 March – 15 May 2011) in Prague City Gallery's legendary former spaces on the second floor of Old Town Hall. "In *Archetypes, Space, Abstraction*, I was interested in space and abstraction within the context of the photographic medium. This interest led me to the idea of working with Cubism and Otto Gutfreund. After this, my interest in abstract art inspired me to formulate a manifesto of 'non-narrative' photography. An analytical approach to the photograph and the image in relation to the subject is still present in my work today, though in a far looser form," says Thýn in explaining the difference between his exhibitions at Prague City Gallery.

For *Silence, Torso, the Present*, Thýn has let himself be inspired by the interwar avant-garde sculptor Hana Wichterlová (1903–1990). The simple form, organicity, dynamism, and internal integrity of four of Wichterlová's sculptures – *Portrait of Vincenc Makovský* (1928), *Composition* (1929), *Bud* (1932), and *Pit* (1964) – formed the basis for Thýn's photograms and multiple exposures: "I began working with photograms at a time when I was feeling skeptical towards the inflation of photographic images. At the time, I had no desire and few reasons to take pictures. I responded by starting to rebuild my relationship to photography from the very beginning. I tried to find new possibilities of expression and began to experiment with photograms. I arrived at the technique of working with exposing the photographic paper, which essentially allows me to use light as a pencil," says Thýn.

Jiří Thýn works with photography, objects, site-specific installations, and video installations intuitively. In his own words, he tries to work with photographs as if he were painting – an approach that allows him to express himself authentically and emotionally through the brushstroke. Thýn describes his working method as follows: "Unlike, for instance, painting, in photography there are significant limits to immediacy and the chance to use gestic energy. I try to work in a way so that these will be present in the image." He also draws digitally using a computer, although he does not strive for absolute perfection. In his current work, he tries to find a way of applying his original style to photography in an entirely unmediated manner, using digital processes with an eye to random chance. *Silence, Torso, the Present* encourages us to engage in silent contemplation, to consider

G PRESS RELEASE HMP

how we perceive time not just in photography but in the entire history of sculpture. It invites us to reflect on “torsos” that, though they evoke heaviness, point to the basic shapes and principles of our existence. “Photography is fundamentally important for me, but for different reasons. What is essential is its symbolic subtext. Of fundamental importance for the creation of a photographic image is the relationship between light and time, which should be in harmony,” says Thýn in summarizing his relationship to the photographic medium.

Jiří Thýn (1977) studied photography under professor Pavel Štecha at the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design (UMPRUM) in Prague and also did an exchange at Prague’s Academy of Arts, where he studied painting with Vladimír Skrepl. He has also participated in a number of foreign scholarship programs, for instance at TAIK University’s Photography Studio in Helsinki, PROGR in Bern, and FONCA in Mexico City. Thýn frequently combines photography with installations, paintings, text, and video. In his work, he explores the medium of photography as such, its interdisciplinary possibilities, and other subjects such as space and composition. He combines traditional photographic methods with a contemporary post-conceptual approach, and also explores and investigates various photographic techniques such as the photogram. In the past, Thýn headed the Studio of Post-Conceptual Photography at FAMU, and he currently teaches at Scholastika and the Faculty of Art and Design of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. A finalist for the Jindřich Chalupecký Award in 2011 and 2012, he is represented by the hunt kastner gallery.

Sandra Baborovská

An eponymous catalogue is being published in conjunction with the exhibition with texts by Sandra Baborovská, Mariana Serranová, and Adam Mazur.

Curator: Sandra Baborovská
Graphic and Architectural Design: Anymade Studio

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

Admission: CZK 120 full price / CZK 60 reduced / CZK 20 seniors

**Media contact: Michaela Vrchotová, +420 725 818 721,
vrchotova@ghmp.cz**

**More information available at: www.ghmp.cz,
www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz
www.instagram.com/ghmp.cz**



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.

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Accompanying program

Please check our website www.ghmp.cz for updated information about accompanying program. The program may be subject to change.

Guided tours

Sun 13 July, 6 pm

Guided tour of the exhibiton with Jiří Thýn and Mariana Serranová

Thu 29 July, 6 pm

Launch ceremony of the exhibiton catalogue and guided tour of the exhibiton with Jiří Thýn and Sandra Baborovská

Thu 23 September, 6 pm

Guided tour of the exhibiton with Jiří Thýn and Sandra Baborovská

The accompanying program also focuses on dialogue with sculptor Hana Wichterlová. Debate on the topic *Limits and inspirational sources of contemporary photography* with Jiří Thýn and other guests will also take place. (only in Czech)

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Saturday art workshops

Sat 31. 7. 2021, 1–6 pm, *Visual assembly*, House of Photography

Sat 28. 8. 2021, 1–6 pm, *Multilayer collages*, Education Center Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Art workshop for adults and senior citizens

Thu 2. 9. 2021, 3–6 pm, *Assemblies and Experiments I*, Education Center Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 3. 9. 2021, 3–6 pm, *Assemblies and Experiments II*, Education Center Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Interactive tours of the exhibition for all types of schools and other age and interest groups with the possibility of subsequent artistic reaction in the form of their own work. We adapt the events in terms of time, theme and level of difficulty to the specific requirements of each school. Reservation required: edukace@ghmp.cz