

FRIDA KAHLO – HER PHOTOS

15 October 2021 – 16 January 2022

Prague City Gallery

The Stone Bell House

Staroměstské nám. 13, Prague 1

Open daily except for Monday from 10 am to 8 pm

Exhibition Curator: Pablo Ortiz Monasterio

Photos of Frida Kahlo discovered in 2003 are presented for the first time in Prague

This exhibition has been organized by Terra Esplêndida, a Portuguese agency, which has presented it at many places on both American continents and in several countries of Europe. So far the exhibition has been seen by almost a million viewers. Terra Esplêndida addressed Prague City Gallery three years ago in reference to its successful exhibition of the work of Sam Shaw in the House of Photography in 2016–2017. *Frida Kahlo – Her Photos* offers a new perspective on the turbulent life of one of the most mysterious and emblematic figures of Latin-American art. Prague City Gallery will present it from 15 October 2021 to 16 January 2022.

After Frida's death in 1954, her husband Diego Rivera donated their house, known as the Blue House, to Mexico and its people. This was the beginning of what is nowadays the Frida Kahlo Museum, one of the most popular museums in the world. Frida's personal archive, which included more than six thousand photographs, some drawings, letters, medicines and her typical clothes, was opened and processed as late as 2003. Despite the importance of photography to Frida, at the request of Diego Rivera the major part of her collection of photographs was hidden away from the public for five decades.

Pablo Ortiz Monasterio, a leading Mexican expert and historian of photography, was invited to deal with the found photographs. He subsequently organized a selected part of these photographs into six thematic sections, which now form this exhibition. It brings together 241 unpublished photographs that depict different periods in the life of Frida, her family, close friends, admirers and personalities that she herself respected.

The six sections are entitled *The Origins; The Blue House; Politics, Revolutions and Diego; Her Broken Body; Frida's Loves; and Photography*. Besides the historical and artistic value of the presented photos, some of them are also valuable because they were taken by famous photographers who were friends with Frida, such as Man Ray, Martin Munkácsi, Edward Weston, Brassai, Tina Modotti, Pierre Verger and Lola and Manuel Álvarez Bravo. All the works included in the show and many more can be found in the exhibition catalogue, *Frida Kahlo – Her Photos*, which is the result of a

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meticulous selection of the thousands of photographs. (The catalogue is currently sold out; a reprint is being prepared and will be available during the Prague exhibition in November 2021).

Photography accompanied Frida from childhood. Her grandfather and father were professional photographers, and she herself was passionately involved in photography. During her lifetime, she also gathered a significant collection of daguerreotypes and postcards from the 19th century, of photographs showing her family and friends, of powerful portraits of herself, as well as of some photographs upon which she intervened, cutting things off them and writing dedications, to emphasize her personal relationship to their content. For Frida, photography was not only a document of the events she had experienced, it represented a permanent contact with her loved ones and often served as a source material for her paintings.

It was only with the discovery of Frida Kahlo's photographic archive that it became evident that the origins of many of her charismatic works lie in photographic composition. Her self-portraits, for example, were highly inspired by the portraits her father took of himself. In an interview to CBC Radio, Pablo Ortiz Monasterio adds that the collection of photographs itself, the way it has been grouped and worked on, constructs an intimate portrait of Frida, which in many ways forms a more colorful and complete picture of her personality. Consciously or not, through an immense diversity of carefully kept photographs, the artist reveals the complex fragmentation of her own identity, known so far exclusively from a series of her more than 50 painted self-portraits, in which she openly reveals her inner self, always with pride and dignity despite all the hardships and physical suffering. The exhibition is a look behind the mirror of these self-portraits.

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Under the auspices of H. E. Leonora Rueda, Ambassador of Mexico to the Czech Republic.

Exhibition Curator: Pablo Ortiz Monasterio
Graphic Design: Anymade Studio

An exhibition by:



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Entrance Fee: CZK 150 full (adults) / CZK 60 reduced / CZK 20 senior citizens

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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 PROGRAM

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

Guided tours:

Wednesday, 10 November 2021, 6 pm

Guided tour of the exhibition in Czech with Pavel Štěpánek

Wednesday, 24 November 2021, 6 pm

Guided tour of the exhibition in English with Markéta Ježková

Wednesday, 8 December, 2021, 6 pm

Guided tour of the exhibition in Spanish with Pavel Štěpánek

Wednesday, 12. 1. 2022, 6 pm

Guided tour of the exhibition in Czech with Pavel Štěpánek

Lectures:

Tuesday, 16 November 2021, 6 pm

Frida Kahlo – Heaviness of Life and Art, lecture by Pavel Štěpánek, art historian, specialization in the art of Spain and Latin America

Selected films:

Curated selection of documentaries featuring strong female artists such as Frida Kahlo, Peggy Guggenheim, Toyen and more. Watch online on the streaming portal

DAFilms: <https://bit.ly/filmyGHMP>



Educational activities:

Saturday art workshops

Saturday, 23 October 2021, 1 – 6 pm

Mexican Masks

Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Saturday, 20 November 2021, 1 – 6 pm

Photographic Stylization I

Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Saturday, 11 December, 2021, 1 – 6 pm

The World of Frida Kahlo

Concert Hall, The Stone Bell House

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Saturday, 8 January 2022, 1 – 6 pm
Photographic Stylization II
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Art workshop for adults and senior citizens
Sunday, 17 October 2021, 3 – 6 pm
Portrait Studio Photography I
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Friday, 22 October 2021, 3 – 6 pm
Portrait Studio Photography II
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 31 October 2021, 3 – 6 pm
Portrait Studio Photography III
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thursday, 21 October 2021, 10 am – 1 pm
Photo Album I
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thursday, 21 October 2021, 3 – 6 pm
Photo Album II
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 21 November 2021, 10 am – 1 pm
Photo Album III
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 21 November 2021, 3 – 6 pm
Photo Album IV
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 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: edukace@ghmp.cz



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