

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

Frida Kahlo – Her Photos exhibition reveals the intimacy of the great Mexican artist and offers a new perspective on the turbulent life of one of the most mysterious and emblematic figures of Latin-American art. Since its first presentation in Mexico City in 2009, the exhibition has been touring around the world, reaching almost a million visitors in twenty different cities. Its next venue is Prague, where it will be presented for the first time in Prague City Gallery from October 15 2021 to January 16 2022.

Despite the importance of photography to Frida, the major part of her collection of photographs was hidden away from the public for several decades. When she died, in 1954, her husband Diego Rivera donated their house – known as the Blue House, in Mexico City – to the Mexican people, so that they could turn it into a museum about Frida's life and work. This was the beginning of what is nowadays the Frida Kahlo Museum, one of the most popular museums in the world.

Although Diego gave Frida's artworks and objects to the museum, he asked to lock a part of them away from people's curious eyes. That is the main reason why this personal archive, which included more than six thousand photographs, some drawings, letters, medicines and clothes, was closed for five long decades. A Blue House's bathroom was the chosen place to save those treasures, and therefore gained an almost mythical aura.

It was only in 2003 that the numbed archive was opened. A selected part of its photographs was transformed into this exhibition, curated by Pablo Ortiz Monasterio, a well-known Mexican photographer and historian of photography in Mexico. *Frida Kahlo – Her Photos* exhibition shows 241 unpublished photographs that represent diverse periods and people in Frida's life and which were also objects of her personal affection.

The exhibition is thematically divided into six sections – *The Origins; The Blue House; Politics, Revolutions and Diego; Her Broken Body; Frida's Loves; and*

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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 its catalogue, *Frida Kahlo – Her Photos*, which is the result of a meticulous selection of the thousands of photographs that were found in the closed bathroom.

Photography always played an important role in Frida's life. Her grandfather and father were professional photographers and she herself was passionate about this art. During her lifetime, Frida gathered a significant collection of daguerreotypes and visiting cards 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, writing dedications and personalizing them as if they were paintings. For Frida, photography was a precious relic of the past, an object to be cherished and a powerful tool for creative work. The collection reflects the intimacy of the painter and her interests during her tormented life.

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 a portrait of Frida. Consciously or not, through an immense diversity of photographs, carefully kept, cherished and intervened, the artist reveals the complex fragmentation of her own identity.

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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

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The World of Frida Kahlo
Concert Hall, The Stone Bell House

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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