

NO ART TODAY?

new works from the collections of Prague City Gallery

6 October 2021 – 30 January 2022

Prague City Gallery

Municipal Library, 2nd floor

Mariánské náměstí 1, Prague 1

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

Curators: Sandra Baborovská, Jitka Hlaváčková, Magdalena Juříková, Jakub Král and Olga Malá

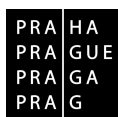
The *NO ART TODAY?* – *New Acquisitions from the Collections of Prague City Gallery* exhibition represents a selection of artworks purchased for the Prague City Gallery's collections over the last four years – that is, since 2017, when the previous group exhibition of acquisitions took place. The exhibition also includes works of art purchased by the GHMP with funds that the capital city has allocated as an extraordinary support to artists during the pandemic. On the basis of a careful study of the Prague art scene in particular, as well as with regard to the Gallery's recent exhibition projects, the GHMP management and curators have been able to enrich the gallery's collections with absolutely contemporary works as well as to fill in the "blank spaces" in art, especially that created in the second half of the 20th century.

"Thanks to the regular budget allocated by its founder, the City of Prague, for the expansion of its art collections, the GHMP, as one of the few public galleries, has been able to systematically add to the collections in its care for seven years now. Special thanks go to councillor Hana Třeštíková, who initiated the allocation of an extraordinary investment of CZK 6 000 000 for the purchase of works by living artists last year, so that we could support them in the difficult situation caused by the pandemic with direct purchases from their studios."

Magdalena Juříková, GHMP director

"Last year the capital city provided an extra CZK 10 million from its budget to support contemporary artists. The Prague City Gallery directed part of these funds to art in public space, while the larger part was used to acquire works that were beyond its financial possibilities in the past. I look forward to seeing the selection that the curators made of newly acquired works by the young generation as well as by established artists and cordially invite everyone to visit these previously unexhibited acquisitions."

Hana Třeštíková, Prague City Councillor for Culture and Tourism



Prague City Gallery is one of the most important galleries in the Czech Republic, focusing its exhibition activities mainly on modern and contemporary art. It collects, preserves and professionally processes the art collections of the City of Prague. Currently, the GHMP exhibits in seven buildings: the Stone Bell House, the Municipal Library - 2nd floor, the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, the House of Photography, Bilek's Villa, the Troja Chateau and František Bilek's House in Chýnov.

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The nature of the selected works made it possible to structure their exposition into several thematic units. Most of the presentation of the new collection will take place from 6 October, in the halls of the City Library, where a wide range of art tendencies from the 1960s to the present will be presented. The themes of abstract shape and text variations in works by František Kyncl, Jan Hampl, Milan Kozelka, Jan Šerých, Milena Dopitová, Jitka Svobodová, Lenka Vítková and others will be treated across all media and individual sub-collections. The section is dominated by monumental sculptural realisations by Jiří Příhoda and Magdalena Jetelová.

"The generous installation in the Municipal Library does not resemble an exhibition of acquisitions, it is rather an advanced probe into the contemporary art scene. In smaller units, it points to important themes addressed by the exhibiting artists which are complemented by several iconic works of 20th-century Czech art. Also worth mentioning is the inventive architectural design which links all of the artists and their specific individualities into an integral whole."

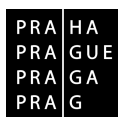
Helena Musilová, chief curator of GHMP

The route to other themes leads through a demanding series of audio-visual installations by artists such as Jiří Černický, Ján Mančuška, Mark Ther, Adéla Babanová, Martin Kohout and Roman Štětina. Also represented are some of the works that were realised and presented within the GHMP's *Start Up* exhibition programme for young artists – for example, videos by Jiří Žák, Richard Janeček, the APART group and installations by Marie Tučková. A special place in the selection of works from the field of new media is occupied by the extensive, internationally acclaimed video series by Anna Daučíková.

Another part of the exhibition is, through figurative representation, generally more socially oriented, especially on the issues of society, physicality and gender. Works by Tomáš Císařovský, Patricia Fexová and Tomáš Smetana illustrate what is going on in society, especially in the Prague art scene. Igor Korpaczewski, Jiří Petrbok, Josef Bolf, Margita Titlová-Ylovsky, Jan Merta and Josef Žáček, sculptors Dominik Lang and Anna Hulačová, for example, express their views on the position of the individual in the context of their time in the form of large-scale paintings or sculptural installations. An experimental tendency, turning, among other things, to the roots of the moving image, is represented by the works of Tomáš Svoboda and Daniel Pitín.

"The second part of the exhibition in the House of Photography presents a selection of action and conceptual art that the GHMP systematically focuses on as part of its acquisition activities. However, this exhibition is not a historical exhibition in the true sense of the word; rather, it is a kind of associative inventory of several key phenomena with which art of this type is confronted."

Jakub Král, curator of GHMP



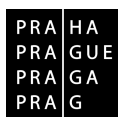
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A particular selection from the artistic material was a compact group of purely conceptual and performative works from the convolute of Czech action art, complemented by similarly focused works by artists within the Slovak neo-avant-garde. This part of the collection will be housed in the Prague House of Photography from 15 November 2021, and will present, for example, documentation of works by Petr Štembera, Jan Mlčoch, Karel Miler, Jiří Kovanda, Milan Knížák, Tomáš Ruller, Dalibor Chatrný, Vladimír Havlík and the younger Barbora Klímová, and, from Slovakia, works by Július Koller, Stano Filko, Peter Rónai, Rudolf Sikora, Jana Želibská and others.

In the House of Photography, selected works from the collections of Czechoslovak conceptual, performative and action art will be presented in a total number of five thematic blocks. Each block is delimited by one association which is composed within the blocks in a series in which the given issue progressively graduates. The Czech and Slovak scenes of the 1960s to approximately the 1980s are presented together, not separately, in the House of Photography; we do not want to differentiate the space of the former Czechoslovakia (at least in terms of acquisitions). Thus, our exhibition is mainly about the representation of several basic phenomena and themes that conceptual art in general in Eastern Europe (the neo-avant-garde, cosmism, mythology, the dissemination of art) and action art in a locally specific way (in the form of the degree of personal commitment and choice of specific themes) are dealing with thematically and formally. The exhibition is not, and cannot be, an exhaustive historical assessment of the phenomena in question and a rigorous interconnection of the artists, but within our limited possibilities, it provides associative play with the closed material of the conceptual and action art collection.

The entire curatorial team of the GHMP is involved in the selection of acquisitions for the collections, and consequently for the current selective exhibition, and thus there is not much emphasis on which member of the team takes care of what collection. In the accompanying guided tours, individual curators will therefore present overviews of works selected on the basis of their own acquisition concepts.



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Curators: Sandra Baborovská, Magdalena Juříková, Jitka Hlaváčková, Jakub Král and Olga Malá

Co-operation: Helena Musilová

Architectural treatment: Tomáš Džadoň

Graphic Design: Anymade Studio

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

Entrance fee: CZK 150 full (adults) / CZK 60 discounted (students) / CZK 20 seniors

Contact for Journalists: Michaela Vrchotová, +420 725 818 721, vrchotova@ghmp.cz

More information: www.ghmp.cz

www.facebook.com/ghmp.cz

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Please note: In connection with the development of the situation in respect of Covid-19, the calendar of accompanying events may be affected. Programme subject to change.

Variable formats combining guided tours, meetings with exhibiting artists and debates with experts from a wide spectrum of the art world:

Municipal Library, 2nd floor

Thu 7 Oct 2021, 6 pm

meeting to be led by Magdalena Juříková

Thu 21 Oct 2021, 6 pm

meeting to be led by Sandra Baborovská

Thu 4 Nov 2021, 6 pm

meeting to be led by Olga Malá

Thu 2 Dec 2021, 6 pm

meeting to be led by Jitka Hlaváčková

House of Photography

Thu 25 Nov 2021, 6 pm

meeting to be led by Jakub Král

Thu 13 Jan 2022, 6 pm

meeting to be led by Jakub Král

Thu 10 Feb 2022, 6 pm

meeting to be led by Jakub Král

Debates:

Thu 27 Jan 2022, 6 pm

Hot Topic – the acquisition policy of public art museums in the current art market environment

(Municipal Library, 2nd floor)

Thu 24 Feb 2022, 6 pm

Narration through documentation – action art from the position of the photographer

(House of Photography)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday art workshops

During educational programmes, we will get to know in more detail the *NO ART TODAY? – New Acquisitions from the Collections of Prague City Gallery* exhibition, which presents a selection of artworks purchased for the Prague City Gallery's collections between 2017 and

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2020. The exhibition represents a wide range of artistic tendencies from the 1960s to the present day. Due to the varied showcase of many styles and approaches of individual artists, we will gradually try out various techniques and methods from a number of areas ranging from traditional drawing, painting and photography to new media, spatial, conceptual and intermedia work. We will deal with themes such as memory or identity and socially oriented themes of social aspects in art such as physicality, gender, communication, ecology and the environment.

Sat 27 Nov 2021, 1–6 pm, **Structures of the Memory**, Municipal Library, 2nd floor

Sat 4 Dec 2021, 1–6 pm, **Synthesis of Worlds**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Art studio for adults and seniors

Thu 11 Nov 2021, 10 am – 6 pm, **Pigments and Colours Preparation I**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 11 Nov 2021, 3–6 pm, **Pigments and Colours Preparation II**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 18 Nov 2021, 10 am – 1 pm, **Expression and Watercolour Painting I**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 18 Nov 2021, 3–6 pm, **Expression and Watercolour Painting II**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 19 Nov 2021, 10 am – 1 pm, **Glazes and Waxes I**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 19 Nov 2021, 3–6 pm, **Glazes and Waxes II**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 2 Dec 2021, 10 am – 1 pm, **Pigments and Colours Preparation III**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 2 Dec 2021, 3–6 pm, **Pigments and Colours Preparation IV**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 3 Dec 2021, 10 am – 1 pm, **Glazes and Waxes III**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 3 Dec 2021, 3–6 pm, **Glazes and Waxes IV**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 7 Jan 2022, 10 am – 1 pm, **Still Life Painting I**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 7 Jan 2022, 3–6 pm, **Still Life Painting II**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 9 Jan 2022, 10 am – 1 pm, **Still Life Painting III**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 9 Jan 2022, 3–6 pm, **Still Life Painting IV**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Interactive workshops will respond to the selection of artworks from the collections of Prague City Gallery. The artistic work will focus primarily on the medium of painting and on various artistic processes inspired by the artists presented. During the introductory programme



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entitled *Pigments and Colours Preparation*, participants will try out the traditional process for preparing their own colours by combining powdered pigments with a binder. The actual procedure and process of making the colour shades will be an interesting creative activity and reminiscent of a craft workshop. It will be possible to use the mixed colours together for artistic work. The workshop series entitled *Expression and Watercolour Painting* will focus on watercolour from the perspective of gestural painting, liveliness and lack of restraint. The *Glazes and Waxes* series of workshops reflects the combination of different artistic processes. We will focus on a special painting technique where we will layer wax painting on paper while complementing the painting with tonal colours using watercolour painting. In a series of workshops called *Still Life Painting*, we will concentrate on painting with acrylics on different sized paper or cardboard bases. Composition will be an important topic.

Interactive tours of the exhibition for all types of schools and other age and interest groups, with the possibility of a follow-up artistic response in the form of your own artistic creation. We adapt the events in terms of time, theme and level of difficulty to the specific requirements of each school.

Contact:

edukace@ghmp.cz

For dates of workshops and a range of other educational activities aimed at other target groups, such as disadvantaged/disabled visitors or parents on parental leave with their children, please see ghmp.cz/edukace.



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