

NO ART TODAY?

new works from the collections of Prague City Gallery

16 November 2021 – 10 April 2022

Prague City Gallery

House of Photography

Revoluční 5, Prague 1

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

Curator: Jakub Král

The *NO ART TODAY? – New Acquisitions from the Collections of Prague City Gallery* exhibition presents a representative selection of artworks purchased for the Prague City Gallery's collections between 2017 and 2020.

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 and expand the collections in its care for seven years now. On the basis of a careful study of the Prague art scene in particular, as well as with regard to its recent exhibition projects, the Gallery has managed to enrich its collections with contemporary works as well as to fill in the “blank spaces” in art, especially from the second half of the 20th century. Due to the scale and nature of the new material, the acquisitions exhibition is divided into two parts – the first located in the Municipal Library and the second in the House of Photography (from 15 November 2021 to 10 April 2022).

In the House of Photography, selected works from the collections of Czechoslovak conceptual, performative and action art (or rather its documentation) is presented in five thematic blocks, associatively focusing on performances performed individually and collectively. In the next two sections, the focus is on the specific themes of nature and the private mythologies of individual artists, while in the last section, the exhibition focuses on the specific way of disseminating this type of art in the book. Each block is delimited by one association, which is composed within the blocks in a series in which the given issue progressively graduates.

In the first block, focused on individual works, a range of individual artists' strategies is revealed, from basic work with the artist's own body and the exploration of space, which is quite elementary for action art, to the liminal positions of the use of the artist's own body. In the second block, the exhibition deals with the themes of nature and the environment as a

G TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA HMP

pre-requisite for the realisation of a work of art, ranging from the simple use of nature as a mere space in which the work of art takes place, to open environmental manifestos, warnings and utopian authorial projects. The block oriented towards collective actions deals with the activation of the contemporary viewer through composed rituals – the viewer can be considered the addressee of an artistic gesture distributed by mail, and in the most radical position of this type of art, can even become an unconscious participant in the conceptual artwork. The block dealing with the private mythologies of individual artists oscillates between the themes of humanity, nostalgia, and following the legacy of historical avant-gardes and artists' self-historicisation and self-stylisation. The final theme of the exhibition is the representation of the way in which this type of art is disseminated through the artists' books, as well as the way in which canonical works of action art are updated through their re-performance under different political conditions.

The Czech and Slovak scenes from the 1960s to approximately the 1980s are presented together 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 a few basic phenomena and topics 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 the limited possibilities of our collections, it provides an associative play with our material in the conceptual and action art collection.

Jakub Král

Curator: Jakub Král

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

www.instagram.com/ghmp.cz



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.

G TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA HMP

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:

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 24 Feb 2022, 6 pm

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

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 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



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.

G TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA HMP

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

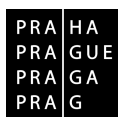
Fri 7 Jan 2022, 10 am – 1 pm, **Still Life Painting I**, Education Center in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

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 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.



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.

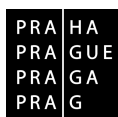
G TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA HMP

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.



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, Bílek's Villa, the Troja Chateau and František Bílek's House in Chýnov.