

HEROIN CRYSTAL

Nineties Generation in Prague City Gallery

14. 4. – 29. 8. 2022

Prague City Gallery

Stone Bell House

Staroměstské náměstí 13, Praha 1

Tue–Sun 10–20 h

Curator: Olga Malá

The enduring appeal and attractiveness of the "golden nineties", which seem to have kept the professional and wider cultural public, movers and shakers, and observers of the art scene interested to this day, is one of the reasons for creating the Heroin Crystal exhibition project. As both a participant and witness, Olga Malá initiated therefore the *Heroin Crystal* exhibition, which maps the activities of the Prague City Gallery associated with artists of the 1990s generation in the years 1994–2002.

The period the exhibition focuses on is defined at the beginning by 1994, the first year of the *Zvon '94 Biennial of Young Art* and at the end by its "institutional conclusion" in 2002, which saw the end of the long-term exhibition of artists of the 1990s generation, *Contemporary Collection – Czech Art in the '90s*, that was featured in the basement of the Golden Ring House for four years (1998–2002). At the same time, it is clear that the label "institutional conclusion" of the period needs to be understood only as a tentative term, because the Prague City Gallery's cooperation with artists of this generation has never been actually interrupted and continues in various forms to this day. Milena Dopitová's iconic installation *Sixtysomething* from 2003 (which will be also exhibited at the Stone Bell House) or the nostalgic exhibition *Restaurant Near Hospital* (Old Town Hall, 2002) by Michal Pěchouček, an artist whose work seems to be spanning between the 1990s and the next generation of the noughties, can be rather viewed as a symbolic end of the exhibition.

The title of the exhibition *Heroin Crystal* was inspired by Jiří Černický's 1999 installation and photograph of the same name, which is characterized by its striking visuality with a disturbing subtext typical of the 1990s in general.

Heroin Crystal is a project that is primarily linked to the GHMP as an institution and does not have the ambition to evaluate the 1990s; it is not a survey that comprehensively examines the events of those years. It is a collection exhibition presenting works that have been exhibited and purchased by the Prague City Gallery continuously from the 1990s to the present.

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It presents the works of fifteen artists who were participants in exhibitions we prepared in collaboration with Karel Srp between 1994 and 2002. In summary, they included three Biennials of Young Art at the Stone Bell House (1994, 1996, 1999), solo exhibitions in the experimental space on the second floor of the Old Town Hall, the long-term exhibition at the Golden Ring House (1998–2002), as well as representative exhibitions of Czech artists abroad such as *I semi del Futuro, Milano Europa* (PAC, Palazzo del Triennale, Milan 2001), *Corps et traces dans la création tchéquie 1962–2002* (Musée des beaux-arts de Nancy, 2002), 48th Venice Biennale (*Zemzoo*, Veronika Bromová, 1999) and the *Close Echoes* exhibition (Municipal Library in Prague, Kunsthalle Krems, 1998), which exhibited alongside the works by Austrian and Czech artists also the protagonists of the legendary YBAs (Young British Artists) generation who set the tone for the European art scene of the time.

The *Heroin Crystal* exhibition is symbolically returning to the “place where it all began”, the Stone Bell House, where the first year of the *Zvon '94 Biennial of Young Art* took place. Its concept is to present works of fifteen artists of the 1990s generation in an archival-based yet visually appealing way. In addition to the artworks themselves, the exhibition and catalogue also emphasize documentary materials such as invitations, catalogues and photographs from exhibitions and openings or press reviews. In the catalogue with texts by Michal Koleček, Terezie Nekvindová, Jakub Král, Miroslav Petříček and Olga Malá, a separate chapter is devoted to the “Archive”, which deals with individual exhibitions in chronological order.

The Heroin Crystal exhibition, like the memorable first biennial in 1994, is aimed at a wider public, in whose cultural consciousness the work of artists of this generation may not yet be so strongly imprinted. The exhibition is also associated with a certain educational aspect – there is already a generation of young people who have not yet had the opportunity to see with their own eyes the legendary sci-fi installation by Veronika Bromová *On the Edge of the Horizon*, as one example, as well as many other key works of the time.

In addition to iconic well-known works, the exhibition will also present lesser-known projects that can contribute to a more complete picture of the artistic trend of the time. Through them, it intends to present to the visitors in a comprehensible way the themes that have been at the forefront of the artists' interest: self-stylization and performance (K. Kintera, M. Pěchouček, *Kamera skura*), identity and women's issues (M. Dopitová), ecological and social aspects (J. Černický), reflection on media reality (Š. Šimlová, K. Vincourová), the phenomenon of the human body (V. Bromová, P. Humhal, M. Othová, M. Thelenová), science fiction (F. Díaz, P. Svárovský) and highlighting of nature and urban landscape (L. Jasanský – M. Polák) and artificial space (J. Příhoda).

Olga Malá



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.

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Curator: Olga Malá

Architect: Dominik Lang

Graphic Design: Anymade Studio

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

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

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More information: www.ghmp.cz

www.facebook.com/ghmp.cz

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Guided Tours

Wed 4 May 2022, 6 pm

with Ludvík Hlaváček and Gabriela Kotíková

Wed 8 June 2022, 6 pm

with Pavlína Morganová

Wed 22 June 2022, 6 pm

with Olga Malá

Discussion

Wed 27 May 2022, 6 pm

GHMP and Qartal Present: *Czech Music Videos of the 90s: Good for Me and Good for You*

The visuality, leitmotifs, and extremes in music videos of the first post-communist decade in our country. A screening, with commentary, of the era's pop documentaries; prepared and presented by Pavel Klusák.

Wed 1 June 2022, 6 pm

Debate with Jaroslav Spurný

The liberties and paradoxes of the 1990s as a way to find the limits in a free and just state. As I became a journalist during this best possible time, I found out that I could go anywhere, and everything I saw along the way had completely different colours than anyone could have imagined. And it stayed that way.

Jaroslav Spurný is a Czech investigative journalist, one of the founders of the weekly magazine *Respekt*.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

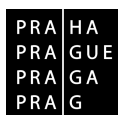
Educational Activities

Saturday Art Workshops

Sat 21 May 2022, 1–6 pm

Self-portrait, Identity and Photostylization

Stone Bell House



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Sat 25 June 2022, 1–6 pm
Attributes of the Time
Stone Bell House

Extraordinary Events
Sat 13 July 2022, 1–6 pm
Workshop as part of the Creative Week
Stone Bell House

Art Studio for Adults and Seniors
Fri 22 Apr 2022, 3–6 pm
Experimental Photographic Techniques I
Education Center
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 24 Apr 2022, 10 am –1 pm
Experimental Photographic Techniques II
Education Center
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 24 Apr 2022, 3–6 pm
Experimental Photographic Techniques III
Education Center
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 12 May 2022, 3–6 pm
Experimental Photographic Techniques IV
Education Center
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

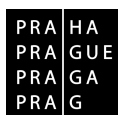
Fri 17 June 2022, 3–6 pm
Experimental Photographic Techniques V
Education Center
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Interactive tours of the exhibition for all types of schools and other age and interest groups, with the possibility of 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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