

Prague Pallas & Moravian Hellas 1902. Auguste Rodin in Prague and in Moravia

25 October 2022 – 31. January 2023

Prague City Gallery

House of Photography

Revoluční 5, Prague 1

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

Collective of authors: Hana Dvořáková, Magdalena Juříková, Helena Musilová, Vít Vlnas

In 1902, French sculptor Auguste Rodin visited Prague and Moravia. This trip, in connection to his largest exhibition abroad at the time, was important not only for the sculptor himself but also for the indelible traces he left at the place he visited. Rodin arrived in a city of which he had not the slightest idea, and whose inhabitants welcomed him with a pomp worthy of a king, but saw him above all as a great Frenchman; few understood his artistic language.

"In the year of the 120th anniversary of this memorable event, we wanted to subject the circumstances surrounding it to a deeper analysis and to free it from the pathos that dominated contemporary accounts of it. There was a lack of a more objective 'behind-the-scenes' insight until the 1992 Tribute to Rodin exhibition at the GHMP, which we wanted to expand and, having a greater distance, provide a description of this story that was as accurate as possible," says the director of the GHMP, Magdalena Juříková.

Rodin's arrival was significant for the generation of painters and especially sculptors of the time, for whom it helped to clarify the path towards a modern artistic direction, while it also foreshadowed the future orientation of the art scene towards French art. On the other hand, from what the artistic and social elite of the time considered important to show to this important visitor, we can also deduce essential information about the priorities and character of the era.

Thus, in the first half of 1902, there was a brief and purposeful connection between the political interests of the Czech national political representation and the ambitions of the young and self-confident artists associated in the Mánes association. The Prague City Hall, without whose financial and organisational support the exhibition project could not have been realised, perceived Rodin's visit above all as a welcome stimulus to the continuation of respectable events with international participation, through which Prague made itself visible both in the Habsburg Empire and abroad.

G PRESS RELEASE HMP

The exhibition and publication project is the first one ever to systematically address the "accompanying programme" that was prepared for Rodin. By studying archival sources, i.e. photographs, journals, correspondence, personal archives, etc., we try to map the expectations and results that Auguste Rodin's trip (i.e., not only the exhibition itself) brought to Prague and Moravia.

The exhibition is divided into several chapters – we briefly introduce Rodin's monographic exhibition opened on 10 May 1902 which also provided the reason for Rodin's visit. We then follow his journey through various Prague locations, his presence at all kinds of cultural events, banquets, and monuments, and then his departure for Moravia, where, after a visit to the Macocha Abyss, a quite massive folk festival took place at Hroznová Lhota. Through period photographs, magazines, and works of art, as well as a contemporary art installation, we try to provide a vivid picture of Rodin's stay and the impressions the sculptor had.

The subtext of the whole exhibition is an attempt to answer questions related to the political orientation of the key representatives of the domestic scene at the time and to the role of so-called folklore at the time; to show how folklore was presented to local (non-Moravian) and foreign visitors, and how its role was changing, or rather how it was used for the purposes of presentation of the nation. As one of the curators, Hana Dvořáková from the Ethnographic Department of the Moravian Museum, pointed out: "Fascination with manifestations of traditional folk culture was nothing new in Europe at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Life in the countryside was primitive, but it represented much-appreciated authenticity. The 'folk' environment of South Moravia, which has always had a certain charm for outsiders, became a unique springboard for such constructs. The programme of Rodin's visit to Moravia was also organised on the basis of 'experiential tourism'. The carefully prepared itinerary harked back to romantic visions of an unspoilt countryside filled with people in colourful costumes, dancing, singing, and enjoying life with abandon."

"Thanks to this exhibition, it became clear how extremely demanding the whole event was in terms of organisation and funding, and how many people were involved – all with the belief that the event would help Czech art and Czech society to become known in Europe. In fact, it is the same thing that we are still trying hard to achieve today," adds Helena Musilová.

The exhibition has been prepared in collaboration between the Prague City Gallery, Moravian Museum and the Gallery of Fine Arts in Hodonín where this exhibition will also take place in 2023. The Stará pošta z.ú. Brno publishing house publishes a book of the



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.

G PRESS RELEASE HMP

same name with texts by experts in which, in addition to Rodin's stay in Brno and elsewhere in Moravia, other issues are also analysed, such as the role of photography, the medium which makes it possible for us to visually perceive Rodin's visit today, and the reasons for the purchase of Rodin's famous sculpture *The Age of Bronze* by the Prague City Office which work of art is now one of the important exhibits of GHMP.

Hana Dvořáková, Magdalena Juříková, Helena Musilová, Vít Vlnas

Collective of authors: Hana Dvořáková, Magdalena Juříková, Helena Musilová, Vít Vlnas
Graphic Design: Anymade Studio

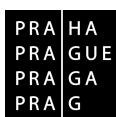
Media partners: Art&Antiques, ArtMap, Artalk, Flash Art, A2, Artiki, Revolver Revue, Artyčok.tv, protisedi.cz, Radio 1, Český rozhlas Radio Wave, Fotograf

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

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Guided tours with curators

Thu 10 November 2022, 6 p.m. Magdalena Juříková

Thu 1 December 2022, 6 p.m. Hana Dvořáková

Thu 8 December 2022, 6 p.m. Vít Vlnas

Thu 19 January 2023, 6 p.m. Helena Musilová

Janáček's Brno at the time of Rodin's visit to Moravia in the early 20th century.

Tue 15 November 2022, 6 p.m.

Lecture by Miloš Štědrón, composer, scientist and teacher.

Horňácká muzika Petra Mičky (folk band)

Thu 26 January 2023 6 p.m.

Concert hall of the Stone Bell House

Horňácká muzika Petra Mičky has been active on the Moravian folklore scene for more than 20 years. The band's style and repertoire are based on the tradition of the folk musical culture of the Horňácko microregion and its manner of playing instruments and singing builds on this tradition in the most faithful way. The concert of Mr. Mička's band will offer such a selection of musical instruments and such a list of songs that fit the period context of Rodin's visit to Slovácko.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday Art Workshops

Sat 10 December 2022, 1–6 p.m.

Auguste Rodin's Sculptures and Folk Costumes

House of Photography

Sat 7 January 2023, 1–6 p.m.

Folklore vs. Contemporary Ornament

Education Centre

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

G PRESS RELEASE HMP

Art Studio for Adults and Seniors

Thu 3 November 2022, 3–6 p.m.

Preliminary Sketch – Picture of a Hand and Portrait I

Education Centre

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 10 November 2022, 3–6 p.m.

Preliminary Sketch – Picture of a Hand and Portrait II

Education Centre

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 18 November 2022, 3–6 p.m.

Potential of Ornament, Decoration and Folk Art I

Education Centre

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thu 24 November 2022, 3–6 p.m.

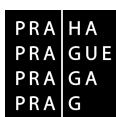
Potential of Ornament, Decoration and Folk Art II

Education Centre

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.

Reservation required: edukace@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, Bílek's Villa, the Troja Chateau and František Bílek's House in Chýnov.