

## JOHN WEHRHEIM: PARADISE LOST PHOTOGRAPHY

12 October 2022 – 8 January 2023

Prague City Gallery

The Stone Bell House

Staroměstské náměstí 13, Prague 1

Tuesday – Sunday 10 am – 8 pm

Exhibition Curators: Adam Ligas, Martin Řezníček, Magdalena Juříková

**Prague City Gallery is preparing the European premiere of the *Taylor Camp* collection of photographs at the Stone Bell House on Old Town Square. Starting on 12 October, visitors will have the opportunity to see the life in a Hawaiian community that had no laws or rules, yet was united by a desire for freedom. The exhibition will be opened by the author/photographer John Wehrheim, whose work has been exhibited in the most prestigious galleries across the United States. John Wehrheim has won two Emmy Awards for his collection of photographs and documentary film on Bhutan.**

“Diverse subcultures are an essential part of any democratic society. This important American photographer will be presented in the Czech Republic for the first time. Through its focus on the hippie movement, the exhibition also aims at raising awareness of the need to strengthen civil society,” says Martin Řezníček, one of the three exhibition curators. “The life for people at Taylor Camp represented going beyond utopia – living in harmony with nature with a sense of freedom, tolerance and sustainability, which are themes that are gaining in importance and relevance today,” adds the exhibition curator Adam Ligas.

Since its destruction by government officials in 1977, the Taylor Camp settlement on the Hawaiian island of Kauai has become a social phenomenon and, like the famous Woodstock festival, a memento of its time – the height of the hippie movement. The story of the photographs began in the turbulent year of 1969, when the demonstrations of young people on the West Coast of the USA, mainly advocating for an end to the war in Vietnam, were at their peak. Violence was escalating and the social situation was so tense that the students were offered only two options – either pick up a gun or leave.

At that time, Howard Taylor, brother of actress Elizabeth Taylor, owned seven acres of land on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. When he heard that thirteen young people had been arrested for vagrancy on the island, he decided to help them by bailing them out and offering to set up camp on his lucrative oceanfront land. Rumors of the camp later spread to the

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Mainland and people from the whole spectrum of society began to flock to it – from war veterans to families with children to young students. But they all had one thing in common – a desire for freedom. According to Wehrheim, this was what kept a good and cohesive atmosphere in the camp without any written ordinances.

“Wehrheim has chronicled an era that was launched by anti-war protests and movements seeking peace and a more socially just, racially equal society from a somewhat different perspective,” says Magdalena Juříková, Director of Prague City Gallery.

When Wehrheim first entered Taylor Camp with a camera in 1971, its residents were shy. But through his photographs he slowly built trust in his relationship with them. They began inviting him into their homes in trees, and the relaxed atmosphere allowed him to capture camp life as it really was – a slow dream without rules, in harmony with nature. However, according to Wehrheim, the romantic idealism was disrupted by problems with drugs, alcohol and sexual harassment.

As part of the photographic exhibition *Paradise Lost*, visitors can see the documentary film *The Edge of Paradise*, which focuses on the Taylor Camp phenomenon. The exhibition also includes a rich program of guided tours and lectures. John Wehrheim will open the exhibition at the Stone Bell House on October 11 together with his wife, JoAnn Yukimura, a former mayor of the Hawaiian island of Kauai. The exhibition will run through 8 January 2023. Until then, visitors can see it from 10 am to 8 pm every day except for Monday.

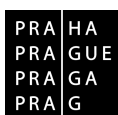
**Exhibition Curators:** Adam Ligas, Martin Řezníček, Magdalena Juříková  
**Architecture and Graphic Design:** Jan Šerých

**Media Partners:** Art&Antiques, ArtMap, Artalk, Flash Art, A2, Artikl, 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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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 PROGRAM

**13 October 2022, 5:30 pm, American Center Prague**

### **1968 – When Youth Shook the World**

The author/photographer John Wehrheim will acquaint the audience with the social situation that sparked heated clashes between law enforcement officers and young Americans in the USA, which eventually led to the creation of the Taylor Camp community in Hawaii. Wehrheim will tell this story together with his wife JoAnn Yukimura, a former mayor of the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

**14 October 2022, 6:00 pm, Municipal Library, Small Hall**

### **Screening of the documentary film *The Edge of Paradise***

*The Edge Paradise* focuses on the testimonies of the Taylor Camp residents. After the screening, there will be a discussion with the film's producer and creator of the exhibited photographs, John Wehrheim.

**26 October 2022, 6:00 pm, The Stone Bell House**

### **Guided tour with exhibition curators Adam Ligas and Martin Řezníček**

Investigative documentary filmmaker, producer and FAMU teacher Martin Řezníček will guide visitors through the political situation at the height of the hippie movement. The overall picture will be completed by producer and promoter Adam Ligas, who spent a year on the Hawaiian island of Kauai and met John Wehrheim there.

**2 November 2022, 6:00 pm, The Stone Bell House**

### **Filip Tylš: The Psychedelics Renaissance**

A lecture on the use of psychedelics in psychiatry will be given by Filip Tylš, a psychiatrist and neuroscientist who focuses on patients with neurotic and psychotic spectrum disorders, research on psychedelics and especially psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. "My journey towards psychotherapy was influenced by my experiences with various psychedelics, sweat lodges, holotropic breathwork and ayahuasca rituals in a traditional context."

**16 November 2022, 6:00 pm, The Stone Bell House**

### **Martin Valenta on the Hippies Movement**

Martin Valenta is a historian; in his research he deals with Central European history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a focus on post-war subcultures. He has published several monographs and a number of specialist studies. He is co-author, with František Stárek, of the book *The Underground Symphony of Plastic People*. He works as a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes and also teaches at Charles University.

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**24 November 2022, 6:00 pm, The Stone Bell House**

**Guided tour with exhibition curators Adam Ligas and Martin Řezníček**

Investigative documentary filmmaker, producer and FAMU teacher Martin Řezníček will guide visitors through the political situation at the height of the hippie movement. The overall picture will be completed by producer and promoter Adam Ligas, who spent a year on the Hawaiian island of Kauai and met John Wehrheim there.

**30 November 2022, 6:00 pm, The Stone Bell House**

**Prague City Gallery and Qartal present: *For Our Ears Only***

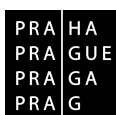
**Music of sects, cults, communities and secret societies**

An audiovisual evening by music critic Pavel Klusák expands on the theme of the exhibition *John Wehrheim – Paradise Lost* and recapitulates the musical stories of closed communities. Bands and recordings here did not have the ambition to become famous, but over time they often became part of pop culture history.

**7 December 2022, 6:00 pm, The Stone Bell House**

**Guided tour with Jana Boemer**

Jana Boemer, gallery director, curator, founder of Leica Gallery Prague, named her guided tour *America is the Best Country in the World. But Only Americans Think So*. Fifteen years ago, Jana Boemer moved to Kauai, where she continued to run her gallery and where she met John Wehrheim, among others.



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## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

### Saturday art workshops

During interactive tours and art workshops, we will take a closer look at the exhibition entitled *Paradise Lost*, which features photographs documenting the life of the hippie community on the island of Kauai, Hawaii during the 1970s. We will focus on the lifestyle and themes of the hippie movement (symbols of peace, nature, friendship, and freedom) and aspects of their life in the island paradise, where they lived in intense connection with nature and experienced their own physicality. We will create artwork using dry and oily pastels as well as natural powder pigments. We will paint and draw using our own hands, fingers and their imprints, creating symbols, natural motifs and entire landscapes and scenery inspired by the values and the way of life of the hippies as well as the island of Kauai. We will also combine drawing with material collage. During workshops in the darkroom of Prague City Gallery's Education Center, we will make enlargements from negatives of black-and-white analog film, trying our hand at classic 1970s photographic technique.

Saturday, 19 November 2022, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, *Hippie Symbolism in Drawing and Painting*, The Stone Bell House

Saturday, 3 December 2022, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, *A Paradise Captured in Classic Photography*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

### Art workshops for adults and senior citizens

Interactive workshops will respond to the hippie (Flower Children or Flower Power) movement. From the wide range of values, slogans and themes of this lifestyle, we will focus on one of them, namely the "Flower Power" concept. We will focus on flowers, which are a symbol of beauty, purity, cosmic diversity and the lack of permanence and which also remind us of a lost paradise. In the first series of workshops, *Flowers in Watercolor Painting*, we will deal with the floral theme through the transparent painting technique of watercolor on paper. During the creative process, we will focus on one's experience as a way to artistic expression and the emotional effect of color. In the second series of workshops, entitled *Textiles, Patterns and Symbols*, we will let ourselves be inspired by floral motifs as hallmarks of the hippie style in the fashion world. We will use the technique of painting on fabric using hot wax and color pigments. The final series of workshops, entitled *Waxes and Glazes*, will reflect on the combination of several artistic processes. We will use a special painting technique consisting of wax painting on paper, complemented with shades of color painted with watercolors. Of importance will be the multi-colored and multi-layered character of the resulting artwork.

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Friday, 4 November 2022, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, *Flowers in Watercolor Painting I*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 6 November 2022, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, *Flowers in Watercolor Painting II*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 6 November 2022, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, *Flowers in Watercolor Painting III*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 13 November 2022, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, *Textiles, Patterns and Symbols I*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 13 November 2022, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, *Textiles, Patterns and Symbols II*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Friday, 25 November 2022, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, *Waxes and Glazes I*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 27 November 2022, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, *Waxes and Glazes II*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

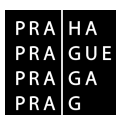
Sunday, 27 November 2022, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, *Waxes and Glazes III*, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

**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.

**Contact:**

[edukace@ghmp.cz](mailto:edukace@ghmp.cz)

For dates of workshops and other educational activities aimed at other target groups, such as disadvantaged visitors or parents on parental leave and their children, see [ghmp.cz/edukace](http://ghmp.cz/edukace).



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