

MARGITA TITLOVÁ: VERTICAL PURPLE

15 February – 14 May 2023

Prague City Gallery

The Stone Bell House

Staroměstské náměstí 13, Prague 1

Tuesday – Sunday 10 am – 8 pm

Exhibition Author-Curator: Magdalena Juříková

Prague City Gallery has prepared the first major retrospective of Margita Titlová Ylovsky (born 1957), one of the most prominent representatives of the 1980s generation. Her works, which still get us caught up in the whirlwind of energy, will be on display at the Stone Bell House on Old Town Square until mid-May.

While still a student at the Academy of Fine Arts (studies 1977–1983), Margita Titlová Ylovsky was looking for a way to find themes and expressions that would free her from the stereotypes of the instruction of the time, marked by the ideological demands of the Communist regime. She became interested in conceptual art and performance. For her research she chose to confront her own body with geometric and force fields in the open air and later also indoors (1980–1982). She was exploring what her physical presence was causing in these relationships. Through actions in which she intensely defined her shadow with an outline drawing (1984–1985), she arrived at monumental touched works on paper, in which she used lipstick (1982–1983).

“When you have experience with wearing lipstick, you’ll find that the pigment in lipstick is an impeccable, high-quality material with which touch drawings can be perfectly realized. You can add and subtract red, which implies physicality, a desire to live and be beautiful!”

Margita Titlová Ylovsky

Later, she enriched their completely abstract structure with additional colors and added signs, which, however, were not derived from any known source and came purely from her own imagination. (1984–1989). These giant drawings gradually broke out of the classical format and formed irregular shapes, layered on top of each other, which were partially being destroyed in the overflow of creative fervor and energy that became Titlová Ylovsky’s hallmark in the following years.

“When I started to work in a more expressive way, my works asked for large dimensions. It is important for me to stand against the monumental format as if it were a storm, or as if gazing at nature in the rain. The painting must be so big that I can physically enter it.”

Margita Titlová Ylovsky

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“Titlová Ylovsky often very quickly leaves behind her ‘conquered territories’, plunging into new experiments in which everything changes – from forms and genres to materials and the content. She works with installations in which she explores a wide range of themes that on the one hand have analytical starting points, but often end up referring to the transcendent, or to energies that we are able to transmit without being able to see and define them. She tries to record and interpret them using various technologies.”

Magdalena Juříková

She works with the Kirlian photography device in order to transform the objects of her interest by this electromagnetic method (*Bardots*, 1991), “rewriting” the real image on the basis of electrical coronal discharge. The aim is observation rather than a definitive work. The series then ends with an abstract recording of the hectic movement of her hand, thus capturing energy in its pure form.

“I am always interested in visualizing something hidden that we can’t see. If I find a technology that can reveal it, I’ll go for it and use it.”

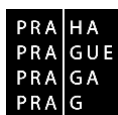
Margita Titlová Ylovsky

She uses both simple and banal means (*What the Angels Forgot*, 1995), as well as various physical principles such as magnetism or the refraction of light in an optical prism. At the same time, she has increasingly focused her attention on light, which figures as an important component in many installations as well as paintings, where the spectrum transmitted to the surface by reflection is an integral part of the image and its pictorial treatment (1997–1999).

In addition to completely abstract works, she deals with historical memory – personal, reinterpreting photographs from the family archive in various ways, or expanding this memory and directing our attention on women who have each made history in their own distinctive way (*Icons*, 2010).

She works in an unconventional way with photography, capturing the manipulated spectral reflection of light in her images, with thermal imaging, in front of which she performs and invests her own bodily energy in the image, or she draws on the wall with the help of substances of different thermal properties, recording through thermal imaging the combination of everything that happens in the scene in front of the camera (2008–2010).

At present, she seeks to synthesize all the methods, now intimately and honestly tested, and works with them with a sense of freedom and relaxation that she enjoys because of the bravura with which she has gradually mastered them for the benefit of her thematic interests.



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 venues: The Stone Bell House, the Municipal Library – 2nd floor, the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, the House of Photography, Bilek’s Villa, the Troja Château and František Bilek’s House in Chýnov.

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On the occasion of the exhibition *Margita Titlová Ylovsky: Vertical Purple*, a three-volume monograph has been published by Aparat. in collaboration with Prague City Gallery and Etcetera Art.

BIOGRAPHY

1957	Born in Prague
1977–1983	Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague
1998–2011	Head of the Graphic Art and Visual Communication Studio of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Brno University of Technology
2009	Received the title of associate professor at the Academy of Arts, Architecture & Design
2012–2013	Head of the Painting Studio at the Institute of Art and Design at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen
2013–present	Lecturing at the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem

Exhibition Author-Curator: Magdalena Juříková

Collaboration: Miroslav Jiřele

Graphic Design and Architecture: Tomáš Vrba, Aparat.

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 senior citizens

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

Guided Tours

Wednesday, 1 March 2023, 6 pm, with the exhibition curator Magdalena Juříková

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 6 pm, *1980s: Painting and Performance*, with Margita Titlová Ylovsky

Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 6 pm, with the exhibition curator Magdalena Juříková

Wednesday, 26 April 2023, 6 pm, *Invisible Energy (magnets, thermal imaging, light)*, with Margita Titlová Ylovsky

Wednesday, 10 May 2023, 6 pm, *Image: Body Objects, Wigs, Bardots*, with Margita Titlová Ylovsky

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Saturday art workshops

Saturday, 4 March 2023, 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Energy, Expression and Experiment

The Stone Bell House

Sat, 1 April 2023, 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Traces of Identity – Possibilities of Printing

workshop with Margita Titlová Ylovsky

The Stone Bell House

Saturday, 22 April 2023, 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Body, Object and Text

The Stone Bell House

Art workshops for adults and senior citizens / integration and inter-generational programs (reservation required: eva.pejchalova@ghmp.cz)

Thursday, 2 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Gestures, Imprints and Structure in Painting I

Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

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Friday, 3 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Gestures, Imprints and Structure in Painting II
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 5 March 2023, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Gestures, Imprints and Structure in Painting III
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 5 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Gestures, Imprints and Structure in Painting IV
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Interpretation of the Image I
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Friday, 17 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Interpretation of the Image II
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 19 March 2023, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Interpretation of the Image III
Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 19 March 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Interpretation of the Image IV
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

For dates of workshops and other educational activities aimed at other target groups, such as the disadvantaged and parents on maternity and/or parental leave and their children, see ghmp.cz/education.



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