

HEROES, GENIUSES, SYMBOLS AND MUSES

25 Apr – 29 Oct 2023

Prague City Gallery

Troja Château

U Trojského zámku 1, Prague 7

Open Tue–Wed, Fri–Sun 10 am–6 pm, Fri 1 – 6 pm

Curator: Magdalena Juříková

Prague City Gallery (GHMP) is once again presenting a thematic exhibition from its collections as part of the programme for Troja Château. This time it will be sketches for sculptural purposes and studies for monuments, memorials and statues in public spaces.

Our collections contain a large number of these, some of which are very close to the final product - the sculpture. Others are, at first sight, only the first step in the search for an overall expression. There are also some studies that were never implemented (i.e. no sculpture was made on the basis of them) because they were created for a monument competition, which was either won by one of the competitors, or, as often happens in our country, the patronage of those in power played its role.

The exhibition presents a number of excellent examples that led to the erection of monuments, decorative sculptures or works on random themes, inspired by feminine charms or respect for common craftsmanship, whether familiar from our parks and gardens or from the facades of important buildings. Visitors will encounter works from the years 1880-1980 along with a number of famous names such as Bohuslav Schnirch, Josef Václav Myslbek, Ladislav Jan Šaloun, Bohumil Kafka, and Josef Mařatka, as well as artists who were among the most privileged during the socialist period – Josef Malejovský, Jan Hána, and Jiří Kryštofek.

As an institution that manages more than two hundred sculptures in public space, we intend to pay increasingly intense attention to this topic in order to deepen our awareness of the history of the creation of the sculptures that surround us in public spaces. Our relatively rich archive, with its many interesting facts about important realisations, is worthy of the task. We consider this exhibition to be a small start to a broad topic that offers not only interesting information but also many analogies between the past and the present, as there have always been and will always be lively debates and controversies about statues with representative and commemorative themes.

G TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA HMP

Among the thirty exhibits there are several models of familiar works, such as St. Wenceslas by J.V. Myslbek, as well as his monument to Karel Hynek Mácha and other works of architecture. The exhibit includes the monument to Jiří of Poděbrady by Myslbek's rival Bohuslav Schnirch as well as small sketches for the monumental sculptural groups *Humanity* and *Labour* for the Hlávka Bridge by Jan Štursa.

In addition to these iconic works, there are also studies for sculptures from our parks and housing estates where the quality of the resulting works is sometimes more or less questionable. As for the studies on monuments embodying the coryphaei and statesmen of the past regime, we have deliberately avoided them this time in order not to contaminate the noble atmosphere of Troja Château too much. In such a confrontation, the artistic impotence and superficiality of the artists who were commissioned to do these works would be even more evident. The selected works are, after all, at least evidence of a mature artistic opinion and mastered sculptural craft.

Magdalena Juříková

Curator: Magdalena Juříková

Graphic Design: Studio Anymade

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

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

The exhibition programme of the Prague City Gallery is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

Contact for Journalists:

Michaela Vrchatová

+420 725 818 721

vrchatova@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.