

G TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA HMP

GROUP THERAPY
COLLECTIONS IN DIALOGUE
ART COLLECTION TELEKOM AND PRAGUE CITY GALLERY
26 April – 11 August 2024

Prague City Gallery
The Stone Bell House
Staroměstské náměstí 605/13
Tuesday – Sunday 10 am – 8 pm

Prague City Gallery's team of curators, Nathalie Hoyos, Rainald Schumacher

Prague City Gallery opens an exhibition of contemporary art featuring works by 80 artists who respond to the world's most pressing themes.

The *Group Therapy* exhibition is a dialogue and juxtaposition of artworks from the growing collections of Prague City Gallery and the Deutsche Telekom. In more than 80 works by 46 contemporary artists, it reflects current social issues such as threats to democracy; authoritarian regimes on the rise; intolerance towards minorities, foreigners and people who hold different views; apathy and indifference in the face of the climate crisis; terrorism and wars. The title of the exhibition has been taken from one exhibited work by Eva Koťátková. The exhibition also presents other Czech artists such as Lenka Glisníková and Daniel Balabán, the Bosnian artist Šejla Kamerić, the Croatian multimedia artist Igor Grubić and the Ukrainian painter Lesia Khomenko. The *Group Therapy* exhibition can be visited at the Stone Bell House on Old Town Square from 26 April to 11 August 2024.

“Looking at the individual works in the collection, it is clear that curators Nathalie Hoyos and Rainald Schumacher have been very careful to select works that, regardless of the artists' nationality, share a commitment and a need to draw attention to social problems,” says the Prague City Director and exhibition curator Magdalena Juříková. She adds that the Art Collection Telekom is particularly inspiring because it brings together a collection of works from the former Eastern Bloc countries, whose reality used to be similar. “The past three decades have made us significantly different, and this has naturally been reflected in the statements of the artists represented. A collection constructed this way may seem like a somewhat urgent appeal, but given the disturbing, explosive developments around us, it is both apt and most desirable.”

Threats to Democracy, Equal Rights and Racism

The exhibition is divided into several thematic sections. One of the rooms focuses on the fragility of democracy and the power of manipulation and authoritarian regimes. It opens with



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a painting entitled *Something Is... 2* by Daniel Balabán. It features under ten figures with their faces turned towards the sky, from which pieces of ash are falling. This painting from the collections of Prague City Gallery was created two years ago as a response to the tragic situation of the people of Ukraine after the Russian invasion. The Russian aggression is also reflected in the diary entries from February 2022 by the Ukrainian conceptual artist Alevtina Kakhidze and in carbon paper drawings by Lesia Khomenko from the 2014 Maidan uprising in Ukraine.

The different status of women in Europe is shown in portrait photographs that look like from a lifestyle magazine. Behind the big glasses, however, each woman has a story that touches on issues such as the right to abortion or the possibility of leaving an abusive relationship. The Bosnian artist Šejla Kamerić shares her personal memories embedded in private experiences and historical narratives. Her self-portraits deal with her growing up during the war in Sarajevo in the 1990s. The Croatian photographer Igor Grubić also return to the wars in Yugoslavia, capturing the miners who organized strikes against Slobodan Milošević.

Technology, Climatic Crisis and Mental Health

The speed at which technology develops and the challenges it brings about are examined by Lenka Glisníková. In her sculptures, she questions the current changes in people's ways of life that are occurring as a result of unregulated technological progress. In the same room there is also a sculpture by Anna Hulačová called *Agro-Cosmo*, depicting an astronaut growing food beyond the planet Earth. Photographs depicting the human impact on nature deal with the environment and taking care of it.

The exhibition concludes with works referring to mental health, the need to take care of oneself, but also of society as a whole. One of them is *Group Therapy* by the Czech artist Eva Kořátková, who is representing the Czech Republic at the Venice Biennale this year. Her work within the context of the whole exhibition sums up the necessity of sharing problems and pressing issues and provoking dialogue both between the works themselves and between the works and the visitors. "This exhibition is all about humanistic values, which are an inner compass for the individual, but also for society. The values that determine the way we live together, respect others and organize a democratic and open society – against all right-wing extremist tendencies and autocratic dictators. And it is the looking, evaluating and sharing of values that provides the much-needed group therapy," conclude Nathalie Hoyos and Rainald Schumacher, curators of the Deutsche Telekom's Art Collection.

"In 2010, we launched the Art Collection Telekom which focused on contemporary art from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Many of the works in this collection reflect social and political changes and important issues of our time. The Deutsche Telekom sees communication as its core business and understands itself as an enabler. With the engagement in art, the Deutsche Telekom is an important contributor to an open, discursive, and communicative culture, which is of vital importance for mutual understanding in Europe," adds Antje Hundhausen, Deutsche Telekom's Vice President Brand Experience.



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The promotion of the exhibition has been supported by T-Mobile Czech Republic. “Deutsche Telekom is presenting its art collection in Prague this year and I am delighted that in collaboration with the Prague City Gallery we have managed to put together such an impressive exhibition. We want to offer our customers access to contemporary art and engage them in a dialogue about art and values, which is why they can get free entry to the exhibition thanks to Magenta Moments,” says Maximiliano Bellassai, T-Mobile’s Chief Commercial Officer.

The *Group Therapy* exhibition at the Stone Bell House on the Old Town Square runs from 26 April to 11 August 2024.

Exhibition Curators: Nathalie Hoyos, Rainald Schumacher, Magdalena Juříková, Martin Netočný

Graphic Design: Anymade Studio

The exhibition is held under the auspices of His Excellency Andreas Künne, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Prague.

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

Media Partners: Artiki, Artmap, Art Antiques, Radio 1, FlashArt, Artalk, A2

Entrance Fee: CZK 200 full (adults) / CZK 90 reduced (students, senior citizens)

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM

Guided Tours

14 May / 28 May / 4 June 2024 – 6:00 pm

Performance: StonyTellers

14 May / 18 June 2024 – 7:00 pm

Discussion

28 May 2024 – 7:00 pm

***The Burden of Collecting* Contemporary Art**

Artist Talks

26 April 2024 – 6:30 pm

Artist Talk with Šejla Kamerić in conversation with Rainald Schumacher

Join a discussion with the renowned Bosnian artist Šejla Kamerić and one of the curators of the *Group Therapy* exhibition as well as of the art collection of the Deutsche Telekom, Rainald Schumacher.

Šejla Kamerić was born in 1976 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Based on her self-portraits in the exhibition – from the iconic *Bosnian Girl* (2003) to *30 Years After* (2006) and *Behind the Scenes* (2019) – the talk will focus as part of the *Group Therapy* exhibition project on one key element of her artistic practice: personal memories embedded in private experiences and historical narratives. Her work constructs the politics of memory, self-determined story- and history-telling as the starting point for visions of the future.

5 June 2024 – 6:00 pm

Artist Talk with Danica Dakić: *Figure and Ground*

Danica Dakić was born in Sarajevo in 1962. She lives and works in Düsseldorf, Berlin and Sarajevo. Her scope of work

extends from video and film to photography and installation. Her work is based on performative and collaborative processes exploring concepts of cultural memory, identity, language and history as well as social roles in their ongoing changes.

In her artist talk she will concentrate on the development process of *Isolla Bella* and she will also include other works from this series: *El Dorado 2007*, *First Shot 2008* and the new production *Les Vues Du Brésil*, which is expected to be completed next year (commission for the new wallpaper museum in Kassel).

8 August 2024 – 6:00 pm

Artist Talk with Igor Grubić

Igor Grubić (1969) was born in Croatia and lives and works in Zagreb. He is one of Croatia's most accomplished and internationally acclaimed artists. His work includes site-specific interventions in public spaces, photography, and film. His art is socially and politically engaged and deals with the changes of a society living in transition from state socialism to liberal democracy, from a planned economy to a free market economy.

One of Grubić's most famous performances/interactions was *Black Peristyle* in 1998. He clandestinely painted a black circle in the middle of the peristyle of Diocletian's Palace in Split, one of the major tourist attractions in Croatia. It was an homage to an action that took place 30 years ago, in 1968, where a group of artists painted the peristyle in red. As in 1968, Grubić's intervention in 1998 was classified as an act of vandalism against a historical monument by the public authorities.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Saturday art workshops

Saturday, 27 April 2024, 1:00 – 6:00 pm,
*The Search for Identity and the
Experimental Self-Portrait*, Stone Bell
House

Saturday, 4 May 2024, 1:00 – 6:00 pm,
Multiple Layers in the Image
Educational Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld
Palace

Saturday, 1 June 2024, 1:00 – 6:00 pm,
Personal Landscape
Educational Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld
Palace

The exhibited works will become a source of inspiration for the realization of educational and art programs, and through direct interaction with them and their subsequent interpretation, confrontation and discussion we will deal more specifically with their form and content. Important themes include democracy, equal rights, freedom, identity, mental health, individualism, collectivism, history, memory, future perspectives and more. In addition to traditional and non-traditional techniques, processes and methods spanning drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, conceptual and intermedia work (such as comic strip, collage, photo-collage, assemblage and many others), a wide range of experimental approaches, including the use of new technologies (digital drawing, photomontage) and audiovisual tools, will be applied in the artistic responses. The workshops are aimed at developing visual,

information and media literacy and encourage creative and critical thinking.

Art Workshops for Adults and Senior Citizens / Integration and Intergenerational Programs

Thursday, 4 July 2024, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm and 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Sunday, 7 July 2024, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm and 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Dialogues in Images

Educational Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld
Palace

Thursday, 4 July 2024, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm and 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Sunday, 21 July 2024, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm and 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Monochromatic Painting

Educational Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld
Palace

During the creative reflections we will focus on different artistic approaches, inspired by the featured artists and their works. The first series of workshops, entitled *Dialogues in Images*, will thematically focus on contemporary existential issues, the context of interpersonal relationships and their transformations. The creative work will consist of drawing and painting. The second series of art workshops entitled *Monochromatic Painting* will be devoted to the artistic expression using one color, which will become a tool for expressing emotions, individual attitudes for understanding reality and also an artistic confrontation.