

FABULIST

DAVID BÖHM – JIŘÍ FRANTA

18. 6. – 29. 9. 2024

Prague City Gallery

Dům fotografie / House of Photography

Revoluční 1006/5, 110 00 Praha 1 – Staré Město

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

Curator: Denisa Václavová

What if I see something completely different from others? What is observed and what is imagined? What is experienced and what is real? And if I interconnect all the parts, do I see the whole?

The procedural thinking and processes of creating pictures that you can see in the exhibition of the artistic duo David Böhm and Jiří Franta prepared for the House of Photography are reminiscent of the theory of the uncertainty principle by philosopher and quantum physicist Werner Heisenberg. The schizophrenic nature of the installation, seemingly replicating itself on both floors of the gallery, evokes a sense of blurred vision, double perception and a division of the viewer's perspectives. However, it also offers a range of familiar and subconscious meanings and questions.

For over twenty years, Jiří Franta and David Böhm have been exploring living processes that are directly rooted in a particular place and in themes present in it. The external connection is the principle of drawing which, however, absorbs all imaginable creative processes. It becomes painting, expands into space, reproduces and develops itself. Above all, however, its centre of gravity shifts to various forms of performative and action situations, where elements of Dada and chance mix with post-conceptual approaches.

The venue, the House of Photography of Prague City Gallery, brought the theme of recording, reproduction and the forms of their dissemination and sharing. The theme of photography which, as the theorist Geoffrey Batchen states, is nowadays not created with the aim of being printed and becoming a permanent document, but with the desire to be shared. Not as a material object but as an image – visual information – and its reflection in social space with the ability to take on the form of diverse media, styles and formats. And each of these images exists in an infinite number of versions that can exist simultaneously in many places and on different temporal planes.

In this way of thinking, the prototype of shared information became the children's encyclopaedia, *Už vím proč* (Already Know Why) (1980) by Mr. and Mrs. Škoda, with illustrations by Vojtěch Kubašta, which the artists knew very well. It is a structured list of natural phenomena and human inventions,

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the essence of which is explained in a clear and uncomplicated way. The questions raised by perusal of the encyclopedia by adults proved to be varied and mostly pressing: How to make do with encyclopedic entries in an age when the world has ceased to consist of individual phenomena, but is increasingly a network of unknowable relationships? How to access information where no two observers see the same thing in the same way? How to arrive at a consensus when each of the actors tells a different story?

The authors of the exhibition - as is their habit - do not give answers, they only state that, unlike in their childhood, today they know that they no longer want to understand everything. What is left is to accept reality without the possibility of grasping it rationally. To perceive through intuition, senses and emotions, which in the end always decide whether we agree with each other or end up in war. That is why the guiding principle in the preparation of the exhibition was creative experimentation, play and chance which bring contact with living reality and its inherent principles of indeterminacy and entropy.

The two artists, together and each in their own way, explored the possibilities and limits of painting through dynamic and often unpredictable processes in the studio interior and in the open air. For approaching nature / the original means at the same time moving away from the world of reproductions in the form of digital technologies and networks in which we are captured, stuck in a place that looks less and less like our dreams and fantasies and more and more like our psychoses.



Galerie hlavního města Prahy je jednou z nejvýznamnějších galerií v České republice, která se ve své výstavní činnosti zaměřuje zejména na moderní a současné umění. Shromažďuje, ochraňuje a odborně zpracovává umělecké sbírky hlavního města Prahy. V současné době GHMP vystavuje v sedmi objektech: v Domě U Kamenného zvonu, v Městské knihovně – 2. patro, v Colloredo-Mansfeldském paláci, v Domě fotografie, v Bílkově vile, v Zámku Troja a v Domě Františka Bílka v Chýnově.

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Curator: Denisa Václavová

Cooperation: Karla Hlaváčková

Text: Denisa Václavová, Jitka Hlaváčková

Graphic Design: Štěpán Malovec

Architecture: David Böhm a Jiří Franta

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

Media Partners: Art Antiques, ArtMap, Artalk, Flash Art, A2, Artiki, Aerokina

Admission: CZK 150 Kč full (adults) / CZK 60 reduced (pupils, students and seniors)

Contact:

Michaela Vrchotová

+420 725 818 721

vrchotova@ghmp.cz

More information:

www.ghmp.cz

www.facebook.com/ghmp.cz

www.instagram.com/ghmp.cz



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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Thu 27 Jun 2024, 6 p.m.
Guided tour of the exhibition and performance

Thu 22 Aug 2024, 6 p.m.
Launch of the exhibition newspaper

Sun 8 Sep 2024, 7 p.m.
Double concert: Aid Kid, Sifon (WWW)

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Saturday Art Workshops

Possibilities and Overlaps of Drawing and Painting

Sat 27 July 2024, 1–6 p.m.
Education Centre
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fragments of Memories in Collage

Sat 24 Aug 2024, 1–6 p.m.
House of Photography

Art workshops for adults and seniors / integration and intergenerational programmes

Drawing, Concept, and Object

Thu 11 July 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., 3–6 p.m.
Sun 14 July 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., 3–6 p.m.
Education Centre
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Artist's Book

Thu 22 Aug 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., 3–6 p.m.
Sun 25 Aug 2024, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., 3–6 p.m.
Education Centre
Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Reservation required at
eva.pejchalova@ghmp.cz

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 at edukace@ghmp.c



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