

The accompanying program to the exhibition “David Cronenberg: Evolution” will discuss the aesthetics of abomination, film cyberpunk, and the issues of art and censorship

Prague, 10 March 2016 – The exhibition “David Cronenberg: Evolution”, currently running in The Stone Bell House in Prague, closely follows in the preceding, 2014 project “Tim Burton and His World” and introduces to another visionary artist who had changed the world of cinematography on a global scale. The exhibition, conceived in multimedia and interactive form, also offers a rich accompanying program of lectures given by film theoreticians and art historians as well as art workshops for adult audience.

The accompanying program will introduce in detail to Cronenberg’s filmmaking oeuvre and will offer many new perspectives of perceiving it. Lectures given by the film theoretician Martin Jiroušek will focus on the director’s artistic evolution, the motif of body and its modifications and transformations, and the rather sensitive subject of censorship in art in the context of Cronenberg’s film exploits. It will naturally include cut-out and adapted scenes from his selected films.

The art historian Zuzana Štefková will discuss the issue of the aesthetics of abomination in film and fine arts, while the weekend art workshops headed by film experts will take the participants to the world of professional make-up, posters, animation and lighting in the world of cinematography.

The capacity of the lectures and workshops is limited. We therefore kindly ask you to book your participation in advance. The updated and complete overview of the accompanying program is provided below and on the event’s website, www.cronenberg.cz.

Guided tours of the exhibitions with the film theoretician Martin Jiroušek

Wednesday, 16 March, 4 p.m., The Stone Bell House

Wednesday, 18 May, 4 p.m., The Stone Bell House

Lectures with the film theoretician Martin Jiroušek

- 1) **Wednesday, 16 March, 6 p.m. Master Cronenberg’s Filmmaking Evolution – From a Low-Budget-Horror *Enfant Terrible* to a Respected Mediator of Philosophical Messages. The Phenomenon of the 1970s’ Low-Budget Film versus Great Literature** – subject: the development of Cronenberg’s oeuvre (low-budget film versus great literature; the early Cronenberg, full of resistance and ideas, versus the later sophisticated artist courageously plunging into the waters of literature famed for being almost impossible to film, such as the novels by William Burroughs and John Ballard).
- 2) **Wednesday, 13 April, 6 p.m. David Cronenberg’s Body Modifications, Body-Horror and Film Cyberpunk** – subject: the motif of the body (Cronenberg’s oeuvre was described from the early 1980s as “body horror”, i.e. a sub-genre based on fear caused by the deformations of a human body. It was rather apparent from the introduction of the films such as *Shivers*, *Rabid* and *The Brood* that the very modifications of body – and not just its deformations –, have

allowed Cronenberg present an original metaphor of a human society. These tendencies climaxed in *Videodrome* and *The Fly*. The symbiosis of a human body with other bio-mechanisms and/or organs is omnipresent in Cronenberg's oeuvre, leading to impressive visions in his *eXistenZ*, *Crash* and *Dead Ringers*).

- 3) **Wednesday, 18 May, 6 p.m. A History of Violence, "The Gory Baron" – Cronenberg and Censorship** – subject: art and censorship (Cronenberg's films have been part of the "controversial" category from the very beginning, causing stir not only in the public ranks but also in the cutting rooms of the censors. Guided tour of either cut out or adapted scenes – from the scandalous allegory *Shivers* to the famous hits, *Scanners* and *Videodrome*).
- 4) **Wednesday, 8 June, 6 p.m. Surrealism and Film – Cronenberg versus European, and especially Czech Filmmakers** – subject: Cronenberg's oeuvre as related to Czech and European filmmakers (e.g., some works by Jan Švankmajer and Juraj Herz).

A Lecture given by the art historian Tomáš Kolich

Wednesday, 11 May, 6 p.m. Between Humans and Insects. Various Approaches to the Metamorphosis, Presented on Kafka's Novel of Same Name and Cronenberg's *The Fly* – the lecture will compare two different artistic approaches in conceiving the transformation of a human to an insect. Kafka intentionally described his Gregor Samsa in his novella, *The Metamorphosis*, vaguely and wished that illustrators would not present him visually. Cronenberg, on the contrary, based his film *The Fly* on a rather vivid make-up and prosthetic devices capturing the transformation of the hero to an animal in sometimes almost disgusting details.

A Lecture given by the art historian Zuzana Štefková

Wednesday, 22 June, 6 p.m. The Aesthetics of Abomination in Fine Art and Film

All the above-mentioned lectures will be held in the Concert Hall of The Stone Bell House. For other professionals' lectures given on more issues from David Cronenberg's oeuvre, please check the project's website, www.cronenberg.cz.

Weekend art workshops attended by film experts – Creative Dialogues with the Arts

The weekend art workshops organized by Prague City Gallery will mainly focus on subjects oscillating between film and fine arts. Some of them represent a rather distinctive, irreplaceable and significant part of films created by David Cronenberg (make-up, visual effects). Other workshops will concern the overlaps towards animation and graphic design (the realm of film poster). The participants will indulge in a wide array of artistic methods, for example mapping and trying out the most characteristic "attributes" of the sci-fi and horror genres as well as more particular issues, such as existence, experiments, manipulation, consciousness versus unconsciousness, life versus death, and reality versus fiction.

- Saturday, 12 March, 1 p.m., subject: **David Cronenberg and His Film Make-Ups** – headed by the professional film and theater visual artist, Dana Goldová
- Prague City Gallery Center of Education, the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

- Saturday, 16 April, 1–6 p.m., subject: **David Cronenberg and the Film Poster** – headed by Prague City Gallery educators
Prague City Gallery Center of Education, the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
- Saturday, 14 May, 1–6 p.m., subject: David Cronenberg and the Animation – headed by the educators of animated films in cooperation with the Aero School
- Prague City Gallery Center of Education, the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
- Saturday, 11 June, 1–6 p.m., subject: **David Cronenberg and the Light** – headed by the professional lighting designer, Jan Dörner
- The Stone Bell House

Please book your participation in advance at: edukace@ghmp.cz.

Art workshop for adults and seniors

- Saturday, 22 May, 3–6 p.m., subject: **Film Poster**
Prague City Gallery Center of Education, the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Please book your participation in advance at: pejchalovaeva@seznam.cz

Educators' guided tours of the exhibition for secondary and high schools and universities and other groups of visitors

Secondary and high schools and universities as well as other groups of visitors can book their interactive guided tours of the exhibition at the e-mail address edukace@ghmp.cz. Please note that the exhibition is open to persons over 16 years of age only.

Complete information on the project is available on the website www.cronenberg.cz. For more details and points of interest, please turn to our Facebook and Instagram.

David Cronenberg: Evolution

When: 19 February – 17 July 2016

Where: The Stone Bell House, Old Town Square 13, Prague

Web: www.cronenberg.cz

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

About the organizers

Art Movement is a non-governmental and non-profit organization (civic association), which invites artists, curators, lecturers and culture managers to cooperate on short- and long-term projects in the fields of culture and education and on production activities in the Czech Republic, as well as on an international scale. It cooperates with both young and established artists and with experienced lecturers and educators from the Czech Republic and the European Union. Its projects mainly aim at connecting visual arts and film (e.g., exhibitions of Czech Surrealists, "Tim Burton and His World"), the civic and the interactive (the project Civic Minds) and the civic and the educational (Parallel Worlds).

TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA



Prague City Gallery is one of the most significant galleries in the Czech Republic. Its exhibition activities mainly focus on modern and contemporary art. It collects, protects and professionally elaborates art collections of the City of Prague. It presently exhibits in eight buildings: The Stone Bell House, The Golden Ring House, Municipal Library of Prague – 2nd floor, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, House of Photography, Villa Bílek, Troja Château and František Bílek's House in Chýnov.

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