

# G HMP

Vladimír Ambroz: Actions

30 January 2018 – 29 April 2018

Prague City Gallery

House of Photography

Revoluční 5, Prague 1

Open daily except for Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Thursday to 8 p.m.

Exhibition Curator: Tomáš Pospiszył

The exhibition will present Vladimír Ambroz's virtually unknown activities in the field of performance art, interventions in the public space and actions related to staged or conceptual photography. Vladimír Ambroz was born in 1952. In the late 1970s he was part of the Brno art scene, which operated outside the official institutions of the time. Ambroz's work from this period, which lasted only a few years, blurs the line between life and art, is open to conceptual tendencies and explores general civilizational themes while responding to the atmosphere of ascendant political oppression. In the milieu of Czechoslovak performance art, Ambroz's work is unique for its emphasis on the expressive power of photographic documentation. Its aim was not only to document the actions taken, but to create a picture which would carry meaning and by its look be close to the process of art photography.

Performances in Czechoslovakia are often associated with the Prague circle of artists such as Karel Miler, Petr Štembera, Jan Mlčoch and Jiří Kovanda and Pavel Büchler. In addition to these important figures there were artists living and working outside the capital city, including Vladimír Ambroz. He was in contact with Prague performers and worked with them, but his activities in Brno took place under slightly different circumstances. In Brno there was an inspiring artistic, musical and theater environment which was not completely underground. Ambroz benefited from the operation of the Young Friends of Fine Arts' club, moved in the circles of rock and folk musicians and while a student at the Faculty of Architecture, he worked as a stage hand of the legendary Theater on the String. Ambroz's closest friends included Miloslav Sonny Halas and Marian Palla, whose everyday activities could easily turn into an art project. Artistic activity for them was a way out from the depressive situation of the 1970s. At the same time, like other Czechoslovak performers, by mailing his documentary photographs Ambroz succeeded in exhibiting abroad and publishing his work in the foreign press.

1

The exhibition *Vladimír Ambroz: Actions* has been installed by the artist himself; in hindsight, it is looking for what from this creative period can be considered more general. Since almost no authentic photo enlargements of Ambroz's activities have been preserved, they are mostly presented through modern prints from original negatives. In addition to them, the exhibition includes a torso of the period exhibition, film documentation of performances and Ambroz's work *Video Habitation* of 1981 realized thirty-five years later.

Vladimír Ambroz was born on 29 June 1952 in Brno. He attended the secondary school in Mikulov (1968–1972) and the Faculty of Architecture of Brno Technical University (1972–1978) and worked as a stage hand and technician in the Theatre on a String (1974–1976). He primarily devoted his energies to action art and performance art in the years 1976–1981. From the mid-1970s he designed posters, LP covers and created stage design for the concerts of folk and rock bands. From 1978 he worked freelance for Czechoslovak Television in Brno as an architect and graphic designer. At the same time, from 1978 he was

# G HMP

employed as an exhibition architect at Brno Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, later at the company Druexpo. Until 1990 Vladimír Ambroz created exhibitions for dozens of companies and for the official presentation of Czechoslovakia at home and abroad; in total there were about 250 exhibitions of varying extent. In 1989 he founded Galerie Ambrosiana and the company A.M.O.S., which in 1995 was renamed to A.M.O.S. Design. It focuses on architecture, interior design and restoration.

Tomáš Pospiszyl  
Exhibition Curator

Exhibition Concept and Architectural Design: Vladimír Ambroz

Coordinator: Sandra Baborovská

Graphic Design: Kristina Ambrozová

English Translation and Copy Editing: Magdaléna Wells, Lawrence Wells,  
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Head of Installation and Production: Diana Brabcová

Head of Public Relations and Marketing: Michaela Vrchatová

Head of Educational Programs: Lucie Haškovcová

Exhibition Partner: A.M.O.S. Design s.r.o.

Media Partners: A2, Art+Antiques, Art for Good, ArtMap, Český rozhlas,  
Prague Events Calendar, protisedi.cz, Radio 1

2

Entrance Fee: CZK 120 full (adults) / CZK 60 reduced (students) / CZK 30 (senior citizens)

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**More Information: [www.ghmp.cz](http://www.ghmp.cz), [www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz](https://www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz)**



Prague City Gallery is one of the most important galleries in the Czech Republic, which in its exhibition activity focuses in particular on modern and contemporary art. It collects, protects and professionally processes art collections of the City of Prague. Currently, the Prague City Gallery exhibits in seven buildings: The Stone Bell House, Municipal Library - 2nd floor, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, The House of Photography, Villa Bílek, Troja Château and František Bílek's House in Chýnov.

# G HMP

## Accompanying Program to the Exhibition

### Guided tours

Thursday, 1 March 2018, 6 p.m.

with the artist Vladimír Ambroz and the exhibition curator Tomáš Pospiszył

Thursday, 26 April 2018, 6 p.m.

with the artist Vladimír Ambroz and the exhibition curator Tomáš Pospiszył

### Documentation on performance

Thursday, 5 April 2018, 6 p.m.

Discussion with Marie Kratochvílová (photographer), Pavlína Morganová (art theorist), Jan Mlčoch (photography theorist and performance artist) and Vladimír Ambroz (exhibiting artist). Moderated by Tomáš Pospiszył, exhibition curator.

### Saturday art workshops

Saturday, 17 March 2018, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.,

Reconstruction of Performances, House of Photography

Saturday, 21 April 2018, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.,

Photography as an Event and Action, House of Photography

Our artistic responses will be based on the reconstruction of performances as well as free inspiration by Vladimír Ambroz's actions, spanning a wide range from installation, staged and conceptual photography through bodyart, collective games and performances up to interventions in the public space. Their thematic starting points will include criticism of the media and their manipulation with people, identity versus anonymity, freedom and its limits (psychological and physical), crossing borders and barriers, limitation versus freedom, breaking convention, communication and relativity of time. Impulses given by Ambroz's realized or even unrealized actions (on the level of concept) will become a source of inspiration for other workshops either by their form or content (working with newspapers, magazines, posters, the use of masks, balloons, transparencies, paper swallows, etc.). For example, we will delineate a space in the gallery by a white paper tape evoking road markings, and we will physically communicate with it. Following the example of Ambroz's interventions in the period press, we will try to encrypt brief information, news and announcements in a newspaper text. Like the artist, we will document our actions through photos. Visitors can also design a concept of their own actions or even carry them out.

Friday, 6 April 2018, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.,

Graphic Scores and Perforations I, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 8 April 2018, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.,

Graphic Scores and Perforations II, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Friday, 20 April 2018, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.,

Tools for Self-Reflection I, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 22 April 2018, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.,

Tools for Self-Reflection II, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

ne 22. 4. 2018, 15:00 – 18:00, Nástroje sebereflexe II. Edukační centrum

v Colloredo-Mansfeldském paláci

# G HMP

The impulses for art workshops will be based on Vladimír Ambroz's artistic activity and will be selected from his extensive archive of documentation of realized events. In the first part of interactive workshops we will focus on his graphic scores, typographic compositions and perforations. Particular emphasis will be put on the role of text and photograph, on accompanying drawing techniques or the view through perforated material. In the second part of interactive workshops, our artistic responses will focus on the invisible barrier between the observed object and the camera. This barrier will be demonstrated by participants using layers of paint on the glass surface, covering their faces. Thereafter, these reflections will be recorded using the camera.

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.

In addition to the above-mentioned events, there will be other educational activities for other groups of visitors, such as the disadvantaged and parents on maternity and/or parental leave and their children.

Price: Children under 10, students of art schools, teachers – CZK 5;  
children over 10 years CZK 20

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