

MIROSLAVA VEČEŘOVÁ, PAVEL PŘÍKASKÝ: ANTIDOTE

27 April – 24 June 2018

Prague City Gallery / Start Up

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, ground floor

Karlova 2, Prague 1

Open daily except Monday from 10am to 6pm

Curator: Jitka Hlaváčková

As part of its Start Up series of exhibitions for young artists, Prague City Gallery presents the artistic duo of Miroslava Večeřová and Pavel Příkaský, whose collaborative efforts have evolved alongside their individual work in a separate series of joint exhibition projects. These projects form a chain of records of their mutual dialogue on the practical problems of visual thinking that seeks to overcome the limits of artistic media. The products of this collaborative work are characterized by a changing form that includes painting as well as performative and text-based art. The final form of their installation results from a combination of two different creative approaches – photography, sculpture, and performance art for Miroslava Večeřová, and painting and installations for Pavel Příkaský.

At the same time, both artists explore theoretical questions related to the contemporary artist's potential to act as a therapist for pathological states of society. The subject of their "artistic study" is the urgent sense of anxiety caused by today's rapidly changing socio-cultural situation and the confusing physiological changes to our perception and thinking, which are barely capable of maintaining a clear distinction between the material and immaterial, real and virtual, physical and imaginary. Their presuppositions are based indirectly on the latest biotechnological research, which understands matter as energy and as information about the constantly changing constellations of interrelationships within the organic systems (tissues) of all living and non-living entities.

In *Antidote*, the authors work on the level of artistic metaphor, applying the methods of modern medicine in their "artistic diagnosis" and the subsequent "therapy." The exhibition's main video includes sounds and footage of a magnetic resonance machine. It all takes place at the National Institute of Mental Health, whose employees were exceptionally welcoming of the unexpected artistic intervention into the institute's operations. The central method of the artists' "artistic therapy" is an original choreography consisting of references to specific types of physical exercises, in particular manipulative therapy, which is based on imitating the movement of animals. In the interest of limiting the damaging effects of technological influences on human or other species and on our current environment in general, the artists applied antiseptic pigments onto the performers' bodies and on the gallery walls. Besides crystal violet, which they used in early works as well, the artists also make use of Prussian blue – a chemical mixture used as an antidote for poisoning by thallium, a highly toxic heavy metal used in new technologies such as mobile telephones.

Miroslava Večeřová (*1985) is a graduate of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague and University of the Arts London. She currently lives in London.

Pavel Příkaský (*1985) is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts. He works in Prague.

Jitka Hlaváčková

Curator: Jitka Hlaváčková
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