

MARKÉTA HLINOVSKÁ: FUR IN THE CITY

29 June – 7 October 2018

Prague City Gallery

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, 3rd floor

Karlova 2, Prague 1

Open daily except Monday from 10 am to 6 pm

Exhibition curator: Olga Malá

Markéta Hlinovská had her first major solo exhibition in Prague City Gallery in 2010 as a fresh graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in the Golden Ring House within the framework of the Start Up series intended for young artists. At that time she created the installation *Getting Warmer* dealing with the theme of shelters and hiding places presented through her animal surveys. This year's exhibition by Hlinovská in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace entitled *Fur in the City* partially follows up on it, but it is a much more extensive and thematically multi-layered spatial project of a mature artist.

Hlinovská continues to focus on a rather realistic representation of animals. Together with the linear, mostly monochromatic concept it is one of the most distinct features of her art (the favorite motifs of her iconographic repertoire include a cat, flamingo, kangaroo, bear, monkey and rabbit). In Hlinovská's works, animals are actors, agents and drivers of action. There are no human figures; man is present implicitly through fragments of the 'artificial' world created by him (for example, dwellings from the watercolor series *Oh Canada*, 2018). The artist finds unexpected parallels and relationships between the world of living nature represented by animals and the man-made artificial world.

Hlinovská's thematically structured exhibition in the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace consists of several interesting series. In addition to the spatial installation of paper rolls *Birch Forest* (2017) and the series of animal portraits *Plush* (2017), it features a set of graffiti, prints and objects entitled *Nests and Traps* (2011–2012) that capture involuntary prisoners trapped in the waste and cast-off products of our civilization (*Woodpecker in Silo*) as well as animals using these objects for nesting and breeding. The series *From Nowhere to Nowhere* (2017) contains existentially disturbing scenes with lonely animals, oddly coupled pairs and strange fantastic events against the winter backdrop (*Meeting, Death, Trampoline*).

The overall site-specific character of the exhibition has been emphasized by architectural backdrops (balustrades, columns and portals) sprayed on the wall throughout the whole exhibition, referring to the perspective of a Baroque theater with a proscenium stage. A pair of monkeys sit on the balustrades or flank a portal frame in the role of stage doorkeepers, while flamingos have made their nest in the capitals of an ancient fluted column.

The Baroque past of the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace is reflected in the set of drawings *Piano Nobile* (2018) depicting animals such as kangaroo, deer, ostrich, monkey or tiger placed in an unlikely but consistently stylized environment of golden décor in architecture. Just like other animals, a buffalo posing under the classic Baroque chandelier becomes not only the chief actor, but also the bearer of human emotions. Human sentiment is projected into animal existence. At the same time, Hlinovská symbolically places her animal protagonists in the theater, a place that has always dealt exclusively with human beings – the actors as the main bearer of the theatrical expression.

The exhibition's name *Fur in the City* was inspired by an eponymous book by Michal Děd. It serves as a symbolic metaphor of the main theme of the exhibition, which is both confrontation and intertwining of the world of civilization and nature.

Olga Malá

Curator: Olga Malá

Graphic Design: Tomáš Trnobranský

Media partners: A2, Art&Antiques, Art for Good, ArtMap, Český rozhlas, Literární noviny, protisedi.cz, Radio 1

Admission: CZK 60 adults / CZK 30 students / CZK 30 seniors

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Accompanying program

Launch of the catalogue of Markéta Hlinovská and a guided tour of the exhibition with the artist.

Thu 30 August 2018, 6 pm

Curator-guided tour of the exhibition with Olga Malá.

Wed 19 September 2018, 6 pm

Saturday art workshops

Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sat 7 July 2018, 1 – 6 pm, Mimicry

Sat 4 August 2018, 1 – 6 pm, Traces and Patterns

During the art workshops, we will deal with the coexistence of the world of nature and the world of human civilization. Following the artist's example, our inspiration will become the animal, as a possible substitute for the original natural aspect of man, which is forced to adapt itself quickly to the changes of its habitat. We will create a series of small-scale pictures by means of watercolor painting and ink drawing. Formal, color and structural associations will serve as a starting point for us. We will explore the limits of animal camouflage that protects the animal in the landscape, but loses its functionality in the industrial urban environment where it no longer blends very well with it. At the same time, in the curves of the animal body we will look for similarities with architecture, structures, machines and objects that shape the urban space. We will also focus on man's inner need to use plant and animal motifs in order to decorate public spaces, apartments, functional art and everyday items. We will create experimental images combining biomorphic

and geometric elements. We will complement technical drawings of interiors using patterns inspired by the animal's characteristic features, body curves in motion, fur patterns and traces of animal footprints.

The Saturday workshops are intended for children, families with children and other interested parties of all ages, including the elderly and disadvantaged. The arrival and departure is optional – i.e., whenever within the scheduled time.

Art workshops for adults and senior citizens

Fri 21 September 2018, 3 – 6 pm, The Animal World as a Dialogue of Color Stains I

Sun 23 September 2018, 3 – 6 pm, The Animal World as a Dialogue of Color Stains II

Interactive workshops will be devoted to Markéta Hlinovská's painting and the merging of human civilization, symbols of nature and the animal sphere. In particular, we will focus on the world of animals and their shapes and deal with them in the form of painterly gestures, stains, small fragments or various details in the painted image. We will work with imagination and make up new stories and fantasy associations. In the creative process we will use ink and watercolor painting and concentrate on the changing strokes of the brush. Within these workshops we will also deal with abstract stylization and play with colors and forms.

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.

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

Reservation required

E-mail: edukace@ghmp.cz

Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
Karlova 2, Praha 1