



Richard Deacon: Free Assembly

13 April 2017 – 17 September 2017

Prague City Gallery

Municipal Library of Prague, 2nd floor

Mariánské Square 1, Prague 1

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

Exhibition Curator: Julian Heynen

Richard Deacon (born 1949, Bangor, Wales, UK) is one of the most outstanding sculptors working today. Since the mid-1970s his work in a variety of materials has developed in a way which could be described as summing up and combining very different approaches to sculpture in the 20th century without ever being a mere collage of styles. On the contrary he addresses fundamental issues relating to sculpture in a post-traditional epoch ranging from form and meaning, shape and language, open and closed spaces, to the individual and the social. Beyond any preconceived style and through its various manifestations his work can be recognized as what one critic early on described as “Deaconian”. Among other characteristics this includes the obvious made-ness of the sculptures and the amount of physical labour that went into their execution. Deacon has always been fascinated by the interplay between the literal and the figurative, the material and the metaphorical qualities of a work. He has called himself a fabricator. By this he not only points to the fact that he collaborates deeply with various technicians on the making of his works. To fabricate also means to make something up, to invent a story. Thus he emphasizes the productive ambiguity that is an important concern for him as an artist.

Richard Deacon – Free Assembly is his first solo presentation in the Czech Republic. Therefore it is intended as an introduction to his many-faceted practice covering a period of thirty years. The 60 works show the variety of materials and media Deacon uses from differently treated wood to steel and aluminium, from synthetic materials to ceramics, from found objects to drawings. In tune with the different gallery spaces the scale of the works varies considerably, thus highlighting an important aspect of the sculptor’s practice.

Between 1969 and 1978 Richard Deacon studied at Saint Martin’s School of Art, the Royal College of Art, and art history at the Chelsea School of Art, all in London. He has been lecturing at various art schools in the United Kingdom and abroad. He was professor at L’École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris and at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf.

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.

Deacon's first one-man show was held in 1978 in London. This led to a string of solo exhibitions, both nationally and internationally, notably at The Riverside Studios, Tate Gallery, Whitechapel Art Gallery (all London), Tate Gallery Liverpool and Tate St. Yves. Deacon has participated in many key group exhibitions throughout the world including documenta 12 at Kassel. More recently a major retrospective was shown at Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain in Strasbourg and the Sprengel Museum in Hannover (2011). Tate Britain has mounted a major survey in 2014. A retrospective of his drawings and prints was shown at Museum Folkwang in Essen (2016). Since the 1990s Deacon has worked on a number of large-scale commissions worldwide. He has received many prizes including the Turner Prize. He lives and works in London.

Julian Heynen

Exhibition Curator: Julian Heynen

Exhibition coordinator: Magdalena Juříková

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Acknowledgements:

Courtesy of the artist and Lisson Gallery
Colección "la Caixa". Arte Contemporáneo

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Venue: Municipal Library of Prague, 2nd floor

Term: 13 April 2017 – 17 September 2017

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

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

Contact Person for Journalists: Michaela Vrchotová, 725 818 721, vrchotova@ghmp.cz

More Information: www.ghmp.cz, www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMS

Artist-guided tour with Richard Deacon and Julian Heynen, exhibition curator:

Thu 13 April 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Interpreted from English to Czech

Curator-guided tour with Magdalena Juříková:

Thu 18 May 2017 at 6:00 p.m. (admission free within the International Museum Day)

Thu 15 June 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday art workshops

Sat 17 June 2017, 1 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Confrontation with Space**, Municipal Library

Sat 15 July 2017, 1 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Search for Metaphors and Symbols**, Municipal Library

Sat 9 September 2017, 1 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Drawing with Light**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Our artistic responses will follow the form and content of the artist's work. We will paraphrase works by Richard Deacon using a variety of methods, techniques and non-traditional materials. We will create not only our own large-scale objects, but also small sculptural models which will be juxtaposed with the monumental scale of the exhibited sculptures. We will also focus on giving metaphorical names to the objects created by us. We will develop the simple forms of a circle, ellipse and arc. Using a pencil, string and a nail we will make geometric or organic drawings consisting of a continuous line, which could serve as a design for sculptural structures. In collaboration with the Institute of Lighting Design we will organize a workshop which will involve redrawing of the artist's drawings by light. The smooth curves of his objects will be thus transferred to the dynamic form of luminography.

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.

Sunday art workshops for adults and senior citizens

Sun 4 June 2017, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **The Construction of an Object in a Drawing I**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 11. 6. 2017, 3:00 p.m. –6:00 p.m. **The Construction of an Object in a Drawing II**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

At the art workshops, we will design and sketch an object by means of drawing. We will try pen drawing as an art technique, the immediate and direct reflection of the artist's approach to the subject matter. We will observe the discipline of drawing from the point of view of its properties, such as in particular the rhythm interpreted by line – its undulation, repetition, interruption, alternation, harmony and disharmony.

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Reservation required

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

Contact Person: Lucie Haškovcová, lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz, 606 612 987, 608 216 418

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.

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