



## **New Acquisitions from the Collections of Prague City Gallery**

**8 December 2017 – 29 April 2018**

**Prague City Gallery**

**Municipal Library of Prague, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Curators: Magdalena Juříková and the team of Prague City Gallery curators**

After a long break, Prague City Gallery presents new works it has acquired over the last five years. At first, thanks to some savings from our regular operation, we bought several works that were part of the long-term exhibition *After the Velvet Revolution* at the Golden Ring House. The concept of that exhibition consisted of a number of works on loan from artists who were promised that their works would be purchased over the course of time. Unfortunately, for many years this had not been possible due to a lack of funds. In 2013, when we managed to stabilize our budget so that we were able to make at least a few important purchases from this body of works, we decided to proceed in this way in the years to come. However, it appeared that it would be a rather tedious and lengthy process which would depend entirely on our economic results.

The situation changed radically in 2014, when our founder allocated direct investment funds to us for the purchase of works which should gradually “model” our rather comprehensive (but very randomly formed) collection. The first attempts to found a metropolitan gallery were made in the 1880s when, in addition to occasional purchases, the city of Prague was given donations by artists who sought to establish a Prague city gallery. The hesitant approach to the founding of this institution resulted in a further inorganic concentration of works regardless of their actual quality or artistic contribution. Later, following the establishment of a counseling body in charge of acquisitions, the purchases were influenced by the dictatorship of the acting members of that board. The situation did not change after the formal founding of the Prague City Gallery in 1963, when experts within the institution only sometimes succeeded in breaking up the influx of works devotedly celebrating the political regime of the time and its “achievements”.

A certain turnaround did not come until the 1980s, when Prague City Gallery organized a number of significant exhibitions providing an expert evaluation of the exhibiting artists and their oeuvres. Thanks to these exceptional projects, Prague City Gallery acquired many

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works from artists' estates and studios which formed the basis for our further efforts. It has to be borne in mind that state, regional or municipal galleries could not take part in the emerging art market during the 1990s and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century because they did not have any funds for purchases, and so they totally missed the wave of restitutions that brought an incredible number of excellent works to the market, especially from the interwar period, which went mostly to private collections. Institutions such as Prague City Gallery own very few examples of this important period, so they have had to resign themselves to an effort to bridge these gaps in their collections and set new goals in their acquisition programs. In our case, it has been logical to focus primarily on the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Although the availability of the 1960s works is running out, there is still a chance to represent this key period in a dignified manner, thanks to the generosity of the members of that generation.

Our exhibition program attends largely to Neo-Constructivism, Geometry and Minimalism and the diverse trends that continue to develop these schools. This is the main source of today's acquisitions which, together with Conceptual and Post-Conceptual works, represent the other pillars of our collection that may be presented in the future as a permanent exhibition. Another significant source of new works are the exhibitions within the *Start Up* series, which for many years has been mapping beginning artists on the Czech scene. However, we are not entirely dependent on our own financing because the artists themselves are very supportive and often donate some of their exhibited works to us. Corporate support is on the rise, too, and this deserves great attention and respect because in our country such benefactors represent rare specimens of corporate social responsibility.

One of our most recent donors was Jan Koblasa (5 October 1932 – 3 October 2017), to whom I would like to dedicate this exhibition.

Magdalena Juříková  
Prague City Gallery Director

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**The exhibition is held under the auspices of Adriana Krnáčová, Mayor of Prague, and Jan Wolf, Prague City councilor for culture, heritage preservation, exhibition organization and tourism**

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**Venue:** Municipal Library of Prague, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Term:** 8 December 2017 – 29 April 2018

**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)

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## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMS

### **Saturday art workshops**

Sat 27 January 2018, 1 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Visual Language in Space**, Municipal Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Sat 3 March 2018, 1 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Structures of Memory**, Municipal Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Sat 7 April 2018, 1 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **A Synthesis of Worlds**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

In view of the fact that the exhibition features many artists with their individual styles and approaches, we will try out various techniques and methods from various fields – from classical drawing, painting and photography through new media to spatial, conceptual and intermedia art. We will deal with topics such as memory, identity, society, communication and mythology of a place and landscape. Individual works from the collections of Prague City Gallery, offering a wide range of expressive forms such as paintings, objects, installations and video collages, will provide inspiration for further artistic reflection. We will deal with the phenomenon of space. The works by Ivan Kafka and Hugo Demartini will become an example of a sensitive artistic intervention at a chosen location. Memory fragments recorded through computer collages, sets of photographs and video installations will prompt the participants to explore their own memories and experiences and express themselves by means of collages, combined with the means of expression of line, color and lettering. The works by Jakub Nepraš and Adam Vačkář will open up a creative field where technical manifestations of civilization will merge with organic elements of nature. The combination of products of nature and artificial materials will result in small-scale objects and one-dimensional works. The sets of artistic etudes will relate to the works by Květa Pacovská, Zdeněk Sýkora, Milan Grygar and other artists presented by this exhibition project.

### **Sunday art workshops for adults and senior citizens**

Fri 19 January 2018, 3 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Abstraction and Composition I**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 21 January 2018, 3 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Abstraction and Composition II**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Fri 16 February 2018, 3 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Experimental Diptych I**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sun 18 January 2018, 3 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Experimental Diptych II**, Education Center, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Interactive workshops will focus on creative work reflecting a wide range of artist's approaches and art techniques which gave rise to the exhibited works. During the work, we will explore the overall effect of the composition and compare the possibilities of abstraction and specific expressions. Significant aspects of our work will consist of color, form and line. We will also deal with diptych as a work functioning in two equally important parts

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constituting a visual whole. We will produce creative work by means of painting, drawing and art experiments using mixed media.

**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.

Reservation required.

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

**Contact Person:** Lucie Haškovcová, [lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz](mailto:lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz), 606 612 987, 608 216 418

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