

**MEDIUM: FIGURE**

**14 July – 8 October 2017**

**Prague City Gallery**

**Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

**Karlova Street 189/2, Prague 1**

**Free entry**

**Curated by: Sandra Baborovská**

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The exhibition loosely continues with the Prague City Gallery's successful project *Unsettled Figure. Expression in Czech Sculpture 1880–1914*, which was acknowledged as "The Group Exhibition of the Year 2016".

**Medium: Figure** is the curator's selection of works by contemporary Czech and Slovak artists pursuing the subject of figure. The exhibition, however, is not limited to classical sculptural concept as the previous undertaking. Instead, it focuses on figure; a medium to which artists can relate themselves via various historical as well as personal references – from Greek canonical representation as the main point of departure to working with video, film and photography and finally, to installation and emptying corporeality.

The exhibition opens with a "dream about a sculpture" by Pavla Sceranková, a sculptor who based her work on a design originally created by her father, the academic sculptor Peter Sceranka. It is a non-existent *Forbidden Statue* (2011), an unrealized monument to paratroopers. An inconspicuous slide displays the artist captured in her childhood, perched on her father's shoulders.

Artists act in the role of figurants in the videos screened in the first, darkened hall. It is Jiří Kovanda, Ján Mančuška, Pavla Sceranková and Eva Koťátková, the latter being represented by schoolchildren. The exhibition then gradually continues to more brightly lit halls, evolving from the work by Roman Štětina, who returns to the canonical Greek sculpture *Doryphoros*, to Radek Brousil and his gesture and the impact of the energy of a hand on amorphous forms and, finally, to the presentation by Martin Kohout who is discovering the third space of photography.

The iconic Greek hero, *Charioteer* (2017), is the subject of Anna Hulačová's work, in which the artist fuses the contemporary morphology of digital print and "classical" sculptural processes. The hero Siri – the Apple-interface intelligent personal assistant of unclear gender – attracted the attention of Marie Tučková, a graduate from the Department of Photography at the Prague School of Arts, Architecture and Design. Tučková's work is a candid testimony of the youngest generation about the present-day relations in the virtual world of internet (*You Are Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places*, 2017). An earlier graduate from the same department, Jiří Thýn, is the author of the staged and somewhat disturbing, "faceless" photographs from the cycle *Best Before* (2003–2004) and the

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lightbox entitled *In Search of a Monument* (2016), which was exhibited at Manifesta 11. Lightbox as an object can also be found in the installation by Ján Mančuška, *Body of Progress* (2009), a work purchased two years ago by Prague City Gallery for its collections. It is a modernist reference to the medium of film, presenting human hand set into motion on the individual film frames.

A poetic duo of the photographers Johana Pošová and Barbora Fastrová plunge to the innermost of human heart in their *Searching for the Heart of Gold* (2017). Jan Boháč, the graduate from the studio of sculpture headed by Dominik Lang and Edith Jeřábková, reinstalled the *Lady's and Men's Counters* (2014) for the exhibition and situated a planar figure onto a showcase side that runs in parallel with the passageway below the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace. In this hall, Dominik Lang's *Girl with a Pigeon* (2015) is already falling asleep. The real end of the exhibition, however, is a glass of water, inscribed *The Amount of Water I'm Able to Hold in My Mouth without It Vanishing* (2006) – a symbolical “message” from Ján Mančuška, accompanied by the photograph *Silly Dreams Came from the Stomach* (2017) by Valentýna Janů, the youngest artist closing the exhibition “Medium: Figure”. The exhibition graduates to a brightened finale.

The sculptor and also the architect of the exhibition, Dominik Lang, is presented by his *Girls with a Pigeon* (2015), who are “helping” with the installation works – sticking the captions, hanging a photograph on the wall... The little girls make the gallery traffic present and at the same time develop their own story. Their form was borrowed from Lang's father, the sculptor Jiří Lang (1927–1996), who had left the sculpture of the same name, dating to mid-1950s, abandoned in his studio.

Not just “little girls”, but also “a little boy” and his mother wander through the performance by a globally-renowned artist Roman Ondak, entitled *Teaching to Walk* (2002). The woman enters the gallery in order to teach his one-year old son to walk. The performance repeats every day and lasts for 30 minutes.

The exhibition runs simultaneously with various performances by young artists (Viktor Dedek, Roman Štětina, Marie Tučková, Barbora Fastrová + Johana Pošová), held in the framework of the accompanying programs.

Sandra Baborovská

*“The exhibition ‘Medium: Figure’ is a unique opportunity to become familiar with the works of contemporary Czech and Slovak artists whose artistic expressions do not only reflect ‘classical’ sculptural concept but also employ an entire spectrum of modern approaches, which gives international format to the project,” said the councilor of the City of Prague, Jan Wolf.*

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**14 July – 8 October 2017**

**Exhibition curator:** Sandra Baborovská  
**Architectural design:** Dominik Lang a Dívka s holubem  
**Graphic design:** Jakub Samek, Martin Groch  
**Installation and production, head of:** Diana Brabcová  
**PR and marketing, head of:** Michaela Vrchotová  
**Accompanying programs:** Zuzana Pištěková  
**Educational programs, head of:** Lucie Haškovcová  
**Translation:** Lucie Vidmar  
**Copy editing:** Renata Tomanová

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**Media partners:**

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Radio 1

**Place:** Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, Karlova Street 189/2, Prague 1

**Duration:** 14 July – 8 October 2017

**Opening hours:** Tue–Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Admission:** free

**Contact for journalists:** Michaela Vrchotová, +420 725 818 721, [vrchotova@ghmp.cz](mailto:vrchotova@ghmp.cz)

**For more information, please turn to:** [www.ghmp.cz](http://www.ghmp.cz), [www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz](http://www.facebook.com/GHMP.cz)

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## ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

### **Guided tours of the exhibition:**

Guided tours of the exhibition with the exhibition curator Sandra Baborovská and artist Dominik Lang:

16 August 2017, 6 p.m.

19 September 2017, 6 p.m.

5 October 2017, 6 p.m.

### **Special programs:**

Viktor Dedek: "Lady in the Lake", performance

13 July 2017, 7 p.m.

27 July, 10 August, 24 August, 7 September, 21 September, 5 October 2017, 4–6 p.m.

Roman Štětina: recitation of Homer's *Iliad* in Ancient Greek

13 July 2017, 7 p.m., performed by Sylva Fischerová

16 August 2017, 6 p.m., performed by Jakub Žytek

Barbora Fastrová & Johana Pošová: "Heartcore Concert", performance

13 July 2017, 7 p.m.

7 September 2017, 6–8 p.m.

5 October 2017, 6–8 p.m.

Marie Tučková, "I Am Sad Today", performance - concert

19 September 2017, 7 p.m.

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## **Saturday art workshops**

Saturday, 23 September 2017, 1–6 p.m. **Spatial Art Crossovers**,

Centre of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Saturday, 7 October 2017, 1–6 p.m. **Interpreting Corporeality**,

Centre of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

The art workshops will focus on exploring, from various angles, the potential of spatial artwork and the possibilities of its crossovers towards other media – new media, drawing, painting, intermedia, action and conceptual work, as well as other fields of art – literature, film, and theater. The workshops will be based on testing the transformations of media – we will try to express some spatial realizations by, for example, motion, expressive gestures or compositions created by using the participants' own body (the so-called "living statue"), to capture them in the form of either drawing or painting, and interpret their content by writing an experimental text. We will also employ the medium of video. In a similar way, we will work with other "non-spatial" artifacts. Drawing and collage will serve us to grasp the subject of corporeality and human figure, and we will be transforming classical sculptures and incorporate them into the context of our present time.

## **Art studios for adults and seniors**

Sunday, 17 September 2017, 3–6 p.m. **Self-Portrait and Drawing I**,

Centre of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Sunday, 1 October 2017, 3–6 p.m. **Self-Portrait and Drawing II**,

Centre of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

The art studios will be predominantly about drawing self-portraits. Our point of departure will be exploring oneself on the levels of form and content. The interactive workshop will focus on the medium of drawing as a cognition tool and a direct reflection of an observed object. Emphasis will intentionally be laid on drawing which mainly in the past represented the crucial stage preceding the realization of sculptures and other spatial objects. The workshop participants will also be introduced to the basics of studying realistic portrait.

**Interactive views of the exhibition for all school types as well as other groups of age and interest** including the opportunity of a subsequent artistic response in the form of the participants' unique artwork. The time, subject and demandingness are always tailored to the requirements of the particular school.

Booking required

Price: children to 10 years, art students, pedagogues – CZK 5; children over 10 years – CZK 20

**Contact:** Lucie Haškovcová, [lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz](mailto:lucie.haskovcova@ghmp.cz), +420 606 612 987, 608 216 418

The above-mentioned events will also be accompanied by other educational activities focusing on additional focus groups, such as handicapped visitors and parents with children on parental leave.

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