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The reconstruction and restoration of the Villa Müller, 1997–2000

Date: 29. 3. 2017 – 28. 5. 2017

Place: Study and Documentation Centre
Norbertov



With respect to the value of the Villa Müller, enhanced by the original architectural concept of the spatial layout – ‘raumplan’ – and the original furnishing which survived in the interior, this exhibition is designed to once again commemorate the unique reconstruction and restoration of this primary work of the architect Adolf Loos. Originally, the exhibition was prepared for the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago in 2006 where it achieved great success and appreciation from the professional public. Even after ten years, it has not lost any of its documentation value and topicality; rather the opposite, as it became an archival source documenting the presentation style of the reconstruction process of that time. The exhibition which takes place in the Study and Documentation Centre Norbertov displays photographs from the restoration period, comparing photographs of the interior before and after reconstruction as well as samples of used materials.

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Printing Plates for Journeyman Certificates from the Collection of the Prague City Museum

Date: 15. 3. 2017 – 4. 6. 2017

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building



As part of the exhibition Prague Vedute of the 18th Century, we present a unique collection of copper plates used for the printing of journeyman certificates of the Prague guilds of the second half of the 18th and early 19th centuries. The plates are displayed in a special showcase at the first-floor landing of the Prague City Museum at Florenc. The plate originals featuring overall views of Prague are to be displayed along with prints produced in cooperation with Grafické dílny AVU (Graphic Workshops of the Academy of Fine Arts) in Prague.

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Prague Vedute of the 18th Century

Date: 15. 3. 2017 – 4. 6. 2017

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



The curators of the Prague City Museum and the Prague City Archives have been preparing the exhibition Prague Vedute of the 18th Century for several years. The exhibition presents 18th century prints of Prague which are deposited in Czech institutions. The unique array of originals from the fundamental collections of the Prague City Museum presents the changes of the city and situate the vedute phenomenon in a historical context.

During the 18th century, Prague witnessed significant historical events, coronations, sieges, military occupations, and natural disasters which determine both the character and the content of the vedute on display which are thus rather varied. Presenting nearly 200 of prints, the exhibition is designed both as a tour of Prague and as a witness of events.

The prints are not only historical sources but also works of art. Therefore, visitors can also admire the artistic dimension of the vedute on display.

Along with the exhibition, a Czech-English publication is released which becomes a basic compendium of the Prague graphics of the 18th century for both institutions and the public.

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Oldřich Nový – A Life between Film and Theatre

Date: 20. 3. 2017 – 30. 6. 2017

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building, Exterior exhibition in front of The
Main Building



The exhibition seeks to introduce one of the greatest and most talented actors to have appeared in our lands.

Oldřich Nový (7 August 1899 – 15 March 1983) not only was a cabaret, dramatic, operetta, and film actor, but he also translated and adapted theatre plays, wrote texts for songs, was a director, entrepreneur, and owner of Nové divadlo (New Theatre) in Prague. Visitors to the exhibition learn about his finest film and theatre roles. Moreover, his achievements as a director and composer are also presented.

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Lithuanian Film Posters

Date: 29. 6. 2017 – 24. 8. 2017

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



The exhibition will present the most interesting Lithuanian film posters from the collections of the Lithuanian Theater, Music, and Film Museum in Vilnius. There will be 43 posters on display covering the period between 1953 and 2010. The posters have been designed by the prominent Lithuanian poster designers (affichistes); after the 1960s, mostly the graduates of the Vilnius Academy of Arts. Regardless of censorship the posters are distinguished by a specific artistic expression – an allegorical meaning that remarkably broadens the understanding of films.

The earliest poster dates back to 1953, to a semi-propaganda film *Aušra prie Nemuno* which depicts hard living conditions in Lithuania after World War II. The world-renowned painter and graphic artist, Vytautas Valius (1930–2004), is one of the most famous artists engaged in producing film posters. His poster for the film *Jausmai* of 1966 bears comparison with the most stringent criteria applied to graphic art in Europe at that time.

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Rothmayerova vila 2014–2016. Fotografie: Martin Polák

Date: 8. 6. 2017 – 1. 10. 2017

Place: Study and Documentation Centre

Norbertov



The two photographers Martin Polák (1966) and Lukáš Jasanský (1965) are significant artists in the field of art photography. No matter how much their works are characterised by mostly conceptual attitude, the new exhibition in the Norbertov Study and Documentation Centre presents documentary photographs of the villa interiors and exteriors which were taken in compliance with a carefully prepared plan that seeks to present the typical qualities of the villa including its unique atmosphere.

Martin Polák began to cooperate with the Prague City Museum in 2005 when he started to systematically take pictures of Villa Müller and its garden. After the villa of the architect Otto Rothmayer was passed to the museum's administration in 2014, Martin Polák assumed the task to document this modern architecture landmark as well. Several series of photographs were taken before the end of 2016, capturing the transformation of the residential house into a museum. The exhibition, which opens on 8 June 2017, will present a selection of these photographs.

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OBJECT OF THE SEASON

Burial Mound of Libeň

Date: 27. 6. 2017 – 1. 10. 2017

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building



Minidisplays

Object of the Season

The next exhibition from the series Object of the Season.

In 1890, a grave with a skeleton was uncovered in front of the new synagogue in Libeň (the place of discovery is marked in the historical map of Prague). The skeleton was lying in the supine position with arms along the body and head oriented towards the east. A ceramic jug was found on the skeleton's chest with two bronze pins placed parallel to the jug across the body.

Břetislav Jelínek, a romantic historian, collector, and then director of the Museum of the Royal City of Prague (today Prague City Museum), rescued the findings from the grave and handed them over to the museum. He revived the appearance of the grave himself in a watercolour with multiple archaeological findings from the environs of old Balabenka.

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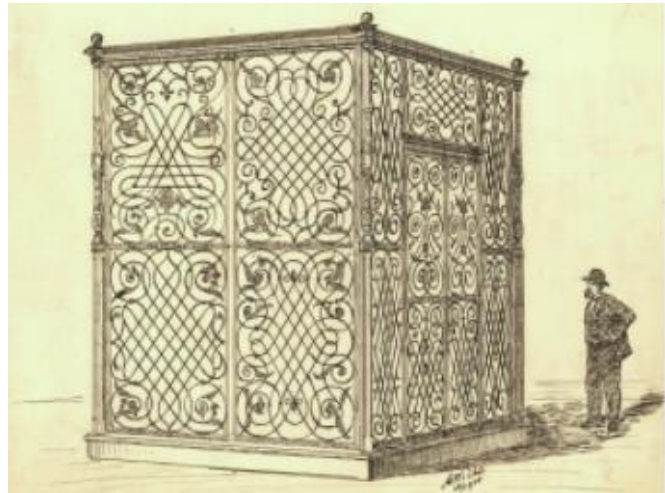
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Art Forged in Iron / Blacksmith's and Locksmith's Art in the Collections of the Prague City Museum

Date: 14. 5. 2017 – 29. 10. 2017

Place: Ctěnice Chateau



The exhibition in Ctěnice Chateau is comprised of two parts. The first one is dedicated to locksmithery. Visitor will learn about the history of lock mechanisms, types of locks and ironwork, their differences and tricks how to differentiate them.

The second part of the exhibition presents more numerous blacksmithery works, the earliest originating in the Baroque Era. The oldest lattice on display has survived in several smaller parts. It was commissioned by the Spanish emissary to the court of Rudolf II, Guillén de San Clemente, for the tombstone of St Ivan in Svatý Jan pod Skalou in 1600. One of the most remarkable lattice collections in Prague is a window lattice from St George's Basilica of the Benedictine Nuns which was produced between 1731 and 1732 at the incentive of Abbess Terezie Aloisie Widmannová. The fragment of a lattice chapel, which enshrined the body of St Norbert between 1628 and 1811 in the Strahov Monastery church, is the largest and most valuable exhibit. Objects associated with the last things of a human – forged baroque tombstone lattices – represent smaller blacksmith works. The basket from the Horse Market (today Wenceslas Square) public lighting is a curiosity; it was previously recorded in the museum inventory books as a basket to display decapitated heads.

The collection of locks and ironwork of the Prague City Museum originated shortly after the museum's foundation and today comprises some 1,350 pieces. Many of these iron gems were rescued in the last minute. The museum acquired them thanks to architects, engineers and Prague building councillors who were aware of their value, evidencing the bygone everyday life of Prague boroughs. The collection was further expanded by purchased private collections.

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First Scream, First Cry... from the neighbourly assistance to the institutionalised midwifery in Prague and its vicinity

Date: 26. 4. 2017 – 29. 10. 2017

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



The exhibition brings focus to the history of attendance at birth, from individual care to the foundation of medical delivery institutions in Prague. The greatest accent is put on the period between the 2nd half of the 18th and the 1st half of the 19th centuries because it was a period of cardinal changes in the attitude for providing help to women while giving birth. This was connected with the changes in the education of midwives as well as with the emergence of specialised physicians – obstetricians.

The real midwife Ludmila K. (1780–1860), a mother of eleven children who studied a midwifery course at the Prague university during the winter semester of 1824/1825, guides visitors through the exhibition. She was a student of Antonín Jan Jungmann, a founder of modern obstetrics. Later, Ludmila practised her profession at Tachlovice Manor which partly encompassed the area of today's Prague; however, back then it was situated beyond the walls of Prague.

The exhibition presents a manifold evidence of midwifery and obstetrics professions, from various tools of midwives, teaching tools and medical instruments to documents, illustrations, and objects directly related to childbirths, women in labour, and their children.

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Vladimír Boudník

Date: 28. 6. 2017 – 19. 11. 2017

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building



The exhibition is an overview of graphic artwork of one of the most original Czech artists of the second half of the 20th century. Boudník's early works, influenced by his war experience, an art movement referred to as 'explosionism' which he founded, active and structural graphic art which he also invented, his monotypes and photographic experiments are presented. Boudník's art manifestos along with typed samizdats published by him in a special edition in the 1950s, and other rather rarely displayed documents add to his works of art.

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Winter Fun

Date: 8. 11. 2017 – 7. 1. 2018

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building, Lecture Hall



The Winter Fun exhibition is based on texts and illustrations in the book *Vánoce z celého světa* (Christmas in the World) by Karolina Medková which is illustrated by Mária Nerádová. The book has been created primarily for young children (5–11 years).

This exhibition is part of the festival of the Czech and Slovak production for children which is organized by BONA FIDE Association and Piešťany City Library under the auspices of Daniel Hermann, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, Marek Maďarič, Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, and Peter Weiss, Ambassador of Slovakia in the Czech Republic.

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The Great War in the Life of Prague Citizens - outdoor exhibition

Date: 25. 10. 2017 – 11. 1. 2018

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



Context:

The exhibition is a part of the World War I jubilee.

An outdoor exhibition presents the life of Prague inhabitants during the Great War. Historic photo documentation and selected prints from the collections of the Prague City Museum provide a sense for visitors about the events on the far side of the battlefield as well as the last years of the gradual downfall of the Austro–Hungarian Empire.

Twelve panels adumbrate life in the hinterland either in connection with mobilisation, healthcare, and coordinated assistance to war victims, or with the adverse consequences of a supply crisis.

Chronologically, the exhibition covers the period from the declaration of war by Austria-Hungary against Serbia at the end of July 1914 to manifestations in the centre of Prague during a general strike on 14 October 1918.

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OBJECT OF THE SEASON

Feel Free to Grab a Směr Toy

Date: 10. 10. 2017 – 14. 1. 2018

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



Minidisplays

Object of the Season

The installation for the Object of the Season series is this time dedicated to the Czech tradition of toy production.

The above-stated tagline which sticks in the minds of many generations of Czechoslovakian children is indivisibly connected with the name of the Směr Praha Cooperative Society. It was the leading Czech producer of toys and plastic products prior to 1989 which has defended its prominent position in the market to this day.

Over time, the best-selling products of Směr undoubtedly include the iconic board games such as Kloboučku hop (Jumping Cones), Blechy (Fleas), and Loyd's '15' as well as the 'Roloped' push bike. Furthermore, the plastic water toys such as the little duck, frog, and fish and the musical toy 'Kazoo' have been selling until now. Plastic models of all kinds of means of transportation are very popular among modellers.

Visitors will have a chance to view most of these iconic objects in the display case.

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Prague at Christmastime / Tradition and Handicrafts from Advent to Candlemas

Date: 26. 11. 2017 – 4. 2. 2018

Place: Ctěnice Chateau



Along with Easter and Pentecost, Christmas is the most important feast of the Christian liturgical year. The tradition of present-day Christmas celebrations dates back to the mid-19th century, although some customs go back to the Middle Ages and many are reminders of pre-Christian times. Over time, Christmas has developed into the most beautiful and most favoured family feast.

The Prague City Museum presents Christmas traditions and celebrations in Prague during the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries through museum artefacts. Historical paintings and photographs as well as memories of multiple contemporaries, including the specific morning Mass in honour of the Virgin Mary – Rorate coeli, depict the atmosphere of the city and its families during the pre- and post-Christmas time, Saint Nicholas Feast, Three Kings' Day, New Year's Eve and various winter pastimes. The traditional Prague Christmas markets are introduced; not only did people enjoy the Christmas atmosphere but also could buy nativity scenes, sweets, devil and Saint Nicholas figures, gifts, and other goods.

An interior of a Christmas decorated parlour of a late 19th century family of Prague burghers dominates the exhibition, showing Christmas celebrations in the family circle including the custom of tree decorating and presents. The richness of the burgher milieu is further enhanced in the Christmas Eve playroom where children can play with the toys which Prague children received for Christmas during the last century. A deliciously smelling burgher kitchen will add to the learning about Christmas; it will present a Christmas menu as well as the art of baking in public programmes – baking of Christmas, New Year's, and Shrovetide cookies and pastry.

Public Saturday programmes will give an opportunity for visitors to learn about and try out the crafts associated with Christmastime from time immemorial.

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Vila Tugendhat 1928–2013

Date: 12. 10. 2017 – 4. 2. 2018

Place: Study and Documentation Centre
Norbertov



The exhibition entitled '*Villa Tugendhat 1928–2013*' has been prepared by the Villa Tugendhat Study and Documentation Centre of the Brno City Museum as a travelling presentation depicting the history of the villa from its construction, extensive restoration, and finally its successful present. Similar to the Villa Müller in Prague, the Villa Tugendhat regularly welcomes thousands of visitors who, on professionally guided tours, can experience the unique atmosphere of this residence, its exceptional architectonic composition of interiors and exteriors, and the beauty of the adjoining garden.

Thanks to longstanding cooperation grounded in the exchange of experience and information as well as mutual publicity efforts, the Villa Müller in Prague and the Villa Tugendhat in Brno have together created a solid platform for the presentation of these monuments of modern architecture not only within the Czech context but equally upon the worldwide level.

The exhibition, which is now on display in the gallery of the Study and Documentation Centre Norbertov, was created in 2012 and is composed of 14 specific thematic areas discussing the history of the villa at various points in time. The information panels are supplemented by large-format photographs revealing to the viewers the atmosphere of the Villa Tugendhat through details of the custom-designed furniture, building materials and iconic structural parts of the building, such as the chrome-plating of the column in the interior or the view through the ribbon window into the villa's garden. Also included in the exhibition is a model of the building in 1:50 scale. Since 2012, the exhibition has been on public display in over 25 international locations.

Author of the profile photo: David Židlický

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From a Thread to a Shirt / Textile and Fashion of Prague Residents in the Middle Ages

Date: 17. 5. 2017 – 18. 2. 2018

Place: House at the Golden Ring



Textile and its products were important parts of the everyday life of medieval Prague. Archaeological textile findings are important sources of understanding the appearance, quality, and use of textile products in the past.

The exhibition will introduce medieval textile and dyeing crafts during the 14th and 15th centuries. The process of textile origin as well as various production processes will be explained, and the equipment of weaving and dyeing workshops will be presented. In addition, various types of textiles, their practical use for everyday life, and the historic fashion of the inhabitants of the New Town of Prague in the High Middle Ages will be presented. A unique collection of a few hundred medieval textile fragments discovered during archaeological research of the dump layers in the centre of Prague is the core of the exhibition.

In addition to the textiles, expert analytical research and restoration processes will be introduced. Furthermore, visitors will be able to admire the original archaeological findings, ethnographic materials, models of production facilities, and documentary films about working procedures. Tangible parts and chances to try out some textile production processes will be prepared for visitors.

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Czech Film Posters 1931–1948

Date: 13. 12. 2017 – 22. 3. 2018

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



The exhibition will present a comprehensive selection of film posters from the rich collection of the Prague City Museum. Visitors will be introduced to a unique poster form – a noodle, which became widespread with the emergence of sound films in the early 1930s. These posters which prevailed in public areas are easily recognisable.

The composition of multiple pictures or figures complemented with large coloured spots is typical of the noodle format. Because of their graphic art elements, these historic film posters have never been fully accepted by film professionals; their magic and naivety have been discovered only recently. The criticism of the poster as historic kitsch does not take into account the fact that it is an advertising product with the goal to attract viewers to come see the film.

The exhibition focuses on the period from 1931 to 1948, i.e. the beginning of sound films and the end of the complete nationalisation of Czechoslovak cinematography in 1948.

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