

# 2014 Cena Jindřicha Chalupeckého

## press

Press Release, 18/3 2014

### 25th Jindřich Chalupecký Award Announces Five Finalists



The seven-member international jury has selected five finalists of the 25th edition of Jindřich Chalupecký Award, Czech Republic's most prestigious award for visual artists. The jubilee edition has seen the greatest number of applications in the award's history, with the jury choosing among 83 artists. The five finalists deal with conceptual art, photography, video and installation. Until the award presentation in November 2014, the artists will be introducing their works; on November 20, 2014, one of them will receive

**the very first material Jindřich Chalupický Award to be made by one of the leading Czech design studios and artists.**

A nearly completely new international jury has met on the occasion of the jubilee 25th edition of Jindřich Chalupický Award. Presided by Holly Block, renowned curator and director of the Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York, the jury further includes art historian Milena Bartlová, visual artist Jiří Kovanda, art theorist and director of the Slovak National Gallery Alexandra Kusá, director of the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo Gunnar B. Kvaran from Iceland, and Marina Shcherbenko, curator and specialist adviser of Bottega Gallery and Shcherbenko Art Centre in Kyiv.

The five finalists of 2014, including **Martin Kohout, Richard Loskot, Lucia Sceranková, Roman Štětina and Tereza Velíková**, will introduce themselves to the public at their common exhibition 2014 Final, to be held from September 26, 2014 to January 4, 2015 at the Veletržní Palace of the National Gallery in Prague. In the course of the year, the finalists will individually present their works in Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Karlovy Vary and Pilsen during the traditional related event 555. The award ceremony of the 25th Jindřich Chalupický Award will be held on November 20, 2014 in Studio Hrdinů at the Veletržní Palace in Prague. The ceremony will be directed by renowned theatre director Jan Nebeský, who has been working at the Činoherní klub and the National Theatre in Prague and who is currently a director at Studio Hrdinů. *“As a novelty, this year’s edition introduces a competition for the design of the first object to be presented to the winner of the 25th Jindřich Chalupický Award,”* says Lenka Lindaurová, curator and head of the Jindřich Chalupický Society. *“Designer Jakub Berdych, the guarantor of the competition, has addressed renowned artists to design the award. We will soon receive designs by Eva Eisler, Maxim Velčovský and the Olgoj Chorchoj, Deform and Dechem studios,”* says Lindaurová.

It is not only due to the record-breaking number of applications that selecting the finalists was not easy for the jury. *“The artistic quality is not an exact value; it always depends on professional outlook of the experts, and in this case even on their consensus. This made the demonstrative quality of the assembled portfolios an important factor in the choice of the jurors. The final five selected present another look at the contemporary Czech scene. It is not only the reflection of its ordinary functioning - it brings a benefit of looking from outside. The five finalists were selected not only so they could resonate in the context of domestic scene, but also in order to measure up to the international assessment,”* says Holly Block, head of the jury of Jindřich Chalupický Award.

*“Selecting this year’s finalists was really difficult for the completely new jury. Most of the applicants rank among renowned and already successful artists who are extremely hard to compare. One could say that the five selected artists, although working in different media (photography, video, sound, new technologies and social projects), share similar themes telling of the current state of the society. The artists challenge the very possibility of communicating the message of the visual image further, expressing the ungraspability of communication, comprehension and relativity of human perception. They employ illusion, mystification, cause and effect, the role of chance and invisibility. They teach the viewers to be open to a number of contradictory perceptions and primarily to be tolerant to others,”* says Lenka Lindaurová.

Besides the new material award, the winner of the 25th Jindřich Chalupický Award will receive 100.000 CZK for organizing an exhibition or realizing a project. The new award holder will also receive a six-week scholarship in New York and a residence with the possibility of an exhibition in one of the galleries of the Czech Centres. The Respekt Award of the readers of Respekt magazine will also be presented during the award ceremony.

In 2014, too, the Jindřich Chalupický Society, organizer of Jindřich Chalupický Award, puts a great emphasis on related events. Their traditional pillar, the 555 project, will introduce the works of the individual finalists in five cities from April to September. This year’s cities include Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Karlovy Vary and Pilsen; there, the artists will present their works both in the public space and at screenings and discussions at selected arthouse cinemas. The related events further include the prestigious competition of secondary schools and grammar schools called “Do you have a knack for art?”, the final of which will be held in May 2014 in the Veletržní Palace in Prague. *“Our goal is to bring quality contemporary art to the general public in the course of the year. We feel that a prestigious art award with a long and significant history, as represented by the Jindřich Chalupický Award, should assume the role of a promoter, speaker and defender of art. That is why we are preparing several surprises beyond the traditional*

*framework of related events this year,”* says organizer of the related events and member of Jindřich Chalupecký Society Ondřej Horák.

For more information on this year's finalists, the main programme and related events, please go to [www.cjch.cz/en](http://www.cjch.cz/en).

## **Finalists of Jindřich Chalupecký Award 2014**

**Martin Kohout** is an artist based in Berlin. He has studied cinematography at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU) and at the Berlin University of the Arts. His multimedia works react to various life situations, the incomprehensibility of the present world and the inability of the individual to get oriented in it. Kohout's main theme is the medium of the internet and self-reflection within global communication which brings contradictory experience; both attachment and aggression, self-confidence and helplessness. Kohout, however, keeps an ironic distance from his themes, and even from himself. In the past, he has participated in the Youtube Play biennial, where his video was chosen by the jury among the 25 best ones out of 23 000 works, and was later exhibited at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

**Richard Loskot** has graduated from the Technical University of Liberec and has already been in the final of the Jindřich Chalupecký Award in 2012. Loskot deals with new technologies, experimenting with them and creating completely innovative systems exploring the limits of human perception. The latter is linked to strong emotions; by means of a complex manipulation, the artist brings us to the question of to what degree we are sure of what we can see, hear and feel. Creating a false notion of time and space and getting completely lost can be so easy. The artist creates whole sets of interactive devices, shifting sounds, moves and images in a domino-like way in a cycle that flows towards the final output which seems like a mere chance. One could say that Loskot deals with the exploration of the invisible (and indescribable) and mediates these to the viewers.

**Lucia Sceranková** has studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, however, she deals exclusively with photography in its traditional form. She lives and works in Prague and London. Sceranková is interested in the relation of the photographic image to reality, the ability of our visual reflection of reality and the possibilities of influencing one by means of the other. She photographs concrete sceneries and interior situations, manually transforming reality so as to create a sense of illusion or fiction. Thus it is not clear what one can see in these images-prints and whether the photograph has been computer-edited or not.

**Roman Štětina** has studied at the Faculty of Art and Design of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen and at the Academy of Visual Arts in Prague. He is one of the few Czech artists to deal with sound, which only seems to correlate with art in a mediated way at first glance. However, that is the point of his works; human imagination depends on the accord of all senses which may be hard to separate. In his cleverly constructed installations (composed of videos, objects and sounds), the artist shows how our sensory experience can confuse the impression of what we really see.

**Tereza Velíková** graduated from the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design and from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. Together with Tereza Severová and Barbora Zachovalová, she runs the independent Entrance Gallery. She deals exclusively with video, exploring the themes of intimate communication in personal relationships with her closest environment. In her video projections of multiple installation layers, she, too, challenges the possibilities of understanding. Her figures talk to each other, however, each in a different video. They speak about their feelings and privacy, seem to react to each other, however, they give an impression of loneliness. Sound and image are not always synchronized so that the viewers can follow the illusory story of the impossibility of communicating essential things to the other. Her legendary video installations include six slowly moving images of a leg in a black stocking, moving in space in unusual situations and expressing immense loneliness as a silent puppet.

## **THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FINALISTS AND THEIR WORKS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT:**

<http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindrucha-chalupeckeho-2014/martin-kohout/>

[http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindrucha-chalupeckeho-2014/richard-loskot\\_2/](http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindrucha-chalupeckeho-2014/richard-loskot_2/)

# press

[http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindricha-chalupeckeho-2014/lucia-scerankova\\_2/](http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindricha-chalupeckeho-2014/lucia-scerankova_2/)

<http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindricha-chalupeckeho-2014/roman-stetina/>

[http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindricha-chalupeckeho-2014/tereza-velikova\\_2/](http://www.amic.cz/tiskove-stredisko/fotoarchiv/finaliste-ceny-jindricha-chalupeckeho-2014/tereza-velikova_2/)

## **International Jury:**

Holly Block, curator and director of The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, USA  
Head of the Jury

Milena Bartlová, art historian, Czech Republic

Jiří Kovanda, artist, Czech Republic

Alexandra Kusá, art theorist and director of the Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia

Gunnar B. Kvaran, director of The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway

Pavína Morganová, art theorist and curator, Czech Republic

Marina Shcherbenko, curator and specialist adviser in Bottega Gallery and Shcherbenko Art Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine

## **General Partner: J&T Bank**

“A famous quote by Jindřich Chalupecký says that art must be defended all the time. To me that is a great truth and I believe that it is twice as true in the present society. For twenty five years, Jindřich Chalupecký Award has been the voice of the most talented young artists with a great potential and I am happy that we can participate in such a significant project as its long-term partner.”

**Štěpán Ašer,**

**General Director of J&T Bank**

## **Partners:**

National Gallery in Prague, Czech Centres, Trust for Mutual Understanding, Foundation for Civil Society, Prague Public Transport Company, Přítomnost, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Prague City Hall, Fair Art

## **Media Partners:**

Respekt, Czech Radio, Art & Antiques, Artmap

## **CONTACT:**

PR, press service:

**AMI Communications**, Týn 641/4, Prague 1, Šimon Slavík, e-mail: [simon.slavik@amic.cz](mailto:simon.slavik@amic.cz), Tel.: 724 464 953

[www.amic.cz/press](http://www.amic.cz/press)

Organizer:

**Jindřich Chalupecký Society**, Národní 11, Prague 1, 110 00, Tel.: 777 553 652

[www.cjch.cz/en](http://www.cjch.cz/en)

