

Jindřich Chalupecký Award 2014

Press Release, 9/25 2014

Launch of the Exhibition of Finalists of the 25th Edition of Jindřich Chalupecký Award

Five finalists of the 25th Jindřich Chalupecký Award; Martin Kohout, Richard Loskot, Lucia Sceranková, Roman Štětina and Tereza Velíková; introduce themselves to the public at the collective exhibition Final 2014. The exhibition is open from September 26, 2014 to January 4, 2015 at the Veletržní Palace of the National Gallery in Prague. The exhibition includes photographs, audio and video installations as well as a film starring Václav Rašilov and Martin Pechlát.

The five finalists of 2014 have introduced their works individually in five cities during the 555 related events. The program included evening screenings in selected arthouse cinemas, offering unique insight into the creative process of the finalists. All of the finalists now meet at a collective exhibition for the first time, presenting artworks created especially for the final of the 25th edition of Czech Republic's most prestigious art award.

The artworks by this year's finalists are exhibited from September 26, 2014 to January 4, 2015 on the 5th floor of the Veletržní Palace of the National Gallery in Prague. This year's exposition of the works by the five finalists includes various art media, ranging from classic photography to a feature-length film and interactive audiovisual installations. *"This year's final presents extraordinary personalities expressing a very clear message in a completely current language. I would like to invite all curious viewers to open their minds and be drawn into the exciting game of contemporary art. This time it will embrace photographs, new technological discoveries, miraculous objects and films,"* says Lenka Lindaurová, curator of the exhibition and head of Jindřich Chalupecký Society. Last year's winner of Jindřich Chalupecký Award Dominik Lang exhibits his works along with this year's finalists. In cooperation with the lecturers' department of the National Gallery, Jindřich Chalupecký Society has also prepared a series of specific related events, such as guided tours with the finalists, screenings of their video portraits and others.

The winner will be selected in the fall by an international jury presided by Holly Block, renowned curator and director of The Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York City. The jury further includes art historian Milena Bartlová, visual artist Jiří Kovanda, art theorist and director of the Slovak National Gallery Alexandra Kusá, Iceland's Gunnar B. Kvaran; director of The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo, art theorist and curator Pavlína Morganová, and curator and special adviser at Bottega Gallery and Shcherbenko Art Centre in Kiev Marina Shcherbenko.

The award ceremony of the 25th edition of Jindřich Chalupecký Award will be held on November 20, 2014 at Studio Hrdinů in the Veletržní Palace in Prague. The ceremony will be directed by renowned theater director Jan Nebeský who has worked at Činoherní klub and the National Theater in Prague and who currently works at Studio Hrdinů.

Besides competing for 100.000 CZK for the realization of an exhibition and a six-week residency in New York, it is for the first time that the finalists also compete for a material award in the form of a brass peg designed by Maxim Velčovský. *“Unfortunately, after the death of Václav Havel who had traditionally presented the award, the moment of the award presentation was not so festive and unique any more. We have therefore felt that the award needed something special and agreed that a unique art award like the Jindřich Chalupecký Award deserves a material award which will last and remind the award holders of their success,”* explains Lenka Lindaurová.

For more information about this year’s finalists, the program and the related events, please go to www.cjch.cz/en.

Finalists of Jindřich Chalupecký Award 2014 and their works exhibited at the Final 2014 exhibition

Martin Kohout

Dreadlocks is a series of wall objects made of wood and cables patinated and painted in various ways. They look a bit like a cross between a fence and a hammock. Their installation at the entrance of the Veletržní Palace is complemented by the Free Mail video filmed by a mobile phone, capturing the content of mailboxes. In the video, the artist uses the tool which is kept in our pockets and used to check our email among other things, and which intrudes upon his privacy by its constant activity, to spy on the paper mail of unknown people.

Richard Loskot

Again, the artist works with the exhibition space, creating surreal visual illusions for the viewers. These embrace optical illusions as well as the established way of perceiving various situations. The installation includes various scenes; environments entered by the viewers; while the space is recorded by a camera and can be seen in the videos. Diverse object of various colors are placed in the space, however, they do not correspond to what can be seen in the screened image. Viewers seem to be watching several versions of the same event occurring at a different time. These also represent confrontations of the viewers in the context of events that have been created ahead as well as those that are being created at the moment. The viewers can thus participate in the game which is and is not real at the same time.

Lucia Sceranková

The artist has created a new series employing the photographic image for the exhibition. Carrying the title Old Light, the installation alludes to the fact that the light that surrounds us is very old from the human perspective. The photon can take more than 170 000 years to travel to the surface of the Sun. The notion that the particles of sunrays we can feel on our face are so old collides with the individual experience. A private banal experience is confronted with something that is inconceivable within our time scale. The artist observes the diverse perspectives of perception of reality and creates model situations in which we can grasp an otherwise uncontrollable situation through our own criteria. She employs images of landscapes and elements, uses motives which have an archetypal character, and tests their further potential in terms of meaning and association.

Roman Štětina

Lost Case is the first “feature-length” work made by the artist. With its length of almost 80 minutes, the detective story is screened in a regular cinema and is referred to at the exhibition by means of a poster and an invitation. The film study of the detective genre was created by means of re-editing the episodes of a legendary TV series made between 1968 and 2003. The “newly created” episode explores the boundaries between the film protagonist and the actor. The film shows the film industry’s effort to keep a popular character as close to the conventional model and viewers’ expectations as possible. The project involves collaboration with leading graphic designer and maker of Czechoslovak film posters Zdeněk Ziegler (b 1932). For Lost Case, he revived and adapted his original, previously unused design of a film poster from 1977. The screenings of Lost Case are held in the course of the exhibition on Sundays at Ponrepo Cinema in Prague (we will keep you informed about screening times and current updates).

Tereza Velíková

The video installation entitled Play on a Book is a parable of the unclear and inconstant character of acts, roles and motivations set in the open space between a theater performance, film and performance. In the plot taking place parallelly on four projection surfaces, the protagonist freely shifts between the roles of himself, the actor and the commentator while obsessively reading various books. During a gradually culminating scene, all three characters are alternately usurping dominance of the plot, the final meaning of which is defined by the approach of the individual viewers within the space-time of the installation.

Jindřich Chaloupecký Award – Final 2014

Date: September 26, 2014 - January 4, 2015

Venue: Veletržní Palace, National Gallery in Prague

Czech Republic’s most prestigious art award celebrates its 25th edition, introducing its five finalists, who will compete for a material award made by designer Maxim Velčovský for the first time, from September 26 in Veletržní Palace in Prague. This year’s exposition of the works by the five finalists includes various art media, ranging from classic photography to interactive audiovisual installations. The exceptional space of Veletržní Palace will house the surprising works by five finalists (Martin Kohout, Richard Loskot, Lucia Sceranková, Roman Štětina, Tereza Velíková) made exclusively for the occasion. Last year’s award winner Dominik Lang will exhibit his works along with this year’s finalists. Situated on the 5th floor of the Veletržní Palace, the exhibition will be open until January 4, 2015.

Curator: Lenka Lindaurová

Exhibition architect: Tomáš Svoboda

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