

The Winner of the 25th Jindřich Chaloupecký Award Is Roman Štětina

The international jury has selected Roman Štětina as the winner of the anniversary 25th edition of the Jindřich Chaloupecký Award, Czech Republic's most prestigious award for visual artists. Štětina is one of the few Czech artists to systematically deal with sound which seems to relate to visual arts only indirectly at first sight. Roman Štětina was the first JCHA holder ever to receive a material award designed by Maxim Velčovský. The jury announced the name of the winner at the award ceremony directed by Jan Nebeský held at Studio Hrdinů at the Veletržní Palace of the National Gallery in Prague.

The 25th anniversary Jindřich Chaloupecký Award went to Roman Štětina. *"The exhibition of the finalists of the Jindřich Chaloupecký Award in the National Gallery in Prague has a high artistic niveau corresponding to contemporary international practice. The international jury has appreciated the presentations of all five finalists. After a long discussion, we have chosen Roman Štětina as the winner of this year's edition. Štětina presented a film study called Lost Case examining the popular American detective series Columbo. The project includes a collaboration with the author of Czechoslovak film posters Zdeněk Ziegler who created a poster for Lost Case based on his draft from the 1970s exhibited at the Veletržní Palace. The poster invites the gallery visitors to attend a screening of the film at Ponrepo Cinema. The jury appreciated the diversity of meaning and the experimental nature of Štětina's project. The artist's film works with image and sound editing, unfolding in time, employing deconstruction and film collage of re-enacted history to reconstruct a multi-layered story. The jury would like to thank all artists for their presentations and would like to emphasize the professionalism and artistic quality of all exhibited artworks. At the same time, we would like to praise the installation realized by Tomáš Svoboda and thank the Jindřich Chaloupecký Society for the professional organization of the 2014 edition,"* says Holly Block, head of the jury and curator and director of The Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York.

Roman Štětina was born in 1986, lives and works in Prague and Frankfurt am Main. Štětina studied at the Faculty of Art and Design in Pilsen and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He is one of the few Czech artists to systematically deal with sound which seems to relate to visual arts only indirectly at first glance. However, that is the point of his works; as human imagination depends on the concord of all senses that are hard to separate sometimes.

For the final of Jindřich Chaloupecký Award, Roman Štětina made a one-hour film Lost Case. The film study of the detective genre was made by re-editing the episodes of the legendary television series Columbo shot between 1968 and 2003. The "new" part explores the boundaries between the film protagonist and the actor who plays his part. By means of editing, the film deals with the effort of the film industry to keep the popular character as close to the usual model and viewers' expectations as possible. The project includes a collaboration with graphic artist and author of Czechoslovak film posters Zdeněk Ziegler who adapted one of his unrealized posters from 1977 for Lost Case. In the course of the exhibition, Lost Case is screened every Sunday in Prague's Ponrepo Cinema.

Roman Štětina received the traditional amount of 100.000 CZK for the realization of an exhibition and a six-week residency in New York. The novelty of the 25th edition was the material award designed by leading Czech designer Maxim Velčovský which was presented for the first time in the award's history.

"The jury had a hard time deciding about the winner this year. At the beginning of the year, the finalists were selected among the record-breaking number of 83 applications. In the end, five strong individuals met in the final, including respected and successful artists that are very hard to compare. The finalists presented a wide range of media at the exhibition, ranging from classic photography to feature-length film and visual interactive installations, employing illusion, mystification, cause and effect, the role of chance and invisibility in their works," says Lenka Lindaurová, director of Jindřich Chaloupecký Society which organizes the award.

Besides Roman Štětina, the final further introduced Martin Kohout, Richard Loskot, Lucia Sceranková and Tereza Velíková. The international jury was presided by Holly Block, curator and director of The Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York, further including art historian Milena Bartlová, visual artist Jiří Kovanda, art theorist and director of Slovak National Gallery Alexandra Kusá, director of The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo;

Iceland's Gunnar B. Kvaran, art theorist and curator Pavlína Morganová and Marina Shcherbenko, curator and specialist adviser at Bottega Gallery and Shcherbenko Art Centre in Kiev.

The award ceremony also included the launch of the book *The Gap; Young Art in the Czech Republic (1990–2014)*. The unique publication was created on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Jindřich Chaloupecký Award, however, it does not cover merely the award's history. The existing award holders, finalists and other remarkable personalities of the Czech art scene represent the frame of the book which aims to briefly introduce contemporary Czech art in the context of the past 25 years. *"Each period is captured in a "chronicle" of the times, introducing various events on the Czech art scene framed by the political and economic situation,"* says Lenka Lindaurová, author of the idea and editor of the publication.

The exhibition *Final 2014*, presenting the works by the latest award holder and by the other finalists as well as the works made by last year's winner Dominik Lang, is held at the Veletržní Palace of the National Gallery in Prague and is open until January 4, 2015. The next edition of Jindřich Chaloupecký Award, which will celebrate the 25 years since the foundation of the award and commemorate the 25 years since the death of Jindřich Chaloupecký, will be announced in December 2014.

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

Jindřich Chaloupecký Award – Final 2014

Time: September 26, 2014 – January 4, 2015

Venue: Veletržní Palace, National Gallery in Prague

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

Curator: Lenka Lindaurová

Exhibition architect: Tomáš Svoboda

General Partner: J&T Bank

Main Media Partner: Czech Television

Partners:

National Gallery in Prague, Ministry of Culture, Prague City Hall, Czech Centres, Trust for Mutual Understanding, Foundation for a Civil Society, Prague Public Transit, Přítomnost, Fair Art, US Embassy in Prague, Stuchlíková & Partners

Media Partners:

Respekt, Czech Radio, Art & Antiques, Artmap, Lidové noviny

CONTACT:

PR, Press Service:

AMI Communications, Týn 641/4, Prague 1, Šimon Slavík, e-mail: simon.slavik@amic.cz, tel.: 724 464 953
www.amic.cz/press

Organizer:

Jindřich Chalupecký Society, Národní 11, Prague 1, 110 00, tel.: 777 553 652
www.cjch.cz/en

