

TELEGRAPH

PRESS RELEASE
Olomouc 21. 9. 2020

The Telegraph Gallery in Olomouc presents photographs by Ivan Pinkava

Together with curator Jan Dotřel, the Telegraph Gallery in Olomouc is presenting an exhibition of photographs by Ivan Pinkava entitled “Dvojná vazba / Double Bind”. The show is based on the unique visual language of one of the most inspiring of Czech photographers. The exhibition will open in the Telegraph Gallery in Olomouc on Thursday, 24 September at 6 PM, and will run until Sunday, 29 November 2020.

“The exhibition’s title refers to its basic concept, which is based on the principle of duality and duplicity. The genealogy of the title can be interpreted in various ways because there are many kinds of dual relations such as correlation, delimitation, contrast, equality, and multiplication. Moreover, dualism itself can be seen philosophically or as a religious, physical or accurate conceptual reflection,” explained the exhibition curator Jan Dotřel, adding that the common denominator throughout the exhibition is choice, since visitors choose their own way through the exposition and evaluate it.

About the Exhibition

The exhibition presents fifty photographs by Ivan Pinkava from the late 1980s to the present, including both black and white figurative images typical of his earlier work and non-figurative colour pictures from his recent period. Many of the photographs exhibited, both the newer and the older ones, have not previously been presented.

“Double Bind is a new experience for me because for the first time, I am consciously presenting the photographs in two lines, with the older pictures opposite the current ones. They are puzzles for me and the pieces have a mutual dialogue, consciously contradicting themselves or, conversely, creating a complementary whole to strengthen each other in a new context,” added Ivan Pinkava. common leitmotif of the exhibition is collecting.

Ivan Pinkava’s photographic work is multi-layered and full of hidden meanings. Exhibition curator Jan Dotřel explains one of the keys to its interpretation: *“For example, the horizontal line that often intersects Pinkava’s photographs has a visual role, anchoring the objects and people to the Earth. It is used to express gravity and the relation to the horizon in abstracted scenes. A good example is the photograph of Adam (2002), who is below an imaginary horizon. Adam – the first man – is featured as an object rather than a human being, which is a reference to original sin and the Fall. Although the photograph is horizontal in all formal aspects, it has a verticality hidden in the motif of the Fall. To be able*

to fall, we first need to climb up. Our perception of what is above is associated with transcendence, metaphysics and faith. Ivan Pinkava depicts the human desire to rise and be generous despite the questioning of moral or religious stability.”

The interpretation and reading of Pinkava’s photographs are always dual. *Chlapec s kuličkou / Boy with a Ball* (2009) can be a real child with a toy or God looking down on the created world where physical laws apply. The triptych *Foucaultovo kyvadlo / Foucault Pendulum* (2009) refers to intertextuality presented by Umberto Eco. *Gravity* (2009) presents a young man who is literally pushed to the ground by a heart of stone. “*The boy is a symbol, a referent, a motif of Pinkava’s concentration and conveys a different story in each of the pictures. The same boy becomes Christ as well as a mere object of a photograph,*” concludes the curator.

Practical Information

A guided tour with the artist and the curator will be held on Tuesday, 20 October at 6 PM; Ivan Pinkava’s lecture *Mehr Licht Mehr Licht, Mehr Licht* will take place on Thursday, 19 November at 6 PM. The Telegraph Gallery is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10 AM to 6 PM. Admission free.

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DVOJNÁ VAZBA / DOUBLE BIND

25. 9. – 29. 11. 2020 (preview on 24 September 2020 at 6 PM)

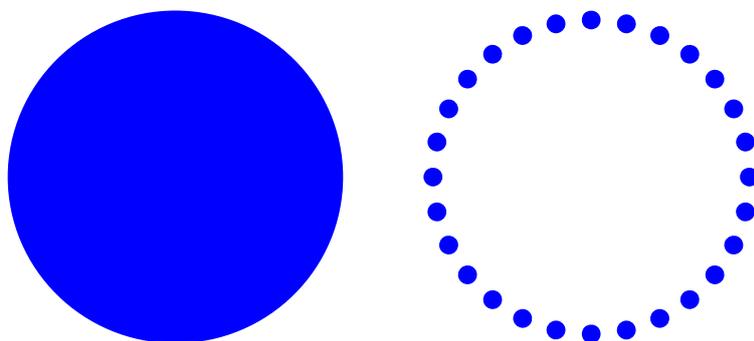
Curator: Jan Dotřel

Graphic designer: Jakub Kovařík

Organizer: Telegraph Gallery, Jungmannova 3, Olomouc

IIVAN PINKAVA (1961) studied artistic photography at the Film and Television Faculty of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague between 1982 and 1986, and since then he has worked as a freelance photographer. In 2004, he had a retrospective exhibition *Heroes* at the Rudolfinum Gallery. In 2005–2007, he led the studio of photography at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. His largest foreign solo exhibition was organized by the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, DC in 2012. Other international solo exhibitions included *Trones Delassie* at the Stimultania Gallery in Strasbourg (2015) and the *Categories of Fiction* project for the See+ Gallery in Beijing (2015). In the Czech Republic, he had several exhibitions: *Antropologie* (Anthropology) at the Fait Gallery in Brno (2014), *Napřed uhořet* (To Die in a Fire First) together with Eliáš Dolejší at the House of Art of the Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava (2018), *Vitální kolaps* (The Vital Collapse) together with Vojtěch Míča at the Museum Kampa in Prague (2019), and *Backtracking* at the House of Arts in České Budějovice (2020).

Ivan Pinkava’s work has long been anchored in classical photography, and he has established a reputation beyond the Czech art scene. In the 1990s, he developed his distinctive visual language based around black and white analogue photography, oscillating between representations of the human figure and (later) non-figurative work. His recent photographs illustrate visual and content purity. After almost thirty years of continuously working with classic analogue media, the artist switched to digital and introduced colour. Recurring leitmotifs of Ivan Pinkava’s work are reflections of the visual heritage of European culture, an introspection of our inner mental processes and coping with human finiteness. tion is an organism expected to be permanently modified.



TELEGRAPH GALLERY
Jungmannova 3, Olomouc
www.telegraph.cz

Open Tuesday–Sunday 10:00–18:00
Free entry

The Telegraph Gallery organizes regular exhibitions of contemporary art from the Czech Republic and abroad. It presents the works both of famous and overlooked artists of all ages in a space of 350m². It also organizes workshops and art courses and offers residencies for both Czech and foreign artists. For more information, see <https://telegraph.cz/galerie>.

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