

# JIŘÍ ČERNICKÝ

## WILD DREAMS

GALERIE RUDOLFINUM

(27. 1. – 10. 4. 2016)

OPENING: 26. 1. 2016, 18.00

CATALOGUE LAUNCH: 25. 2. 2016

CURATOR: DAVID KORECKÝ



Galerie Rudolfinum presents a unique multimedia project by artist Jiří Černický, who – working on the basis of 50 drawings made over the past 25 years – has created a series of models, sculptures, and audio and video installations, half of them made exclusively for the exhibition at the Galerie Rudolfinum. In his works, the 1998 Jindřich Chalupecký Award winner taps into the environmental, social, and para-scientific themes typical of his work, specifically exploring the encounter between high and low, the expected and the surprising. The exhibition also expand place outdoors, where visitors can see a sculpture of Stalin reimagined as a bread oven – with scheduled break-baking and tasting sessions.

**Wild Dreams** is an exhibition about inventing new systems. These systems can be objects, installations, or even situations. Černický works with classical media but also makes use of contemporary or conceptual art in order to adopt approaches from other fields such as science, medicine, politics, and social services. The aim of his inventions is not to achieve rationally comprehensible results demanded by society – he merely uses approaches borrowed from other disciplines in order to call attention to issues all around us and to propose different ways of looking at them. Of his intermedia work, he says: “[...] I basically emphasise ideas. There are always some immaterial ideas. I try to work on the basis of established things, things that are settled, and I try to somehow stir them up in order to create a new form, to move the idea forward. Only then do I arrive at the choice of specific medium. The question of what medium to use is terribly important, although it is not paramount. When I want to let loose terror within the city, I use a different aesthetic than when I want to entertain someone.”

Jiří Černický is a distinctive representative of a diverse generation of artists, someone who marches by his own drum and has intensively contributed to shaping the Czech art scene since the early 1990s. His art is characterized by the postmodern rhetoric of strategic transformations in style and the replacement of a “signature” style by an improvised/invented/found language. One integral part Černický’s range of approaches is performance art. His first actions are of an initiatory, fantastical, and carnival-like character. They open the gates to “new and different and shared worlds,” they are distinctly theatrical, and they make use of a large number of props.

Another important aspect of Černický’s artistic process is that he gathers and collects objects from various places, including junkyards, places where he goes on holiday, or simply on the street, and subsequently recasts or rearranges them, with his typical eye for precision, into unusual systems that confuse us with their technical sophistication but that we cannot imagine as a part of everyday life. Two such works are *Kioskhouse* (2015) and *Slumhouse* (2015), both of which are also examples of his good-hearted and slightly naïve vision of how to improve the world around us, how to rationalise it or jolt it out of its ingrained habits.

From the exhibited installations, we may get an image of Jiří Černický as a mad scientist, but with his yearning for knowledge and his stubborn attempts at improving the world he intelligently calls attention to the alarming questions and important global issues we are facing today. He comments on contemporary society with a certain dose of hyperbole, as in *Aphrodite* (2016), a sculpture of the goddess made using fake drugs from police sting operations. In *Memorial to the Victims of Religious Persecution* (2016), he explores the church as an institution and its actions in the name of good ideas. He also explores religious themes in *Holy Hill* (2015).

In his catalogue text, Marek Pokorný adds that “Černický’s anti-utopian, anti-ironic, and thus also anti-romantic way of thinking is a post-catastrophic way of thinking. It grows out of a collapse of diverse systems of labelling, deducing, and arguing, and it affirms the breakdown of various artistic languages while referencing their original fullness – and making fun of it.”

**JIŘÍ ČERNICKÝ** (\*Ústí nad Labem, 1966) has confidently navigated the Czech art scene since the early 1990s. The 1998 Jindřich Chalupecký Award winner currently heads the Studio of Painting at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design. For his projects, he collaborates with many specialists from a wide range of professions. In the early nineties, Černický worked primarily with performance art. One of his iconic works is *The First Mass-Produced Schizophrenia* (1998), a sculptural interpretation of Norwegian painter Edvard Munch’s famous *Scream*. Typical themes in his work include the post-1989 transformation of society; an interest in public space, advertising and design; the search for identity, the boundary between reality and fiction; myth and mystification; and the mixing of media, genres, and styles.

During February, an exhibition **CATALOGUE** will be published (in Czech and English) with texts by David Korecký (the exhibition’s curator), Edith Jeřábková, Tomáš Pospiszyl, Michal Koleček, Marek Pokorný, and Jiří Ptáček, plus reproductions of the exhibited works and photographs of the exhibition itself. The catalogue will be officially launched at an event at the Galerie Rudolfinum on 25 February, featuring a performance by the artist.

The exhibition also features a series of **ACCOMPANYING EVENTS**: On odd Thursdays the gallery will host guided tours of the exhibition, and evening presentations in the library will take place on even Thursdays. The gallery is also planning a diverse programme for schools, and on Sunday afternoons adults can take in the exhibition while their offspring attend art workshops for children. On selected dates, Jiří Černický will present live performances.



For more information, visit the gallery’s **Facebook** page or its website at [www.galerierudolfinum.cz](http://www.galerierudolfinum.cz).

**ADMISSION**  
Full: CZK 120  
Reduced: CZK 70

**OPENING HOURS**  
Tue–Wed, Fri–Sun: 10am–6pm  
Thu: 10am–8pm  
closed Mondays

**GALERIE RUDOLFINUM**  
Alšovo nábřeží 12  
110 00 Prague

For more information, please contact Martina Freitagová at [freitagova@rudolfinum.org](mailto:freitagova@rudolfinum.org) or tel. +420 227 059 205.