

Annual Report 2017

# National Gallery Prague



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Activities at the National Gallery in 2017 centred on major exhibitions showcasing leading artists. The Gerhard Richter and František Skála exhibitions were the most popular, while the most frequently visited building was the Trade Fair Palace (Veletržní Palác), which hosted a monumental installation by Ai Weiwei in the Great Hall and another by Magdalena Jetelová in the Small Hall. A unique film installation by Julian Rosefeldt starring Cate Blanchett opened at the Trade Fair Palace in autumn. The major historical exhibition last year was Ferdinand II, Archduke of Austria, exploring both the personality and the collections of the creator of the modern museum concept.

Last year saw the launch of the pilot programme Anežka LIVE!, which brought

new life to the revitalised Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia (Klášter sv. Anežky České) throughout the summer and drew thousands of visitors to a diverse programme including summer cinema and special guided tours and concerts. The growing number of members of the Friends of the NG Club, launched in 2016, also demonstrated enthusiasm for the National Gallery's programme. In just over a year, the club grew by more than two thousand members.

Last year was also crucial in terms of developing our collections, which is one of the National Gallery's key objectives. After three decades without a systematic acquisition policy, and with financial support from the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, the NG was finally able to begin acquiring

contemporary art for its collection in 2017. We accessioned outstanding works by leading Czech artists, including Magdalena Jetelová, František Skála, Eva Koťátková, Kateřina Šedá, Josef Bolf and Jan Hísek.

We also approached younger generation artists and purchased works by Vladimír Houdek, Roman Štětina, Lukáš Karbus and Jan Nálevka. I firmly believe that we can continue this trend and build a collection of contemporary art for future generations that is a testimony to the world of art today.

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## 8 Vision and Mission

The National Gallery Prague manages one of the most important collections of art in the Czech Republic. It is an institution with more than two hundred years of history, offering a representative view of the evolution of art in the Czech lands and presenting important aspects of Central European, European and world events. In accordance with its Statute, the gallery collects, records, studies, exhibits, publishes and mediates artworks in all art disciplines from antiquity to the present.

The objective of the National Gallery Prague is to stimulate interest in the fine arts and visual culture, to contribute towards knowledge and inspire visitors to reflect on art at national and international levels. To this end, it presents and reinforces the importance of the fine arts and visual culture in the value system of a global society. In this way, it expands the creative abilities of individuals and spiritually enriches the whole of society, emphasising the positive perception of cultural diversity and helping create a sense of tolerance and understanding.

National Gallery Prague in 2017

**690 000**  
visitors

**50**  
exhibitions

**2 200**  
accompanying programmes

**15 000**  
photos by fans on Instagram



# <sup>10</sup> Visitor Numbers

The National Gallery Prague welcomed nearly 700,000 visitors to its seven buildings in 2017. The most popular exhibitions were the display of works by František Skála at the Waldstein Riding School and the almost concurrent retrospective of Gerhard Richter at Kinsky Palace. The most frequently visited building was the Trade Fair Palace and its exhibition of nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century art and temporary exhibitions – including Law of the Journey by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. The popularity of the Convent of St Agnes grew thanks to some unconventionally conceived exhibitions and the newly reconstructed gardens with the Anežka LIVE! summer programme. The number of visitors to the National Gallery Prague (excluding the Alfons Mucha exhibition The Slav Epic organised by the Prague City Gallery) increased from the previous year by 105,260 visitors.

## Visitors to the buildings of the National Gallery Prague in 2017

Trade Fair Palace	265,722
Kinsky Palace	116,175
Waldstein Riding School	72,619
Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia	58,624
Sternberg Palace	38,962
Schwarzenberg Palace	51,462
Salm Palace	22,090
Gardens, public events	65,631
<b>Total</b>	<b>691,285</b>

## Most popular exhibitions in 2017

František Skála Riding School	64,969
Gerhard Richter	54,950
Ai Weiwei: Law of the Journey	44,901



Key Projects in 2017

## Exhibitions of leading contemporary artists

In 2017, the National Gallery Prague focused on major exhibitions presenting the work of leading contemporary artists. The most popular exhibitions featured the work of Gerhard Richter and František Skála, and were attended by over 100,000 visitors. Throughout the year, the Great Hall at the Trade Fair Palace hosted the monumental installation *Law of the Journey* by distinguished contemporary Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, while the Small Hall was home to the site-specific installation *Touch of Time* by leading Czech artist Magdalena Jetelová.

The autumn exhibition programme was dominated by the 13-channel film installation *Manifesto* by German artist Julian Rosefeldt and starring Cate Blanchett.

Ai Weiwei with his installation  
*Law of the Journey* in  
the Great Hall at the  
Trade Fair Palace





2017 saw the National Gallery Prague launch the pilot programme Anežka LIVE! The programme brought new life to the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia throughout the summer and attracted thousands of visitors to a large number of diverse events. Sports activities, art workshops, concerts and film screenings took place in the newly reconstructed gardens, among statues by contemporary Czech artists.

Anežka LIVE!  
summer programme



**Major Acquisitions**

With financial support from the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, the National Gallery was able to begin acquiring contemporary art for its collection in 2017. Dozens of works by leading Czech artists were accessioned, including works by Magdalena Jetelová, František Skála, Eva Kotátková, Kateřina Šedá, Josef Bolf, and Jan Hísek. The National Gallery Prague also acquired works from the younger generation of Czech artists, including Vladimír Houdek, Roman Štětina, Lukáš Karbus, and Jan Nálevka. Thanks to the ISO programme, the gallery acquired a unique and hitherto unknown print by Wenceslaus Hollar: Coat of Arms with Three Bells. With no other known copies in existence, this makes the National Gallery the sole owner of this work.

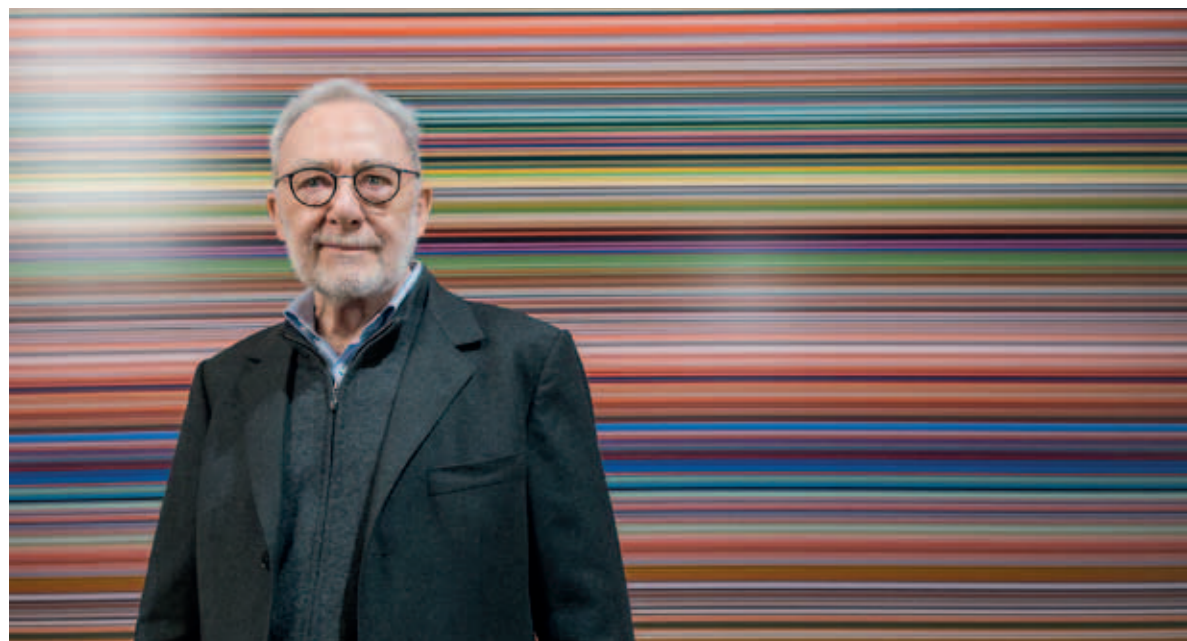
Josef Bolf: Further and Higher, oil on canvas, 2017



Temporary & Permanent Exhibitions

Kinsky Palace





### Gerhard Richter

26. 4. 2017 – 3. 9. 2017

Curators: Jiří Fajt, Milena Kalinová, Norbert Arns in cooperation with Gerhard Richter and his studio

The retrospective exhibition spanned the almost sixty-year career of German artist Gerhard Richter. This was the first comprehensive exhibition of his work in the Czech Republic, as well as in Central and Eastern Europe and the post-communist countries. The exhibition presented more than 60 of the artist's seminal works, demonstrating to the public Gerhard Richter's importance in the history of art and the context of contemporary culture.



### Norbert Grund (1717–1767). The Charm of Everyday

1. 12. 2017 – 18. 3. 2018

Curator: Marcela Vondráčková

To mark the double anniversary of this leading Rococo artist, the National Gallery Prague prepared an exhibition focusing on his genre painting. Genre painting, which depicts scenes from everyday life, was an important part of Norbert Grund's work. Dedicated sections of the exhibition examined a variety of different themes and compared Grund's work with contemporaneous Central European cabinet painting and paintings that could have inspired his own work.



### Art of Asia

Curators: Lenka Gyaltsso, Markéta Hánová, Helena Honcoopová, Zdenka Klimtová, Hana Nováková, Michaela Pejčochová, Jana Ryndová

This permanent exhibition offers a comprehensive showcase of Asian art that includes important collections of archaic Chinese art, Buddhist sculpture, Tibetan Buddhist paintings, Islamic ceramics and metal art, Japanese woodcuts, illustrated books and classic and modern Chinese paintings.



### Winter Variations

6. 12. 2016 – 5. 3. 2017

### Painting and Calligraphy

7. 3. 2017 – 4. 6. 2017

### Asian Summer Colours

6. 6. 2017 – 10. 9. 2017

### Imaging Music

12. 9. 2017 – 3. 12. 2017\*

### Bidding Farewell to the Art of Asia Exhibition

4. 12. 2017 – 25. 2. 2018

\* in cooperation with the International Shakuhachi Festival Prague

Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia



## Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia

### What the Eyes Cannot See: Underdrawing in 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Century Panel Paintings from the Collections of the National Gallery Prague

24. 2. 2017 – 26. 11. 2017  
Curators: Štěpánka Chlumská, Helena Dáňová

### For the Eyes to Admire: Decorative Techniques in Medieval Painting and Sculpture, 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Centuries

14. 12. 2017 – 20. 5. 2018  
Curators: Štěpánka Chlumská, Helena Dáňová

The exhibition *What the Eyes Cannot See: Underdrawing in 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Century Panel Paintings from the Collections of the National Gallery Prague* was the first of two exhibitions prepared in a thematic series named *Art and Natural Sciences at the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia*. This was followed by the exhibition *For the Eyes to Admire: Decorative Techniques in Medieval Painting and Sculpture, 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Centuries* at the end of the year. In an innovative concept, the two exhibitions presented the results of comprehensive research of top artworks in direct juxtaposition with their originals, together in the exhibition space. Visitors could thus see familiar works anew, discover hidden details and learn more about the processes of medieval painters and sculptors.

The exhibition *For the Eyes to Admire: Decorative Techniques in Painting and Sculpture, 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Centuries* focused on the decorative techniques and individual types of decorative design in painting and sculpture, how they were executed, and their stylistic form.



## Exhibitions

## Permanent exhibition



### Medieval Art in Bohemia and Central Europe 1200–1550

Curators: Jiří Fajt, Štěpánka Chlumská

The long-term exhibition of medieval and early Renaissance art on the first floor of the Convent displays more than two hundred exhibits of painting, sculpture and craft depicting the transformation in form and function of artwork over three centuries.

### Tour and Lapidarium

Curators: Štěpánka Chlumská, Helena Dáňová

The ground floor of the compound offers a tour examining the history of the double convent and its founder. It also contains the lapidarium in the Convent of the Poor Clares (black kitchen and refectory) and Friars Minor (ambit), which includes an important collection of architectural fragments from the convent's building phases, as well as altar consecration plaques and tombstones.



### Sculpture Garden

Curator: Irena Nývltová

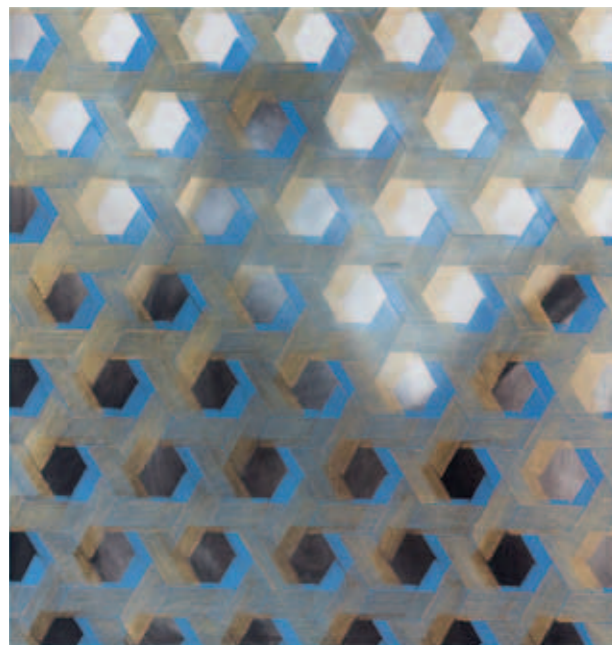
The gardens showcasing the convent's architecture and sculptures by leading Czech artists such as Aleš Veselý, Jaroslav Róna, Stanislav Kolíbal and Karel Malich are open to the public all year and free of charge. These contemporary works are complemented by one of František Bílek's first sculptural pieces, a monumental statue of Golgotha.

Sternberg Palace





## Sternberg Palace

**After Rembrandt: The Scholar in His Study**

Michaela Maupicová 9. 1. 2017 – 9. 5. 2017

Jan Uldrych 10. 5. 2017 – 24. 9. 2017

Curator: Andrea Steckerová

The intimate After Rembrandt project progressively presented the work of nine Czech artists, created as artistic reflections on Rembrandt's painting *The Scholar in His Study*. This reception (or appropriation) of Old Masters is a standard phenomenon in art and an attractive genre linking classical and contemporary art. The aim was to show that classical art is a constant source of inspiration for new generations of artists.

**Images and Stories – Portraits of Renaissance Aristocracy**

13. 10. 2017 – 4. 3. 2018

in cooperation with the National Heritage Institute

Curator: Eva Lukášová, National Heritage Institute

The exhibition *Images and Stories – Portraits of Renaissance Aristocracy* presented a selection of Renaissance portraits from the collections of Bohemian and Moravian castles and chateaux. Short articles on many prominent noble families gave insight into the personalities and lives of Bohemian and Moravian aristocracy in the Renaissance period, both among Protestants and Catholics. Objects relating to heraldry and genealogy, archival materials and works of decorative art helped bring their world to life. The exhibited items were also complemented by selected Renaissance portraits brought to these collections by aristocratic families who settled in Bohemia and Moravia in later centuries.

## Exhibitions

## Permanent exhibitions

**European Art from Antiquity to Baroque**

Curators: Helena Dáňová, Martina Jandlová, Olga Kotková, Petr Příbyl, Andrea Steckerová, Lenka Stolárová, Anja K. Ševčík, Vít Vlnas

Works of German, Austrian, Italian, French, Spanish, Flemish and Dutch art from the Middle Ages to the end of the eighteenth century from the collections of the National Gallery Prague are exhibited on three floors of the palace.

## Seasonal

**Jan Salomonsz de Bray – St Helen**

26. 9. 2017 – 10. 4. 2018

Curator: Andrea Steckerová

The National Gallery Prague purchased the painting of *St Helen* at an auction in 2015. It had been held by a private owner in Spain. The painting is the work of the major painter of historical scenes and portraits, Jan Salomonsz de Bray (1626/1627 Haarlem – 1697 Amsterdam), the son of painter Salomon de Bray.

Schwarzenberg Palace



## Schwarzenberg Palace


**Happy Rome – French Engravers in the Eternal City**

13. 3. 2017 – 11. 6. 2017  
Curator: Dalibor Lešovský

The exhibition featured the works of many European graphic artists who worked in Rome in the seventeenth century, in particular Francois Spierre, Gerard Audrano and Etienne Baudet.


**Ignác František Platzer (1717–1787). Drawings**

13. 6. 2017 – 10. 9. 2017  
Curator: Petra Zelenková

A selection of drawings from the workshop of I. F. Platzer were presented to mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Platzer's sketches and designs are valued not only for their documentary importance but also as impressive, high-quality drawings.


**Wenceslaus Hollar in the Service of English Nobility**

12. 9. 2017 – 31. 12. 2017  
Curator: Alena Volrábová

The exhibition presented graphic works by Wenceslaus Hollar created while he was in the service of the English nobility. The exhibition was also an opportunity to present a unique and previously unknown graphic sheet which the National Gallery had acquired for its collections.

## Graphic Cabinets

## Permanent exhibitions

**Art from the Rudolfiner Era to the Baroque in Bohemia**

Curators: Tomáš Hladík, Andrea Steckerová, Vít Vlnas, Marcela Vondráčková

The permanent exhibition presents approximately 160 sculptures and 280 examples of late Renaissance and Baroque paintings created in the lands of the Crown of Bohemia from the late sixteenth to late eighteenth centuries on three floors of the renovated palace.

**Tactile Exhibition – Touches of the Baroque**

Curator: Jana Klímová

The tactile exhibition includes a set of 14 casts designed for visually impaired visitors. The exhibits document the major epochs of seventeenth and eighteenth-century sculpture in Bohemia.

**Imperial Armoury**

In cooperation with the Military History Institute  
Curator: Jan Šach, Prague Military History Institute

A unique baroque roof space was also converted during the renovation of Schwarzenberg Palace and now houses a permanent exhibition of valuable historical weapons from the collections of the Military History Institute.


**Baroque Masterpieces from the Collections of the Prague Museum of Decorative Arts**

In cooperation with the Prague Museum of Decorative Arts  
Curators: Petra Matějovičová, Prague Museum of Decorative Arts, Andrea Steckerová, National Gallery Prague

The aim of the exhibition was to introduce visitors to the arts and crafts produced in Central Europe's cultural milieu of Mannerism from the sixteenth century through to Classicism.

**Archaeological Finds at Schwarzenberg Palace**

In cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences  
Curator: Gabriela Blažková, Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences

The exhibition in the cellars of Schwarzenberg Palace presents the results and findings of rescue archaeological research that took place in 2003 and 2004. The exhibited items represent a diverse collection of medieval and early modern material culture dominated by ceramics.

Salm Palace



**Charta Story: The Story of Charter 77**

14. 3. 2017 – 19. 1. 2019

Authors: Zuzana Brikcius, Eugen Brikcius, Ondřej Kohout, Eva Kohout-Voneš, Petr Blažek, Veronika Tuckerová Curator: Irena Nýltová

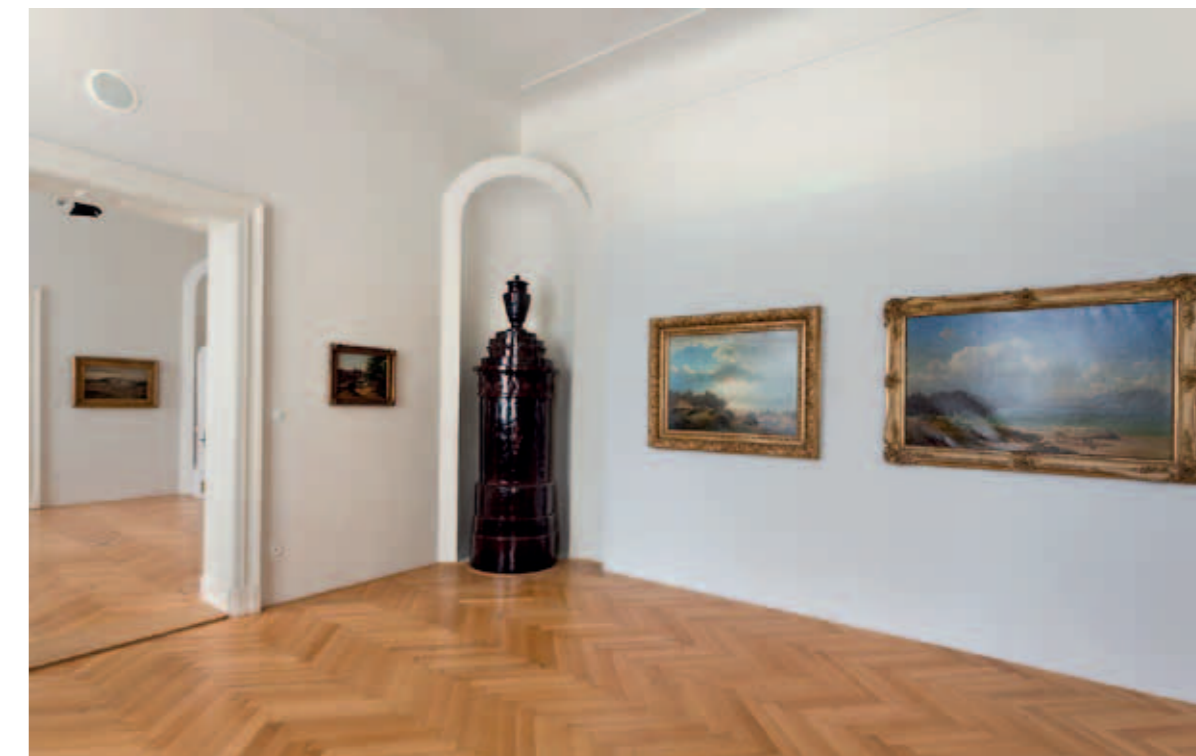
The Charta Story exhibition commemorated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter 77 initiative. The story of Ivan Jirous, poet, art critic and representative of the Czech underground, documented in photographs, written materials and personal belongings, reveals the life stories of people from various social circles who were linked by their affinity to the spirit of Charter 77 and were its signatories.

**19<sup>th</sup> Century Art, from Neoclassicism to Romanticism**

Curator: Šárka Leubnerová

The exhibition presented paintings and sculptural works from a time when Bohemian art was an integral part of the Central European art world. The installation was conceived along a chronological timeline in stylistic, thematic and authorial units. Exhibits included work by František Tkadlík, Josef Navrátil, August Piepenhagen, the Mánes family, Václav Prachner and Václav Levý. Austrian and German painters were represented by Caspar David Friedrich, Carl Spitzweg and Ferdinand George Waldmüller, demonstrating mutual artistic and cultural links.

The permanent exhibition 19<sup>th</sup> Century Art, from Neoclassicism to Romanticism was closed on 1 October 2017. Visitors will be able to see these works at a new exhibition in the Trade Fair Palace in the near future.



Trade Fair Palace



**Ai Weiwei: Law of the Journey**

17. 3. 2017 – 7. 1. 2018

Curators: Jiří Fajt in cooperation with Adam Budak

The distinguished Chinese contemporary artist Ai Weiwei prepared Law of the Journey, a new work for the Great Hall at the Trade Fair Palace, which was born out of his long interest in the fate of migrants. A giant rubber boat with 258 refugees was the artist's most extensive project so far and completely dominated the Great Hall. The installation complemented other projects reflecting the migration theme, including the Laundromat project, which used thousands of pieces of clothing, shoes and other materials Ai Weiwei collected at the Greek refugee camp in Idomeni. The entrance hall to the Trade Fair Palace housed the installation Snake Ceiling, consisting of backpacks symbolising the school children who lost their lives in a Chinese earthquake in 2008. The Café Jedna coffee shop hosted the project With Flowers, an exhibit reflecting almost two years of the artist's home detention.

**Magdalena Jetelová: Touch of Time**

17. 3. 2017 – 18. 3. 2018

Curator: Milena Kalinovská in cooperation with Irena Nývtová

Prepared especially for the National Gallery Prague, Magdalena Jetelová's installation filled the Small Hall of the Trade Fair Palace with a liquid landscape, reflecting the building's functionalist architecture and providing an opportunity to see the author's way of thinking and creating work. The spatial installation extended into the Mezzanine with a showcase of Magdalena Jetelová's previous work.



**Kneaded Knowledge:  
The Language of Ceramics**

Prepared in cooperation with Kunsthaus Graz  
17. 3. 2017 – 27. 8. 2017  
Curator: Peter Pakesch

Artists Ai Weiwei and Edmund de Waal were the authors of the exhibition Kneaded Knowledge: The Language of Ceramics. This showed how ceramics, traditionally considered a handcraft, can convey knowledge accumulated over thousands of years and that its development is closely intertwined with the history of art. In addition to Ai Weiwei and Edmund de Waal, other prominent artists included Lynda Benglis, Alison Britton, Hans Coper, Lucio Fontana, Asger Jorn, Kazimir Malevich, Fausto Melotti, Joan Miró, Isamu Noguchi and Pablo Picasso were presented.



**Julian Rosefeldt: Manifesto**

19. 10. 2017 – 7. 1. 2018  
Curator: Adam Budak

Manifesto, the 13-channel film installation by Berlin artist Julian Rosefeldt starring Australian actress Cate Blanchett, presented manifestos that once stood at the birth of modern art. In the role of school teacher, puppeteer, newsreader, factory worker and homeless person, Blanchett imbued new dramatic life into both famous and lesser known words in unexpected contexts.





**Epos 257: Retro-Reflection**

17. 3. 2017 – 10. 6. 2017  
Curators: Jiří Ptáček, František Teplý

**Olafur Eliasson: Green Light**

17. 3. 2017 – 2. 4. 2018  
Curator: Adam Budak

**New Wave: AVU Graduates 2017**

24. 6. 2017 – 30. 7. 2017  
Curator: Václav Janoščík

**Keiichi Tahara:****Photosynthesis 1978–1980**

17. 3. 2017 – 27. 8. 2017  
Curator: Adam Budak

**Startpoint 2017 – Prize for European Art Academy Graduates**

19. 10. 2017 – 10. 12. 2017  
Curatorial team: Pavel Vančát, Marcel Fišer, GAVU Cheb, Lucia Gavulová, Radek Váňa

**Biafra of Spirit: Third World Students in Czechoslovakia**

19. 10. 2017 – 7. 1. 2018  
Curator: Tereza Stejskalová in cooperation with Zbyněk Baladrán

**Jan Zrzavý – Illustrator and Worshipper of Beauty II.**

7. 3. 2017 – 4. 6. 2017  
Curator: Zuzana Novotná

**The Mythological Misalliances of Max Pirner**

5. 9. 2017 – 26. 11. 2017  
Curator: Markéta Dlábková

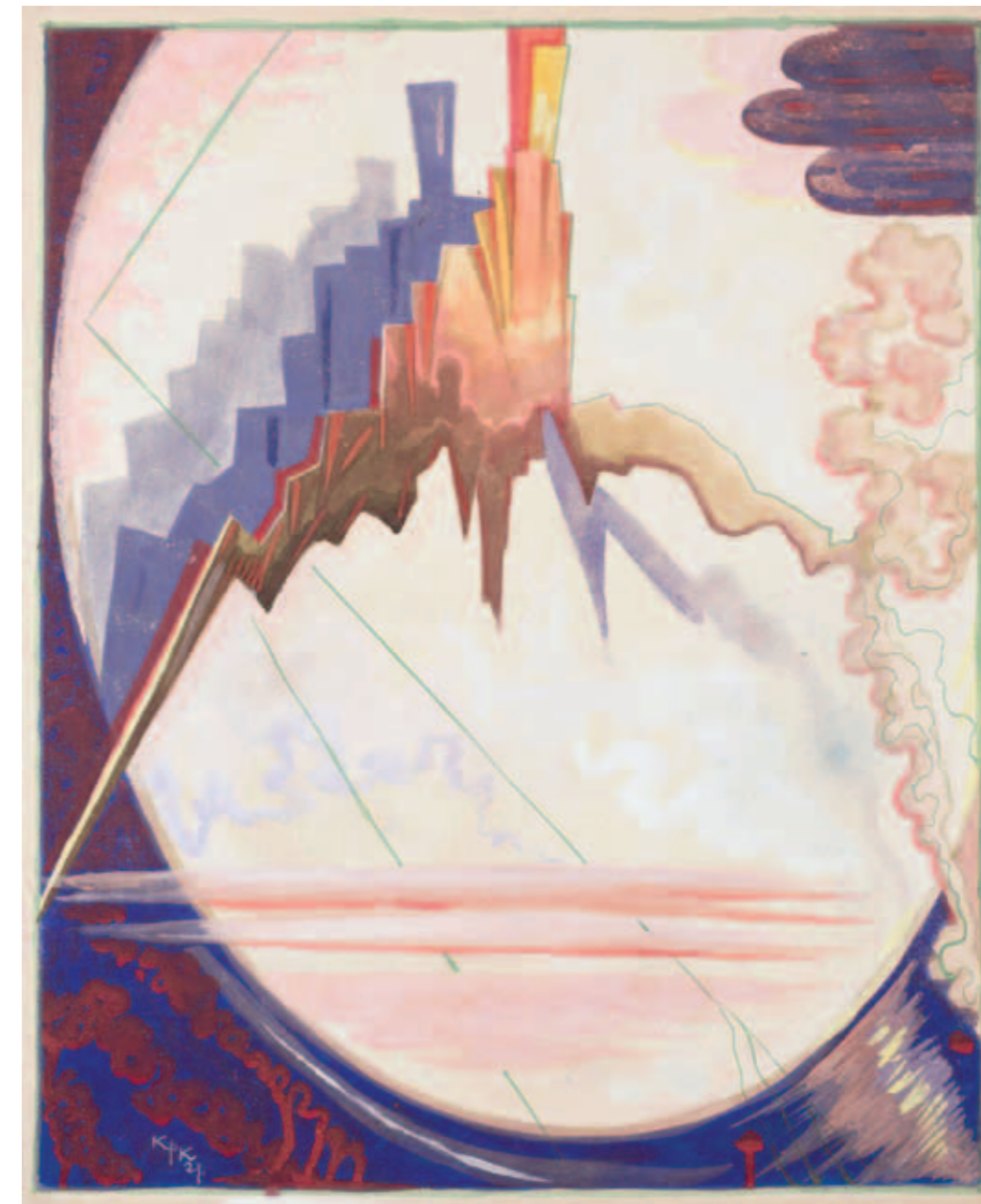
**The Cosmic Architecture of Jan Konůpek**

5. 12. 2017 – 11. 3. 2018  
Curator: Eva Bendová

**Vojtěch Hynais: Sketches, Studies, Designs**

6. 6. 2017 – 3. 9. 2017  
Curator: Petr Šámal

Jan Konůpek, The Egg and the Universe, 1929, watercolour, gouache





In 2017, the National Gallery Prague continued its presentation of contemporary artists in freely accessible exhibition cycles on the ground floor of the Trade Fair Palace. The Poetry Passage in the foyer was devoted to the relationship between the fine arts and poetry, while the adjoining Presidential Salon hosted the Introducing project with works from the young art generation, and the Moving Image Department featured film and sound installations.

#### Introducing Pavla Dundálková: *When I Close My Window, I Don't Hear the Street Noise*

17. 3. 2017 – 10. 9. 2017, Curator: Pavlína Morganová

#### Moving Image Department #7: *Brian Eno, The Ship*

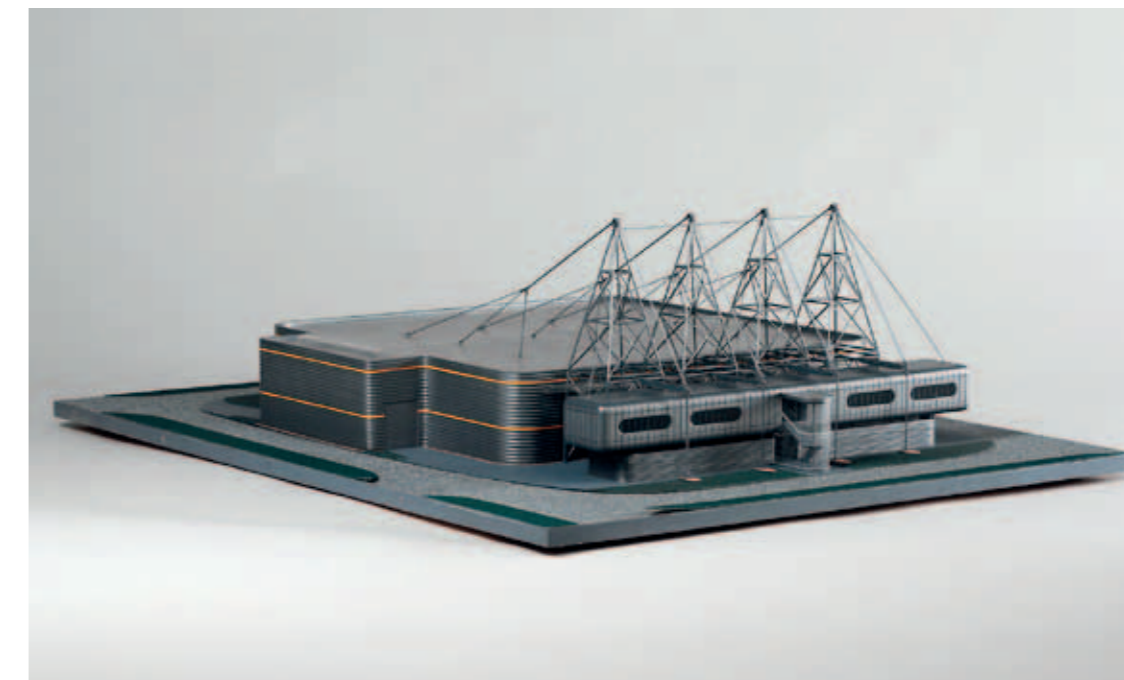
17. 3. 2017 – 10. 9. 2017, Curator: Adam Budak

#### Poetry Passage #5: *L'esprit des poètes officiels et crochus*

17. 3. 2017 – 10. 9. 2017, Curator: Adam Budak

#### Introducing Pedro Henriques: *Fasting*

19. 10. 2017 – 7. 1. 2018, Curator: Markéta Stará Condeixa



The jewel of Czech functionalist architecture presents more than two thousand works of modern and contemporary art. International art collections include the famous French collection, an extensive collection of works by Austrian and German artists, the work of the Russian avant-garde and works by leading Spanish artists. The story of Czech modern art begins with its birth in the mid-nineteenth century and traces its development through the strong artistic personalities of the National Theatre generation to important artists of the early twenty-first century. An integral part of the exhibition is a section devoted to Czech architecture from 1950, presented via models as originals and those specially built for the Trade Fair Palace.



**Czech Modernism I, 1890–1930**

**Czech Modernism II, 1900–1930**

**Czech Modernism III, 1930–Present**

**Contemporary Czech Art**

**French Art of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

**International Art of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries**

Waldstein Riding School



## Waldstein Riding School

### František Skála Riding School

10. 3. 2017 – 3. 9. 2017  
Curator: Tomáš Pospiszl

The František Skála exhibition focused on the artist's work from 2004 to the present. Skála sought to provide a complex experience for the visitor within the author's architectural and exhibition concept in the Waldstein Riding School. The installation was fully integrated with the venue's architecture and lighting and included various exhibition pavilions or solitary monumental works, light installations and works created specifically for the site.

### František Skála: Rugged Stand

1. 6. 2017 – 3. 9. 2017

As part of the František Skála Riding School exhibition, Rugged Stand, a six-metre-high object created by the artist from a three hundred-year-old oak tree, was installed in the nearby Lesser Town Square. It included a kiosk that offered passers-by refreshments and the opportunity to explore other artefacts prepared by the artist.



### Ferdinand II, Archduke of Austria: A Renaissance Ruler and Art Patron Between Prague and Innsbruck

3. 11. 2017 – 25. 2. 2018

In cooperation with the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien and Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Curator: Blanka Kubíková

Co-curators: Jan Baťa, Beket Bukovinská, Václav Bůžek, Sylva Dobalová, Eliška Fučíková, Jaroslava Hausenblasová, Stanislav Hrbatý, Blanka Kubíková, Thomas Kuster, Ivan Prokop Muchka, Ivo Purš, Paulus Rainer, Veronika Sandbichler, Katharina Seidl

The exhibition presented Archduke Ferdinand as a historical figure long associated with the history of the Czech lands and the art of the Renaissance period, but also as a man with personal ties and interests. Particular attention was paid to Ferdinand's passion for collecting, including his three famous collections: the armoury, the Kunstkammer and an extensive library, which were kept at Ambras Palace in Innsbruck. The exhibition included over three hundred exhibits, from paintings and rare pieces of art and craft to Renaissance armour, valuable documents, including a handwritten letter by the Archduke himself, and natural objects and curiosities. More than half of the exhibits were on loan from foreign collections, so the exhibition was a unique opportunity to view these in the Czech Republic. For the first time in our country, this important Renaissance ruler was seen in the context of an exhibition project.

Painting from Archduke Ferdinand's collection, Magdalena Gonsalvo, a girl from the family afflicted by hirsutism, circa 1580



Cooperation and Loans



## Cooperation and Loans

## International

Many exhibitions took place in 2017 at Czech and international museums and galleries which the National Gallery Prague was involved in preparing or to which it provided significant loans.

Extensive cooperation with partner institutions continued in 2017, mainly in European Union countries, but there was also a substantial increase in loans to non-EU countries. A total of 304 works were lent for 30 exhibitions abroad, of which 73 works (5 exhibitions) were lent overseas (Tokyo, San Francisco, Mexico, Chicago).

A total of 420 works were lent by the National Gallery Prague for 39 exhibitions in the Czech Republic, with another 1000 works on long-term loan.

One of the most extensive collaborations in 2017 was the exhibition *Town, Country, Animal: The Colour Woodcut in Prague around 1900* in Regensburg, Germany, which was the work of NG curator Eva Bendová. Most of the exhibition comprised exhibits from the collections of the National Gallery Prague.

Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

Brussels, European Parliament

Düsseldorf, Stiftung Museum Kunstpalast

Chicago, Art Institute of Chicago

Innsbruck, Schloss Ambras

Madrid, Fundación MAPFRE

Metz, Centre Pompidou – Metz

Mexico City, Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City

Naumburg, Vereinigte Domstifter

Nuremberg, Germanisches Nationalmuseum

Paris, Établissement public de la Réunion des musées nationaux et du Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées

Paris, Grand Palais

Paris, Musée d'Orsay Paris, Musée du Louvre

Paris, Musée Marmottan Monet

Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne / Centre Pompidou

Paris, Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine

Regensburg, Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Galerie Regensburg

San Francisco, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco

St. Pölten, Museum Niederösterreich Geschichte

Stuttgart, Staatsgalerie Stuttgart  
Tokyo, The Bunkamura Museum of Art

Tokyo, The National Museum of Western Art

Utrecht, Museum Catharijneconvent

Vienna, Albertina Museum

Vienna, Leopold Museum

Vienna, Österreichische Galerie Belvedere

## Czech Republic

Brno, Fait Gallery

Brno, Moravian Gallery in Brno

Brno, Brno City Museum

České Budějovice, South Bohemian Museum in České Budějovice

Hlinsko, Municipal Museum and Gallery Hlinsko

Hluboká nad Vltavou, Aleš South Bohemian Gallery

Hodonín Gallery of Fine Arts

Cheb, Gallery of Fine Arts in Cheb

Jihlava, Vysočina Regional Gallery in Jihlava

Karlovy Vary, Gallery of Art Karlovy Vary

Karlovy Vary, Museum Karlovy Vary

Klatovy, Klatovy / Klenová Gallery

Liberec, Regional Gallery in Liberec

Litoměřice, North Bohemian Gallery of Fine Arts

Mladá Boleslav, Mladá Boleslav Museum

Olomouc, Olomouc Museum of Art

Ostrava, Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava

Pilsen, Gallery of West Bohemia in Pilsen

Prague, Zlatá Husa Gallery

Prague, Museum Kampa

Prague, Museum of Czech Literature

Prague, Postal Museum

Prague, Prague Castle Administration

Prague, Mánes Union of Fine Arts

Rakovník, Rabas Gallery in Rakovník

Roudnice nad Labem, Gallery of Modern Art in Roudnice nad Labem

Zlín, Regional Gallery of Fine Arts

Educational and Accompanying Programmes

## School Programmes

A team of professional lecturers delivered 1,108 programmes relating to temporary and permanent exhibitions for 21,906 participants. Programmes for kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and universities took the educational curricula of schools (Framework Educational Programmes) into consideration. Their online presentation was recently launched in response to the modification of permanent exhibitions. Programmes were revised, expanded and updated. There are fourteen new programmes for kindergartens and primary schools at the Trade Fair Palace based on talks about art and joint learning (A Stroll through the Gallery, With the Puppet Don Quixote, Trade Fair City, Into the Picture), learning about art through students' own work in experimental studios (In the Studio of Fráňa D, Inside the Statue, Leaving a Mark, Printing Gestures, Hidden in the Dark) or the desire to discover art autonomously, often through the senses (At the Gallery with a Sketchbook, With Mind and Body). Two programmes were designed for kindergartens and primary schools at Sternberg Palace with Easter and Christmas themes. These translate knowledge and visual experience from the exhibition into a live art form (Looking for a Face and Star of Bethlehem – The Sign of Colour).

Schools were also interested in the new programmes to accompany the exhibitions František Skála Riding School (On the Trail of Kuléra, The Beauty of Devastation with Flaws – 40 programmes), Law of the Journey by Ai Weiwei, which considers the issues of migration and survival in extreme conditions (On the Road, Liquid Truth – 38 programmes) and Magdalena Jetelová's Touch of Time (From the Memory of Landscapes – 19 programmes).

To promote the further education of teachers and greater use of the gallery for educational purposes, two new study materials were developed for teachers in an innovative, interactive form for the first time. These are available online and free of charge. Tours and presentations with artists, curators and special guests from Doctors Without Borders and Hatefree were organised for teachers (14 events for 278 teachers). Traditional cooperation continued with the art and pedagogy departments of universities preparing teachers. Selected NG educational activities were introduced as best practice tools for learning.

**Educational and accompanying programmes in 2017**

**2213**

programmes

**56,499**

participants





## Programmes for Children and Parents

Children's education opened the gallery as a place of inspiration and experience to visitors aged from one and a half. Creative workshops for children and their parents or grandparents motivated and encouraged collaboration, creativity and a common experience in art. Each of the regular workshops had a unique theme based on arts and crafts knowledge and practices with artistic experiments and imagination. Activities for children also opened up social taboos or neglected topics (aging and death, relationships to the deceased, inter-generational relations, coexistence of cultures, etc.). The traditional Playroom format for children aged from one and a half to five was held three times a week at the Trade Fair Palace. For many this was the place in which they encountered the art world for the first time.

For independently creative children (aged 6–10) and youths (10–16), weekly Studios

were held at the Trade Fair Palace, with diverse artistic activities inspired by original works of art. The Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia received a new lease of life in May 2017 with the garden festival Aněžka (Agnes) for children, with new art objects by František Skála installed in the gardens, an art studio in the cloister, worksheets and a guide to the convent and tour using all the senses. The celebration was a taste of the Aněžka LIVE! summer programme and was attended by 400 visitors.

Children's programmes also took place during the summer holidays, with thematic weekly summer studios. Fourteen summer studios focused on the use of a wide range of creative materials, media, movement and dramatic education, linking permanent and temporary exhibitions, the interiors and exteriors of the gallery's palaces, gardens and adjoining parts of the city.

Programmes accompanying the František Skála Riding School exhibition took place at both the exhibition and the Lesser Town Square, at the Rugged Stand. The culmination was a concert by M. T. O. Universal in the gardens of the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia, which was attended by about one thousand people.

Descriptive labels for families with children were created for the Ferdinand II, Archduke of Austria exhibition. A tour following the symbol of a star titled Ferdinand II in a Nutshell, presented two dozen key exhibits with easy to understand and interesting texts. There were also new worksheets titled In the Glitter of a Star.



## Programmes for Children and Parents



### Interactive Studios

Inspirational studios with original content were incorporated into exhibitions as a form of education without a lecturer. At the František Skála Riding School exhibition, binoculars were available on the balcony to observe details of the works. Studiolo was newly created for the Ferdinand II, Archduke of Austria exhibition. The space reflected the main themes of the Renaissance and evoked a scientist's laboratory, an artisan's workshop and an artist's studio. For the exhibition Norbert Grund (1717–1767): The Charm of the Everyday, a "dance hall" was created and dedicated to teaching and trying out period dances, with illustrations of dance steps drawn directly on the floor. An attractive workbook called Dance Basics was available to visitors and participants of the dance workshops.

### International Conference on Child Education

In October 2017, the National Gallery Prague hosted for the first time in Czech history the Hands On! international conference, titled The Future in the Hands of Children and subtitled "Informal Education as a Tool of Social Change". Its aim was to improve and bring museum and gallery presentations closer to young visitors and show them as active and friendly places. A workshop presenting a unique Playroom format for parents with children aged from one and a half to five was part of the conference, which was received with very positive feedback by participating international professionals.

### Publications

The issue of restoring medieval paintings and sculptures and decorative technologies was the topic of the book Check It Out!, which was written in cooperation with restorers and collection curators. The light-hearted tone of the book is supported by illustrations by Martin Kubát.



## Programmes for Youths and Adults

Educators not only provided information about works of art, but also offered a number of opportunities to engage and develop creative artistic abilities and critical thinking, and to interpret classical and contemporary art. Meeting with active artists in the role of educators was an important aspect.

Traditional courses on art history opened for the 2017/18 academic year for members of the public who wished to gain a basic understanding of how art has developed. Consisting of 91 lectures, The Basics of Art History was designed not only as preparation for university but also for lifelong learning. This was followed by the seminar Sunday with Art, consisting of 72 lectures.

The lecture series From Gothic to Art Nouveau (22 lectures) covered six collections and ran twice thanks to enormous interest. The course on Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Art in the Permanent Collections of the National Gallery Prague this time accentuated more direct contact with original works of art over 26 guided tours. An advanced course in art history, Focus on Art, with new topics (31 lectures and tours) ran three times.

In August 2017, the Summer School of Art History took place, focusing on the social role of art and the technology of the Old Masters and artists of the nineteenth century. Participants could try basic art techniques during the course.



## Creative Workshops for Youths and Adults

The Lucas Cranach exhibition was accompanied by a series of workshops titled *The Hare – Master Watercolours in the Time of Cranach*. Several open air painting classes were held with the aim of conveying the possibility of landscape painting in the field. A two-day Garden workshop took place at Sternberg Palace for the fifth time, where participants learned the technical processes of painting from the ground up. The one-day open air painting class *In the Footsteps of the Dutch Masters* took place in Křivoklát Forest.

In summer, two weekly plenary schools were held in Strážovice near Mirovice, led by professional artists. The programme included painting in the field, expert lectures, performances, excursions and a vernissage. A benefit was the involvement of local residents, for whom the vernissage became a cultural event. Many encountered paintings and heard about the National Gallery Prague for the first time.

For those interested in developing their painting skills, a series of 15 full-day figural workshops, *Portrait and Figure after the Masters*, was designed to offer both inspiration and the chance to copy originals of paintings from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries from within the NG permanent exhibition.

Six meetings with the authors of the paintings in the *After Rembrandt* project took place as part of the exhibition. In the *Land of the Glacier* was an experimental and painting plenary organised for the Rychleby Mountains in connection with the Gerhard Richter exhibition, reflecting the genius loci, artist's work and context of the exhibition in the Sudeten region, an area affected by the historical turmoil of the nineteenth century.

*Secret Journey* – dance installation at the Ai Weiwei exhibition, *Law of the Journey*. Prepared in cooperation with the Centre for Choreographic Development SE.S.TA. Photo: Dragan Dragin



## The Gallery as a Place of Social Inclusion

In response to Ai Weiwei's site-specific installation reflecting humanitarian and refugee crises, a series of eleven public events were prepared focusing on the issue of migrants and directly involving them as participants or the audience. The aim was to make this topic more accessible to the public and promote critical reflection on the issue, which is often exaggerated and sensationalised in the Czech Republic. People involved in the event represented not only the Czech Republic and Slovakia but also many other countries (Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria,

Togo, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam), all in cooperation with thirteen other organisations. Over 1100 people participated in this series of events.

The National Gallery also enabled visitors with special needs to experience art through special tactile exhibitions at Schwarzenberg Palace and the Convent of St Agnes, as well as other active programmes. Additional programmes were created for disadvantaged young people (aged 15–30) and students with challenging personal circumstances or physical and mental disabilities.

The National Treasure project, prepared in cooperation with artist Lukáš Houdek, introduced the topic of nationalism at the exhibition at the Trade Fair Palace on International Museum and Gallery Day



Special occasions offered the opportunity to prepare original events for the public. In 2017, these largely related to celebrating the 221<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the founding of the National Gallery Prague, the International Museum and Gallery Day, Prague Museum Night, the Different City Experience or Architecture Day and participation in the local Prague 7 Art District project – under the We are Open project. The Anežka LIVE! 2017 summer programme offered a variety of activities to visitors of the gardens, grounds and surroundings of the Convent of St Agnes, with concerts, workshops, guided and performance tours, a summer cinema, yoga and tai chi lessons, plus other sports. A total of 47 events were attended by 58 19 people.

#### Programme and participant statistics in 2017

Programme Target Group	Programmes	Participants
Kindergartens	170	3 088
Primary schools	465	9 290
Secondary schools and universities	473	9 528
Groups of people with special needs	14	170
Teachers	14	278
Schools (total)	<b>1 129</b>	<b>22 255</b>
Adults (art workshops, courses, guided tours, lectures)	743	19 167
Children and families (workshops, playroom and studios)	287	8 709
Adults and children (total)	<b>1 030</b>	<b>27 876</b>
Anežka LIVE!	47	5 819
Total	<b>2 213</b>	<b>56 499</b>



## Special Events

In 2017, the National Gallery Prague signed an institutional partnership with the Dresden State Art Collections (SKD). The initial joint project was called The Prague-Dresden Train of Culture, which introduced leading artists from both countries on the train line between the two cities. On the route to Dresden, winner of the Jindřich Chaloupecký Award Kateřina Šedá presented her latest work, while the second train from Prague brought together prominent literary personalities – Jakuba Katalpa, David Záborský and Aleš Palán. In the opposite direction, passengers could meet Durs Grünbein, probably the most important representative of contemporary German poetry, and singer, songwriter, actress and artist Anna Mateur.

On the occasion of simultaneous Gerhard Richter exhibitions in Prague and Dresden, a meeting of young Prague and Dresden visitors took place in both cities to discuss the contemporary art scene. Exhibitions were also linked through the Club of Friends of both institutions, and members took full advantage of the free admission. An exchange programme for the staff of both museums was also launched in 2017. In the future, the partner institutions will be focusing on professional cooperation, including coordinating scientific research, co-organising conferences and seminars and preparing exhibition projects.

Prague–Dresden Train  
of Culture project



**Publishing Activity**



## Monographs



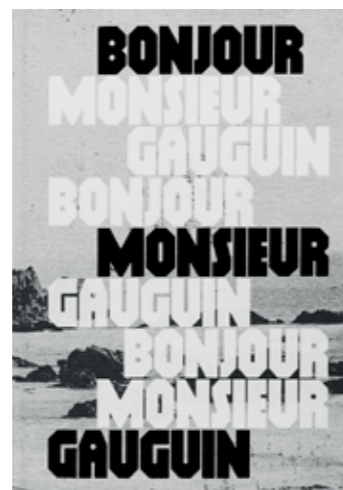
Jiří Fajt-Adam Budak, Ai Weiwei: Law of the Journey (Czech and English versions)

Zdenka Klimtová (ed.), Tales of the Bird Carpet (Czech)

Filip Suchomel, Shashin! Japanese Photography of the Nineteenth Century (Czech and English versions)

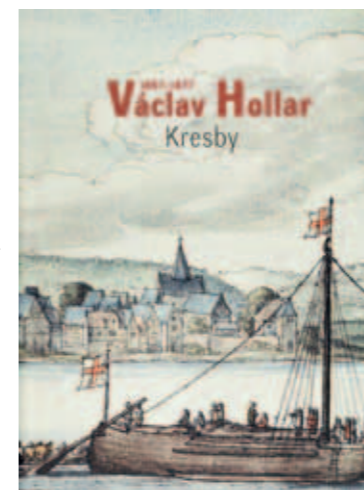
Anna Pravdová (ed.), Bonjour, Monsieur Gauguin: Czech Artists in Brittany (Czech). The book won the Most Beautiful Czech Book of 2017 Award and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Book on Fine Arts category

Šárka Leubnerová (ed.), František Tkadlík (Czech and English version)



The Publishing Department of the National Gallery Prague is responsible for the institution's publishing activities in close cooperation with art historians, curators, lecturers, the library and other workplaces. In addition to traditional publications – exhibition catalogues of various sizes, guides and periodicals – it published an extensive catalogue raisonné, Wenceslaus Hollar Drawings, in 2017. The NG Publishing Department also remembered young readers and produced a fun English textbook for them called Cache in the Gallery. The National Gallery Prague released a total of 36 publications in 2017, most of them in Czech and English. Thanks to their quality and scale, NG publications have increasingly drawn the attention of not only Czech but also international experts and the wider public.

## Monographs



Alena Volrábová, Wenceslaus Hollar. Drawings (Czech and English version). Catalogue raisonné.



## Catalogues and Guides

Jiří Fajt-Markus Horsch, Emperor Charles IV. 1316–2016 (Czech)

Blanka Kubíková-Sylva Dobilová-Jaroslava Hausenblasová (eds.), Ferdinand II, Archduke of Austria (Czech and German versions)

Milena Kalinovská (ed.), Magdalena Jetelová: Touch of Time (Czech–English version). The book won the Most Beautiful Czech Book of 2017 Award in the Catalogue category

Adam Budak-Jiří Fajt-Peter Pakesch (eds.), Kneaded Knowledge: The Language of Ceramics (Czech–English version)

Jiří Fajt-Milena Kalinovská (eds.), Gerhard Richter (Czech, English and German versions)

Zuzana Brikcius (ed.) Charta Story: The Story of Charter 77 (Czech–English version)

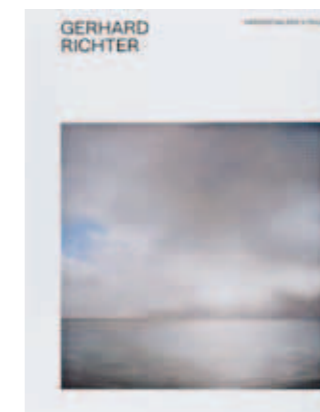
Marcela Vondráčková, Norbert Grund: The Charm of Everyday (Czech–English version)

Helena Dáňová-Štěpánka Chlumská-Radka Šefců (eds.), For the Eyes to Admire (Czech and English versions)

Tomáš Pospiszyl (ed.), František Skála Riding School (Czech–English version)

Helena Dáňová-Štěpánka Chlumská (eds.), What the Eyes Cannot See (Czech and English versions)

Helena Dáňová-Štěpánka Chlumská-Radka Šefců (eds.), Historical Technologies (Czech and English versions)



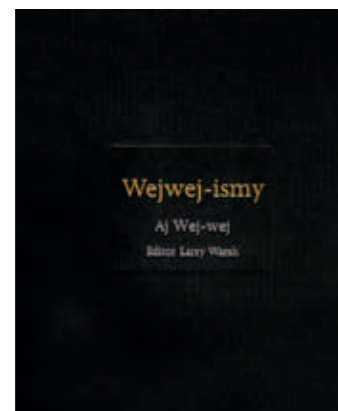
Periodicals



Jan Klípa (ed.) Bulletin of the National Gallery Prague XXVII/2017 (Czech–English)

Alena Volrábová (ed.), Ars linearis VII (Czech–English)

Anthology of Quotes



Larry Warsch (ed.), Weiwei-isms (Czech)

Books for Children



Lucie Poslušná, Cache at the Gallery (Czech–English version)

Štěpánka Chlumská (ed.), Check It Out! (Czech)

Methodological Guides



Dagmar Jelínková (ed.), How to Frame a Picture? (Czech)

Štěpánka Chlumská (ed.), Conservation Procedures (Czech)



Care of Collections and Restoration

## Documentation of Collections

At the end of 2017, the collection of the National Gallery Prague was registered in the Central Register of Collections kept by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, and contained a total of 394,053 items in the following categories:

Sub-collections	Number of collection items
Paintings	16,954
Sculptures	9,208
New media	587
Prints	269,654
Drawings	66,967
Asian, African and American art in total	13,734
Architecture in total	15,816
Facsimiles	1,133
<b>Total</b>	<b>394,053</b>

Under the care for the NG collection fund, an inventory of 28,624 items was conducted in 2017.

The digitisation of the collection fund continued in 2017, with visual documentation completed for 5,700 works of art.





The Conservation Department carried out restoration on works of art that the National Gallery Prague lent to galleries and institutions not only in the Czech Republic but also abroad.

### Summary of restored works

#### Collection of Old Masters

Anonymous, South Bohemia, first quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century – Pietà from Bílsko

Joos van Cleve: Mona Vana Nuda

Pieter Brueghel: Winter Landscape with a Bird Trap

Johann Adalbert Angermayer: Bouquet with Cowslip

Johann Adalbert Angermayer: Bouquet with Blue Hyacinth

Johann Adalbert Angermayer: Still Life with Deer Head

Johann Adalbert Angermayer: Still Life with Boar Head

Pieter van Bloemen (aka Standart or Standarto): Military Encampment

Dirck Hals (follower): A Merry Company

David Teniers II: Gypsies in a Rocky Landscape

#### Collection of Nineteenth Century Art

Václav Brožík: In the Field

Vojtěch Hynais: Company in the Country – On a Trip – Catching Crayfish

Antonín Chittussi: In the Fields – Landscape at Harvest Time

Antonín Slaviček: View of Prague from Letná

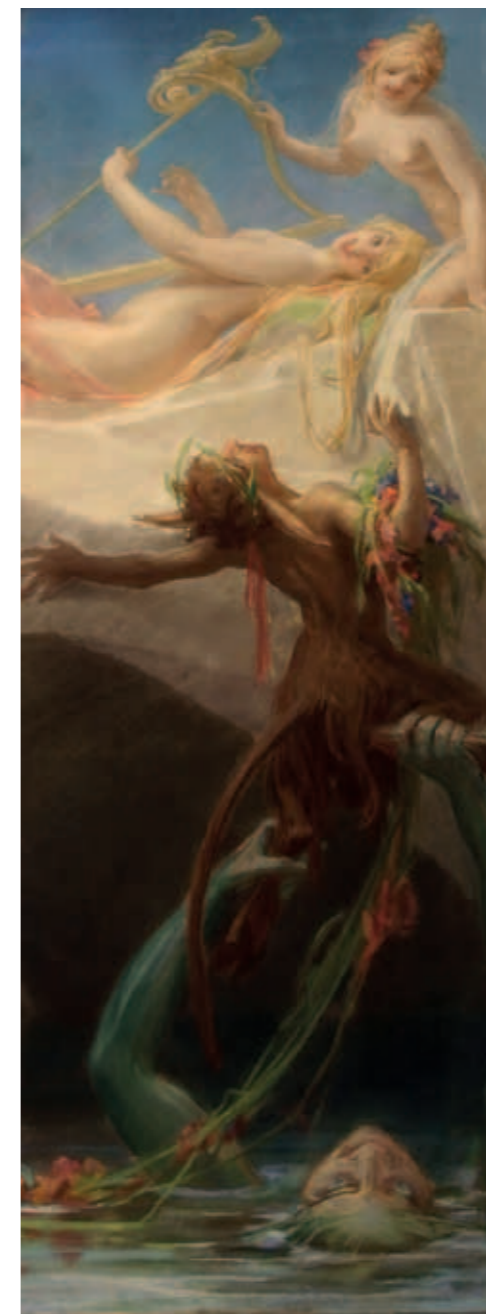
Hanuš Schwaiger: Canterbury Tales

#### Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art

André Derain: Bathing

Nikolai Chvorinov: The Circle of Life

Edgar Jantsch: Cripples



Gustav Klimt: The Virgin

Ivan Kulec: Still Life with Fruit

Valentin Krasheninnikov: Reclining Woman

Valentin Krasheninnikov: Seated Dancer

Karel May: Still Life with Flowers

Grigorij Musatov: The Flood

Jaroslav Paur: City

Jaroslav Paur: Ruins

Vladimír Sychra: Abduction of the Sabine Women – motif from the Spanish Civil War

Alois Wachsmann: Portrait of Josef Frič

Wenzel Hablik: Crystal Castle in the Sea

#### Collection of Prints and Drawings

Pieter Brueghel: Sylvan Landscape with Five Bears

Max Pirner: Mythological Misalliances I., III., V., VIII., IX., X.

#### Collection of Asian Art

Kōjū – Japanese Hanging Scroll: Calligraphic Inscription Shrine of the God of Literature

Collection of Osaka woodcuts:

Jukōdō, Yoshikuni: Actor Ichikawa Hakuen

Ryūsai Shigeharu: Actor in the Role of a Man in a Gale

Ryūsai Shigeharu: Hero Masanori

Sadamasu: Actor Kataoka Gadō as Oguri Hangan

Shunkōsai Hokushū: Actor Asao Gakujūrō I

Shunbaisai, Hokuei: Actor Arashi Rikan II as Watōnai

Toyohide: Actor Onoe Kikugorō III

Science and Research

Scientific and expert activities at the National Gallery Prague are closely linked to the main tasks under its Statute, in particular, managing the collections and exhibiting, educating and making the most valuable works accessible to the general public. It covers the whole spectrum, from basic research through to applied research and the development of new certified methodologies, and the creation of databases for the research community in the Czech Republic and abroad and other interested parties.

Long-term tasks include preparing unique materials and digitising data stored in the Archive. The Library of the National Gallery Prague has a valuable collection, which is being continuously and systematically developed through the institutional support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. The National Gallery Prague continues to expand instruments and technological equipment in the chemical laboratory and restoration workshop, funded by grant projects and subsidies from the founder and other ministries in connection with the professional capacity of its employees. This gives rise to unique expertise,

whose significance goes beyond the realm of galleries and museums and makes the National Gallery Prague a sought-after partner for institutions in other academic and practical fields.

Our institution has established partnerships with a number of universities, research institutes and investigative bodies in the field of applied research, which focus on examining the materials used in fine arts linked to other fields of research, preserving cultural heritage, authenticating artefacts and creating databases of samples for use in forensic testing, etc. An integrated approach using accurate analyses and art history methodology brings a whole range of new insights and perspectives.

The results of research and expert activities are usually released through professional publications, seminars and conferences, as well as lectures and specialised exhibitions.

Many of these events received considerable acclaim in 2017, including, among others,

the exhibition *What the Eyes Cannot See – Underdrawing in 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup> Century Panel Paintings* from the Collections of the National Gallery Prague, which was followed by the exhibition *For the Eyes to Admire – Decorative Techniques in Painting and Sculpture in the Fourteenth to Sixteenth Centuries*. Both showed the results of comprehensive research on individual medieval works in the NG's permanent collections juxtaposed directly with the originals. Other attractive formats were also sought. At the end of the year, mobile applications began to be developed, also based on data from research projects.

Curators and experts were also involved in research projects supported by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior and the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic. A number of outputs were funded through the institutional support of the founder. The quality of research results is gradually improving, as evidenced not only by the response, but also evidenced evaluation according to valid methodologies, including the Council for Science, Research and Innovation.

## Overview of grant projects implemented in 2017

### From Balloons to Cosmic Consciousness: Aviation in Czech Visual Culture (GACR)

Investigator: Eva Bendová

### Collectors of Japanese Woodcuts in Bohemia (GACR)

Investigator: Markéta Hánová, 2015–2017

### Formation of Collections of Modern Chinese Ink Painting in Interwar Czechoslovakia and Their Significance in a European Context (GACR)

Investigator: Michaela Pejčochová, 2016–2018

### The “French Model” and Collection of French Art of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (GACR)

Chief Investigator: Markéta Theinhard, January 2015–December 2017 (extended until June 2019)

### Ministry of the Interior – from 2017 to 2020. Comprehensive Instrumental Methods for Assessing the Authenticity of Artworks, a Material Database of Twentieth Century Colour Layers.

Together with the Institute of Criminology, the National Gallery will participate in research on the methodology for detecting forgeries under a Ministry of the Interior grant.

The guarantors for the project at the NG are Ing. Radka Šefců (Head of the NG Chemical Laboratory), cooperating academic artist D. Konvalinková (Conservation Department) and Irena Nývltová (Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art)

## Colloquiums

### Workshop on historical technologies and modern methods of exploring medieval art

Prague, Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia, 19. 10. 2017

### Workshop *Artes et Bellum. The Art of Central Europe and the Thirty Years' War*, in cooperation with the Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa and Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

Prague, Schwarzenberg Palace, 2.–3. 11. 2017

The Library of the National Gallery Prague is a specialised library dedicated to the fine arts (painting, sculpture, prints and drawing), architecture, art history and art theory. It provides a library and information services to NG staff for their professional work and to the public, making its collection available for in-house use. The Library also provides search and interlibrary loan services from Czech and foreign book collections.

The Library's collection consists of specialist publications on the fine arts and exhibition catalogues of Czech and foreign artists and collections, of which the exhibition and collection catalogues of the National Gallery from 1821 form a significant part. An interesting part of the fund is a collection of specialist publications on Asian art. Currently, the Library has over 115,000 items in its collection.

The Archive of the National Gallery Prague manages, processes and provides access to archival materials related to the fine arts in Bohemia. Its most valuable collections include the remnants of the archives of the brotherhoods of the painters of Prague and the collections of the legal predecessors of the National Gallery Prague, i.e., the documents of the Society of Patriotic Friends of the Arts, the Modern Gallery and the Czech-Moravian Land Gallery, as well as the documents of the National Gallery itself. The collections are complemented by a variety of documents from the estates of various artists, collectors, historians, theoreticians and art critics.

Currently, the Archive's main and long-term tasks are to process and make available to researchers the collection of the National Gallery Prague and the important personal collection of the former Director of the National Gallery, Jiří Kotalík. The collections are made available to researchers through inventory lists posted on the website, while selected archival material is published in book form in the Art in the Archives edition.



Postcard sent to Vincenc Kramář by Emil Filla on 2 October 1913, Vincenc Kramář collection



Acquisitions

Namban medallion from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Japan, 1 work (covered by the ISO/C programme)

Wenceslaus Hollar, 1 work (covered by the ISO/C programme)

Josef Bolf, 3 paintings

Šimon Brejcha, 2 prints

Josef Hampel, 6 structural and active graphic sheets (covered by the ISO/C programme)

Jan Hísek, 3 works

Vladimír Houdek, 3 works

Magdalena Jetelová, 4 works

Lukáš Karbus, 20 works

Jiří Kolář, 20 works

Eva Koťátková, 2 works

Antonín Málek, 5 graphic sheets (covered by the ISO/C programme)

Jan Nálevka, 30 works

Ivan Pinkava, 6 works

Romana Rotterová, 5 structural graphic sheets (covered by the ISO/C programme)

František Skála, 10 works

Kateřina Šedá, series of works on paper, approx. 130 double-sided sheets

Roman Štětina, 1 video

Mark Ther, 26 works

Under the plan to develop its collection, acquisitions by the National Gallery Prague in 2017 focused on works of extraordinary gallery quality which could be incorporated into permanent exhibitions or as substitutes for works in restitution. Thanks to dedicated funds, more works by contemporary artists were acquired in 2017, and several purchases were made through a subsidy from the Ministry of Culture (ISO/C Programme).

Magdalena Jetelová:  
Henry Moore Studio, 1991



František Skála:  
Expo 3000, 2012



Wenceslaus Hollar:  
Coat of Arms with Three Bells, 1651



**Donations**

Josef Bolf,  
*6 graphic sheets, 27 drawings, 2 new media, 1 sketchbook*

Emilie Brzezinski,  
*2 works*

Jan Hísek,  
*9 works*

Helena Hladilová,  
*1 work*

Vladimír Houdek,  
*6 works (collages), 2 films*

Magdalena Jetelová,  
*9 works*

Lukáš Karbus,  
*2 works*

Jan Nálevka,  
*3 films*

Jiří Pelcl,  
*2 models*

Ivan Pinkava,  
*4 works*

Romana Rotterová,  
*Collection of 24 graphic sheets*

František Skála,  
*2 works*

Kateřina Šedá,  
*16 double-sided sheets, 1 video*

František Ronovský,  
*1 work*

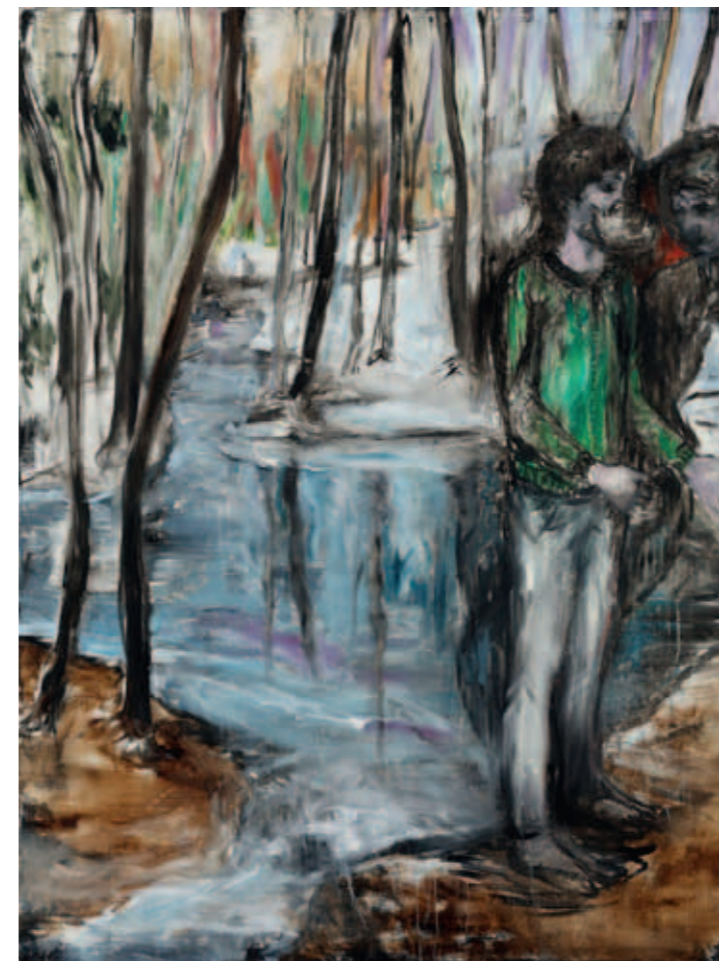
Andy Warhol,  
*5 photo albums, 4 black and white photos,  
7 stapled black and white photos*

**Acquisition through the gallery's activities**

Konrad Müller–Kurzweily,  
*1 work (recovered stolen work)*

**Acquisition by transfer**

Karel Myslбек,  
*2 works*



Josef Bolf: Further and Higher,  
oil on canvas, 2017



Josef Bolf: Last Ice,  
oil on canvas, 2017

## Methodological Centre for Museums of Fine Arts

The activities of the Methodological Centre are an expanded form of public service provided by the National Gallery Prague for the owners and managers of fine art collections in accordance with Act No. 122/2000 Coll., on the protection of collections of a museum nature. In addition to the standard agenda based on public demand, the Centre, in cooperation with other departments of the National Gallery Prague, prepared three workshops in 2017 on framing paintings and digital collection records, and two seminars, one on the Register of Contracts versus Loan Agreements and the other on MOBILITY of COLLECTIONS VII – Collections on the Move 2. The first methodological guide titled How to Frame a Picture, showing certain current trends in adjusting collection items, was released at the end of the year.

## Agenda for Exporting Objects of Cultural Value

The National Gallery Prague performs activities associated with exporting objects of cultural value from the Czech Republic in accordance with Act No. 71/1994 Coll., on the sale and export of objects of cultural value. In 2017, 408 export certificates were issued, 315 of those being permanent exports and 93 being fixed-term export certificates for works exhibited abroad.

Dagmar Jelínková (ed.),  
How to Frame a Picture?



# <sup>104</sup> Supporters of the National Gallery Prague

The National Gallery Prague continued to develop partnership programmes in 2017 and to seek new forms of support and cooperation.

The Club of Friends NG commenced full activity in 2017 and saw great interest from new members and high attendance of special member events over the course of the year. Hundreds of people attracted by unlimited yearly admission and other benefits applied for membership both at the National Gallery Prague and via online applications throughout the year. The number of members grew especially during the Christmas season, when memberships were purchased as gifts. The number of members of the Club of Friends NG exceeded 1800 by the end of 2017. A number of individual donors who sponsored the NG in the order of tens of thousands of crowns entered the Supporter category. As part of the NG's cooperation with the Dresden State Art Collections (DSAC) and two parallel Gerhard Richter exhibitions in Prague and Dresden, the Club of Friends NG welcomed 80 members of the Freunde der Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Dresden Club at special guided tours of the National Gallery Prague. The Club of Friends NG and Freunde der Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Dresden Club took this opportunity to begin cooperation and received free admission in Prague and Dresden for the duration of both exhibitions.

The Club of Friends NG organised four types of events for members on 17 dates over the course of the year. These events were of enormous interest and always fully attended. At the beginning of the year, guided tours behind the scenes of the Trade Fair Palace took place in cooperation with the Education, Exhibition and Conservation Departments. Great interest was also shown in guided tours of the Gerhard Richter exhibition at Kinsky Palace. At the end of summer, the largest special event was held in the gardens of the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia, with a concert and three different guided tours of the building, gardens and collection. One of these tours was led by General Director Jiří Fajt. The event was attended by more than 200 members, and the company Bohemia Sekt s.r.o. became a partner of the Club of Friends NG and NG openings at the event. Members of the Club of Friends NG also attended the premiere of the film *Human Flow* by Ai Weiwei at the Lucerna cinema at the end of the year.

A second partner programme – Club of Patrons NG – was launched in 2017. The club aims to create an environment for meeting and educating people united both by a common interest in fine art, design and architecture, and a shared understanding that art cannot survive without private support.

Several extraordinary events were organised for the Club of Patrons NG in 2017,

commencing in April with a guided tour of the Gerhard Richter exhibition. In September, members of the Club of Patrons NG could experience a guided tour of the František Skála exhibition, led by the artist himself. In autumn, thanks to the Club of Patrons NG, patrons and VIP partners could visit the prestigious Frieze Art Fair in London, accompanied by the General Director and curators of the NG. At the end of the year, a VIP preview and personal meeting with Ai Weiwei was organised for Club members on the occasion of the Czech premiere of his film *Human Flow* at the Lucerna cinema.

Members of the prestigious Club of Patrons NG in 2017 included Komerční banka, Kooperativa, The Pudil Family Foundation, Würth, Net4Gas, Innogy, Pelikán, Krofta, Kohoutek and private patrons Richard Kučík, Václav Dejčmar and Dmitri Adamovski. The National Gallery Prague also expanded its ranks with its new long-term partner Kooperativa Pojišťovna Vienna Insurance Group.

Komerční banka continued its cooperation with the National Gallery Prague as a general partner in 2017, providing free admission to permanent exhibitions for children and young people aged under 26.

Vincent van Gogh,  
*Green Wheat*, 1889

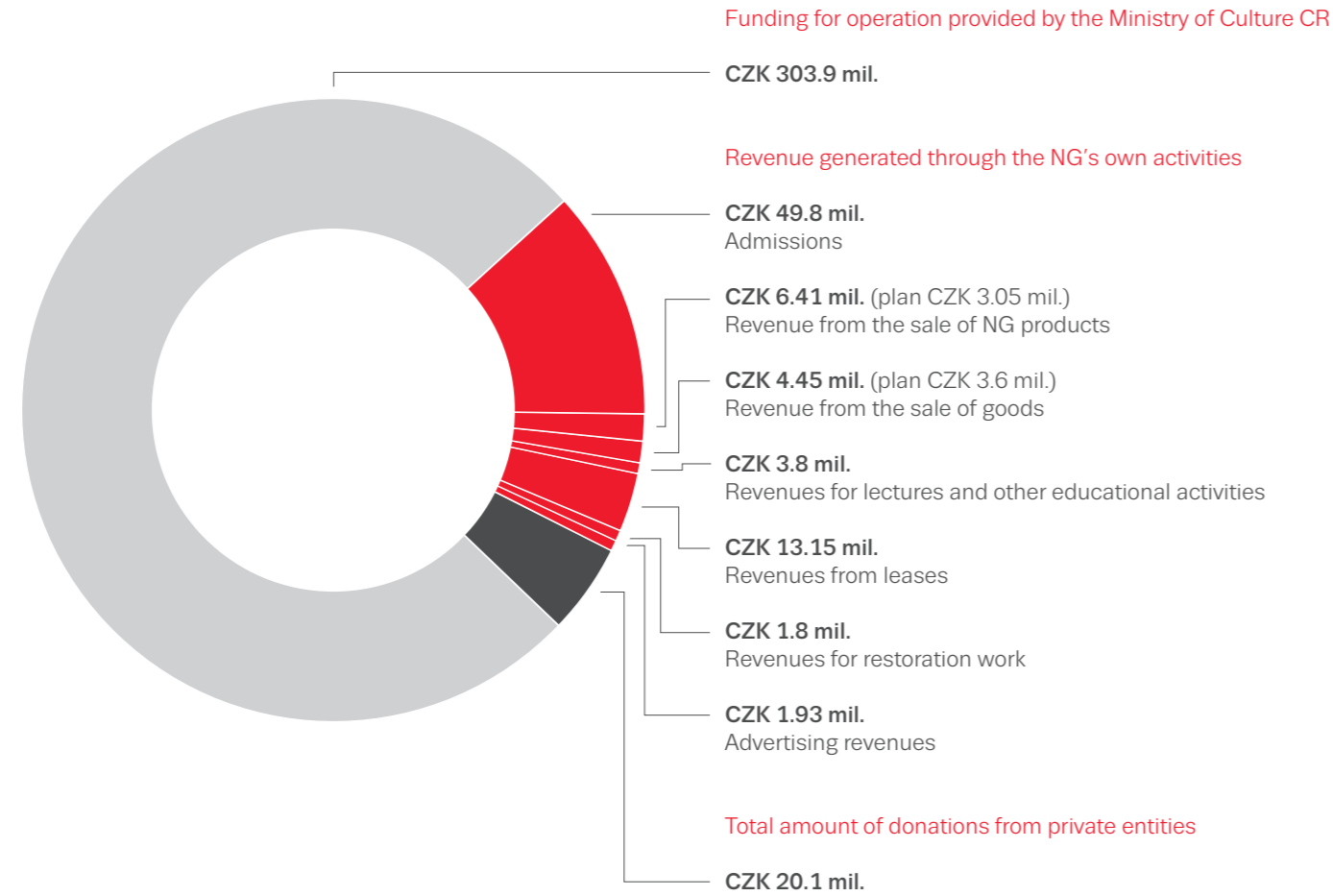


Income Structure

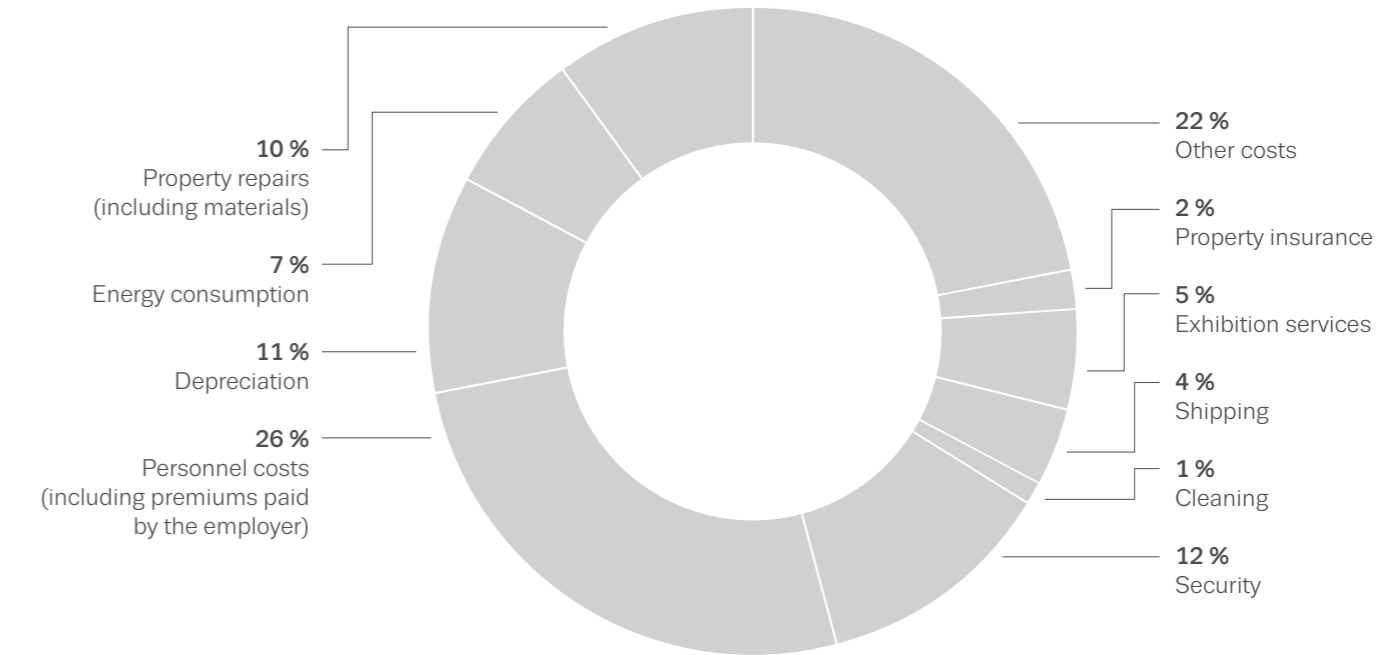
Funding provided by the founder in 2017 for operations was set at CZK 303.9 million. Revenue from admissions totalled CZK 49.8 million, revenue from the sale of NG products and goods totalled CZK 10.8 million and revenue from lecturing activities achieved CZK 3.8 million.

Non-budgetary sources of financing included several grant projects funded by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (GACR). The NG raised CZK 4.9 million in this manner. These grants permitted curators to undertake expert research that will result in the production of a specialist publication for each grant. Grant topics are closely related to the collections of the National Gallery Prague and thereby support the processing of and access to the NG collection.

Total donations from private entities in 2017 amounted to CZK 20.1 million. The most significant donors were the Goethe Institute, Komerční banka and Kapsch.



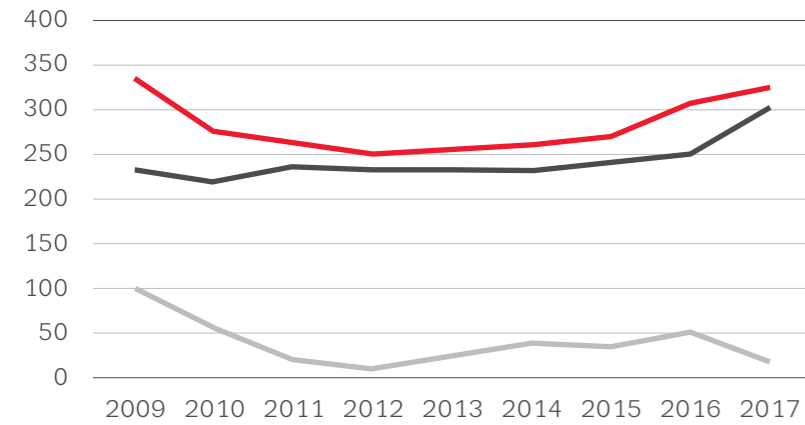
Cost Structure



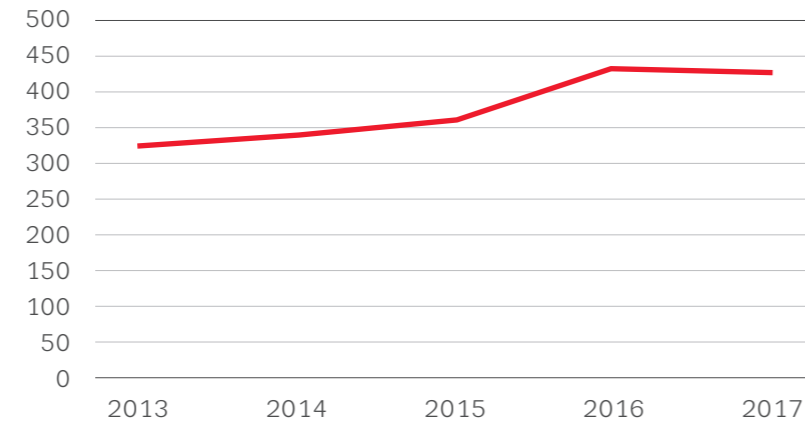
Core business costs declined slightly in 2017 year-on-year. A substantial drop in planned costs was seen in the area of energy, which decreased year-on-year due to favourable prices and a relative decrease in consumption on account of more efficient energy management based on measurement, regulation and certain energy consumption processes. By contrast, repair and maintenance costs, which were significantly underfinanced in the past, increased. The increase in wage costs resulted from an increase in tariff wages based on a decision by the Government of the Czech Republic.

- Funding, total
- Funding for operation, less dedicated resources
- Dedicated subsidies from the founder

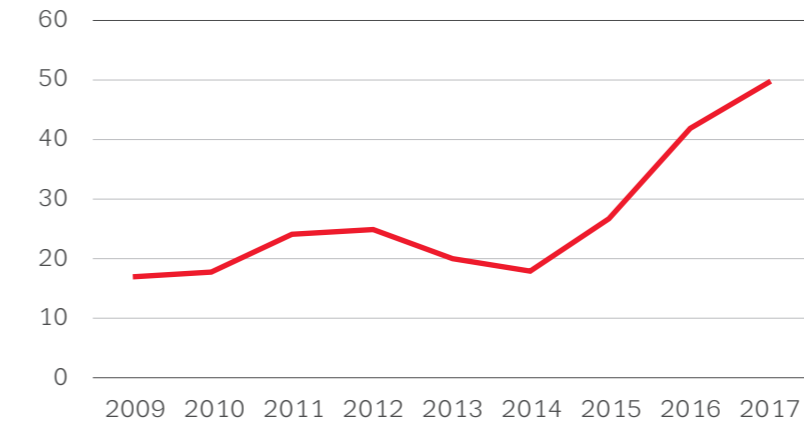
Funding trend (CZK mil.)



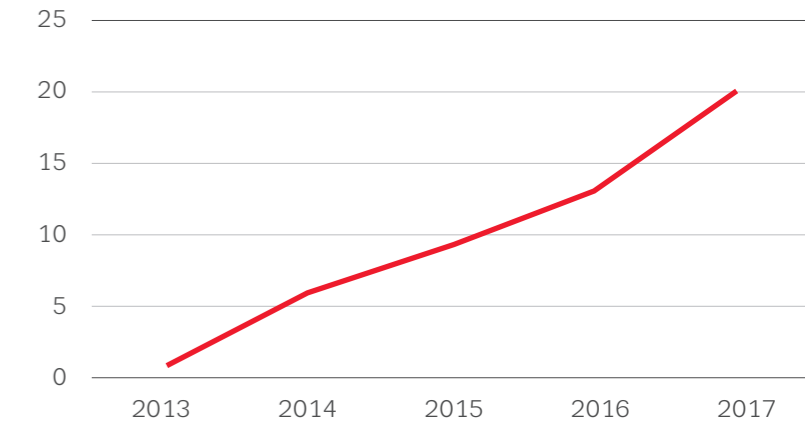
Cost trend (CZK mil.)



Revenue from admissions (CZK mil.)



Donations received (CZK mil.)



# <sup>110</sup> Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following organisations for their support and cooperation:

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Prague Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design  
Prague City Gallery  
Prague City Tourism  
Würth





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