

NÁRODNÍ GALERIE
PRAHA

NATIONAL GALLERY
PRAGUE



Annual Report

2021

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Mission and Vision

As one of the principal memory and cultural institutions in the Czech Republic, the National Gallery in Prague (hereinafter NGP) plays an important role in the perception of visual art in society and in the lifelong education in this sphere. The NGP administers the most valuable collection of fine arts in the Czech Republic. The NGP faces a large number of needs and challenges in order to become a modern 21st century institution. In addition to the traditional roles defined by the NGP statutes, conducted analyses revealed further crucial institutional goals for the upcoming period: a real openness and availability of the institution (with special respect to persons with special needs), international collaboration and presentation of Czech art abroad, strengthening acquisitions and the digitization of collection items, and – as part of the investments – primarily the preparation for the construction of a new depository centre in Prague-Jinonice and the transformation of the Trade Fair Palace. The development of the audience, a new participative approach to visitors, contemporary artists, and institutions are pre-requisites for welcoming a million guests by 2026 to the National Gallery's exhibition space, public programmes, and online interface. The NGP is part of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and it observes its Code of Ethics.

Development Concept

In 2021, the National Gallery in Prague led by Director General Alicja Knast prepared the strategic document “The Development Concept of the NGP 2022–2026”. It was preceded by two detailed surveys – an internal poll (among the employees) and the external questionnaire conducted by the Behavio Agency.

The questions were selected by a careful analysis to ensure that the results reflected the themes such as the status, perception, and needs of the institution. The survey was primarily focused on visitors and their needs so that the institution could work effectively with visitors and enlarge its target group.

The development concept defines the goals of the institution including the basic steps for their fulfilment. They include the development of the audience and community with a new focus on the inclusion, work with the physically disabled public, increased collaboration with schools and educators, and the development of the NGP Club of Friends and its member base.

In the sphere of foreign collaboration and presentation, the institution plans to enhance its international reputation and to share experiences. It will concern specific collaboration both on scientific research projects and exhibition projects as well as focusing on the development of the audience and the mobility of the NGP’s experts. Further goals include the modernization of visitors’ services and the gallery’s offer, such as creating a meeting space, implementing cross-cutting and themed education, and incorporating interactive studies.

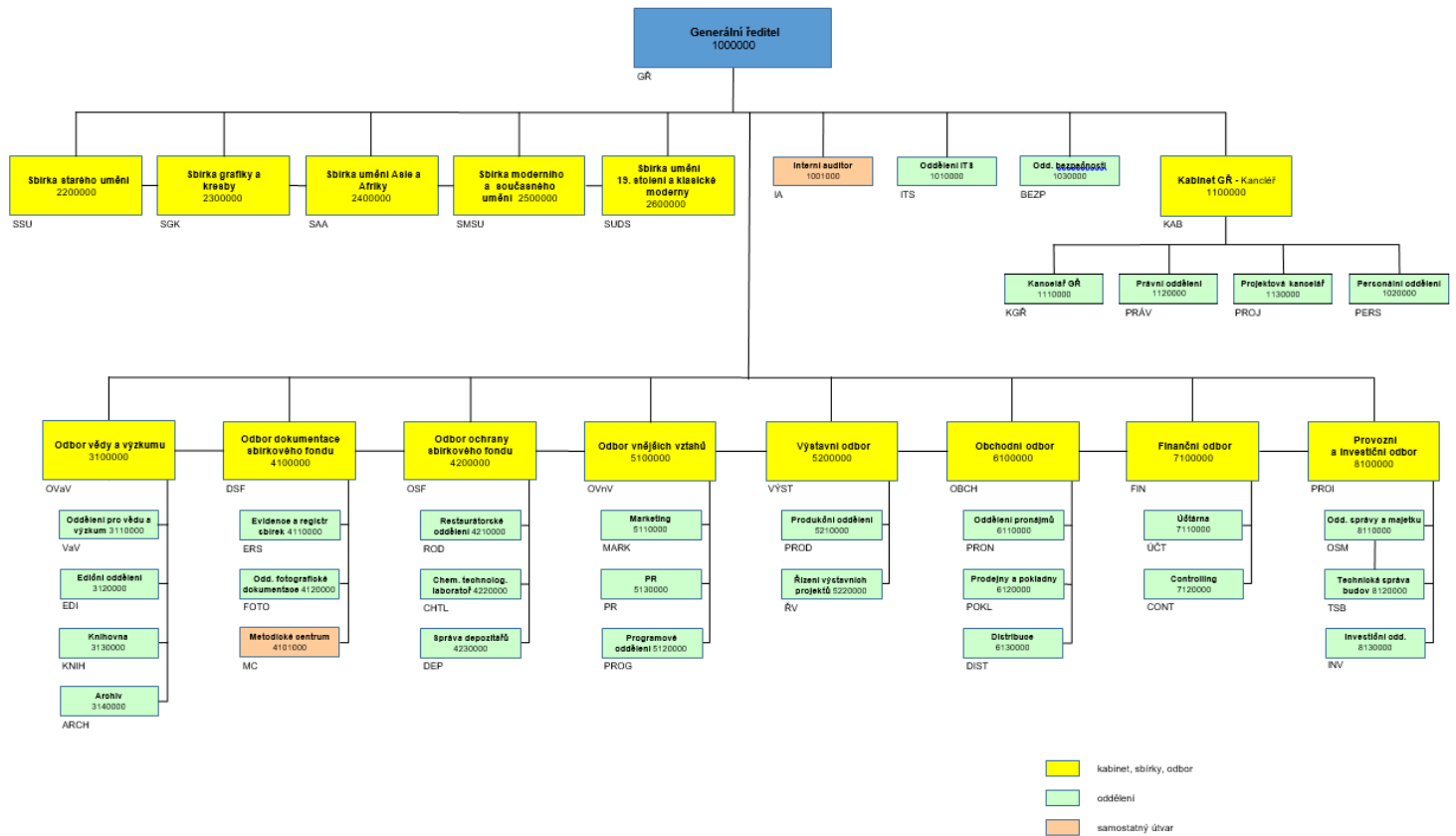
Digital transformation and further investment projects described in the following chapters are the principal parts of the organization’s development. Last but not least, the concept deals with the personal policy and strategic management of the institution.

National Gallery Prague in 2021

18	temporary exhibitions
6	permanent displays of NGP collections
1,410	public programmes
201,585	visitors

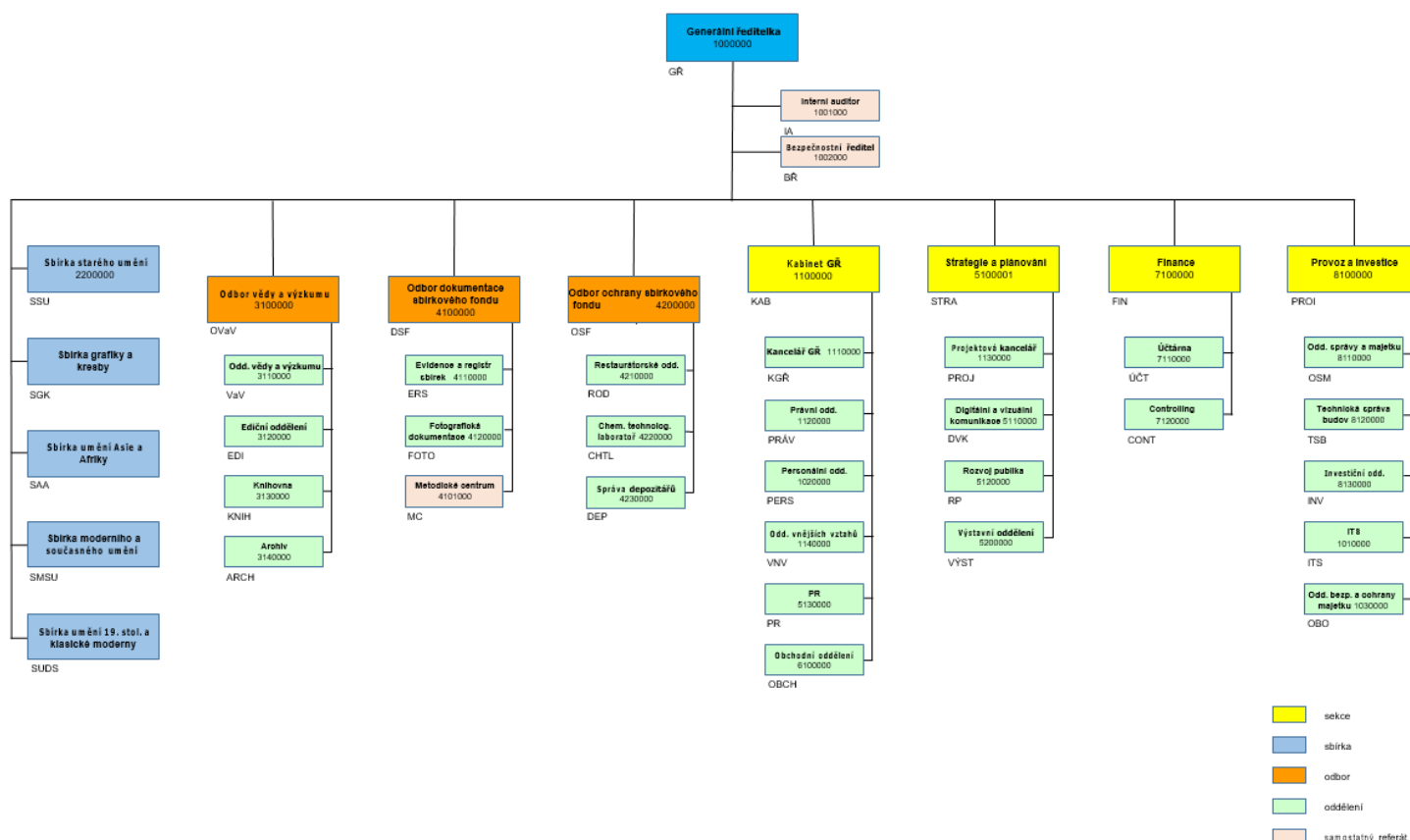
Organizational Structure

Organizational Scheme effective from 23 December 2020



kabinet, sbírky, odbor
 oddělení
 samostatný útvar

Organizational Scheme effective from 1 July 2021



Development of the Institution in 2021

Collecting and Acquisitions

Acquisitions

In 2021, the National Gallery in Prague purchased four artworks of extraordinary artistic quality for the total amount of 14 mil. CZK, 6.6 mil CZK of which was provided by the establisher through subsidies, and the organization covered the rest from its budget. Sixteen more works arrived at the NGP as gifts.

Purchases

Ignaz Franz Platzer (1717–1787), Kneeling Adoration Angel, 1752, renewed original polychromy, linden wood

The polychromed and richly gilt carving was lent to the National Gallery from a Czech private collection beginning in 2013. The statue comes from the Cemetery Church of St Wenceslas in Uterý that was run by the Premonstratensian Monastery in Teplá during the Baroque period. Originally, the statue was placed on the side

altarpiece of St John of Nepomuk whose sculptural decoration was delivered by the Prague studio of Ignaz Franz Platzer.

The work was designated as a cultural monument. In 2021, the Czech Republic used the pre-emptive right of the state and acquired the Baroque sculpture for the collection run by the NGP. The Czech Ministry of Culture provided finances for the purchase of this exceptional work of art.

František Slabý (1863–1919), By the Stream, 1890, oil, canvas

The painting comes from a private owner's estate in whose collection it was registered as *Two Boys by the Stream*. Based on the reproduction in *Zlatá Praha* 1891, year VIII, no. 46, p. 544, the NGP curator identified it as *By the Stream* which the artist presented at the General Land Centennial Exhibition in Prague in 1891.

The acquired painting suitably complements the collection of František Slabý's artworks (the NGP's collection included only four works by this artist prior to this purchase), genre paintings of the late 19th century, and the collection of works with the "bathing" subject that was later pursued by Antonín Hudeček, Jan Preisler, and Miloš Jiránek.

František Muzika (1900–1974), Oldřich and Božena, 1922, oil, canvas

The NGP has an extensive collection of paintings by František Muzika mapping his art production from 1919 to the early 1970s. Atypical both regarding its concept and subject, *Oldřich and Božena* is an important link in the development of the artist's oeuvre during the 1920s, his essential period.

The painting's original owner Paul Petit, Secretary of the French Embassy in Prague, purchased it directly from the First Spring Exhibition of Devětsil in 1922 and the family kept it until its sale to the NGP in 2021. The Archive of the NGP has the correspondence between the artist and his collector.

The NGP's Collection of Prints and Drawings holds a drawing for the painting (K 46031) that shows visible changes in the rendering of the female figures, especially the laundress in the centre, as well as minor changes in the background landscape.

Josef Šíma (1891–1971), Portrait of Louise-Denise Germain, 1922 (?), oil, canvas

The painting belongs to the crucial works of Šíma's portrait art that developed from self-portraits, early portraits of the painter's brother, and family portraits over the portraits of his future wife Nadine, his mother-in-law (Louise-Denise Germain), and the personalities of the Parisian cultural world to the portraits of the poets of the group Le Grand Jeu.

The painting stands out from other Šíma's portraits of the mid-1920s with its austerity aimed at the portrayed figure which links it to his later portraits.

It is an extraordinary work, standing out from the artist's portrait art, which he highly valued and presented as the single portrait from the first half of the 1920s at the exhibition *L'enigme de la face* held at Galerie Povolozki in Paris in 1930.

The previous owner bought the work directly from the painter's family. The Czech Ministry of Culture financially supported its purchase for the NGP's collection at the price of 7,800,000 CZK, providing 6,000,000 CZK while the NGP paid 1,800,000 CZK from its sources.

Gifts

*Václav Cigler (*1929)*

The Return of Landscape to Nature; series, Part 1, 1965, black and white photograph, paper

The Return of Landscape to Nature, series, Part 2, 1965, black and white photograph, paper

The Return of Landscape to Nature, series, Part 3, 1965, black and white photograph, paper

The Return of Landscape to Nature, series, Part 4, 1965, black and white photograph, paper

The Return of Landscape to Nature, series, Part 5, 1965, black and white photograph, paper

Jan Mlčoch (*1953)

Doss-House, 1980, black and white photograph (artist's print)

Doss-House, 1980, black and white photograph (artist's print)

Doss-House, 1980, black and white photograph (artist's print)

Doss-House, 1980, black and white photograph (artist's print)

The Climb on Mount Kotel, 1974, black and white photograph (artist's print)

Ladder, 1977, black and white photograph (artist's print)

Rudolf Volráb (1933–1969), *Untitled I*, 1967, *synthetic paints, canvas*

Andrzej Nowacki (*1953), *Without Control*, set of drawings, 2016, *pastel, black cardboard*

Alva Hajn (1938–1991), *Panorama with a Dominant (side A); Untitled (side B)*, ca 1985, *cement – sand – oil (two-sided painting), canvas*

Karel Hladík (1912–1967), *Portrait of an Architect (Jaroslava Mrázová)*, 1963, *plaster*

Karel Miler (*1940), *Icarus*, *black and white photograph*

Collection Documentation

By the end of 2021, the “Collection of the National Gallery in Prague” in the Central Registry of Collections of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic included 400,806 collection items in the following sub-collections:

Sub-Collections	Number of Collection Items
Paintings	16,870
Sculptures	9,129

Contemporary Art and New Media	770
Prints	269,710
Drawings	67,050
Asian, African, and American Art	13,176
Architecture	22,885
Facsimiles	1,216
Total	400,806

As part of the care for the NGP's collection, the total collection of 28,120 items was inventoried in 2021. The digitization continued and photographic documentation for almost 3,000 collection items was made, amounting to about 6,500 photographs and others (documenting exhibitions, projects, etc.) amounting to 1,500 photographs.

The Agenda of Exports of the Objects of Cultural Value

The NGP performs activities related to the exports of objects of cultural value from the Czech Republic pursuant to Law no. 71/1994 of the Coll. on the purchase and export of objects of cultural value. In 2021, 318 requests for an export certificate were accepted; 301 certificates were issued, of which 227 concerned a permanent export and 74 were issued for the limited period of time for the artworks displayed at international exhibitions. In 2021, one request for the export certificate was handed over to the Czech police after it was ascertained that the object was stolen in previous years.

Collection Protection

Department of Conservation and Restoration

In 2021, a substantial number of complex restoration treatments were carried out in association with exhibition projects, new permanent displays of the NGP collections, and loans for domestic and foreign galleries and institutions. Altogether 276 artworks underwent complete restoration, of which 111 works required the treatment

of external restorers. The restoration of the set of three glass underpaintings was financed by the programme ISO II D.

In the past year, the Department of Conservation and Restoration significantly focused on the preparation of the new permanent display of the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art on the second floor of the Trade Fair Palace. An extensive collection of selected artworks was examined and restored for this purpose.

The restoration of two kinetic light sculptures by Zdeněk Pešánek, *Male and Female Torso* and *Reclining Torso*, was one of the most challenging projects that was completed successfully. The Pudil Family Foundation financed this complex project. The restoration of a severely damaged painting *Saint John the Baptist* by the follower of Grünewald was another demanding project similar to the set of six bronze sculptures from the collections of SMSU and SUDS in the Sternberg Palace garden.

Furthermore, many works for NGP's short-term exhibition projects were restored, for example, for *The Buddha Up Close* and *Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel*. Among the restored works for the latter project, which required a more complex treatment, were, for example, the paintings *Harem* and *Abandoned Burrow*. The Department of Conservation and Restoration was also the primary mainstay for the preparation of the exhibition *Forgeries? Forgeries!* when authenticity of the displayed works was examined.

Moreover, the Department of Conservation and Restoration contributed to grant research projects.

As part of the NGP's investments, a conservation suction table and two stereomicroscopes with a mobile arm were purchased for the department, and the ISO II D financial means were used for the acquisition of an aerosol generator.

Chemical-Technological Laboratory

In 2021, natural scientific research was conducted on 120 art projects, taking approximately 290 micro samples of paints, polychromy, wood, textile, and polymeric materials. Special research was dedicated to the experiment of the use of adhesives and pasting materials during the restoration of the kinetic light sculptures of Zdeněk Pešánek where 436 samples were taken for restoration. During the year, a significant portion was exposed to the ageing process to discover faults and the process of damage that were subsequently documented. As part of the completion of this extremely demanding research and restoration of Zdeněk Pešánek's *Male and Female Torso* and *Reclining Torso* made of cellulose acetate, three expert articles appeared in the prepared publication *Pešánek: Torsos*.

Furthermore, several tens of works for the exhibition *Forgeries? Forgeries!* were examined. Along with complete material research, expert articles and catalogue entries were prepared for the exhibition catalogue of artworks.

Material research of the works by, for example, Johann Kupezky and Eugene Delacroix was conducted for the collections, the significant collection of works for the Collection of Asian and African Art was also analysed, and research continued for the works of French art for the prepared summary catalogue. Moreover, a unique research of the artworks by Josef Mánes was finalized as well as an expert study for the planned monograph.

As part of the research projects from the programmes of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the project “Comprehensive Instrumental Methods for the Assessment of an Artwork Authenticity, A Material Database of the 20th Century” was completed. The collaboration of the National Gallery in Prague with the Institute of Criminalistics of the Police of the Czech Republic culminated with the co-organization of the expert conference “Originals Versus Forgeries and Their Materials” in Prague on 13–14 September 2021. This finalizing project was continued by a new grant project “The Development of the Strategic Cluster for Effective Instrumental Technology Processes when Discovering Modern Art Forgeries in the Forensic Sphere” within the programme Strategic Support of the Development of Security Research of the Czech Interior Ministry. The collection of artworks by Jan Zrzavý from 1935–1970 was researched as part of this project.

The scientific activity supported by the Czech Ministry of Culture within the NAKI II programme concentrated on the identification of the materials of the works by the Monogramist BD, *The Madonna of Roudnice Type* and *The Votive Painting of the Lords of Všechny*. A significant part of the analysis was carried out for the newly acquired small sculptures *The Virgin Mary* and *St John the Evangelist* (Bavaria/Austria) in the Collection of Old Masters. The results of the research of the workshop production of Andrea della Robbia were continuously published.

In order to modernize the devices and equipment for the scientific analysis, the laboratory received a grant to purchase a new infrared microscope with a unique imaging detector.

Depository Administration

Constant interior climate monitoring was carried out in the NGP’s repositories in cooperation with the Building Maintenance Department.

In collaboration with the Collection Documentation Department and the Collection of Asian and African Art, the African artworks were transferred to the Náprstek Museum, affiliated with the National Museum. The depository and collection employees checked and handed over about 1,000 collection items. After packing, the collection items were transported to the depository of the Náprstek Museum. Furthermore, the storing of sculptures in the Collection of Old Masters was substantially upgraded; new racks were purchased and large works were placed on pallets.

The ISO II D programme paid for the new furnishings for the architecture depository.

Scientific Research Activity

Science and Research

The NGP's scientific and research activity is closely connected with the statutory tasks of the institution that primarily administers the collections, exhibition projects, publication activity, education, and makes the collection items accessible to the general public. It includes a wide range of activities from basic research (most frequently resulting in publishing monographs) and experimental research (chemical and natural scientific research of works and their materials) to material research (exhibition projects, online databases, certified methodologies).

In 2021, the actual scientific research activity and research collaboration consisted of international and Czech exhibition projects, including the preparation of exhibition catalogues and other accompanying publications. The agreements and memorandums on the scientific research activities were concluded, for example, with the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Museum of Decorative Arts, and Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. Further national collaboration comprised research activities connected with processing of the collections such as the Collection of Prints and Drawings of the NGP with the Masaryk University in Brno, Charles University, Palacky University in Olomouc, Museum of Modern Art Olomouc, and the Moravian Gallery in Brno.

The international scientific research collaboration continued in 2021 with short-term internships of the NGP's curators, restorers, and educators in Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden. The NGP's specialists further collaborated on exhibition projects with the Museum Rietberg Zürich, Hamburger Kunsthalle, and Établissement Public Paris Musées.

Library

The NGP's library specializes in fine arts – painting, sculpture, drawing, and prints as well as architecture and art history. It provides library and information services not just to the institution employees for their professional and scientific activities but also to the public, making their collections accessible for on-site studies.

The library collection is comprised of specialized publications, exhibition catalogues of Czech and foreign artists, and collections where the exhibition and collection catalogues of the NGP from 1821 onward represent a significant whole. Auction catalogues are a specific part of the library collection. Specialized publications pursuing Oriental art are an interesting part of the library collection. The library currently keeps 126,000 items. The collection of specialized periodicals is also rather voluminous consisting of Czech and foreign journals beginning in 1839.

The NGP's library further consists of extensive historical fonds with the publications from the original library of the Society of Patriotic Friends of the Arts, including early printed books.

In 2021, three volumes from the historical fonds of the library were submitted for general restoration.

The electronic information sources and licenced databases of expert articles are important sources of specialized information. The NGP library is involved in the CzechElib project whose guarantors are the National Technical Library and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The project provides the NGP with access to the database *Art & Architecture Source* of the EBSCO Company. This database belongs to important information sources in the sphere of fine arts, architecture, and related fields. The library also provides access to *JSTOR*, a similarly significant foreign electronic database of articles.

In 2021, the NGP library joined the project *Collected Catalogue of Art History Libraries* (ARTlib) that seeks to search art history literature in the catalogues of all of the involved libraries (National Gallery in Prague, Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, National Technical Museum, National Film Archive, Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava, Moravian Gallery in Brno, Museum of Modern Arts in Olomouc, Museum of West Bohemia in Plzeň, and Gallery of West Bohemia in Plzeň) – simply and from a common overlapping environment. The portal is also accessible via the NGP website.

The periodical *Ročenka Kruhu pro pěstování dějin umění* (Almanac of the Circle to Foster Art History) was digitized as part of the VISK 7 project (Public Information Services of Libraries) of the Czech Ministry of Culture. The digital document is available from the user's library catalogue Portaro at <https://ng.kpsys.cz>.

In 2021, the library implemented the digitization of the exhibition catalogues of the *Mánes Association of Fine Artists* (SVU Mánes). It was aimed at reformatting significant Bohemical documents endangered by the degradation of acidic paper, and to ensure their protection and possibilities of further accessibility for users. The digitized documents are available from the library catalogue Portaro.

A new collaboration was established with the National Digital Library (NDK). Based on an agreement concluded with the National Library of the Czech Republic, access was received for documents whose digitized form is unavailable on the market.

The library was given the personal library of Dr Naděžda Blažíčková-Horová that contains valuable publications about fine arts and art history, especially 19th century and modern classic art. The aggregate has significantly enriched the NGP's library collection because it includes the publications acquired from the estate of the professional painter Oldřich Blažíček, a representative of modern landscape art and Dr Oldřich Jakub Blažíček, a prominent art historian who continued the scientific work of Dr Antonín Matějček. The outstanding art historian Dr Naděžda Blažíčková-Horová was a long-term director of the NGP's Collection of 19th Century Art.

In 2021, 603 readers visited the library, borrowing 2,497 specialized publications (1,800 on site and 697 to take away).

Archive

The Archive of the National Gallery in Prague ranks among the “specialized archives” within the system of archives in the Czech Republic. Its activity is based on the relevant regulations of Law No. 499/2004 of the Coll. on archival science and records management, as amended. The mission of the archive is to acquire, process, register, and protect archival materials and to make documents accessible to the NGP’s employees and the professional public.

In 2021, the archive employees continued the inventorying of archival fonds and collections and their accessibility for public researchers. The most significant aggregates include the following archival fonds and collections: Čeněk Vosmík, Oldřich Jakub Blažiček, Vincenc Beneš, Jiří Kotalík (correspondence section), Max Švabinský (section of photographs, prints, and clippings), National Gallery in Prague (period 1965–1975), Exhibition Documentation (periods 1965–1970 and 1990–2020), Collection of Portrait Photographs and Collection of Posters (period 1980–1986). Ten fonds were processed and made available, and eleven new archival instruments were published.

The archive provided background primarily for Czech and foreign researchers of fine arts and its history. In 2021, 76 researchers visited the archive for a total number of 174 research visits. The archivists answered 276 specialized enquiries.

The archive made several significant acquisitions that primarily complemented the personal fonds. A collection of letters addressed to the painter Josef Vojtěch Hellich is unique. The senders include Hellich’s brother Emanuel, the painter Josef Matěj Navrátil, the writer Johann Ritter von Rittersberg, and the sculptor Josef Max. The clippings about the activities of the painter Jan Zrzavý as well as several manuscripts of the theoretician Luděk Novák are significant additions to the fonds. An estate document and several manuscripts complemented the fonds of the art historian Vincenc Kramář. Moreover, the archive acquired a new institutional collection of the extinct National Gallery Society of Friends.

Thirty posters for exhibitions were restored, some of them being in danger of destruction because of severe damage. The selection criteria included the posters’ condition as well as their artistic and historic values. The posters of the Fine Arts Union, National Gallery in Prague, and some art groups, especially the Mánes Association of Fine Artists were selected for restoration. The poster of the exhibition of the collected works of the sculptor Auguste Rodin in 1902 stands out among the restored posters.

Digital Transformation

The NGP initiated the digital transformation project as part of its modernization. In addition to the physical care for the collections, it is absolutely crucial to ensure the

digitization of cultural heritage not only for its future preservation but also for the sharing and dissemination of specialized data for scientific work. Digitization and digital cataloguing of collection items is the future for sharing data and the development of scientific research activities at the national and international levels, the development of education, access to information for teachers and schools, and finally for the public. In 2021, preparatory works were therefore initiated for the implementation of the new collection system that is the backbone of the gallery's activity. As part of the transformation, the automation of the NGP Club of Friends began; it is now offered in an online environment which has substantially improved visitor services and increased the services for the institution's supporters. The gallery aims at being a place of free dialogue where the visual arts are experienced in the context of the present.

Investment Projects

The NGP New Depository Complex in Jinonice

Throughout 2021, an intensive preparation for the construction of a new depository compound in Prague-Jinonice was under way. The project works were connected with the preparation of the first building.

Defined as a multifunctional centre, the complex will be the heart of the institution primarily for the storage and archiving of works. The centre will be comprised of a depository with public access, restoration studios, and a digitization workplace. The project has three fundamental goals: to provide the best possible manipulation and research background for the collections, to let the public see the gallery's backstage, which will be possible because of the specific arrangement of the depository space and conservation laboratories, and to create a public meeting place for the local community. On the Jinonice site, the NGP will thus build a modern complex with departments for the universal care for artworks. Additionally, it will offer a space for the professional presentation of works and public educational programmes.

The project's contractor is JIKA-CZ, s.r.o., which following the 2020 tender results provided the compound's design documentation and subsequently also the project documentation based on which building permit should be issued. The project documentation processing continues; its part for the territorial proceedings was elaborated in 2021.

Digitization

The reconstruction of the NGP's photo studio has begun and shall be completed in 2022 to provide the gallery with an adequate digitization workplace. A provisional photo workplace was created where the restorers started to check the works and prepare them for digitization.

The Trade Fair Palace Transformation

The reconstruction of the Trade Fair Palace continues to be the greatest investment challenge. Documentation has been completed as the basis for a tender for the architectural design of the revitalization and transformation of the Trade Fair Palace to be announced in 2022. The gallery's job is to ensure the financing of the largest investment undertaking in its history and to search for external financial sources.

The Reconstruction of the Czech and Slovak Pavilion in Venice

The NGP will reconstruct the Czech and Slovak pavilion in Venice in collaboration with the Slovak National Gallery. Until the building is prepared for new projects, the NGP seeks an alternative solution to participate in the international art show without the need to use this space. During 2021, the institution took necessary steps to announce an open tender in 2022 for a project representing the Czech Republic on the 18th Biennale of Architecture in Venice in 2023 outside this pavilion.

Key Projects of 2021

Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel (9 April – 15 August 2021, curator: Anna Pravdová)

The NGP presented the art of Toyen, one of the most significant Czech artists of the 20th century. Apart from the important stages of her art production, the exhibition highlighted the essential topics of her work, including poetry, nature, eroticism, and alchemy. It displayed paintings, drawings, and collages as well as an abundance of Toyen's illustrations from the collections of Czech and European museums as well as private collections. The project was a result of the NGP's collaboration with Hamburger Kunsthalle and Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. A wide range of educational and public programmes accompanied the exhibition. A guided tour through the exhibition was published and premiered by ČT art.

The Toyen show received the prestigious 2021 Museum Exhibition award at the national contest Gloria musaealis, a joint award announced by the Czech Ministry of Culture, Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic, and the Czech ICOM Committee.

Forgeries? Forgeries! (19 November 2021 – 1 May 2022, curator: Olga Kotková)

Held at the Sternberg Palace, the exhibition *Forgeries? Forgeries!* showcased Czech and foreign forgeries of famous artworks from the 15th to the mid-20th centuries. They were imitations of medieval paintings and statues, forgeries created in the style of the Dutch masters and counterfeits of paintings by famous Czech painters. It featured works imitating non-European artworks and iconic forgeries from foreign collections, including the most famous art forgeries by Han van Meegeren.

The exhibition comprehensively explained the methods of current forensic examination carried out by the team of the NGP professionals from the collection departments, restoration studio, chemical laboratory, and archive. In the long-term, the gallery collaborates with specialists from the Nuclear Physics Institute of the CAS and the Institute of Criminology of the Police of the Czech Republic.

The Buddha Up Close (3 December 2021 – 24 April 2022, curator: Markéta Hánová)

The total number of 35,707 visitors saw *The Buddha Up Close* exhibition from its opening in December 2021. Organized together with the Museum Rietberg Zürich, the gallery presented more than 100 objects from the Swiss collections and over 70 works from the Czech ones, primarily from the NGP's Collection of Asian Art. The sculptures, paintings, and other artworks that originated in various Asian areas between the 2nd and the 20th century presented the multicultural character of the Buddhism and its main ideas through the visual arts. The exhibited artworks were enlivened by sound interactive elements as well as spaces for meditation and other accompanying programmes for the public, such as yoga and breathing exercises.

Acquisitions: Kneeling Adoration Angel, Ignaz Franz Platzer

The Collection of Old Masters was enriched by the acquisition of the *Kneeling Adoration Angel* (1752) by Ignaz Franz Platzer. The polychromed and abundantly gilded carving was lent to the National Gallery from a Czech private collection in 2013. The statue comes from St Wenceslas Cemetery Church in Úterý. The work was designated as a cultural monument and in 2021 the Czech Republic employed its pre-emptive right to buy the Baroque statue for the NGP's collection. The Czech Ministry of Culture provided financing for the purchase of this outstanding work.

Temporary and Permanent Exhibitions

Kinsky Palace

Rembrandt: Portrait of a Man

25 September 2020 – 21 March 2021

Concept: Anja Ševčík, Lucie Němečková, Blanka Kubíková

Curator: Lucie Němečková

Collaborator: Blanka Kubíková

The long-awaited exhibition presented one of the most-renowned painters – Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn. The central work of the exhibition was the portrait *Scholar in His Study* from the NGP's collection that was made in 1634, the most successful period of Rembrandt's professional and private life. With the help of additional Rembrandt's works as well as the art of his contemporaries and followers, the exhibition demonstrated the inner life through the expression of the portrayed figures, either unknown or of Rembrandt himself.

Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia

Medieval Art in Bohemia and Central Europe, 1200–1550

Curators: Jiří Fajt, Štěpánka Chlumská

The long-term exhibition of medieval and Renaissance art on the first floor of the convent's compound features more than two hundred objects of painting, sculpture, and handicraft, presenting the transformation of the form and function of the fine arts over three centuries.

The Garden of Sculptures

Curator: Irena Nývltová

Open to the public without charge all year, the two convent gardens include information panels dedicated to convent architecture and the sculptures of prominent Czech artists, including Veselý, Róna, Kolíbal, and Malich. The exhibition concept of the works by contemporary artists is complemented by the monumental sculpture *Golgotha*, one of the earliest works of František Bílek.

Permanent Exhibition and Lapidarium

Curators: Štěpánka Chlumská, Helena Dáňová

The ground floor is dedicated to the history of the double convent and its founder. It includes a lapidary of the Convent of Poor Clares and Friars Minor with a significant collection of architectural fragments from the convent's construction, the foundation slabs for altars, and tombstones.

Sternberg Palace

Forgeries? Forgeries!

19 November 2021 – 1 May 2022

Curator: Olga Kotková

Collaborators: Adam Pokorný, Radka Šefců and curators of the NGP collections

Old Masters II

Opened on 11 December 2020

Curators: Martina Jandlová, Olga Kotková, Lucie Němečková

The *Old Masters II* exhibition continues the permanent exhibition *Old Masters* across from Schwarzenberg Palace. They complement each other to form a whole and present the splendid works of art in various contexts. *Old Masters II* shows the best works of art from the NGP's unique collection.

Presented is the absolutely unique collection of Italian painting of the 14th and 15th centuries that was in particular amassed by Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. As the most abundant collection of Italian Primitives to have survived outside Italy, it enables visitors to observe the art production in the Italian towns Siena, Florence, Venice, and Padua.

Schwarzenberg Palace

Old Masters

Curator: Marius Winzeler

In 2019, the permanent collection *Old Masters* opened at the Schwarzenberg Palace. It presents a selection of the greatest masterpieces from the Collection of Old Masters of the NGP – for the first time in a concept that interconnects Czech and European art. Visitors can thus see Bronzino, El Greco, and Brueghel juxtaposed to Škréta and Brandl.

On the ground floor, a new graphic cabinet was established. The architect Josef Pleskot and his AP Atelier closely collaborated on the concept and architecture of the permanent exhibition.

Graphic Cabinets

Peter Paul Rubens and the Master Engravers of Antwerp

11 May – 8 August 2021

Curator: Dalibor Lešovský

The graphic cabinet presented a selection of the remarkable oeuvre of Peter Paul Rubens, one of the most significant figures in the history of European art. Prints made after Rubens's originals largely contributed to his popularity in Europe. During his life, the painter collaborated with several renowned printmakers who, under his supervision, made works of great artistic value.

Women Who Overpowered Men: Eve, Judith, Omphale and the Others

17 August – 14 November 2021

Curator: Alena Volrábová

Over the ages, women were generally seen through the prism of the dominant role of men, yet there are numerous stories that tell of women who are strong, powerful, courageous, or, conversely, cunning and immoral, who triumphed over the stronger sex. Their stories were drawn from the Bible, ancient myths, and medieval literature. The exhibition presented reflections of women's strength and power in 16th-century art – in German and Netherlandish prints, drawings, and paintings by key masters.

Prints with a Pedigree: Treasures from Old Print Collections

23 November 2021 – 13 February 2022

Curator: Blanka Kubíková

Collaborating expert: Lenka Babická

The small-scale exhibition acquainted visitors with print collecting, the beginnings of which emerged during the Renaissance era. Rare collectors' albums from early modern times, the 19th and 20th centuries, were displayed for the first to the public and, in general, are exhibited only exceptionally. Furthermore, there were prints with pedigrees on view from prestigious Czech and foreign collections.

Salm Palace

The Salm Palace was closed to visitors in 2021.

Trade Fair Palace

Kurt Gebauer

6 March 2020 – 10 January 2021

Curator: Michal Novotný

The retrospective of Kurt Gebauer (*1941) has thus far been the most comprehensive insight into the sixty-year art production of the sculptor, educator, and personality who influenced the public space. His lifelong interest in figuration – not objective but rather perceived, lively, and moving figures – enabled Gebauer, in addition to his specific and hard-to-categorize expression, to constantly sensitively yet poignantly criticize the situation prior to the Velvet Revolution and transformation.

Echoes of the Venice Biennale: Stanislav Kolíbal

6 March 2020 – 10 January 2021

Curator: Julia T. Bailey

The Small Hall of the Trade Fair Palace featured the echoes of the exhibition *Former Uncertain Indicated* of Stanislav Kolíbal (*1925), who represented the Czech Republic at the prestigious 58th International Art Exhibition in Venice in 2019. The exhibition included his earlier works from the 1960s and 1970s as well as his contemporary production.

Art Happens Outside

28 June – 19 July 2021

Curator: Adéla Janíčková

The exhibition sought new ways of encountering art at the time the institutions remained closed. The selection from the National Gallery Prague's collection presented the historical moments of the 20th century when artists transferred their art into shared urban space and the open landscape. They satisfied their inner necessity to be as close as possible to ordinary daily life. At the same time, interventions in public space provided a way to enter collective awareness and reflect a specific situation or the general state of being.

Do You Have a Knack for Art?: IDOL

4 June – 20 June 2021

In collaboration with the international educational platform *Do You Have a Knack for Art?* that aims at presenting contemporary art to the young generation as a partner for exploring new contexts and thinking about man and the world, the NGP showcased twenty winning projects of students at the Korzo of the Trade Fair Palace.

Wood/Cut

14 May – 8 August 2021

Concept: Eva Bendová

Curator: Petra Kolářová

Gauguin, Orlik, Klemm, Munch, Bílek, Váchal. The exhibition presented the little-known art production that links the territories and aesthetic aims of sculpture, graphic art, and painting, and examined new aesthetic and socio-historical aspects of traditionally perceived graphic art, as well as the plurality of inspiration and the possibilities for art between art centres and individual artists.

Reality and Vision: Competitive Dialogue on the Depository Complex

4 May – 31 October 2021

The exhibition presented three architectural designs by the finalists of the competitive dialogue for the NGP's new depository complex in Prague-Jinonice. It

will store artworks from the Trade Fair Palace and also serve as a technical base and a base for the expert management of the collection. The structure also includes an open depository and a space for lectures, educational programmes, and art workshops which are publicly available.

The jury selected JIKA-CZ, s.r.o., team's design as the winner, highly appreciating its modern urban-architectural solution which offers a variant solution and promises an efficient functioning of the first building while awaiting the completion of the entire complex.

Viktor Pivovarov: Moscow Gothic

14 May – 21 November 2021

Curator: Julia T. Bailey

External curator: Mária Černá Pivovarová

Named after one of the most captivating paintings that connects the metaphysical world with everyday reality, the *Moscow Gothic* exhibition explored the key themes of the artist's oeuvre, beginning with his childhood environment and mysteries of the past, and ending with eroticism and the grotesque. Through more than two hundred works spanning over fifty years, the exhibition showed Pivovarov's prolific career including his captivating new works that had not previously been displayed.

The Empathy Award: Romana Drdová and Lenka Záhorková

11 November 2021 – 20 February 2022

Curator: Adéla Janíčková

The joint project of the NGP and Komerční banka presented Lenka Záhorková and Romana Drdová, the winners of The Empathy Award. Lenka Záhorková creates an intergenerational dialogue, highlighting the problems associated with old age and drawing attention to the ideas about the values and experiences of seniors.

Romana Drdová deals with ecological and consumer issues. Her fashion observing a conscientious approach changes our thinking about sustainability.

Post-Digital Intimacy

11 November 2021 – 10 July 2022

Curator: Michal Novotný

Through nine contemporary artists – Darja Bajagić, Ivana Bašić, Louisa Gagliardi, Lola González, Daiga Grantina, Rachel Maclean, Pakui Hardware, Viktor Timofeev, and Tenant of Culture – the exhibition dealt with how, after a virtual experience, especially during the pandemic, the concept of our privacy and intimacy had changed, what effect it had on our close relationships, and whether further development would be bound for the likes of dystopian sci-fi films or virtual interconnectedness could actually help us to solve some of the burning issues of the present world.

Graphic Cabinets

František Muzika: Drawings and Prints

14 July 2020 – 3 January 2021

Curator: Adriana Šmejkalová

The cabinet presented the imaginatively conceived drawings and prints by František Muzika that served as a stage for poetic metamorphoses filled with enigmatic references. The exhibition was organized to mark the 120th birth anniversary of the painter.

The Happy New Year of Josef Bergler

4 May 2020 – 8 August 2021

Curator: Petr Šámal

The painter Josef Bergler, the first director of the Prague Academy of Art, had a decisive impact on the development of graphic art in 19th century Bohemia. The cabinet showcased a collection of New Year's cards that Bergler produced from 1806 until his death and that is unique in the sense of scope and quality.

Restless Drawing: Landscapes of Antonín Slavíček

4 May – 8 August 2021

Curator: Petra Kolářová

The cabinet presented the drawings by Antonín Slavíček showing the “impressions of fleeting moments” that he captured during his countryside strolls. In sketches for paintings and spontaneous drafts from Prague, the Bohemian Highlands, and Dalmatia, he endeavoured for an ever more expressive rendering of natural scenery.

Artistic Prints in the World of Reproductions: Etchings by the Painter Bedřich Havránek

10 August – 14 November 2021

Curator: Petr Šámal

The “Long Century” was characterized by the development of artistic and free graphic art which was viewed as independent artwork. In the second third of the 19th century, graphic art was primarily limited to its reproductive and information role. One of the few artists to have devoted themselves to artistic graphic art even during that time was the painter Bedřich Havránek. In addition to the final prints, the cabinet presented examples of different print states, interim stages that result from various impressions from the plate prior to its completion.

Dynamic Drawing: Josef Mařatka's Motion and Dance Studies

10 August – 14 November 2021

Curator: Petra Kolářová

The movements of models in the studio as well as dancers on the stage fascinated the Czech sculptor Josef Mařatka. He swiftly made pencil sketches on paper

capturing emotionally strong poses that he subsequently used as models for his sculptures.

He adopted the spontaneous drawing method in front of a moving model from the French sculptor Auguste Rodin whose pupil he was during 1901–1904. The graphic cabinet displayed Mařatka's drawings of the dancers Carmen Damedoz, Ruth Saint-Denis, and Olga Gzovskaya.

Wenzel Hablik: Creative Forces

16 November 2021 – 20 February 2022

Curator: Petra Kolářová

The cabinet displayed the series of twenty etchings entitled *Creative Forces* by the painter, printmaker, and architect Wenzel Hablik whose work was derived from Central European Symbolism and linked with German Expressionism. The collection is an artistic mediation about the origin of the natural forms of crystals that are born from the clash of creative forces with inanimate matter.

Adolph Menzel: Between History and Common Life

16 November 2021 – 20 February 2022

Curator: Petr Šámal

The German Painter Adolph Menzel was an artist of a broad range of themes and artistic expression. The official genre of his work is represented by history painting that earned him the greatest fame during his life. Nonetheless, the high art themes formed only a part of the extensive oeuvre of Menzel. The painter was also intensely interested in the everyday life of the multifarious classes of period society. Most frequently, he captured them in his drawings and engravings that were presented in this graphic cabinet.

1796–1918: Art of the Long Century

Curators: Veronika Hulíková, Otto M. Urban, Filip Wittlich

In 2019, a new permanent exhibition was launched at the Trade Fair Palace entitled *1796–1918: Art of the Long Century* that purposefully and naturally connected Czech and international art. It seeks to present in a broad context what the NGP has amassed over its more than 220-year history. The artists are represented unevenly, from the compact and representative series to the more or less random or occasional acquisitions. The final selection includes more than 450 works by 150 artists in three major chapters: Man, The World and Ideas. The exhibition presents painting as well as sculpture. Free sculpture is accompanied by paintings while public sculpture forms a separate section. Thus, not only the artists of different art expressions, but also representatives of very different generations appear in close proximity at the exhibition.

1918–1938: First Czechoslovak Republic

Curators: Anna Pravdová in collaboration with Lada Hubatová-Vacková

A new permanent exhibition opened on the third floor of the Trade Fair Palace in 2018, marking the centennial anniversary of independent Czechoslovakia and presenting the rich art production of the young state between 1918 and 1938. The works by Josef Čapek, Václav Špála, Toyen, Paul Gauguin, and Pablo Picasso are on display. The exhibition views the art of the First Czechoslovak Republic through the eyes of an art loving audience, through the key galleries, art associations, and other cultural institutions, and it acquaints visitors with prominent cultural centres.

The project presents significant events in the given time and spatial framework in the field of fine arts, emphasizing the cosmopolitan and multinational character of the First Czechoslovak Republic.

Open Storage of the Art of Asia

14 May – 21 November 2021

Curators: Markéta Hánová, Zdenka Klimtová, Michaela Pejčochová, Jana Ryndová

After almost ten years in the Kinsky Palace, the Art of Asia exhibition moved to the southern wing of the Trade Fair Palace's first floor, where it is shown in an "open storage". The *Schaudepot* is an exhibition format that optimizes the number of artworks accessible for immediate study by displaying them in glass showcases that allow a three-dimensional view. The open storage thus makes more than 600 artworks of Asian provenance from the National Gallery Prague available for viewing.

Waldstein Riding School

Mikuláš Medek: Naked in the Thorns

11 September 2020 – 31 January 2021

Curators: Lenka Bydžovská, Karel Srp

The retrospective exhibition of the painter Mikuláš Medek ranks among the most extensive shows at the National Gallery Prague. The Waldstein Riding School presented the major part of Medek's paintings from throughout his career. It was expanded by the artist's previously unknown artworks and films discovered in his estate, the paintings of artists who influenced him, with whose art he dealt (Toyen, Dalí, Teige), and the works of his contemporaries whom he befriended and collaborated with in art exhibitions (Sekal, Istler, Koblasa, Piesen, Boudník). The exhibition continued at the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia where Medek's works for the churches in Jedovnice, Kotvrdovice, and Senetářov were exhibited for the first time together, and at the Trade Fair Palace that featured Medek's large works commissioned by Czechoslovak Airlines.

Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel

9 April – 22 August 2021

Curators: Anna Pravdová, Annie Le Brun and Annabelle Görden

The Buddha Up Close

3 December 2021 – 24 April 2022

Head Curators: Markéta Hánová, Johannes Beltz

NGP Curators: Zdenka Klimtová, Michaela Pejčochová, Jana Ryndová, Lenka Gyaltsó

Museum Rietberg Zürich Curators: Anna Hagdorn, Khanh Trinh, Alexandra von Przychowski

Czech and International Collaboration

The exhibition project *Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel* and its critical catalogue in four language versions that was organized together with Hamburger Kunsthalle and Musée d'art moderne de Paris, is among the significant results of international collaboration in 2021. Furthermore, cooperation with the Centre Pompidou in Paris continued between France and the Czech Republic on the occasion of the future Czech presidency in the Council of the European Union.

The curators of the Collection of Asian Art and the Museum Rietberg Zürich organized *The Buddha Up Close*, an international exhibition project with a monograph. As part of the public programme, an international workshop "Collecting Asian Art in Prague: Cultural Politics and Transcontinental Networks in 20th-Century Central Europe" was organized in collaboration with The Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Online streaming was added during the difficult times of the pandemic.

The curators of the Collection of Old Masters continued to the international scientific project *Bellum et Artes* in collaboration with Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden and Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des Östlichen Europa. Further collaboration has been established with Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam in connection with the exhibition project *Forgeries? Forgeries!*

The curators of the Collection of Prints and Drawings continued the long-term collaboration with Fondation Custodia – Lugt Collection in research of collectors' marks. Furthermore, cooperation with foreign partners working on the most remarkable summary catalogues of prints (New Hollstein edition series) continues. Even in 2021, the participation in joint scientific activities continued as well as the collaboration of the collection of prints of the Musée du Louvre and the NGP, namely on the preparation of the international exhibition project *Mannerist Graphic Art*.

Educational and Public Programmes

The NGP addresses the general public with its programme, factoring the needs of various target groups in its segmented programme offer.

In 2021, 705 programmes were organized for 15,180 people. Similar to 2020, the number and scope of the programmes were strongly influenced by the continuing pandemic when the gallery was fully or partly closed. The restrictions during the top spring and autumn seasons resulted in a substantial decrease in visitors. Nonetheless, the educational and popularization activities did not stop and the NGP continued to develop online and distance programmes. Owing to remote access, even new visitors were successfully addressed.

NGP for Schools and Teachers

The professional educators' team produced 310 programmes for 5,525 pupils, students, and teachers. As a result of anti-epidemic measures, the first events for the public and school groups could be held as late as 1 June 2021. Nevertheless, the number of programmes and participants overcame the numbers from the previous year, even though the school groups, for example, could not visit the exhibition *Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel*.

As part of distance education, the series of calls and inspirations by artworks in the NGP's collection continued, such as "Art Techniques" and "Laboratvoř" (Creative Lab) containing methodology instructions. As part of video workshops, the outcome "How Many Faces Do You Have" was published in collaboration with the artist Eva Kořátková responding to the art of Toyen.

The educational programme offer was innovated and evaluated continuously. The *Old Masters* exhibition presented newly emerging programmes developing critical thinking over the works of art, their content and the structure of the non-traditional arrangement of the exhibition.

For continuing education of teachers, two repetitions of the accredited workshop "Gallery as an Inspiration" (accreditation: MSMT-14222/2018-1-550) are available for kindergarten teachers that develop approaches to art pedagogy in pre-school education. In association with NIPOS Artama, a distance workshop "Near and Far"

was organized as a preparation for the national exhibition of artworks made by children and youth. Once again, 80 teachers across the Czech Republic could use remote access that combined streamed lectures from the gallery environment with workshops.

As part of the collaboration on “Learning through Play”, LEGO Company sponsored project days.

Methodical study materials were created for the key exhibitions of the year (*Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel*, *Viktor Pivovarov: Moscow Gothic*). Furthermore, 15 guided tours for 239 people were organized as part of the methodical support for teachers.

The online programme for the exhibition *Rembrandt: Portrait of a Man* was created for middle and secondary schools. During January–March, programmes were organized for 30 groups of pupils and students with a very positive response.

During the year, collaboration continued with the pedagogy faculties of Charles University and the University of Hradec Králové, especially through methodical meetings and presentations for the pedagogical students.

The educational programmes for school groups, created in collaboration with the BERG Orchestra, focused on the theme of the sign, symbol, signal, and mark in visual and sound forms. It even culminated with a micro concert for the test of sirens.

The NGP was again involved in the organization of the contest *Do You Have a Knack for Art?* The 12th year final with the Idol theme took place at the Small Hall of the Trade Fair Palace on 4 June 2021. Twenty-five winning projects were then presented in the Trade Fair Palace’s Korzo space.

NGP for Children – Programmes for Children with Adults

The intergenerational programmes present the gallery as a space for meeting, shared perception, creation, and art experience. The NGP organized 183 live programmes at the permanent and temporary exhibitions, studios, gardens and the generous space of Pop-up Korzo for 2,492 people. The programmes were designed to support the collaboration of children and adults to enrich all generations.

During the spring pandemic period, regular online articles were published that were entitled “Close to Art”. They showed the variants of views and approaches to the perception of the NGP’s artworks and offered a creative response to them.

At the beginning of the year, video workshops were created for the exhibitions *Rembrandt: Portrait of a Man* and *Mikuláš Medek: Naked in the Thorns*, shot both at the exhibition and in the Studio. They offered various inspirations by artistic thinking for home art production.

During the summer holiday, six original art studios for children were organized. For teenagers interested in art, the studio served as a study course for the talent exams for art schools.

The long-term popular programme series: Open Art Playroom for children aged 1.5–5 years with adults (4 times a week) returned as late as the end of September when the relaxation of the anti-pandemic measures permitted it. It was launched for the festival “Zažít město jinak” (Experience the City Anew). The studios for children in

three age groups took place remotely in the spring and live again in the autumn. Weekend workshops were held in conjunction with current exhibitions.

For the younger audience, activity sheets were prepared for selected exhibitions (*Viktor Pivovarov: Moscow Gothic, Forgeries? Forgeries!*) for children and accompanying adults that playfully and creatively introduced the essential themes of the exhibitions, interesting artworks, and artists' processes. The more voluminous sheets for the exhibition *The Buddha Up Close*, acquainted young visitors with the Buddha, his teachings, and selected unique exhibits.

A miniseries of concertina books for the youngest visitors was launched with the title "Where Is It Hiding" for the *Old Masters I and II* permanent exhibitions. Another one for medieval art is being prepared. It works as a simple guidebook with questions and assignments for the key and attractive paintings that the adult finds in the exhibition and discusses it with the child.

These materials were free with the entrance ticket.

PICOLLI, the music and art workshops for children and playful adults connected the Middle Ages with the present, the art of inspiration and folklore in multi-disciplinary activities. About 200 persons took part.

Within the Architecture Day festival, a big outdoor game for families was created for the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia and the Schwarzenberg Palace. It was highly appreciated by more than four hundred participants.

Interactive Studios

The spaces that present and interpret the exhibition content in a creative way are open to all visitors. They can be part of the entire space concept, as was the case of *The Buddha Up Close* where visitors tried out blind embossing, created origami objects, and meditated in the relaxation space overlooking the exhibition. The studios can be independent as well, as was the case of the "Laboratory" at the exhibition *Forgeries? Forgeries!* where one could explore and imagine the work of individual professions that reveal counterfeits.

A studio was prepared for the interactive exhibition *Viktor Pivovarov: Moscow Gothic* that wittily used the contactless requirements during the pandemic and that presented the thinking of contemporary conceptual artist and painter.

At the exhibition *Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel*, the studio was designed as an imaginative space with various stimuli evoking dream associations and introducing the methods of Surrealist creation.

Popularization and Educational Publications

Publications are another tool to present art outside the gallery walls and independently of exhibition tours. The edition "Pocket Paintings" released its third title, dedicated to Toyen aimed at the presentation of the artist's thinking about art. The publication was created by the NGP educators and the graphic designer Bohumil Vašák.

A publication entitled *Falza! Průvodce na cestě mezi falzem a originálem (Forgeries! A Guide to Tell a Forgery from an Original)* was created for the exhibition *Forgeries?*

Forgeries! which is a comprehensive and active guide explaining the complex issue of identifying forgeries as well as various forms of art imitations between the original and the replica in the past and present. The guidebook designers are the educators Jitka Handlová and Anna Zajícová.

A poetic, abundantly illustrated book *The Little Buddha* was prepared not just for older children. It acquaints the reader with the story of The Buddha – Siddharta or Shakyamuni, The Buddha teachings, the exhibits associated with Buddhism, and their path to the NGP's collection. Created by the curator Jana Ryndová and the educator Blanka Lhotáková, the publication was illustrated by Maria Makeeva.

Programmes for the Adult Audience

The various types of guided tours, lectures, and discussions for new exhibitions or as part of the art history courses remain the traditional and constantly sought-after form of art introduction to the general public. Altogether, 128 tours and lectures were organized for 2,242 people.

The course "The Fundamentals of Art History" offered a primary orientation in European and Czech art history. It was mostly conducted as distance learning.

During the summer, an intensive course "The Summer School of Art History" took place. Over a week, the participants visited all of the NGP's permanent exhibitions. In connection with the *Wood/Cut* exhibition, adults could take part in the art workshop with the artist and illustrator Chruďoš Valoušek.

The *Toyen* exhibition was complemented by a series of concerts and film projections that showed inspiring connections among art, cinematography, and music, which also contributed to the audience development.

A long-term international project in collaboration with the Centre for Choreographic Development SE.ST.A and the American choreographer Sue Schroeder was a unique interconnection of artistic circles. It culminated in the autumn with the series of site specific dance performances responding to the statues and garden environment at the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia and to the permanent exhibition *1796–1918: Age of the Long Century*.

In relation to audience development, the NGP participated in the Architecture Day festival, and also hosted Lunchmeat, a festival of contemporary electronic music and multimedia. Prague Open House also attracted new visitors to the Trade Fair Palace where they could explore with a guide the otherwise inaccessible spaces of this significant functionalist architecture monument.

NGP Online

Due to the epidemic situation and closed exhibition areas of the NGP, it was necessary to provide online lectures based on the experience from 2020. As part of the On Air series, streaming was conducted with gallery experts and invited guests hosted by the gallery educators.

In 2021, six lectures were provided for the exhibition *Rembrandt: Portrait of a Man*. The online series of lectures for the permanent exhibitions thematically related to historical events and the seasons of the year.

The streaming series for *Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel* had an international scope. Following live streaming, all of these programmes were placed in an online archive where they are still available. The public repeatedly positively evaluated this aspect of remote access.

Within online programmes, seventy-six original streaming events were prepared that were viewed live by 4,634 people.

Furthermore, popularization activities were organized such as the continuing series of recipes “Boil a Painting” that connected the slow food philosophy with the thematic works from the NGP collections.

The Gallery as a Place of Social Inclusion

In 2021, a concept focusing on the mediation of art to the disabled, especially hearing and visually impaired and physically handicapped persons was initiated. In response to the special needs of visitors, guided tours with Czech sign language began.

Moreover, the number of activities focusing on the deaf increased. The first two online interpreted lectures were presented. A long-term collaboration with the Okamžik Association continued with the blind community.

The social accessibility barriers were removed on free admission days, and, in addition, many popularization and educational activities took place.

The Statistics of Programmes and Participants in 2021

Programme Target Group	Programmes	Participants
Kindergartens	18	285
Elementary schools	153	233
Secondary schools and universities	119	2,206
Groups of persons with special needs	5	62
Teachers	15	239
SCHOOLS IN TOTAL	310	5,525
ADULTS (art workshops, courses, guided tours, lectures)	136	2,529
ADULTS ONLINE	76	4,634
NGP FOR CHILDREN – Children and Families (art workshops, playrooms, studios)	183	2,492
TOTAL	705	15,180

Publishing Activities

The Publishing Department (EDI) carries out the NGP's publishing activities in close collaboration with art historians, curators, educators, restorers, the archive, the library, and other departments. In 2021, in addition to the traditional type of printed material – exhibition catalogues and two periodicals – the extensive monographs *Toyen, Forgeries? Forgeries!*, and *The Buddha Up Close* were released for the successful eponymous exhibitions with international participation. Additionally, small publications specially designed for the younger audience were published – *Toyen: Pocket Paintings*, *Forgeries! A Guidebook for the Journey from the Forgery to the Original*, and *The Little Buddha*. Once again, the connection of specialized richly illustrated and popularizing books for favourable prices proved to be well chosen and positively evaluated by visitors.

The EDI also contributed to editorial revisions of texts released by the marketing and PR departments throughout the year, and also by the individual collections such as exhibition leaflets, print releases, and all kinds of texts published online, either on the gallery's website or on Facebook. The EDI's job further included the arrangements for reproduction and licence pictures in connection with the specific published books. This issue is closely related to the editorial revisions of the manual of the centre of methodology on the copyright rules application in institutions.

A significant activity concerning the gallery's exhibition projects is the cooperation by all departments to select the graphic designer and architect, in the EDI especially connected with the requirements not only on the visual attractiveness of the publication but also on the high-quality book graphics and the ability for professional graphic work.

In 2021, the NGP released seventeen publications, the majority in more language versions, some bilingual or with an English résumé. Owing to its professional and visual quality, the extensive book production of the NGP once again got public attention, not only the Czech, but also the international professionals and general public.

Exhibition Catalogues and Monographs

Anna Pravdová, Annie Le Brun, Annabelle Görjen-Lammers (eds.)

TOYEN: THE DREAMING REBEL (1902–1980)

Czech, English, 336 pages, 572 reproductions

Markéta Hánová, Zdenka Klimtová (eds.)

THE BUDDHA UP CLOSE

Czech, English, 272 pages, 200 reproductions

Eva Bendová, Petra Kolářová, Otto M. Urban

WOOD/CUT. Gauguin, Orlik, Munch, Klemm, Bílek, Váchal

Czech-English, 152 pages, 106 reproductions

Julia T. Bailey (ed.)

VIKTOR PIVOVAROV: MOSCOW GOTHIC

Czech-English, 162 pages, 150 reproductions

Olga Kotková (ed.)
FORGERIES? FORGERIES!
Czech, English résumé, 392 pages, 450 reproductions

Olga Kotková (ed.)
OLD MASTERS II
Czech-English, 256 pages, 150 reproductions

Alena Volrábová
WOMEN WHO OVERPOWERED MEN: EVE, JUDITH, OMPHALE AND THE
OTHERS
Czech-English, 32 pages, 27 reproductions

Summary Catalogues

Tomáš Hladík
MANNERIST AND BAROQUE SCULPTURE
English, 448 pages, 510 reproductions

Periodicals

Alena Volrábová (ed.)
ARS LINEARIS XI/2021
Czech-English, 186 pages, 90 reproductions

Martin Musílek (ed.)
BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY IN PRAGUE XXXI/2021
Czech-English, 250 pages, 181 reproductions

NGP for Children

Ida Muráňová, Barbora Škaloudová
POCKET PAINTINGS: TOYEN
Czech-English, 60 pages, 40 reproductions

Barbora Kafková, Jana Ryndová
THE LITTLE BUDDHA
Czech, English, 80 pages, 60 reproductions

Jitka Handlová, Anna Zajícová
FALZA! PRŮVODCE NA CESTĚ MEZI FALZEM A ORIGINÁLEM (FORGERIES! A
GUIDE TO TELL A FORGERY FROM AN ORIGINAL)
Czech, 64 pages, 44 reproductions

Outside the Gallery Series

Dagmar Jelínková, Zuzana Löblich, Hana Veselá
MUZEA VERSUS AUTORSKÉ PRÁVO. ZÁSADY PRO APLIKACI AUTORSKÉHO
PRÁVA V MUZEÍCH (MUSEUMS VERSUS COPYRIGHT: GUIDELINES FOR THE
USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS IN MUSEUMS)
Czech, 89 pages

Methodological Centre for the Museums of Fine Arts

The Methodological Centre for the Museums of Fine Arts (MC MFA) primarily includes public services that the NGP provides to the owners and administrators of the collections of fine arts pursuant to Law no. 122/2000 of the Coll. on the protection of museum collections.

The Methodological Centre's schedule of activities for 2021 was implemented in all of the planned areas despite the restrictive government measures against the spread of Covid-19 in the Czech Republic that were unfavourable for all educational activities. The Centre organized one webinar and three all-day workshops dealing with the current issues of the collections' security and administration, released one publication on copyright, provided continuous consulting, and flexibly responded to questions posed by professionals and the general public.

The two-part seminar "Security Challenges in the Current Forms of Art Presentation" that highlighted the protection of people in museums, the basic scenarios to handle unexpected emergency situations, and the training of museum employees to detect problematic behaviour was organized in collaboration with the NGP's security manager and the Centre for the New Strategies of Museum Presentation at the Moravian Gallery in Brno. In September, the seminar "Depository – Professional Administration and Storage of Collections" was held, rescheduled from the previous year and organized in collaboration with the professionals from the NGP's Collection Protection Department and the Head of the Methodological Centre for Conservation at the Brno Technical Museum. The seminar sought to increase specialized knowledge and competencies of museum employees in the sphere of the administration and protection of collections, in particular the keeping and storing of fine arts in depositories. The MC's educational activities culminated in November with the seminar "New European Legislation in the Protection of Cultural Heritage" that summarized the latest regulations in the sphere adopted by the EU accentuating cultural property mobility and the impact of the measures on the Czech museum management practice. The seminar was prepared together with the specialized employees of the Independent Department of the Protection of Cultural Properties of the Czech Ministry of Culture. The outcomes of the four events are available on the Methodological Centre's website <https://www.NGprague.cz/onas/stranka/akce-mc-mvu>.

Towards the end of the year, the MC released a publication entitled *Muzea versus autorské právo. Zásady pro aplikaci autorského práva v muzeích* (Museums Versus Copyright: Guidelines for the Use of Copyrighted Materials in Museums). It points out the selected rules of the copyright law that should not be overlooked by museum workers in order to avoid the penalties from an omitted or erroneous application of the copyright law. Prepared by collective authors with the NGP's practice, the publication is divided according to the impact of the copyright law on the chief museum professions. The last chapter written by JUDr. Adéla Faladová from the Independent Department of the Copyright Law of the Czech Ministry of Culture briefly summarizes the Guidelines (EU) 2019/790 on copyright law in the single digitized market and identifies the areas that will be novelized in the Czech copyright law. The publication is provided to museum and gallery employees without charge.

Gallery Attendance

The NGP's attendance in 2021 was substantially influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated governmental restrictions. The gallery was temporarily closed to the public for 102 days. Despite the unfavourable circumstances, there were more than 201 thousand visitors. *Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel* was the most-visited exhibition of the year with an average of 517 people a day. Because of the great interest, the opening hours were extended.

The exhibition project *Viktor Pivovarov: Moscow Gothic* at the Trade Fair Palace was attended by more than 23 thousand visitors. Further successful projects were launched in the autumn of 2021, namely the exhibitions *Forgeries? Forgeries!* at the Sternberg Palace and *The Buddha Up Close* at the Waldstein Riding School.

Attendance in 2021

Trade Fair Palace	75,375
Kinsky Palace	-
Schwarzenberg Palace	17,902
Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia	12,987
Waldstein Riding School	56,357
Salm Palace	-
Sternberg Palace	13,608
Gardens and Public Events	25,700
Total	201,585

Most-Visited Exhibitions in 2021

	Daily Attendance	Total Attendance
<u>Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel</u>	517	49,623
<u>Viktor Pivovarov: Moscow Gothic</u>	131	23,582
<u>Forgeries? Forgeries!</u> * (as part of the permanent exhibition)	225	7,733
<u>The Buddha Up Close</u> *	300	5,692

* exhibitions starting in 2021 and overlapping to 2022

Economic Activities

In 2021, the National Gallery's main activity was again affected by the impact of the governmental measures related to the pandemic. Like the previous year, it resulted in a several-month closure of all exhibitions and a several-week limited operation. The restrictions caused a substantial decrease of turnover that was not only manifested in the income from admission, but also in the further revenue from services (guided tours, educational courses, etc.).

The allowances for cultural events and the gallery operation, including the compensation for lost profits from the gallery's activity received from the Czech Ministry of Culture in 2021 (based on the 2021 Financial Plan), enabled the NGP to cope with the unfavourable financial factors and the possibility to offer cultural events to the public at the exhibition spaces or through videos with guided tours, lectures, and other projects.

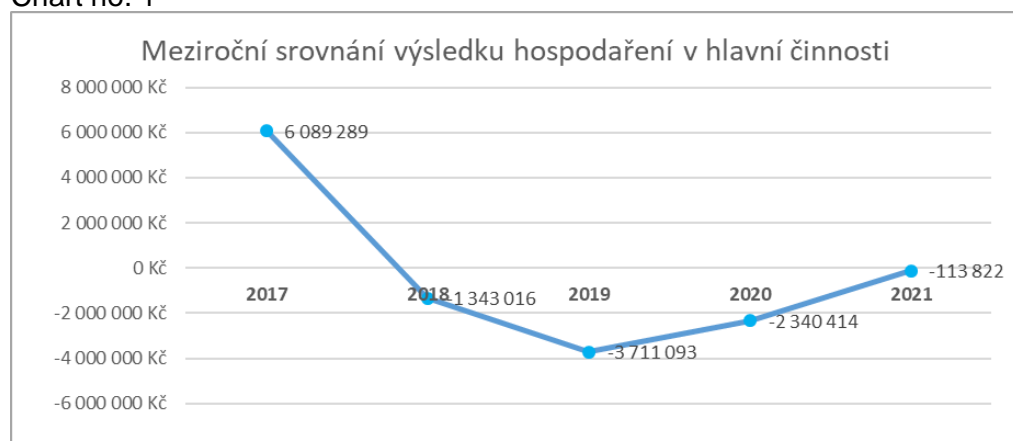
In 2021, the NGP purchased three works of exceptional artistic value. The most significant acquisition – a work by Josef Šíma for 7,800,000 CZK – was purchased with a substantial financial contribution of 6,000,000 CZK from the Czech Ministry of Culture.

The investment expenditures were further concentrated on the SMVS events financed through Czech Ministry of Culture subsidies, on emergency repairs, and on indispensable investments primarily related to the care for artworks (the purchase of mobile humidifiers).

In 2021, the NGP showed a deficit in the main activity, registering a loss of 113,822 CZK. The institution absorbed the loss by a profit from another (economic) source that amounted to 569,645 CZK.

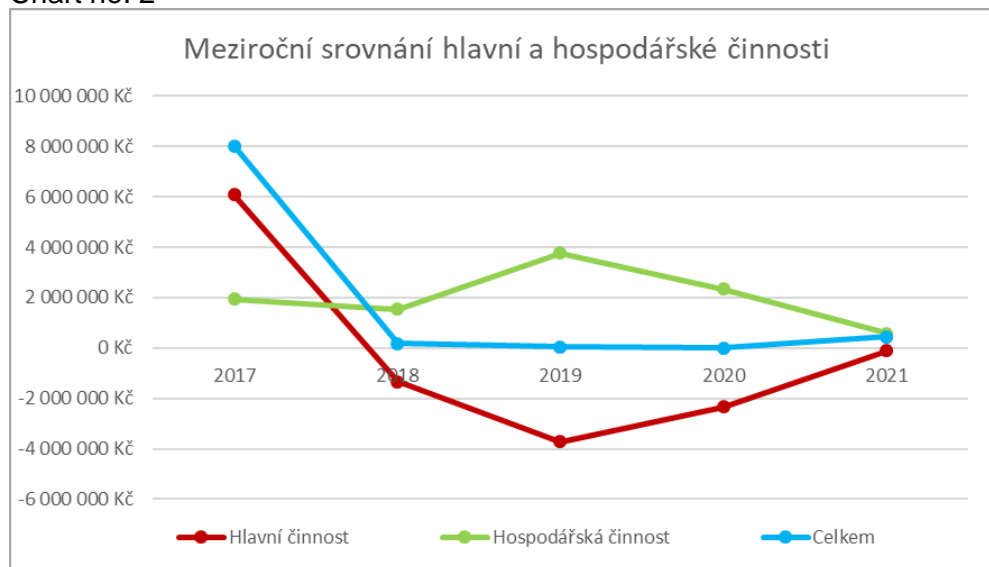
The overall economic performance of the NGP was positive, reaching up to 455,823 CZK.

Chart no. 1



Comparison of inter-annual main activity economic performance

Chart no. 2



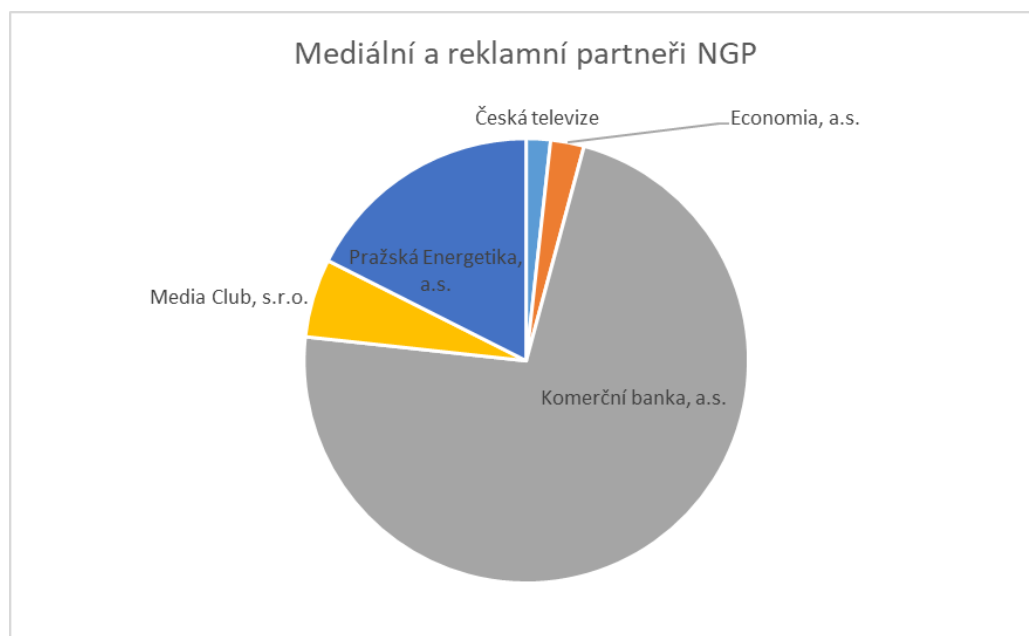
Comparison of inter-annual main activity and economic activity

Main activity
Economic activity
Total

Economic Performance in Further (Economic) Activity

The NGP made a profit from its additional economic activity in the amount of 569,645 CZK. The most substantial revenue included the profits from advertisements, especially Komerční banka.

Chart no. 3. The Structure of the Revenue from Further (Economic) Activity According to Partners



NGP's Media and Advertisement Partners

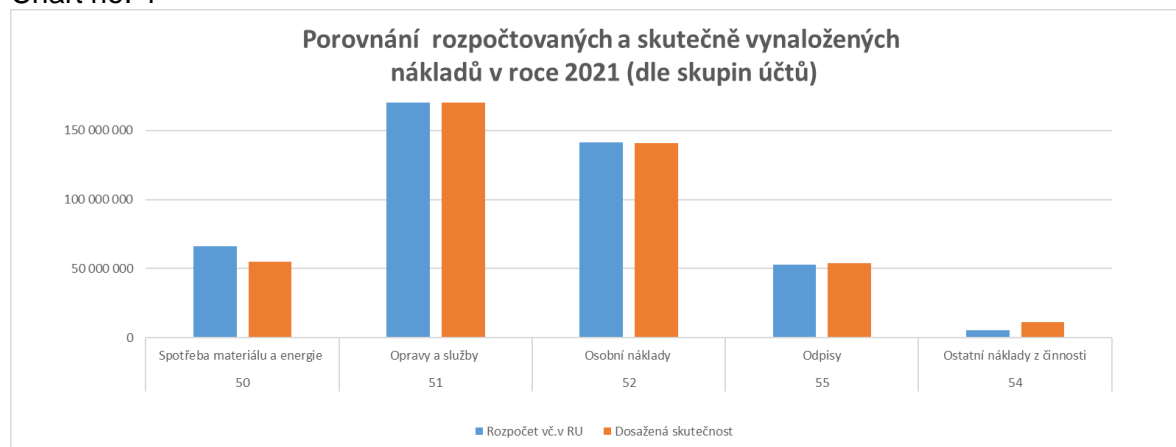
In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic continued, which had an impact on costs (compulsory testing, respirators, disinfection, special cleaning) as well as on the revenue (the *Rembrandt* exhibition, extended to 31 January 2021, remained closed throughout the extension period, non-vaccinated visitors had limited access to exhibitions, courses, and guided tours during the autumn and winter, general concern from infection prevailed).

During the year, the budget was amended in relation to specific investment, system, and scientific-research grants, or to the compensation of the revenue and possibly the settlement of unplanned operating costs.

Costs

The main activity costs in 2021 reached 447,338,699 CZK compared to the budget estimate of 448,561,934 CZK.

Chart no. 4



Comparison of the Budgetary Costs and Actually Spent Costs in 2021 (according to account groups)

Material and Energy Consumption (50)

Repairs and Services (51)

Personal costs (52)

Amortization (55)

Other Costs (54)

[Budget incl. Budget Indicators](#)

[Actual income](#)

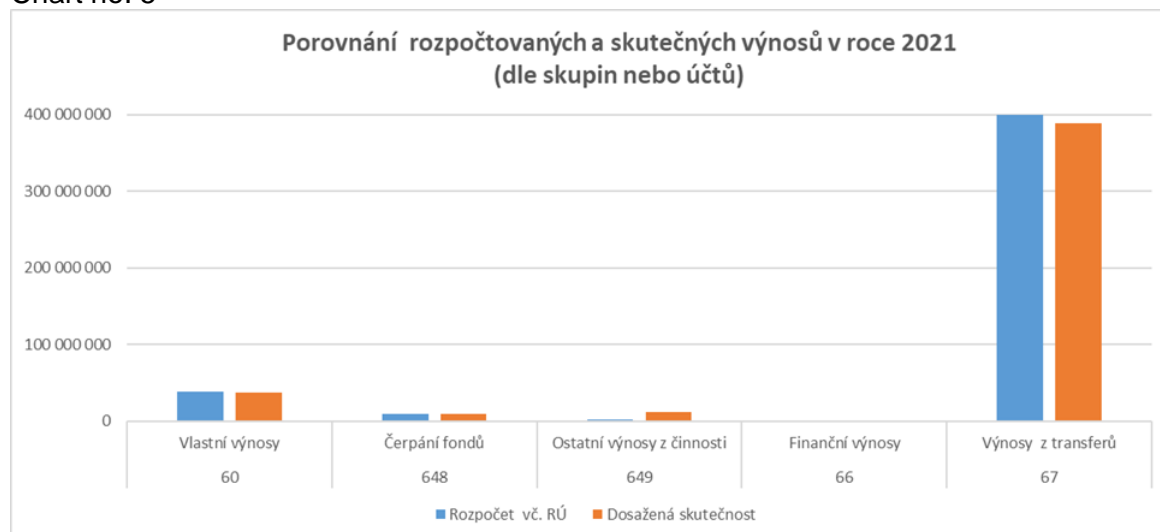
The overall amount of costs corresponds to the 99.7% of the budget; however, there are differences in the structure of spent costs.

These differences partly proceed from an inaccurate estimate of the ratio of the material consumption (account no. 501) to the maintenance (account no. 511). Account no. 518 also recorded the services related to dismantling the *Rembrandt* exhibition that were transferred from 2020 because of the pandemic. The growth in account group no. 54 is related to the aforementioned dismantling, including the transport insurance of works of art that were returned to foreign lenders, on the one hand and the overestimating of supplies amounting to 6,200,000 CZK on the other hand that is associated with the introduction of a new guideline on the accounting of their own products and the related current storage supplies (the principle of the change is to reflect the subsidies purposefully related to book production in the storage prices of these own products).

Revenue

In 2021, the NGP made the overall revenue of 447,224,876 CZK compared to the estimate of 448,561,934 CZK.

Chart no. 5



Comparison of the Budgetary and Actual Revenue in 2021 (according to account groups)

Actual Revenues (60)
Drawing of Funds (648)
Other Revenues (649)
Financial Revenues (66)
Transfer Revenues (67)
[Budget incl. Budget Indicators](#)
[Actual income](#)

The difference between the budgetary revenue and actual income showed in account group no. 67 because of the inaccurately estimated compensation for the pandemic measures. Nevertheless, the downswing of revenue as a consequence of the pandemic measures continues in 2022 when the difference (17.9 mil. CZK) will be properly entered into accounts.

The Actual 2021 Revenue – Budget and Reality

The development of the actual revenue is related to the lower drawing of Covid-19 subsidies. Compared to the original budget, the actual revenue increased by 9,000,000 CZK. The common actual revenue (accounts 601–604) was planned very accurately. The only deviation appeared in account no. 649 with exceptional revenue specifically related to 2021. A detailed overview is provided in the table below:

		2021 Budget	2021 Reality
Revenue from the sale of the NGP's products (books, catalogues)	601	7,238,709 CZK	5,810,141 CZK

Revenue from the sale of services (admission, courses)	602	21,116,596 CZK	20,913,524 CZK
Rental revenue	603	6,895,932 CZK	7,737,408 CZK
Revenue from the sale of goods	604	2,843,037 CZK	2,952,536 CZK
Other revenue	609	95,230 CZK	100,217 CZK
Contractual penalties and interests on late payments	641	2,560 CZK	329,426 CZK
Other 2021 revenue (insurance of the pavilion in Venice, shared costs for the <i>Rembrandt</i> exhibition)	649	1,808,147 CZK	11,267,579 CZK
		40,000,211 CZK	49,110,832 CZK

Off-Budget Financing Sources

In 2021, the NGP received additional sources of income outside the budget and budgetary amendments provided by the Czech Ministry of Culture. They primarily included donations reaching 8,652,460 CZK where the most significant donor was Komerční banka, a.s. (6,500,000 CZK).

Similar to previous years, grants and subsidies were further off-budget sources of financing in 2021. The greatest grant amounting to 2,075,648 CZK was received from the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic (financing the projects *Mánes*, *Škréta*, and *Women in Architecture*).

The NGP's Funds

Remuneration Fund

In 2021, finances were drawn from the remuneration fund.

Reserve Fund from Other Titles

The NGP creates a reserve fund from acquired gifts. In 2021, the created fund reached 8,652,460 CZK and the amount of 4,742,018.13 CZK was drawn from it.

The most significant donor – partner was Komerční banka, a.s., which provided 6,500,000 CZK to the NGP.

Property Reproduction Fund

The Property Reproduction Fund accounted for the amortization (47,830,796.84 CZK) and the drawing of finances in the amount of the prescribed payments to the Czech Ministry of Culture (19,193,315 CZK).

In addition to the compulsory payment to the Czech Ministry of Culture, the Property Reproduction Fund's drawing in 2021 amounted to 23,782,562.08 CZK. The greatest items were the acquisitions of artworks amounting to 7,356,700 CZK, the purchase of mobile humidifiers for 1,424,775 CZK, and emergency repairs costing 4,873,163.72 CZK.

Cultural and Social Needs Fund

In 2021, the Cultural and Social Needs Fund was used in accordance with the Union Contract for the following purposes: the greatest portion was drawn for the contribution for meals, education of employees, culture and sports, occupational pensions, gifts for employee jubilees and retirements.

Gratuitous Transfers of Property

In 2021, two gratuitous transfers of property were added according to the Office for Government Presentation in Property Affairs. They were buildings and land in Křychnov that the NGP inherited in 2020. The overall accounting value of the transferred property was 2,159,890 CZK.

Support of the Institution

Support from private and business donors is essential for the NGP. It enables the institution to implement its activities in their entirety, present exceptional works of art to the general public, and care, and preserve them for future generations. The NGP incessantly works towards the acquisition of new partners and individual donors, and develops and improves its relations with the current ones.

A wide array of attractive benefits, including exhibition tours, meetings with artists and curators, and invitations for opening ceremonies and other social events, is prepared for private donors. Corporate supporters can choose from a broad spectrum of possibilities to create a long-term and functional partnership – to become the institution's partner or support a specific exhibition, project, or selected educational activity. The NGP relies on the prestigious name of the institution, monitors trends, and constantly seeks new ways to communicate with the donors and partners.

The NGP Club of Friends

In 2021, the NGP Club of Friends noticed a slight decrease in the number of its members compared to the previous year in connection with the unfavourable epidemic situation and the closure of the exhibition spaces in the first half of the year. Towards the end of the year, the club had almost 3,000 members; the majority of existing members used the offer to extend their membership by the period of the exhibition space closure at no additional cost. The members mostly used their membership to visit the successful exhibition *Toyen: The Dreaming Rebel* which they visited 5,650 times.

Guided tours around the permanent exhibitions *Old Masters* and *Old Masters II* were organized for the NGP Club of Friends in 2021 with an attendance of 250 members. Furthermore, they had an exclusive opportunity to visit the Trade Fair Palace outside the usual opening hours on the *Open Day* that was organized specifically for them and they could attend the guided tours around the exhibition *Post-Digital Intimacy* with the curator Michal Novotný, the permanent exhibitions *1796–1917: Art of the Long Century* and *1918–1938: First Czechoslovak Republic*,

and guided tours about the Trade Fair Palace architecture. Further events included a workshop for families with children, a discussion with Oldřich Bystřický, Head of the Public Development Department, and Josefína Wiesnerová, Project Manager of the NGP Club of Friends. Over 200 members attended the open day.

During the four-month closure caused by the anti-pandemic measures the NGP Club of Friends regularly received an online programme that provided access to temporary and permanent exhibitions.

In December, following the positive reactions of 2020, an Advent Calendar of the NGP Club of Friends was held over four Advent Sundays presenting the members with audio interviews with the NGP employees who co-created the temporary and permanent exhibitions. In particular, the interviews were led with an exhibition curator, restorer, depository administrator, and project manager of the Exhibition Department. The programme not only aimed at revealing the process of the exhibitions' origin, but also to show the institution from behind the scenes.

Also in December, the first part of the long-prepared project Automation of the NGP Club of Friends was launched that modernized the membership programme technologies in order to improve and simplify customer services. The process of the membership sale and use was simplified. For example, the members are now eligible to enter temporary and permanent exhibitions without checking in at the box office, can use the electronic version of their membership card (QR code), and automatically extend their membership without re-entering their personal data or exchanging their membership card.

Together with launching the automation part of the project, the Family membership category was cancelled because of the lack of interest and low attractiveness of membership programmes offered by the NGP's Public Development Department. On the contrary, a new possibility to buy a voucher for all membership categories was introduced. This process was then publicized by the changes of the visual identity of the Club of Friends that was prepared by Studio Najbrt and with which the NGP will now work.

The NGP Partners and Supporters

Komerční banka, a.s., has been the NGP's general partner since 2014. The bank's clients and employees are eligible for admission discounts and a series of private guided tours and special programmes, although only part of them could take place because of anti-pandemic measures.

The largest exhibition projects enjoyed great interest from the sponsors. The grandiose show of the artworks by the world-renowned painter Toyen at the Waldstein Riding School was financially supported by the Bohemian Heritage Fund and BADOKH Foundation. The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation provided a grant for *The Buddha Up Close* exhibition.

The exhibition, publication, and educational activities of the NGP were further financially supported by NET4GAS, s.r.o., and Hodinářství Bechyně, s.r.o.

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Architecture Day (KRUH Association)
Archive of Fine Arts, Prague
Art and Antiques
Art District 7
Artalk.cz
ArtMap
Big Media
Biograf 16
Bohemian Heritage Fund
Brainz Disruptive
Brno City Museum
Camera Team spol. s r.o.
Catholic Theological Faculty, Charles University
Codart, international network of curators of Dutch and Flemish art
CUT in Prague – Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering
CUT in Prague – Klokner Institute
Czech Academy of Sciences
Czech Centres
Česká pošta, s.p., Postal Museum
Czech Radio
Czech Television
CzechTourism
East Slovak Gallery, Košice
French Embassy in Prague
Hamburger Kunsthalle
Hapestetika Association
Hausboot Production s.r.o.
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Indigoprint
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Institut Français Prague
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Kunsthalle Praha
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien
Mík Martin
Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
Museum of Czech Literature in Prague
Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague
Monitora Media
Moravian Museum in Brno

Munchmuseet, Oslo
Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
Musée du Louvre
Museum Rietberg Zürich
National Film Archive
National Heritage Institute
National Museum – History Museum
National Museum – Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures
NET4GAS, s.r.o.
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Prague 7 City District
Prague City Museum
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Regional Gallery Liberec
Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
Slovak National Gallery
Spyron
State Regional Archives in Plzeň, Klášter near Nepomuk Office
Studio Hrdinů
Technical Museum in Brno
The City of Prague
The Czech Association of Art Historians
The East Slovak Museum in Košice
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