

# G TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA HMP

## THE CULTURAL EVENT OF THE AUTUMN: PHOTO EXHIBITION OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER BRUCE WEBER KICKS OFF ON 20 SEPTEMBER AT PRAGUE CITY GALLERY

### BRUCE WEBER: MY EDUCATION

20 September 2024 – 26 January 2025  
Prague City Gallery  
The Stone Bell House  
Old Town Square 605/13, Prague 1  
Opening hours: Tue-Sun, 10 a.m.– 8 p.m.

Curator: Helena Musilová



From 20 September, Prague residents as well as visitors to the capital will be able to visit the Stone Bell House where the doors of the exhibition of the world-famous American photographer Bruce Weber entitled *My Education* will open. This is Weber's first ever major European retrospective which spans five decades of his distinctive work.

Bruce Weber is best known for his photo series featured in fashion magazines such as *Vogue*, *GQ*, *W Magazine*, *The Interview* and *Vanity Fair*, and for his collaborations with leading brands such as Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren. His photographs often capture young women and men in sporty, daring and intimate moments. In addition to fashion photography, the exhibition at the Stone Bell House (GHMP) will equally highlight his portraiture, reportage and landscape work as well as music and fashion videos and feature films. Weber continuously photographs important cultural and political figures, with some of his most famous images including unique portraits of Nelson Mandela, Georgia O'Keeffe and Louise Bourgeois.

The exhibition *Bruce Weber: My Education* will also cover Weber's work in the Czech Republic where he photographed a series with Heath Ledger in 2000. He also repeatedly collaborated with celebrities of Czech descent, such as Eva Herzigová and Martina Navrátilová.

Weber's photographs from Detroit and the "Little Hanoi" community in Miami are also worthy of attention. Weber has the ability to narrate stories of people in an engaging way - he is one of the last of the 'old school photographers'. His repertoire also encompasses a focus on nature and animals, and notably a celebrated series on golden retrievers, leading



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to the creation of a dedicated picture book, *The Golden Retriever Photographic Society*, published by Taschen.

In addition to his photographic work, Weber is also a successful filmmaker and the author of many music videos for singers and bands (e.g. Pet Shop Boys, Chris Isaac) and documentaries. His documentary *Broken Noses* (1987) won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at Sundance Film Festival, and *Let's Get Lost* (1988), a documentary about jazz trumpeter Chet Baker, was nominated for an Academy Award.

The exhibition *Bruce Weber: My Education* is being prepared for the unique spaces of the Stone Bell House in close collaboration with the artist who will attend the opening in-person. The curatorial concept is prepared by Helena Musilová who, during her time at the Kampa Museum in Prague, prepared a monographic exhibition of the legendary Helmut Newton and participated in the production of an exhibition of the equally renowned Cecil Beaton. *"Bruce Weber represents one of the last great living classics of photography. It is fascinating to work with a man who was at the birth of visual culture in the second half of the 1980s, who was behind the icons of the music world of the 1990s, but who also created very personal portraits of iconic cultural figures such as Pedro Almodóvar, who became his close friend,"* says Helena Musilová, the curator of the retrospective.

*"I am very pleased that the audience in Prague will have a rare opportunity to experience the work of such an important figure who combines, with great empathy and creativity, such different worlds as street life and the world of the film and fashion industry. There are few figures in the world of photography with such a broad thematic range and with truly deep insight and understanding of the peripheral, burlesque and vibrant events of contemporary events,"* says Jiří Pospíšil, Deputy Mayor of Prague.

The creative producer of the exhibition is Milosh Harajda whose studio has previously presented a retrospective of David LaChapelle (Rudolfinum Gallery, 2011), the première of Sergei Polunin's documentary (National Theatre Ballet, 2017) and a pop-up exhibition of the archive of fashion designer Alexander McQueen (Designer Gallery, Westfield, 2019). The designer of the exhibition is set and costume designer Marek Cpin, known for his collaboration with the Hermès fashion house and his productions for the National Theatre, Na zábradlí Theatre and Czech Television.

On the occasion of the autumn exhibition, the acclaimed publishing house TASCHEN will publish a monographic book of the same name, featuring works that couldn't be accommodated within the exhibition due to space constraints. The book *Bruce Weber: My Education* will be globally distributed.

## About the artist

Bruce Weber (\* 1946, Greenburg, Pennsylvania) is a prominent figure in fashion, portrait, and lifestyle photography, known for his series of live and street photographs from various parts of the world. Following in the footsteps of esteemed fashion photographers such as



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Irving Penn and Helmut Newton, he combines elegance, sensuality, nostalgia, but also vivacity, insight and movement.

**The creators of the exhibition would like to extend their gratitude to Klinika GHC Praha, Carrollinum, The House, and Four Seasons Hotel Prague for their generous support.**

*"There is much that connects us to the world that Bruce Weber captures in his photographs, whether it be overall aesthetics or perception of beauty and physical health. That is why we are pleased that Klinika GHC Praha is able to support the exhibition Bruce Weber: My Education,"* says MUDr. Marianna Poljančuková, Director of Klinika GHC Praha.

*"Bruce Weber represents a generation of photographers whose expression combines realistic applied art with utmost aesthetics and beauty. In the world of watches, which our company represents, it is the same. Iconic designs and ticking works of art transcend time, yet are ever so practical. What's more, the exhibition takes place in a location we consider our home. From the Old Town Square you enter Pařížská Street - our street of happiness - where our story has been unfolding for more than a quarter of a century and where we operate four boutiques (Rolex, Patek Philippe, Carrollinum and Breitling) and a watch service,"* says Carrollinum owner Tamara Kotvalová, explaining why Carrollinum supports the exhibition and the reasons for the collaboration.

The exhibition was also supported by THE HOUSE Foundation which is engaged in philanthropic activities in the sphere of contemporary art, painting, film and photography with an educational and research focus. Among other things, THE HOUSE supports talented Czech artists and their promotion on the Czech and international scene.

*"Our guests come to Prague not only to visit historical monuments but also for culture and art. Prague's cultural scene has a lot to offer and this project brings us great benefits. Bruce Weber is a distinguished photographer with an international reputation which helps attract new visitors to Prague. We would like to see more cultural events like this in Prague in the future,"* adds Martina Vávrová, Director of Marketing, Four Seasons Hotel Prague.

The exhibition programme of Prague City Gallery is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

The exhibition is organised under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy Prague.



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**Curator: Helena Musilová**

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Entrance fee: CZK 200 full (adults) / CZK 90 discounted (students and seniors)

Tickets for the exhibition will be on sale from 15 May 2024 on [GoOut.net](https://goout.net)

## Contacts

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