

## **Prague City Gallery and Signal Festival will light up today's night of St. Lucy, the patron saint of light. Troja Château will come alive with video mapping and three audiovisual installations**

Prague City Gallery and Signal Festival are building on last year's collaboration, bringing a unique pre-Christmas experience. During two evenings on 13 and 14 December, the Czech Baroque jewel, Troja Château, will come to life with a video mapping by animator Ondřej Rakušan in collaboration with artists David Böhm and Jiří Franta. This will be extended by audiovisual installations in the Château's cellar by Jiří Suchánek, Jakub Nepraš and Tereza Bartůňková. In this way, Prague City Gallery will celebrate the Advent season and the feast of Saint Lucy, Queen of the Night and patron saint of light, which was originally associated with the winter solstice. Visitors have the opportunity to experience Troja Château in a different light and in a unique pre-Christmas atmosphere on both days from 5 to 11 p.m., and admission is free.

*"After the successful cooperation with the Signal Festival last year, we decided to celebrate the feast of St. Lucy in this collaboration again this year. Prague City Gallery has long been looking for new opportunities to reach out to a diverse audience and offer them its unique spaces outside the traditional exhibition programme,"* explains Magdalena Juříková, Director of the Prague City Gallery. By bringing together two renowned cultural institutions – Signal Festival, a leading player in the field of contemporary audiovisual, digital and conceptual art, and Prague City Gallery, one of the most prominent galleries in the Czech Republic, it offers a unique experience to a wide audience.

New to this year's Saint Lucy exhibition project is the video mapping installation *Sleeping in Progress* by animator Ondřej Rakušan. His main inspiration were drawings by David Böhm and Jiří Franta. Black and white pen drawings full of Dadaist exaggeration, visually reminiscent of Renaissance sgraffito, complement the historical facade during the projection. The video mapping is conceived without a beginning and without an end, as it is meant to introduce the viewer to the original drawings in an unconventional way. The animation is complemented by a soundtrack by musician Aid Kid. The installation was created in collaboration with Signal Festival. *"We are very happy to be able to team up with Prague City Gallery again and help spread awareness of Troja Château through digital and light art,"* says Martin Pošta, director of Signal Festival.

Visitors will see three audiovisual works in the underground gallery area of Troja Château. *"The aim of the gallery zone is to offer visitors not only a monumental outdoor video mapping experience, but also to present light artworks from the collections of the GHMP and to make available a new experimental space in the underground of Troja Château. Three audiovisual installations are interconnected by addressing the themes of time, space and perception that oscillate between the real and imaginary worlds. In selecting the artists, we*

looked for creators whose work can engage the viewer not only visually, but also emotionally and intellectually. Each of the installations also highlights the unique interconnection between Baroque architecture and modern digital art, which we consider to be a key element of this project," says Helena Musilová, Chief Curator of Prague City Gallery.

*"The St. Lucy project completes our efforts to revive the Château grounds, to find new contexts and to bring the Baroque closer to the younger generation. At the same time, it opens a discussion on how historical buildings can be used in a meaningful way – with respect for the past and a vision for the future,"* adds Musilová.

In the installation *Pulse 33* by artist Jiří Suchánek, the audience will see thirty-three light objects freely spread in space and synchronised with digital music that is generated by an algorithm. Each object has a fixed assigned colour, sound and rhythm, the combinations of which intertwine into a complex polyrhythmic structure. The uniqueness of the work lies in the fact that the combinations of light, sound and rhythm constantly change and it is almost impossible for them to ever be exactly repeated.

The artist, scenographer and lighting designer Tereza Bartůňková has created the installation *Shy Tentacles*, which was created as part of a creative dialogue based on the principle of *cadavre exquis*, responding to a musical composition that itself emerged from the artwork. The result is an intimate space that evokes an underwater world, combining Sylvia Lim's musical composition with haptic sensations, soft filaments of light bulbs and tentacles hanging from the ceiling. The viewers are thus immersed in an environment that oscillates between dreams and the subconscious, and a unique experience awaits them.

The video installation by artist Jakub Nepraš entitled *Tree* represents the intersection between the real world and mental processes through a projection of light fragments onto a transparent imprint of objects. The work explores human consciousness, where memories and experiences appear according to the intensity of the records in a neural map, forming a chaotic code, referring to our inner reality. The installation invites consideration of whether mental records persist as part of the universe after the death of the individual mind, or whether they disappear like dreams after waking.

*"This project not only pays homage to tradition, but also shows how historical spaces can be used innovatively for contemporary artistic expression. I believe that visitors will appreciate the unique atmosphere and creative approach that this collaboration brings to Troja Château, thanks to the exclusive video mapping and audiovisual installations combined with the beautiful historical background,"* says JUDr. Jiří Pospíšil, Prague's Deputy Mayor for Culture, Tourism, Heritage, National Minorities, Exhibitions Sector, and Animal Welfare.

**Prague City Gallery and Signal Festival will light up the Troja Château complex on 13 and 14 December, always from 5 to 11 p.m. Admission is free.**

On both days, there will also be a lighting workshop, which will be free and open to all ages, under the expert guidance of GHMP's lecturers section. The workshop will take place in the Eco-studio, which is located in the lower part of the Château garden and has wheelchair access. The newly opened Bistro Karel, which has transformed the former Château gardener's house into a gastronomic oasis, invites you to relax.



**Project Partners:**

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