

NEWSLETTER 01

Langhans Gallery Prague

March 2009

After more than six years in existence Langhans Gallery Prague will be changing its conception and content.

Looking back, 2003–08

Langhans Gallery Prague

Since it was established in 2003 Langhans Gallery Prague has organized thirty-three exhibitions, most of which comprised works by photographers from abroad, classic and contemporary, including dozens of accompanying events. For more than six years the Gallery has provided space and opportunity to young talent, renowned artists, and curators, to present their work in an architecturally attractive, historically important milieu.

The Gallery of Eminent People Archive

Ten years after the discovery of the archive of glass negatives of Atelier Langhans's Gallery of Eminent People, all ten-thousand negatives have been digitized and deposited in a protected environment, and we have also established our own professional restorers' workshop. From this exceptional collection we have presented selections of portraits of members of Czech society from 1880 to 1948 in public exhibitions.

As an independent, non-profit organization Langhans has not only made its mark on the cultural map of Prague, but has also earned a good name for itself beyond the borders of the Czech Republic, thanks to the personal and financial involvement of its founders, the persistent hard work of a team of colleagues, full-time and external, and the support of the Czech Ministry of Culture, the City of Prague, partners and sponsors, and, in particular, the interest of a growing number of visitors to the Gallery.

The programme for 2009

Langhans Gallery Prague

The works of two remarkable artists from abroad will be presented in two exhibitions: Erwin Olaf (from April to June) and Olaf Breuning (from June to September). From October to the end of the year the programme will peak with the group exhibition 'Behind the Silence: Czech Art Photography of the 70s and 80s'.

The Gallery of Eminent People Archive

This year the demanding work of conserving and restoring the negatives, creating master scans for the long-term preservation of data, new positive prints of selected negatives are being made, and further descriptions of the individual sitters are being written. This piece of cultural heritage, which had been earmarked for destruction under the old regime and was meant to end in oblivion, is thus being given a new lease of life.

Looking ahead from 2010

Langhans Gallery Prague

We are convinced that the future of Langhans is in opening up the institution to new impulses independent of the current management and organization. At the beginning of next year Zuzana Meisnerová Wismer will step down as director of the Gallery to be able to devote herself more to work connected with the archive of the Atelier Langhans and its historic legacy.

With the exhibition projects of this year, Langhans Gallery Prague will conclude its activity in this area.

As a cultural institution Langhans will continue as a new platform providing information and mediating discussion about contemporary photography and the other arts.

The Gallery spaces will provide the base for new forms of activity, the nature and substance of which is currently a subject of talks with future partners.

The Gallery of Eminent People Archive

Apart from continuing conservation and restoration work, a demanding long-term project will begin – a multi-volume publication of the 'Gallery of Eminent People' from the archive of photographs of the Langhans Studio, inspired by the First Republic albums. The project will be carried out in stages. The final volume is planned for 28 October 2018 to mark the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic.

On behalf of Langhans Gallery Prague,
Zuzana Meisnerová Wismer



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A Tribute to Courage: Political Prisoners in the Fifties / Aura: Artists from the Fotostiftung Schweiz Collection / Anders Petersen / Memory of the Nation: Musicians / Face to Face: The F. C. Gundlach Collection / Ivan Lutterer: Panoramic Photographs / Henryk Ross: Lodz Ghetto Album / Galerie VU', Paris / Nazar: Photographs from the Arab World / photo typo live / Faces of Czech Theatre from Ateliér Langhans / Nobuyoshi Araki: Tokyo Flowers / People in Need: Photographs / Gerald Slota / Manuel Álvarez Bravo / Leo Polhuis, Mihael Milunović, Dušan Skala / Noorderlicht: Traces and Omens / Scalco Books / Dialog: The Helsinki School / Anna Fárová & Photography / Hans-Peter Feldmann: Foto / Air Asia / Roman Signer: Travel Pictures / Jakob Holdt: USA 1970–1975 / Them & At Night: Jarcovjáčková & Poláček / Miyako Ishiuchi: Retrospective / Martha Rosler: Passionate Signals / I am not afraid: The Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg / From M to ZZZ: Contemporary Art from Latvia / Fifty: Pavel Dias / funny, cry, happy: Bill Jacobson / Erwin Olaf: A Choreography of Emotions / Behind the Silence: Czech Art Photography of the 70s and 80s / Olaf Breuning: Superstar