

Exhibition of Norbert Grund in the National Gallery's Kinsky Palace on the Occasion of the 300-Year Anniversary of the Painter's Birth

Norbert Grund (1717–1767). The Charm of the Everyday is the first exhibition ever to introduce to the public the full extent of genre works by one of the most important rococo painters in Bohemia. The National Gallery in Prague holds the exhibition in the Kinsky Palace from December 1, 2017 to March 18, 2018 on the occasion of 300-year anniversary of the painter's birth and 250-year anniversary of his death. The paintings are displayed along with examples of applied arts and prints after Grund's paintings by Johann Georg Balzer.

“The name of Norbert Grund has become synonymous with rococo painting in Bohemia. His oeuvre offers a wealth of themes, comprising all the pictorial forms with the exception of still life. The painter absorbed impulses from Dutch and Flemish genre painting, Italian landscape painting and French *fêtes galantes* and transposed them into small formats, giving his works an idyllic and playful atmosphere,” says the curator, Marcela Vondráčková.

The exhibition in the Kinsky Palace introduces in the wider context Grund's genre painting, that is, scenes from everyday life. In its individual sections, the exhibition aims to show the diversity of themes in Grund's oeuvre and compare his works with the contemporary Central-European cabinet painting and various individual works that may have inspired him. A separate section is devoted to prints by Johann Georg Balzer (1734–1799) which attest to the great popularity Grund's works enjoyed at the time. Along with paintings and prints, the exhibition also shows examples of applied arts which illustrate the culture of the rococo period.

The last solo exhibition of Norbert Grund took place in 1967 in the Belvedere in Vienna and in Prague's Loreta. Our knowledge of his life and work has significantly grown since then, providing new material for both the present exhibition in the Kinsky Palace and the large monograph which will be published in 2018.

Norbert Grund trained with his father, Christian Grund, the court painter and picture gallery administrator for the family of Liebstein of Kolowrat. When his training was completed, Grund set on his artistic travels, finding sources of inspiration in aristocratic picture galleries as well as in graphic prints. He returned to Prague sometime before 1751 when he got married. Until his death in 1767, he worked in Prague's Lesser Town as a member of the local painters' guild.

Likely selling his paintings freely on the art market, Grund rarely worked on commission. His workshop was popular among the educated middle class and artists, but paintings by Grund have also been found in church and aristocratic collections. “The current extensive collection of Grund's paintings in the National Gallery in Prague consists of more than two hundred pieces, in large part donated to the Picture Gallery of the Society of Patriotic Friends of the Arts by Josef Karl Eduard Hoser. Aside from these artworks, the National Gallery also owns a complete set of prints by Johann Georg Balzer, which reproduce Grund's paintings,” says Vondráčková.

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

Place: Kinsky Palace

Date: December 1, 2017 – March 3, 2018

Curator: Marcela Vondráčková

The exhibition is organized in cooperation with the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague.

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