

Voyage to Iceland. In 1729, Iceland was a country wracked by violence and poverty. That year, the scholar and manuscript collector Árni Magnússon (1663–1730) invited the renowned architect Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer (1689–1751) to build a cathedral on the icy island. After completing his work on the monastery in Broumov – but regrettably also after the death of Árni Magnússon – Dientzenhofer undertook the adventurous journey to Iceland in 1733 to find a suitable place for the building. The locals warmly welcomed him. He travelled the length and breadth of the country, but did not find a suitable site, and so he returned to Europe to continue his other building projects. Fortunately for us, the designs for the planned cathedral have survived, as have several Baroque paintings intended as part of the building's interior decoration. It is truly exciting that the National Gallery in Prague is now presenting a part of this ambitious project that, due to these unfavourable circumstances, was unfortunately never realized, causing Iceland to forever miss out on the Baroque. (Hynek Martinec, Lost in Time)

An Exhibition of Hynek Martinec Celebrates the Fellowship of Contemporary Art and the Old Masters

The National Gallery in Prague – Collection of Old Masters hosts thirty contemporary paintings by Hynek Martinec in the Sternberg Palace from 27 April to 26 August 2018. Martinec's works are responses to the Old Masters artworks. His most recent exhibition is based on the fictitious story about Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer's attempt to build a baroque cathedral in Iceland. The exhibition is organised by the National Gallery in Prague and Galerie Rudolfinum.

'The collection of Hynek Martinec's paintings illustrates a fictitious story about an attempt to build a baroque cathedral in Iceland in the 18th century. Although the erection never materialised, the National Gallery displays a collection of paintings intended for its decoration,' Otto M. Urban, a curator of the National Gallery in Prague, explains the mysterious story behind the exhibition.

Rembrandt's Hip

The paintings and drawings are thematically bound with particular artworks in the collection of the National Gallery in Prague. According to Hynek Martinec, art is a continuous dialogue led by all artists. Martinec creates loose series that reinterpret remarkable representatives of old and modern art ranging from Dürer over Schiele to Duchamp.

'I choose the artists according to my mood or exhibitions that affected me. But primarily I have to admire them and my works seek to remove the time boundaries and to interconnect with artists which I like and would like to meet in person,' Hynek Martinec says.

'Hynek Martinec selected a compressed form – a composition assembled from cut-outs evoking strong moments of the baroque models. His paintings are not a mere stage to exhibit his painting skills; they go back in history approaching the existing acmes which, influenced by spiritualisation, appear to be unbeatable in time, yet they still have a potential for further development,' describes Petr Nedoma, Director of Galerie Rudolfinum and exhibition curator.

The paintings *Rembrandt's Hip*, *Flogging Baroque Horse*, and *Circus of Nightmares* are exhibited in the Sternberg Palace. According to Martinec, the present time is inspiring by its

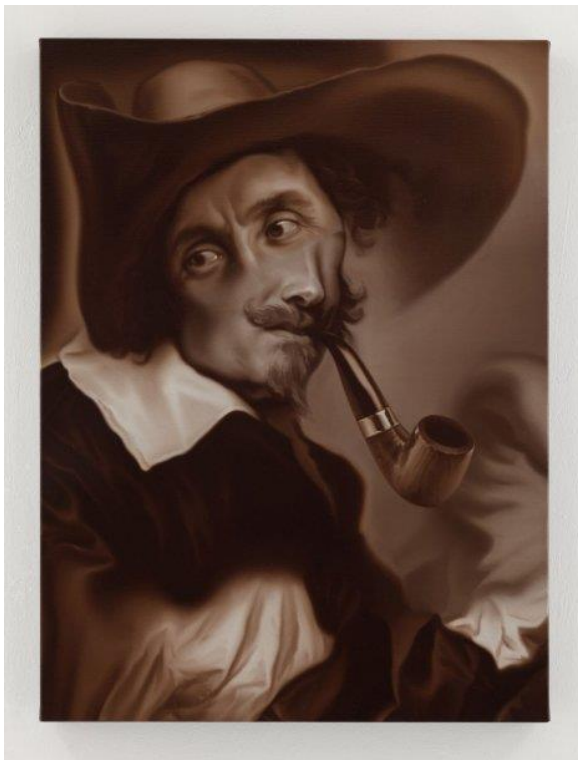
freedom and the possibility to interconnect anything, including the works created previously by other artists. In his view, an artist reshapes the past into a new language for future generations.

'I found it natural to engage in the Baroque and attempt to create a bridge between baroque art and the present time. I have always dreamt of exhibiting and juxtaposing my works with other artists such as Peter Paul Rubens, Anthonis van Dyck, Rembrandt, and many others that I admire. It was in the National Gallery collection of art where I, as a student, explored the legacy of baroque art. Returning to the Sternberg Palace with my own exhibition after several years is truly inconceivable,' Hynek Martinec adds.

The Life of Painting

Hynek Martinec (1980) was born in Broumov and currently lives and works in London. With his painting bravura, Martinec captures the works of great artists from the late 16th to the 19th century, creating a new world of his paintings by combining individual motifs taken from both details and full compositions. Drawing has fascinated Martinec since his childhood, and he cannot imagine a single day without drawing. Since his beginnings, he has had an ambition to reach the level of the perennial stars of fine art such as van Gogh or Leonardo da Vinci. He studied the Old Masters drawings and paintings in the National Gallery in Prague, the British Museum, and the National Gallery in London.

Martinec's oeuvre evokes questions about the current position of painting, confirming its strong position in the visual arts. Contrarily, his work clearly denies the termination of painting and domination of purely conceptual art which has been discussed over the past centuries. Martinec has had solo and group exhibitions in Prague, London, Paris, and New York.



Hynek Martinec: Voyage to Iceland

Date: 27 April 2018 – 26 August 2018

Venue: Sternberg Palace

Curators: Otto M. Urban, Marius Winzeler (National Gallery in Prague), Petr Nedoma (Galerie Rudolfinum)

The exhibition is organised by the National Gallery in Prague and Galerie Rudolfinum.

www.ngprague.cz

www.galerierudolfinum.cz

www.hynekmartinec.com

HYNEK MARTINEC

Born in Broumov in 1980.

Lives and works in London.

Education

2004 Cooper Union, New York

2002 Middlesex University, London

1999–2005 Academy of Fine Arts (MgA.), Prague

Solo Exhibitions and Projects (selected)

2017

El Greco is Watching, Spain

The Birth of Tragedies, Parafin, London

2016

Project, The Factory Gallery, London

2015

Intellectual Properties, Galerie Václava Špály, Prague

Thank You For Looking at Me, Island

2014

Every Minute You Are Closer To Death, Parafin, London

2013

Every Minute You Are Closer To Death, Flowers Gallery, London

2010

Lucky Man, Caroline Wiseman, London

2009

At The Same Time, Cosa Gallery, London

After Holiday 1986, Czech Centre Gallery, Sofia

2008

Lost in Time, Cosa Gallery, London

2007

Czech Centre Gallery, Paris

Group Exhibitions (selected)

2017

Fascination with Reality, Museum of Modern Art, Olomouc

Arc of Time, Zahorian and Van Espen, Prague

2015

Blow-up, Parafin, London

2014

John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

2013

BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London

2012

Beyond Reality: British Painting Today, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague

Ein Weisses Feld, Schlachthaus Aschaffenburg

Coal and Steel, Candid Arts Trust Gallery, London

Coal and Steel, Czech Centre Gallery, Prague

2011

Encoded Systems, Read Gate Gallery, London

2010

BP Portrait Award, National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh

Passion for Freedom, UNIT 24 Gallery, London

TRANSFER, Czech National Building, New York

2009

BP Portrait Award, Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton

BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London

Prague Biennale 4, Prague

TRANSFER, Moravian Gallery in Brno, Brno

2008

TRANSFER, WhiteBOX Gallery, Munich

International Triennale of Contemporary Art, National Gallery in Prague, Prague

Re-Reading The Future, Project Mobility, National Gallery in Prague, Prague

Defenestrace, New Town Hall, Prague

BP Portrait Award National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh

2007

BP Portrait Award, Tyne & Wear Museums, Newcastle

BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London

2006

BLACK Art Festival, Pardubice

2005

International Biennale of Contemporary Art, National Gallery in Prague, Prague

Prague's Studios, New Town Hall, Prague

2004

Cooper Union Gallery, New York

2003

Čtvercová leč ARTTODAY, Galerie Nová síň, Prague

Awards

2008

The Changing Faces, London

BP Visitor Choice, National Scottish Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh

2007

BP Young Artist Award, National Portrait Gallery, London

BP Visitor Choice, National Portrait Gallery, London

2003

Studio Prize, Academy of Fine Arts, Prague

His works are in the following collections

The British Museum, London

National Gallery in Prague, Prague

Sammlung FIEDE, Aschaffenburg

Standard Chartered Bank, London

WCIT Collection, London

Asante Art Collection, Basel

Pro Arte Collection, Prague

Omer Koc Collection, Istanbul

Robert Runtak Collection, Olomouc

Bibliography

Fascination with Reality, Museum of Modern Art, Olomouc 2017.

Intellectual Properties, Galerie Václava Špály, Praha 2015.

Every Minute You Are Closer To Death, Parafin, London 2014.

John Moores Painting Prize 2014, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool 2014.

Beyond Reality British Painting Today, Galerie Rudolfinum, Praha 2012.

500 Portraits, National Portrait Gallery, London 2011.

Umění vnímat umění, Michael Třeštík, Gasset, Praha 2011.

Prague Biennale 4, Giancarlo Politi ed., Milan 2009.

RE-READING THE FUTURE, Mobility, Národní galerie v Praze, Praha 2008.

Hynek Martinec Paintings 1999–2008, Czech Centre, London 2008.

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