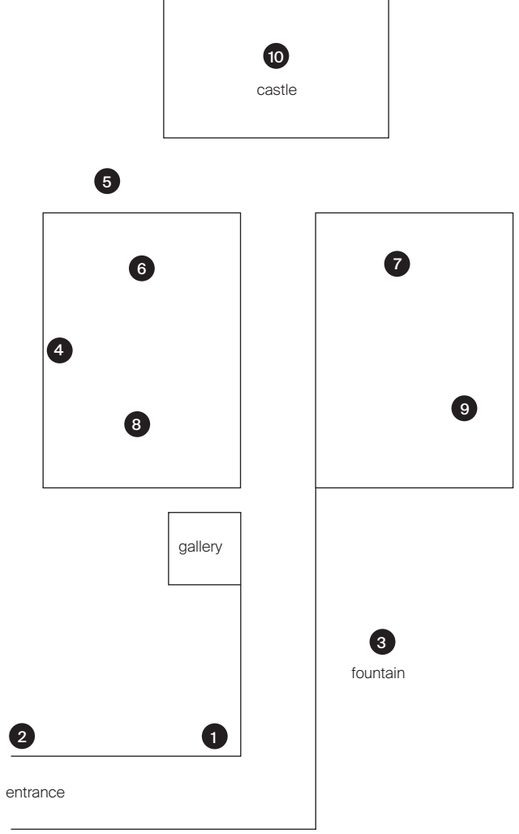



**1** / Krištof Kintera
*Memorial of Passed Light*, 2019
concrete, steel structure, fluorescent tubes
255 × 65 × 80 cm

**2** / Krištof Kintera
*Paradise Now*, 2009
zinc coated steel
variable dimensions

**3** / Tereza Štětinová
*Wave*, 2022
Supikovice marble, carved oak pedestal
48 × 50 × 186 cm

**4** / Tereza Štětinová
*Kiss*, 2020
shallow relief, Carrara marble
186 × 50 × 48 cm

**5** / Matěj Frank
*present / absent*, 2019, 2022
cast iron
185 × 35 × 85 cm

**6** / Chen Zhen
*Back to Fullness, Face to Emptiness*,
1997–2009
aluminium, stainless steel, neon
400 × 450 cm (without chairs)
unique work

**7** / Ana Maria Tavares
*Secrets of the Crystal Waters (Rosso Levanto)*, 2023
Rosso Levanto marble, stainless steel
191 × 6 cm
unique work

**8** / Ornaghi & Prestinari
*Uscire dal Guscio*, 2020
Green Alps marble, tin, PVC
14 × 282 × 117 cm
unique work

**9** / Zhanna Kadyrova
*Harmless War*, 2022
found metal with bullet holes and paint
240 × 240 × 245 cm
240 × 240 × 308 cm
unique works

**10** / Zhanna Kadyrova
*Palianytsia*, 2022
installation, found river stones,
variable dimensions
unique work

Zhanna Kadyrova
*Anxiety,* 2022
traditional hand and machine-written
embroideries
unique works

Documentary film by Ivan Sautkin
*"Kadyrova's Palianytsia"*
video, 18' 56"

Can be seen only during the guided castle tour

Contemporary Art and Sculpture Park
Panství Bechyně s.r.o. and Art4Bechyně o.p.s.
Zámek 1, 391 65 Bechyně

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Opening hours Gallery:
June and September: Thu-Sun, 10 a.m. – 16:00 p.m.
July and August: Tue-Sun, 10 a.m. – 16:00 p.m.

Opening hours Sculpture Park:
June and September: Thu-Sun, 9 a.m. – 16:30 p.m.
July and August: Tue-Sun, 9 a.m. – 16:30 p.m.

Graphic design: Richard Bakeš – Sharp Objects

PANSTVÍ BECHYNĚ

GALLERIACONTINUA
SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS DUBAI

# SCULPTURE PARK
# AT BECHYNĚ CASTLE
# IN COOPERATION WITH
# GALLERIA CONTINUA

## JUNE 4 — SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

## CHEN ZHEN
## MATĚJ FRANK
## ZHANNA KADYROVA
## KRIŠTOF KINTERA
## ORNAGHI & PRESTINARI
## TEREZA ŠTĚTINOVÁ
## ANA MARIA TAVARES

# SCULPTURE PARK AT BECHYNĚ CASTLE

The Sculpture Park at Bechyně Castle accentuates the contemporary realities of the world around us. In the light of the essential socio-political events of the past and present year, questions of human existence, integrity and human rights, and primarily freedom in many aspects of the word will be discussed. The curatorial selection of artists explores the rich relationship between art and politics, focusing on works that are both formally innovative and politically outspoken while carrying the poetic diction of existential questions.

The unique artistic practices of artists Chen Zhen, Matěj Frank, Zhanna Kadyrova, Krištof Kintera, Ornaghi & Prestinari, Tereza Štětinová and Ana Maria Tavares revolve around subjects such as national identity, trespassing of borders, political and cultural alienation while reflecting the uncertain aspects of our current existence. Their works highlight a general approach to artmaking and a view of art's social function as embracing both pleasure and critical thinking.

The central piece is the object *Back to Fullness, Face to Emptiness* by Chinese-French artist Chen Zhen exhibited at Biennale Arte 2009. The centre of the metal globe symbolizing the world (fullness), which is surrounded by chairs from various countries, features a Chinese text in red neon about human rights. Only these and a good conscience (emptiness) can serve as a guide towards a future of hope and peace.

## Chen Zhen

(1955–2000)

Born in 1955 in Shanghai, Chen Zhen grew up in a French-speaking medical family in the former French Concession area during the Cultural Revolution. At a very young age, he became interested in the links between traditional Chinese philosophy and Western culture.

He earned a BFA from the Shanghai School of Arts and Crafts (1973) and an MFA from the Shanghai Drama Institute (1978) before moving to Paris in 1986, where he studied at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts. Working primarily as a sculptor and installation artist, Chen participated in several historic exhibitions that mark the rise of global contemporary art. Chen lived in Paris – a cosmopolitan city that remained his home until an untimely death in 2000 – and much of his practice was linked to his experience living among multiple cultures and notions of historical time, a state he called "transexperience."

About two years before his death, the artist decided to study traditional Chinese medicine, considering it to involve a way of thinking and behaving very close to his own vision of art. He transformed and distilled this knowledge in his final works dealing with the dialogue between body and spirit, Man and the Universe.
His open-minded approach and the quality of his work won him widespread international recognition. His works have been shown around the world, and he has had solo retrospective exhibitions in a number of important museums and institutions.

## Zhanna Kadyrova

Born in 1981. Lives and works in Brovary, Kyiv region, Ukraine.

Kadyrova's practice, tackling since its very beginning disciplines as different as sculpture, photo, video and performance, deeply focuses on the exhibition site and space. In her work, the issue of context unravels to reveal the rhythm of History on the move – that of a world whose multiple layers disappear behind their immediacy. Often diverting the aesthetic canons of the socialist ideal still present in the heritage of contemporary Ukraine, Kadyrova's perspective is partially informed by the plastic and symbolic values of urban building materials. Thus, ceramics, glass, stone and concrete enter the spotlight of her work.

Kadyrova was working on several site specific projects until the recent war unleashed by Russia against Ukraine in February 2022 changed all her plans. She started working on the humanitarian project Palianytsia from her new home in the Carpathian Mountains which has already been exhibited worldwide (Italy, Germany, Norway, Japan, France, US, Sweden, Austria, Georgia, Romania, Thailand, India). Zhanna is now back in Kyiv and produced new works about war that were presented within her first major retrospective recently opened at the Kunstverein Hannover (Germany).

## Ana Maria Tavares

Born in 1958. Lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil.

In Ana Maria Tavares' production, the understanding that tropical nature and architecture are ideological constructions in the center of the triad modernism – modernity – modernization leads to conceptualization of works that interrogate the political, economic and social implications of the modern movement in Brazil. Bringing into the art realm the complicity between the built environment and the utopias of eugenics that the art historian Fabiola López-Durán develops in her research, Tavares' work trespasses the dichotomies of modernity – progress and backwardness, beauty and ugliness, purity and contamination.

Her recent works confront industrial techniques with handcraft, thus leading to the inclusion of the ornament – an element that was eliminated from modern architecture – in order to interrogate gender, race and otherness – themes commonly ignored in the more celebratory views of modernism.

## Ornaghi & Prestinari

Valentina Ornaghi (born 1986) and Claudio Prestinari (born 1984) live and work in Milan, Italy.

Some of the most noteworthy representatives of the young generation of Italian artists, Valentina Ornaghi and Claudio Prestinari, began to work together in 2009 – after graduation in Industrial Design and in Architecture at the Milan Polytechnic before continuing their studies at the IUAV University of Venice – with a desire to develop each of their projects through dialogue and sharing.

The multidisciplinary approach that Ornaghi & Prestinari perfected during their training, as well as their interest for design, architecture and art history, have become part of their research. The artists' work explores the domestic, fragile and intimate dimension of things. Ornaghi & Prestinari's practice moves between concept and action with a particular attention to the materials and their manipulation. Delicacy, care, time, lightness and irony are the recurring themes of their works.

## Matěj Frank

Born in 1989. Lives and works in Vienna, Austria; Chudobín, Czech Republic; and Wrocław, Poland.

Matěj Frank is a visual artist. He is interested in slow transformations and transience. He explores space through sculptures and sound installations and captures time through processual drawings and durational performances. Frank's measure of time and space is often a human body, both his own, living body and the depicted one. Chance plays an important role in his practice, as his works are often based on a lose script with a more or less predictable result. He seeks the links between fullness and emptiness, transience and permanence.

He reflects on the body on two levels. On the one hand, his bodies are personalized in the outlines of real figures rooting them in the lived experience; on the other hand, these bodies are completely disembodied by the emptiness they are taking up, with the outline being the only thing left of the person.

## Krištof Kintera

Born in 1973. Lives and works in Prague, Czech Republic.

Krištof Kintera is one of the best known contemporary Czech artists. His oeuvre is characteristic of a certain doubt concerning the possibilities and role of the arts. He creates sculptures and installations by combining or altering ordinary objects in unusual ways. By modifying common objects from everyday life, Kintera gives them new meaning and allows us to see a more removed perspective. The moment of movement, interaction and social criticism reflects the interconnection of visual arts, performance and theatrical design.

Kintera is an initiator and co-founder of many remarkable curatorial and experimental projects. He gained international acclaim by his exhibitions at Museum Tinguely in Basel (2014) and Kunsthal Rotterdam (2015) followed by the major Czech exhibition at Galerie Rudolfinum (2017).
The artist also realized two sculptural works in Prague's public space: *Of One's Own Volition – Memento Mori* (2011) and *Bike to Heaven* (2013).

## Tereza Štětinová

Born in 1987. Lives and works in Prague, Czech Republic.

Tereza Štětinová is one of the most original young Czech artists in the field of sculpture, although she graduated in photography from Prague's FAMU. In her artistic practice, she primarily works with materials such as Carrara marble, alabaster, onyx and wood, which she elegantly combines with steel elements and natural details. Her sculptural works are often composed into thematic groups in the form of installation in a particular space, thus creating elaborate spatial assemblages.

The selected themes include autobiographical elements, childhood memories as well as questions of faith and cultural heritage. The artist also addresses aspects of femininity and motherhood. She is interested both in sacral and profane subjects while using the archetypal vocabulary of non-specific cultures.

CURATOR: LUCIE DRDOVÁ