NEDKO SOLAKOV
AND JIŘÍ KOVANDA: *TOGETHER*

JUNE 4 — SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

The exhibition *Together* by two established names of contemporary art Nedko Solakov and Jiří Kovanda gives a glimpse into the thinking of original personalities whose bodies of work and grasp of art emerged from similar historical and political realities of former communist countries. Both artists are characterized by their ability to aptly comment on the surrounding world and respond to the nuances of human existence, both in strongly ironic and poetic images. Mutual respect for their artistic practice gave rise to an exhibition presenting their existing work as well as mutual interventions in their installations, thus completing their form – for instance, Kovanda's coat stands featured in Solakov's exhibition and Solakov's doodles emerging from the shadows of the objects in Kovanda's installations.

The work of Nedko Solakov, one of the most internationally acclaimed Bulgarian contemporary artists, moves freely between various media; from drawing and painting to object, spatial installation, performance and video. Extensive verbal commentaries written on walls next to the artefacts or even directly onto the artworks are integral to his work. The dialogue between his original drawings, witty and brilliant commentaries spanning fiction and reality, and the story setting conveys a deep individual experience while analyzing the role and contradictions inherent to the contemporary art system as well as the collective "truths" and societal norms of human existence.

Jiří Kovanda is one of the most prominent figures of Czech contemporary art. He entered the international scene through happenings and performances focusing on disrupting stereotypes in interpersonal contact in the late 1970s. Under the influence of European conceptualism, he used a minimum of means and gestures capturing the ephemeral nature of his public "confrontations". The individual events were documented by photographs and accompanied by texts. His non-performative work, featuring mainly installations of simple ordinary objects, bears similar characteristics. Kovanda naturally connects art and human life by bringing objects into the gallery space, deconstructing their artistic and practical value through very slight and subtle "manipulation".

CURATED BY:
LUCIE DRDOVÁ

Contemporary Art and Sculpture Park
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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

NEDKO SOLAKOV
AND JIŘÍ KOVANDA: *TOGETHER*

GALLERY
AT BECHYNĚ CASTLE
IN COOPERATION WITH
GALLERIA CONTINUA

ENG

GROUND FLOOR
NEDKO SOLAKOV

1 / *Before The Army (the Old Woman)*
1981
black ink on paper
7,4 × 10,5 cm

2 / *My Grandfather's Barn*
1983
graphite on paper
21 × 29,7 cm

3 / *An Old Drawing (from Bozhenci village)*
1985
red chalk on paper
25 × 35 cm

4 / *Ejaculating*
1987
mixed media on found object
24 × 24 × 2,5 cm

5 / *Hierarchy*
1988
graphite, oil and mixed media on canvas polyptych in 8 parts
overall 145 × 130,5 × 7 cm

6 / *Temptations*
1990
mixed media on wooden saltcellars
9 pieces: 4 × 7 × 7 cm each

7 / *Semipoor-Semirich*
1996
Originally displayed at the Swiss Ambassador residence, Sofia, 1996
Graphite and watercolours on paper, series of 12, 10 × 14 cm each;
white ink on black paper, series of 12, 9,3 × 14 cm approx.

8 / *Well-Known Stories*
1992-1995
sepia, black and white ink, and wash on paper
series of 23 drawings
19 × 28 cm each

9 / *Who's More Important?*
2010
metal, wood, paint, rubbish, stuff, permanent felt-tip pen, handwritten text
80 × 156 × 155 cm

10 / *The Back Side of a Never Painted Altarpiece with Wings*
Late 90s-2014
black drawing ink on walnut wood and oak wood; in three parts with hinges, partly covered with primer
59,5 × 81,5 × 4 cm unfolded, 59,5 × 42 × 6 cm folded

11 / *A Life (Black & White)*
1998-
colour, sound
14'30''looped

12 / *Destroyed Public Sculpture*
2001
Destroyed replica of a part of a public sculpture called Citizens (created by Ubo Scheffer, 1970), situated in front of the Police Headquarters, Arnhem.
Locus/Focus, Sonsbeek 9, Arnhem, 2001
Video film on DVD, colour, sound, 2'40'' looped
Edited by Kalin Serapionov, 2010

13 / *Present Stories #7*
2002
sepia, black and white ink, and wash on paper
19 × 28 cm

14 / *Raising the Price of an Art Work*
2008
an original drawing by Lucio Fontana, 1949, ink on paper, 21 × 29,7 cm; red knitting needle, 21,5 × 0,3 cm; video
film on DVD, colour, sound, 3'10'', looped

15 / *The Leader*
2010
acrylic and black drawing ink on gilded carved lime wood
64 × 61 × 4,5 cm

16 / *A SS Ear (State Security E.)*
2016
cast aluminum, black acrylic paint
82 × 53 × 30 cm

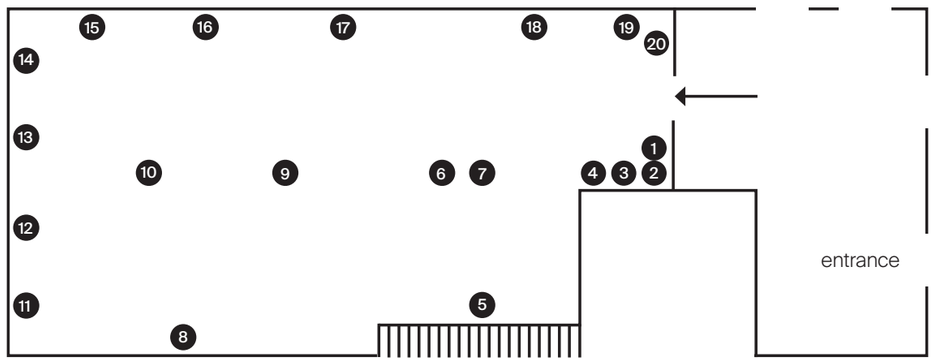
17 / *What If?*
2019
sepia, black and white ink, and wash on paper
series of 23 drawings
19 × 28 cm each

18 / *Stories from Faraway #13, #14, #15, #16, #18*
2021
watercolor, black and white ink on paper
from the series of 20 drawings
28 × 39 cm each

19 / *Communities*
2019
sepia, black and white ink, and wash on paper
series of 5 drawings
19 × 28 cm each

20 / *Money Stories*
2021
sepia, black and white ink, and wash on paper
series of 5 drawings
19 × 28 cm each

and an intervention by Jiří Kovanda



FIRST FLOOR
NEDKO SOLAKOV

Paintings with No Texts #1
(A Man with an Internal/External Problem)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #2
(Nine Independent People)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #3
(A Romantic Tyrant in a State of Democracy)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #4
(Mainly Sex in My Bold, 55-year Old Head, on Top of a 115 Kilo Body with a Modest Dick)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #5
(Jackpot on Standby)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #7
(Sweet Laziness)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #8
(Cinema Alone (a horror movie))
2012

Paintings with No Texts #9
(A Dead Moon)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #10
(Envy)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #11
(A Shit from Heaven (Not Tornado or God's Arm))
2012

Paintings with No Texts #12
(Two Pilgrims)
2012

Paintings with No Texts #13
(Three Vaginas and Three Lost Clits)
2013

Paintings with No Texts #14
(About Eight Made-Up Creatures Drawn from Nature around Me)
2013

Paintings with No Texts #15
(The World's End (postponed))
2013

Paintings with No Texts #16
(The Good Man and the Bad Man (the Hug))
2013

Paintings with No Texts #17
(A Lonely Useless Ornament (Light Version))
2013

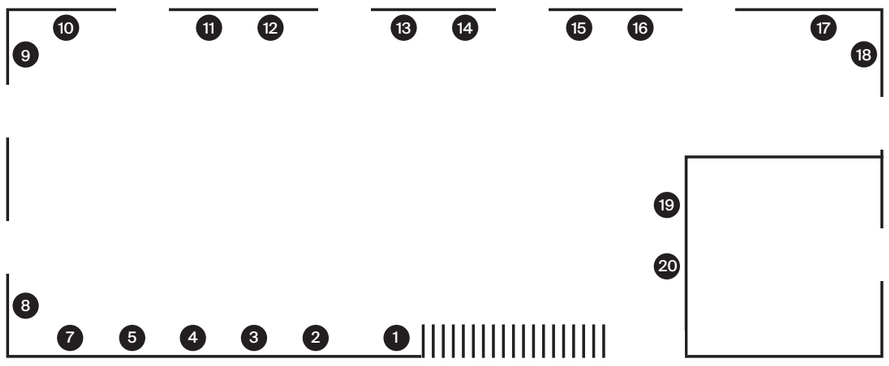
Paintings with No Texts #18
(A Lonely Useless Ornament (Fat Version, Wintertime))
2013

Paintings with No Texts #19
(Father-Volcano and Son-Volcano, Fishing)
2013

Paintings with No Texts #20
(A Shy House, Peeing)
2013

All paintings
oil on canvas
130 x 162 cm

and an intervention by Jiří Kovanda



SECOND FLOOR
JIŘÍ KOVANDA

1 / *Untitled*
2015, 2023
wadrobe, feather, thread, tape

2 / *Untitled*
2023
antlers

3 / *Untitled*
2023
2 plinths, ponytail

4 / *Untitled*
2023
Vladimír Preclík' sculpture, plinth

5 / *Untitled*
2023
wooden logs, plinth, 2 scale model cars

6 / *Untitled*
2009, 2023
2 mirrors, tape

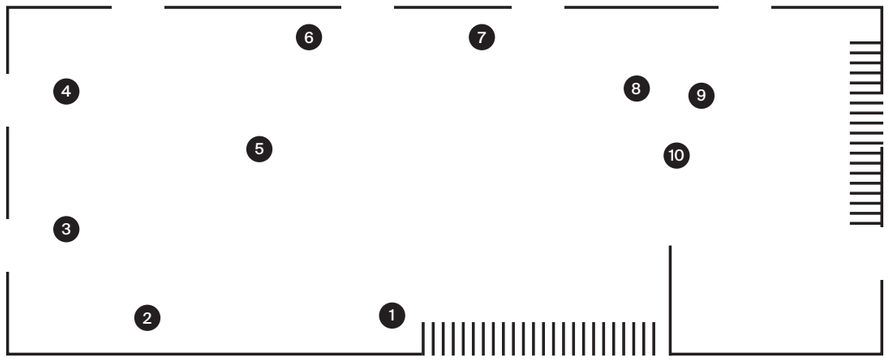
7 / *Untitled*
1981, 2023
chair, paver blocks

8 / *Untitled*
2013, 2023
plinth, chair

9 / *Untitled*
2023
plinth, cake lifter

10 / *Untitled*
2023
part of a furniture, ball

and doodles by Nedko Solakov



ATTIC
JIŘÍ KOVANDA

1 / *Untitled*
2023
4 small wheels on concrete

2 / *Untitled*
2023
wadrobe, summer dress, string

and *The Tale of Two Artists* in four parts by Nedko Solakov

