Art
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BECHYNĚ

PRESS RELEASE

Contemporary Art and Sculpture Park at Bechyně Castle (CZ) 23 May – 21 September 2025

"This year's programme celebrates humanity - HUMANITY - as a timeless and constantly evolving theme in art. In periods of rapid change, artists have challenged established modes of representation and have opened up, and continue to open up, new ways of looking at the world. Our exhibitions create a space where we cherish moments that make us stop and think, and remind us that art is a vital force for questioning, reflection and re-imagining what it means to be human."

Nicole Stava

Bechyně Castle, an important cultural monument built in the 16th century, offers ideal conditions for discussing cultural heritage, its significance and modern development in its breathtaking setting in the beautiful South Bohemian landscape. In 2021, a new tradition was started here, which promotes professional, critical and creative dialogue, taking advantage of the unique, decentralised location of the site.

The aim of the project is to make Bechyně Castle a cultural destination for international exchange in the field of contemporary art. The annual programme includes contemporary art exhibitions and a sculpture park, in direct dialogue with the classical art periods, and short-term residencies. Bechyně Castle becomes a meeting place for independent curators, artists, gallerists, professionals and the general public, while expanding the cultural offer of the region in a supra-regional and international context.

Exhibitions 2025

The central theme of the exhibitions in 2025 is ***Humanity*.**

Throughout history, artists have sought to explore both the simple and complex aspects of human existence - from cultural, social and political themes to the physical form, inner emotions and spiritual realms. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, rapid social, political and technological changes opened up new artistic possibilities. Artists began to question traditional modes of representation and to address the notion of humanity in new and innovative ways. Alongside figurative art, abstraction and non-objective forms emerged, offering wider possibilities for expressing the human condition in all its complexity.

This exhibition marks the second year of the collaboration between Nicole Stava and myself and brings a new selection of works from the Stav family collection. For this edition, we chose the theme of *Humanity* for its enduring relevance and richness of meaning. The selection is structured around eight key pillars that frame the human experience-from fundamental questions of the human condition, identity, and corporeality in art, to abstraction striving for the absolute, to the personal and collective psyche, to social and political forces. The exhibition explores how artistic innovation and development have shaped art's changing response to the human condition.

The inclusion of works from Galerie Konrad Fischer brings more conceptual perspectives from post-war and contemporary art and adds further depth and contrast to the dialogue between modern and contemporary approaches.

The exhibition connects the past with the present and invites visitors to reflect on how art has shaped - and continues to challenge - our understanding of ourselves, the world around us and the ways in which we share our experiences.

Claudia Rajlich, curator

Overview of exhibition sections:

This year's exhibition season at Bechyně Castle offers a diverse program both indoors and under the open sky in the park. Sculptures and artistic installations displayed in the park and the castle have been created in collaboration with the prestigious Konrad Fischer Galerie and Galleria Continua.

Across four floors of the Gallery, visitors can explore three distinct exhibitions:

The Stava Family Collection, curated by Claudia Rajlich, presents thematic chapters on the central theme Humanity. Eight chapters, eight different perspectives on human existence.

A selection of works from the Konrad Fischer Galerie, offering an international context and dialogue with contemporary art.

The Czech contemporary scene, spanning generations and artistic genres, enlivens both the interiors and the park.

All of the works on display, including the sculptures in the , are for , with the exception of those the Stav collection.

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List of exhibiting artists:

The Stava Collection:

- Valerio Adami
- Arman
- Karel Appel
- Georges Braque
- Roman Brichcin
- Ivan Bukovsky
- Hana Čápová
- Karel Demel
- Raoul Dufy
- Max Ernst
- Zdeněk Farník
- Hans Falk
- Hans Hartung
- Jihokera Ceramic Plant
- Boris Jirků
- Ernst Ludwig Kirchner
- Bohumil Kokrda
- Bela Kadár
- Antonín Kroča
- Marie Laurencin
- Le Corbusier
- Max Gubler
- Horst Janssen
- Marino Marini
- Frantisek Mertl - Franta
- Joan Miró
- Albert Müller
- Jiří Nepasický
- A.R. Penck
- Pablo Picasso
- Max Pechstein
- Luc Peire
- Jules Pascin
- Paulina Skava
- Miloslav Smutný
- Friedrich Schroeder-Sonnenstern
- Jan Sommer
- Théophil Steinlen
- Italo Valenti
- Kees van Dongen
- Marianne von Werefkin
- Ludmila Vojířová
- Rosalie
- Paul Guiramand
- Jiří Načeradský

Konrad Fischer Gallery:

- Carl Andre
- Giovanni Anselmo
- Guy Ben-Ner
- Anthony Cragg
- Edith Dekyndt
- Hans-Peter Feldmann
- Stephen Kaltenbach
- Richard Long
- Bruce Nauman
- Rita McBride
- Alan Sekula

Galleria Continua:

- Jonathas de Andrade
- Michelangelo Pistoletto
- Pascale Marthine Tayou

A selection of Czech contemporary artists:

- Dana Bartoníčková
- Josef Bolf
- Jan Kadlec
- Jakub Matuška aka Masker
- Marcela Putnova
- Michael Rittstein
- Ales Ruzicka
- Roman Shedina
- Adam Tenora
- Šárka Zadáková Růžičková
- Martin Žák

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Details and Contacts:

5th year of the project Contemporary Art and Sculpture Park at Bechyně Castle Duration of exhibitions: 23 May - 21 September 2025

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Photos from 2024:













