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Stone for My City: Mining and Quarrying in Prague

Date: 23. 2. 2013 – 8. 9. 2013

Place: Ctěnice Chateau



The exhibition 'Stone for My City', which is co-organized with the Museum of Central Brdy, presents the essential role Prague stone has played in the history of the City of Prague--from the Paleozoic to the modern era. The timeline shows the impact stone quarried in Prague had on the city's history--especially in the fields of building development, science, and art--and also examines its influence on daily life. Integral to the exhibition is an overview of the significant strata of stone used for construction and decoration along with a brief overview of their geological foundations.

The exhibition is housed in the first and second basements and a portion of the first floor of the chateau. The underground spaces of the Ctěnice Chateau evoke a sense of the depths of the Earth. Visitors climbing up from the deepest cellars experience the symbolic transition from prehistoric times to the early historic and Romanesque eras in Prague. The next part of the exhibition presents Gothic times and examples of the various usages of construction and decoration stones, from the Renaissance to the First Czechoslovak Republic.

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Merkur Observation Towers

Date: 6. 3. 2013 – 30. 3. 2014

Place: Petřín Observation Tower



Many people think about creating striking buildings, but only a chosen few get to see their dreams come true. The Merkur construction set allows anyone who can see a larger work in a scale model to become an architect. Towers made from Merkur also offer interesting views from modest heights.

The exhibition, located in the basement of the Petřín Observation Tower, gives visitors the chance to step into the shoes of the people who designed pioneering constructions in the technical “Age of Steam”, as well as learning what it feels like to produce the functional creations of the post-modern age. As inspiration they will find models of the Petřín observation tower and the Eiffel Tower which were built to a very similar design and also a model of the current Strážný Vrch tower, which represents today’s technical and aesthetic achievements. All these models were made using parts found in a Merkur construction set and are perfect technical toys that do far more than just entertain children.

The exhibition has a playroom full of Merkur parts, also, where visitors can do their own building. They may find inspiration in images of contemporary towers, or in simplified diagrams. The exhibition also looks at the events surrounding the construction of the Petřín tower, pointing out the key role played by the Czech Tourists’ Club and the inspiration provided by Paris’s Eiffel Tower. It also shows some contemporary towers that have been built in recent years throughout the Czech Republic. There will be a competition accompanying the exhibition, in which the best model towers made at the exhibition will be awarded prizes, and will become part of the exhibition. Thus, the Merkur phenomenon and the Petřín phenomenon will intersect perfectly.

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Playing All Day Long

Date: 17. 3. 2013 – 16. 6. 2013

Place: Ctěnice Chateau



The Prague City Museum and the National Museum organized an exhibition of Japanese toys titled “Playing All Day Long” from the collections of the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures.

The exhibition took place from March 17 to June 16, 2013 in the Špejchar Exhibition Hall at Ctěnice Chateau. Displayed were toys and items Japanese children used to play with, as well as other unique exhibits. The exhibition also introduced the customs of Japanese culture, including a variety of holiday traditions. Children had a chance to play with replicas of some toys in a playroom.

Lectures and programs on the theme were also prepared and presented.

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OBJECT OF THE SEASON

Playing Cards

Date: 12. 3. 2013 – 10. 6. 2013

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building

Minidisplays:

Object of the Season



The playing cards collection of the Prague City Museum includes cards produced in Prague between the 16th and 20th centuries, and some items are presented for the first time in history.

Gambling is one of the earliest kinds of human vice out of which the playing cards, referred to as "devil's pictures", were most frequent. The playing cards were favoured not only by the noble and rich but also by common people.

Although the production of playing cards has changed, the spirit of the game has survived. People are willing to gamble and lose all they have and sometimes even more. Over time, card games have become more complex and the fashion of the time also played an important role. However, wits, foresight and the art of tactics remain. There are four basic kinds of playing cards: German, Italian, French and Tarot cards. The latter ones are a special group. Although their origins and purpose remain unclear it is generally assumed that they were used for reading. They also use different symbols.

Only few packs of playing cards have survived in Czech collections. The largest are found in the National Museum and the Prague City Museum' the latter one owns the oldest playing cards. The National Archives, National Library, Research Library in Olomouc, Silesian Museum in Opava, Strahov Monastery and others also have some collections of playing cards. In addition, private collectors own packs of historic playing cards as well. In 2009, a huge treasure, a collection of playing cards, was discovered under the floor of the Vladislav Hall at Prague Castle.

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Zdenko Feyfar – Unknown and Known

Date: 13. 3. 2013 – 25. 8. 2013

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



The Prague City Museum presents the exhibition Zdenko Feyfar – Unknown and Known in its main museum building at Florenc.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of this outstanding Czech photographer's birth, the exhibition will take place from March 3 to August 25, 2013. The exhibition will present both Feyfar's photographs of Prague and his little known pictures of the Vltava River and Carpathian Ruthenia. Also, photographs of the Krkonoše (the Giant Mountains)--their panoramas, natural beauty, and examples of human handicrafts--will be presented.

In addition, the exhibition presents the works of MUDr. Jaroslav Feyfar, the father of Zdenko who was a passionate amateur photographer. The exhibition features many photographs which originated at the time of the 1958 Expo in Brussels. Furthermore, the author's notes, in the form of sketchbooks and diaries which originated during his wandering through Prague, and photo-reports and portraits are presented.

In the words of PhDr. Zuzana Strnadová, Director of the Prague City Museum: "In this exhibition we not only present the photographs of Zdenko Feyfar from our museum collections but the entire range of his oeuvre. I hope visitors will appreciate the prime quality of the presented photographs as well as the unique atmosphere".

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Colours and Shapes of Mother Earth – natural riches through the eyes of children all over the world

Date: 22. 4. 2013 – 8. 9. 2013

Place: Ctěnice Chateau



The exhibition is organized to celebrate Earth Day.

Presenting vivid works of art created by children from many countries of the world, the exhibition COLOURS AND SHAPES OF MOTHER EARTH is the selection of the best works awarded in the 38th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts Lidice 2010.

That year--which was devoted to the International Year of Biodiversity--more than 25,000 children from 61 countries submitted works abounding in bugs, butterflies, salt- and freshwater fish, birds, wild and domestic animals, trees, grass and flowers. Among those countries represented were a few exotic places such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Paraguay, Indonesia, and the Cape Verde Islands.

Two years ago, when UNESCO announced 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, we commemorated the importance of protecting biodiversity – the diversity of living nature. The theme of diversity is very topical today, as the “civilized” world is slowly learning about the problems of globalization, including the disappearance of specific cultures and traditions. Human activity also has a strong impact on nature, both as a whole and in particular pieces and elements. In wildlife, with no human intervention, all of these particulars fit together and everything works perfectly. However, man very often disturbs these important connections severing their links. We should all make efforts to maintain a large variety of living organisms, both animals and plants, because we all want our world to be a nice place to live, making sure it is not grey and deprived of beautiful experiences. The different perspectives on natural diversity presented by children from various parts of the world--in paintings, drawings, graphic sheets and sculptures--remind us what we could lose if we do not treat the natural world on our planet with care and provide it with enough space.

The international children's exhibition--founded in 1972, in commemoration of the children of Lidice murdered by the Nazis in 1942--is one of the largest and oldest exhibitions of children's art creations in the world. This year it celebrates its 40th anniversary.



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The displayed works are the best of those on display in the Lidice Gallery in Lidice each year from June to October. They represent the cheery “other face” of Lidice, an important and irreplaceable contrast which brings hope, joy, and youth to a place associated with tragic events.

In 2012, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the wiping out of Lidice village.

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Adolf Loos – Learning to Dwell

Date: 23. 5. 2013 – 19. 9. 2013

Place: Villa Müller, Austrian Cultural Forum



Austrian Cultural Forum, Jungmannovo náměstí 18, Prague 1

The Austrian Cultural Forum and the Prague City Museum have prepared an exhibition entitled *Adolf Loos – Learning to Dwell* to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the death of the architect Adolf Loos (1870–1933).

The exhibition shall present this outstanding architect, his work, and his legacy, which remain topical and inspiring.

Adolf Loos is one of the most remarkable representatives of modern architecture. He was born and grew up in Brno during the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He picked up his handicraft skills in childhood at the sculptural and stonemason workshop of his father. He studied construction technology at a technical school in Liberec and later studied architecture in Dresden. Yet, he learned most by observation during his three-year stay in the USA. Those were the most important years to shape his education. He started his career in Vienna, where he expressed his critical approaches to the out-dated standards of Viennese historicism, which he published in newspaper articles. He showed his displeasure with ornaments, and his article “Ornament and Crime” is regarded as the most important 20th-century essay on architecture. He declared that ornaments are symbols of primitive culture and that “cultural development is as important as the removal of ornaments”.

Loos’ article “Architecture” expresses the main thoughts of his learning about dwellings: “A house must be favoured by all. Compared to a work of art that nobody may like, the work of art is borne without any specific need. A house fulfills a certain need. A work of art tries to appeal to people and push them out of their comfort zone. A house must provide comfort to people. Man likes everything that provides him comfort. Man hates everything that tries to push him out of his acquired and secured position and that he finds annoying. Thus, man likes a house and hates art”.



Loos considers the ethical and moral demands placed on architecture to be more important than the aesthetic aspects.

The Goldmann & Salatsch department store on Michaelerplatz in Vienna (1910–1911), the house for Tristan Tzara in Paris (1926), the house project (not built) for Josephine Baker, and the villa for František Müller in Prague are the most significant buildings of Adolf Loos. The new (when conceived) “Raumplan” concept is common to all these buildings; it is based on the spatial and vertical differentiations of incorporated rooms.

The “Raumplan” and an ornament-free facade are the fundamental ideas which were typical of Loos’ work throughout his life. These became synonymous with the new culture of living that led towards the new modern architecture.

The exhibition focuses on the architectural legacy of Adolf Loos, which is based on a unique gamble with space, material, equipment, and light. Loos’ “living space programs” respecting everyday rites of his rich middle-class clients are best visible in the examples of the interiors in Plzeň, Prague, and Brno. In each case, Loos created brand new programs, e.g. the linking of the rooms by an enfilade, or a complex Raumplan based on the individual needs of his clients. He created an optimum space for each activity (dining room, living room, bedroom, etc.). For instance, the drawing room was always sumptuous, the largest one in the house, while the library or boudoir had to maintain an intimate impression.

The next part of the exhibition deals with Loos’ life and briefly commemorates the key points of his career. It focuses more on the Czech environment where Loos found many pupils, friends, and promoters.

Curator: Maria Szadkowska

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Show me the money!

Date: 5. 6. 2013 – 23. 3. 2014

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



An interactive exhibition for children 8 years and older. This exhibition was initiated by Erste Group and is a part of the Sponsoring VALUE Program.

The exhibition, by Vienna Children's Museum Zoom in cooperation with FRida & freD Children's Museum Graz, focuses on the topic of money, its history, its function as a general means of exchange, and its production and distribution.

Children get in touch with money very early on. Many of them get money presents from their grandparents or other relatives when they are infants. Most schoolchildren receive pocket money, and are therefore already experienced in handling smaller amounts of money, and carrying out money transactions like buying things, etc.

Since money is a highly present topic in the world of grownups as well as children, children should get in touch with the basic terms of money and finance early on, in order to sensitize them to a responsible handling of money, later enabling them to avoid debts. The current curriculum states that children shall be promoted in their abilities of judgement and critique as well as their competence for decision-making and responsible actions. These skills are important in the lives (not only the financial lives) of children, adolescents, and grownups, and can be supported in the framework of the exhibition.

The exhibition works like a big game. The children are initially equipped with a little base capital uploaded onto their savings card (similar to a cash card). In the exhibition they can use this card at different stations, thus playfully acting out the most important movements of money flow. They can earn money doing various jobs, spend money on entertainment and shopping, as well as save or invest. Moreover, they can experience money in an unusual, sensory manner and acquire "money knowledge" at various stations. Interactive computer quiz stations offer an opportunity to check the



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knowledge gained immediately, and to earn money doing “brain work”. The use of computers facilitates independent, target-oriented and individual learning.

The exhibition is organized by Česká spořitelna a. s. and the Prague City Museum.

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OBJECT OF THE SEASON

Ready for a Journey!

Date: 11. 6. 2013 – 26. 8. 2013

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building



Minidisplays:

Object of the Season

The object of the season for the summer months--traditionally associated with traveling--is an exhibit recalling the era of the first airlines, slowly developing automobile transport, and, principally, the "golden age" of steam railways...

The leather suitcase (Inv. No. H 226 966) from the 1920s, which the Prague City Museum acquired in their collections only five years ago, was used by JUDr. Josef David, an employee of the International Cooperation department of the Ministry of Railways. The elegant style of the suitcase indicates the unparalleled grace and gentility of traveling nearly one hundred years ago.

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The Mayor's Chain: Gifts to the Mayors of Prague

Date: 3. 9. 2013 – 20. 10. 2013

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



Beginning September 3, 2013, the Prague City Museum will present to the public the Chain of Office and some of the gifts that have been donated to the mayors of Prague, in particular in the second half of the 20th century, and which are in the collections of the Prague City Museum and the Prague City Archives. The chain will be on display along with the city Seals used prior to the mid-20th century.

The Mayor's Chain of Office was designed in 1897 by Antonín Balšánek, who also designed the Main Building of the Museum at Florenc. Visitors will appreciate the connection between these two different artistic forms realized by a single artist.

The Mayor's Insignia will be on display to the public from September 3 until October 20, 2013. A selection of gifts received by the mayors of Prague during their foreign visits and from international visitors to Prague will also be on display.

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Seoul Has the City Walls

Date: 25. 9. 2013 – 10. 11. 2013

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



An exceptional exhibition organized in cooperation with the Seoul Museum of History.

Based on Asian urban tradition, a city cannot exist without walls--especially a major city like Seoul. Its fortifications were built shortly after the city was founded by the royal Joseon dynasty (1392–1897). For about 500 years the walls had a defensive role and also provided order to the living space of the citizens, with trade moving between Seoul and different provinces according to the opening and closing schedules of the fortress gates.

The exhibition presents the origins of the town fortifications; their development and partial damage during the modernization of the city; and their rediscovery and subsequent reconstruction. Visitors will have a chance to explore the history of this remarkable cultural monument, become familiar with archaeological research, and even “walk on the ramparts” to view the surroundings.

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Cinderella / Fairy Tales Dress Up

Date: 13. 10. 2013 – 2. 3. 2014

Place: Ctěnice Chateau



The Ctěnice Chateau interiors present the dresses of your favourite film heroines – princesses Arabela, Krasomila, Lada, and Xenie, and heroes – kings Miroslav and Kazisvět, and wizard Rumburak. The entire ground floor of the chateau is dedicated to Cinderella. The exhibition is part of the Three Exhibitions for Cinderella project – visit also the exhibition In Cinderella's Footsteps at Švihov Water Castle and Cinderella – A Myth?! at Moritzburg Castle.

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OBJECT OF THE SEASON

... getting warm by a stove

Date: 22. 10. 2013 – 5. 1. 2014

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building



Minidisplays:

Object of the Season

The Prague City Museum collection of ceramic tiles includes various examples out of which stove tiles are most admired. Their front side is decorated with miscellaneous art topics providing evidence of the high level of the medieval Prague culture.

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Those Who Fear Should Not Come to Prague, or, Ghost Stories from the Legends of Prague.

Date: 20. 11. 2013 – 3. 8. 2014

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main Building



The exhibition *Those Who Fear, Should Not Come To Prague* is conceived as a playful walk through the environs of the Prague City Museum, where visitors will encounter supernatural creatures and spirits from the legends of Prague. These creatures will be presented against the background of the Langweil model, along with their comic book-style stories.

There will also be an interactive game which will direct visitors through all of the buildings in the museum. In each building they will have a chance to complete an activity sheet which will lead them to a hidden treasure.

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Prague by Jiří Bouda by Water, by Land, and by Rail

Date: 4. 12. 2013 – 18. 5. 2014

Place: The Prague City Museum's Main
Building



Those works of Jiří Bouda, which are associated with the city of Prague, are the main focus of this exhibition. Free topic works and those from the area of Prague stations add to the several cycles of coloured lithographs of the Prague calendar, Prague bridges, Karlín viaduct, and Prague-Těšnov Station. The remarkable and detailed graphic sheets depict places in Prague which perished and now evoke the atmosphere, so typical of Christmas time, of recalling the old days when trains to Nymburk departed from the imposing Neo-Renaissance Prague-Těšnov Station.

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