

Czechoslovak Psychotronics and the Future of Data Collection Through the Eye of Fotograf Festival

The seventh issue of Fotograf Festival, which focuses on the problematics of the Internet and the transfer from analog to digital thinking, continues its programme with the exhibition on the history of psychotronics in socialist Czechoslovakia. Furthermore the distinguished American photographer Trevor Paglen will discuss the consequences of permanent online connection and the global collection of personal data.

Josef Sudek Studio will open an exhibition presenting an ongoing research into the history of psychotronics before the fall of totalitarianism. The term psychotronics has been applied in the local environment since the late 1960s and referred to phenomena such as telepathy, telekinesis and telegnosis. The exhibition suggests the historical context of psychotronics, in particular with an emphasis on its institutionalisation in the 1970s and 1980s, while utilising partial knowledge of psychotronics in its own strategy of exposition, which then opens up to the extrasensory perception and understanding without words.

The current ongoing exhibition in the **Fotograf Gallery** showing the work of the renowned photographer **Trevor Paglen** will be accompanied by a debate with the artist. Together with the IT specialist, philosopher and designer Denisa Kera, Václav Jánoščík, philosopher and art theoretician and the hacker Vladislav Iliushin from Avast company Paglen will **debate about topics such as global data collection**, the pitfalls of constant network connection of portable devices, personal protection and personal as well as professional responsibility.

As part of the festival there will be film screenings in Kino Rudolfinum. Films such as *Citizenfour* by Laura Poitras and the last of Werner Herzog's films, *Lo and Behold, Reveries of the Connected World* about the impact of the Internet on our everyday life will be shown.

The educational programme of the festival will tackle the question of how the digital media participate in the process of building a relationship between children and their surroundings, but also between parents and children and to which extent the media represent a mediator and/or a barrier to reality. The presentation **I like it – I do not like it anymore, To be a parent in new media age** will be accompanied by thematic workshop for children of all ages.

***Fotograf Festival**, which traditionally engages with the overlaps of photography and contemporary art, presents its seventh year and focuses on the problematics of the Internet and the transfer from analog to digital thinking. This year it will be hosted by institutions such as Fotograf Gallery, Futura, Tranzitdisplay, Hunt Kastner, Ateliér Josefa Sudka and Galerie Rudolfinum. The title "Eye in the Sky" refers to an intangible eye constantly gazing at us while we move in the digital space as well as outside thereof. The infinite presence of digital space has created a parallel new world that we are only starting to understand thanks to and/or despite of the „Eye in the Sky“ as a certain type of metaphore for the phenomenon of big data, observation and surveillance.*

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PROGRAMME

FILM SCREENING CITIZENFOUR

16. 10. 2017, 19.00

Kino Rudolfinum, Galerie Rudolfinum

HANDS-ANTENNAS: PROTOCOLS FROM EXTRASENSORY AESTHETICS

19.10.2017, 18.00

Exhibition: Josef Sudek Studio

I LIKE IT – I DO NOT LIKE IT ANYMORE TO BE A PARENT IN NEW MEDIA AGE

21. 10. 2017, 13.00 – 18.00

Educational Programme: DUP39

DISCUSSION PANEL II:

TREVOR PAGLEN, BORIS ONDREIČKA, VÁCLAV JANOŠČÍK, IT SPECIALISTA / AVAST

2. 11. 2017, 17.00–20.00

Avast Offices Pankrác

FILM SCREENING *LO AND BEHOLD, REVERIES OF THE CONNECTED WORLD*

3. 11. 2017

Kino Rudolfinum, Galerie Rudolfinum

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS:

KAJSA DAHLBERG AND JIRKA SKÁLA

9. 9. – 27. 10. 2017

Exhibition: Hunt Kastner

METAHAVEN: TRUTH FUTURISM

27. 9. – 26. 11. 2017

Exhibition: Center for Contemporary Art Futura

TREVOR PAGLEN: HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN, HOW HIGH IS THE SKY

6. 10. – 4. 11. 2017

Exhibition: Fotograf Gallery

For the full programme of the festival please visit our website: www.fotografestival.cz

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