

## THE CZECH REPUBLIC PRESENTS AT THE BIENNALE STANISLAV KOLÍBAL. *FORMER UNCERTAIN INDICATED.*

6.2. 2019 – Stanislav Kolíbal will represent the Czech Republic at the 58<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition Biennale in Venice. The exhibition will accent the main themes of Kolíbal's work, which is time and lability, as a critical response to the challenging political and social context in Czechoslovakia. As a curator of the exhibition has been appointed Dieter Bogner.

Since the beginning of the 1960s, Stanislav Kolíbal (born 1925, in Orlová, former Czechoslovakia) has been developing a highly individual creative style, engaged in a critical reconsideration of minimalism and conceptual art. His two- and three- dimensional works - blurring the borderlines between painting, drawing, sculpture and architecture and oscillating between illusion and reality - articulate aspects of lability in the dual relationship of perfection/ insufficiency, stability/ instability, certainty/ uncertainty. They are based on a critical perception of the constant changes of a social and political context he lived in. Hence the exhibition can be understood as a conceptual response to the main curator of Biennale Ralph Rugoff's understanding of art as a sensitive membrane of complexity of precarious times we live in.

The title of the exhibition and the catalogue, *Former Uncertain Indicated*, is derived from an important conceptual installation, Stanislav Kolíbal created in the early 1970s. Its poetic and meaningful ambiguous character is crucial for the understanding of the artist's position regarding time, life and his art. Kolíbal's artistic work is unquestionably determined by the "most interesting times" he experienced in Czechoslovakia since the early 1940.

The exhibition will combine an outside "spatial drawing", related to the masterful architecture of the modernist Czech and Slovak Pavilion from 1926 created by architect Otakar Novotný, with a large-scale "wall drawing" inside the pavilion, both made for this occasion. Kolíbal will present as well two pioneering historical bodies of work: a series of White Sculptures from the 1960s and four of his minimalist conceptual wall-installations of the 1970s made from found materials.



© Photograph Martin Polák

A comprehensive 220 pages richly illustrated catalogue will be prepared for the exhibition. In a hundred pages biographical essay, Dieter Bogner, “recreates” Kolíbal’s “interesting life” from the 1930s till today. It will be a complex compilation of materials representing the main lines of Kolíbal’s life correlated with images from all periods of Kolíbal’s life and artistic creations.

The second part of the catalogue comprises reflections of a number leading experts, both Czech and international. Among those contributing texts will be the art historian Terezie Nekvindová (Academy of Fine Arts, Prague), the mathematician Jaroslav Nešetřil (Charles University, Prague), the linguist Martin Prinzhorn (University of Vienna), the architecture theorist Jan Tábora (Vienna), and the curators Christian Rattemeyer (Museum of Modern Art, New York), Juliet Bingham (Tate Modern, London), and Alicia Knock (Centre Pompidou, Paris). Karel Štědrý and Patrik Svoboda are responsible for the graphic design. The catalogue is edited by Dieter Bogner and Adam Budak and published by Walter König Verlag.

**Stanislav Kolíbal** was born in Orlová (in the former Czechoslovakia) in 1925, and currently lives and works in Prague. He studied graphic design at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague, and scenography at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. Since the early 1960s Kolíbal has been developing a highly individual creative style, concerned with a critical re-evaluation of minimalism and conceptual art. His two- and three-dimensional works blur the boundaries between painting, drawing, sculpture, and architecture. His works have been included in major international exhibitions, for example *Between Man and Matter* (Metropolitan Art Gallery Tokyo, 1970), *Konstrukcja w procesie* (Lodź, 1981), *Sculpture from 20 nations*, (New York, 1967), *Transforming Chronologies* (MoMA New York, 2006), and *Other Primary Structures* (Jewish Museum, New York, 2014), and in solo exhibitions at the Padiglione d’Arte Contemporanea (Milan, 1983), the National Gallery Prague (1997, 2015) and *Labil - Stabil* (Deichtorhallen Hamburg, 2000). Nevertheless, his oeuvre remains insufficiently represented, and is still waiting to be incorporated into the broader international context.

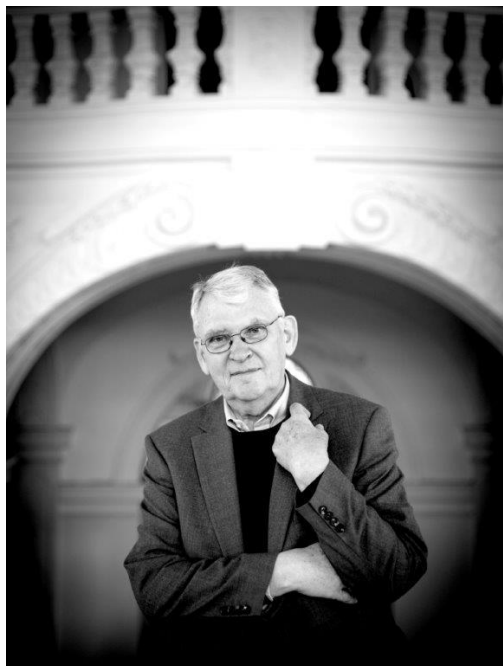


©Photograph Martin

Polák

**Dieter Bogner** is art historian, curator, author, collector and developer of new museums. He got to know Kolíbal in the early 1990s, when the artist created for him a large permanent installation on the attics of the Castle Buchberg am Kamp in Austria. A friendship between the two grew up and continues down to the present day. In 1989 Bogner created the concept for the MuseumsQuartier in Vienna, whose development he directed up until 1994. He then founded bogner.cc (now bogner.knoll), an international company active in the development of museum concepts, curating new collection expositions, and staging exhibitions. In 1997 Bogner also founded the *Austrian Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation*, and from 1995 to 2018 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the New

Museum of Contemporary Art in New York. He is the curator of a number of exhibitions (e.g. Frederick Kiesler, Johannes Itten, Franz West / Heimo Zobernig) and the author of publications about modern art, architecture, and art theory. Since 1982 he has built up a private art space, Kunstraum Buchberg, in the castle of Buchberg am Kamp, Lower Austria, where 30 contemporary artists created permanent art installations (by e.g. Dora Maurer, Dan Graham, Stanislav Kolíbal, François Morellet and Heimo Zobernig).



© Ingo Pertramer

**Czechoslovakia** has been a participant at the Biennale since 1920. Stanislav Kolíbal represents the culmination of the presence of Czech artists from a wide generational range who have represented the Czech Republic in recent years: Dominik Lang (born 1980) in 2011, Zbyněk Baladrán (born 1973) in 2013 and Jiří David (born 1956) in 2015. The Czech Republic presentation at the Biennale is organized by the National Gallery Prague.

**Stanislav Kolíbal: Former Uncertain Indicated  
58th International Art Biennale in Venice**

Date: 11. 5. – 24. 11. 2019

Location: Czech and Slovak Pavilion, Giardini di Castello, Venice

Curator: Dieter Bogner

Pavilion commissioner: National Gallery Prague, Adam Budak

Press conference will be held at the Czech and Slovak Pavilion at Giardini di Castello in Venice at **1 p.m. on 8 May 2019.**

For the registration and access to Giardini area please contact us or you can directly register at <https://www.labiennale.org/en/press>

**Press materials and photos**

<http://vpn.ngprague.cz:8010/PRESS/>

---

Contact

Tereza Ježková  
Director, Marketing and PR Department  
+420 728 301 377  
[tereza.jezkova@ngprague.cz](mailto:tereza.jezkova@ngprague.cz)  
National Gallery Prague  
Staroměstské nám. 12, 110 15 Praha 1

---

Follow us

[f Národní galerie Praha](#)  
[@ ngprague #ngprague](#)

---

**Partners of the National Gallery Prague**

**General Partner**

Komerční banka

**Partners**

Kooperativa  
Škoda Auto  
The Pudil Family Foundation

**With support of**

Ministry of culture of the Czech Republic  
City of Prague

**General media partner**

Czech Television

**Media partners**

Czech radio  
Radio 1  
ArtMap  
PragueEventsCalendar  
Monitora

**Partners of the Czech participation  
at The Biennale**

**In collaboration with**

Foundation of Stanislav Kolíbal

**With support of**

Ministry of culture of the Czech Republic  
Ministry of culture of the Slovak Republic  
Slovak National Gallery

**Partners**

Mattoni a.s.  
Bohemia Sekt  
Modelárna LIAZ  
Kubik a.s.  
Koh-i-noor  
Czech centers

**General media partner**

Czech Television

**Media partners**

Soffa Magazine  
Artmix