

PRESS RELEASE

SEFO Triennial 2024: Olomouc becomes a centre of Central European contemporary art for a MOMENT

EXHIBITION: Moments. SEFO Triennial 2024

DATE: 27 06 – 29 12 2024

OPENING: 27 06 2024 at 6:30 pm

VENUE: Muzeum umění Olomouc, Czechia

CURATORS: Martina Mertová, Jakub Frank, Martin Fišr – main programme; Barbora Kundračiková, Ladislav Daněk, Šárka Belšíková, Štěpánka Bieleszová, Klára Jenišťová, Miroslav Kindl, Gina Renotière

GRAPHIC DESIGN: publikum.design

Forty contemporary artists from Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Belarus, Ukraine and Czechia will present their works at the Central European art show SEFO Triennial 2024 from 27 June 2024 at the Olomouc Museum of Art. The Triennial is called MOMENTS, which refers to its main idea – the key moments of our past, present and future. These are reflected in MONUMENTS - memorials and sights as carriers of symbols, documents and archives as tools for exploring history. Balancing on the edge of reality and fiction, MOCKUMENTS then serve as a method of creative reflection on these values.

The dominant element of the main exhibition space of the Museum of Modern Art will be a nine-metre high "plague" column, created by Slovak artist Marek Kvetan in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ala Savashevich, a Belarusian artist living in exile in Wrocław, will exhibit a monumental figurative sculpture that reflects monuments to dictators, not only the Belarusian or Russian ones. Andreas Fogarasi will present his assemblages made of materials found in currently endangered modern architecture buildings of Olomouc.

The Triennial will also show the fruits of the developing cooperation with the German Kunstmuseum Bochum for the first time. The permanent exhibition of modern and contemporary art Century of Relativity will undergo a renewal, adding some works by Josef Albers, Wladyslaw Strzeminski, Endre Nemes and Joseph Beuys. One of the most valuable works from the Olomouc collection, Flower of Sleep (1931) by the Czech painter Toyen, will be complemented by her work On the Edge (1945), also brought from Bochum. There will be a separate exhibition and two film documentaries dedicated to the curator Peter Spielmann, who has collected many exceptional works by Central European artists in Bochum.

The show will also "spill over" to the Archdiocesan Museum with its exhibitions of old art. The new exhibition Fire Dramas will present fireworks and firework illuminations in European art as ephemeral monuments of the past.

The Triennial is not enclosed by walls; on the contrary, it enters the public space, where large-scale objects and installations created for the particular sites will appear. For example, Republic Square with its baroque fountain, normally inhabited only by cars, will get occupied by icons of socialist housing estate design by Slovak artist Ilona Németh. The SEFO fence adjacent to the Museum of Art will present the Ukrainian group EtchingRoom1, which artistically processes the

shocking data on the loss of heritage assets during the ongoing war conflict. A treasure in the form of K67 design kiosks will be brought from Slovakia. Their utopian past will be transformed into a dystopian future by Polish artist Robert Kuśmirowski.

The opening of the SEFO 2024 Triennial will be preceded on 27 June 2024 at 2:00 pm by an introductory programme in public spaces at various locations in the city. The opening ceremony with a performance by Austrian and Ukrainian artists will take place at 6.30 pm at the Museum of Modern Art, from where it will move to the Archdiocesan Museum at 8.30 pm. The programme will end at 22.00 with baroque fireworks in its courtyard.

What is SEFO?

SEFO stands for the Czech abbreviation of Olomouc Central European Forum, which is both a research project connecting and representing artists working in Central Europe from the Rhine to the Carpathians and from the Baltic to the Alps, and as well the name of a planned modern museum building in the centre of Olomouc with the ambition to become a real forum for free discussion through art.

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