"SCRIBBLES" BY CHILDREN ARE COMING ALIVE AT KUNSTHALLE PRAHA

Markéta Magidová's solo exhibition spotlights children's imagination, that can challenge the social norms

Press release for the exhibition:

Markéta Magidová: My Sweet Inedible Planet
9/2 2023—1/5 2023

Kunsthalle Praha (Gallery 3, third floor)
Curator: Andra Silapētere

- **How many planets exist in our extragalactic nebula (read: society)? And where exactly do you yourself fit in? This solo exhibition by Czech visual artist and filmmaker Markéta Magidová, titled My Sweet Inedible Planet, takes visitors on a multidisciplinary odyssey.**

Magidová's playful, humorous, dreamy work—ranging from animation, through digital painting, to metal sculptures and objects—comments on social hierarchies and structures such as class, gender, and family.

- **In her artworks, she brings together children's worldviews and the aesthetics of children's drawings with topics such as gender norms, otherness, outdated educational systems, and the relationship between myth and reality. She currently works at the Faculty of Education of the Charles University and the academic journal Arte-Acta, published by the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. A list of her selected exhibitions can be found below.**

- **The current exhibition is part of a series of solo exhibitions titled Kunsthalle Praha Invites, which focuses on talented emerging artists who already have a substantial body of work. In most cases, these will be their first institutional exhibitions. As Kunsthalle Praha's Chief Curator Christelle Havranek explains: "We want to *support the development of innovative, research-based projects that address important societal issues and the production of new works, with no restriction of media. Each exhibition is accompanied by a publication and a programme of related public events.*"**

- **The style and content of the exhibition are suitable for families with children, apart from one featured video which contains explicit imagery.**

"No, the sun shines. It's sweet, but you can't eat it. It's an inedible planet."
"And why can't you eat it?"
"Because all the plants grow from the sun."

— from a conversation between Ester and Zoe, Markéta Magidová's twin daughters

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Markéta Magidová transforms drawings by her daughters into digital paintings on fabric, metal sculptures, and digitally animated films, thus allowing them appropriate monumentality, time, and generous exhibition space. *"She confronts reality with imagination. Every squiggle and asymmetrical limb gains new properties, deviating from the reality we are accustomed to and allowing us to examine and re-evaluate generally accepted social narratives and attempt to adopt new perspectives not only on history, culture, and social questions but importantly also on ourselves and the things we consider self-evident,"* explains **Andra Silapētere**, the exhibition's curator, who has been part of the Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA) since 2012 and whose research explores the topics of exile and migration in connection with the concepts of identity and

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togetherness.

The Possibilities of Love
Markéta Magidová's exhibition at Kunsthalle Praha will feature paintings (such as *Speaking Egg*, *Potato Which Just Got Out of Bed*, *Mermaid*, and *Curly House Containing Contains an Earthworm*, a *Heart*, and a *Jet Gate*) and metal sculptures (such as *Long-Haired Ghost with Twins*, *Ferdinand the Spider*, *Flower with Fragrant Slime*, and *Peace and Love*) as well as short animated films which Magidová writes, directs, edits, and produces. One the works to be screened at Kunsthalle Praha is the short 3D film **Scribble**, in which Magidová transforms children's drawings into 3D characters which enter into dialogue with classical sculptures in a fictional museum. These characters, belonging to a playful yet isolated and less respected world, gradually blend with the museum's serious, even elitist environment. The film thus raises questions about whether some aesthetic codes are superior or inferior to others and about the boundaries between art and non-art.

Another short film, titled **Infamia**, tells a love story involving a gladiator and a sex worker from Pompeii. Meanwhile, Releasing Spell offers a view into a distant future, where a group of aliens come to Earth and allow characters from the ruins of various monuments to live according to their free will, not their gender designation.

"The exhibition wishes to offer another point of view on how we could live together as individuals, households, communities, and as one planet," describes curator Andra Silapētere. She further elaborates that Magidová's films recount new versions of tragic mythological tales and portray forms of otherness related to gender and class. They also ask how we can be more open to love, its giving

and receiving, and how we can accept that all types of love are important—from romantic and platonic love to queer love and love among communities and strangers.

The solo exhibition Markéta Magidová: My Sweet Inedible Planet will be on show at Kunsthalle Praha (Gallery 3, on the third floor) from 9 February to 1 May 2023.

MARKÉTA MAGIDOVÁ

Markéta Magidová is a visual artist and director. In her work, she explores themes such as children's imagination, gender or social norms, and the relationship between mythology and the present. Her animated films, digital images, and sculptures create a space both for new worlds and for reflections on our existing world. Magidová works at Charles University's Faculty of Education and for *ArteActa*, the journal of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

Selected screenings at film festivals: Annecy International Animation Film Festival (2021), Bolton International Film Festival (2021), Filmfest Dresden (2021), Anifilm (2021), Bucheon International Animation Festival (2020), St. Louis International Film Festival (2020), Rome Independent Film Festival (2020)

Selected exhibitions: *Dictionary of Imaginary Places*, Gregor Podnar Gallery, Vienna; *Beyond Nuclear Family: Home Sweet Home*, EFA Project Space, New York (2022–23); *Divination from a Night Sky Partially Obscured by Clouds*, Prague City Gallery, Prague (2022); *That's Not a Fairy, That's a Mum*, Prague City Gallery, Prague (2021–22); Cuckoo Festival of Art in the Public Space, Ostrava (2021); *Loop infinity down to side*, Centre for Contemporary Art FUTURA, Prague (2019); *Other Visions: Czech Video Art*, Plexus Projects, New York (2018); *Zero Minute Warning*, Centre européen d'actions artistiques contemporaines, Strasbourg (2017); *Soft Target*, Institut français, Prague (2017); *Tertium non datur*, FAIT Gallery, Brno (2016); *PLATOvideo05*, PLATO Gallery, Ostrava (2015); 4th Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, Moscow (2014)

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Praha

ANDRA SILAPĒTERE

Andra Silapētere is a **curator and researcher** based in Riga. Her fields of research include topics of exile and migration, and aspects of identity and belonging. Since 2012, she has been part of the Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA) creative team.

In 2022 Silapētere curated the Latvian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale with the artists Skuja Braden (co-curated with Solvita Krese). Her recent work includes the *Not Yet Written Stories — Women Artists' Archives* research project and exhibition at the Latvian National Museum of Art (2020); *Portable Landscapes* about Latvian migration and exile art at the Latvian National Museum of Art (2018); *District Berlin* (2019); and *James Gallery,* at CUNY in New York (2019). She is now preparing a publication for the aforementioned *Portable Landscapes: Latvian Exile Art Histories* (publisher K. Verlag, Berlin).

Other selected exhibitions include participation at the festival *Today is Our Tomorrow*, Publics, Helsinki (2020); *Unexpected Encounters* (co-curated with Solvita Krese and Inga Lāce, 2019) Latvian National Museum of Art and Den Fire Centre of Contemporary Art in Copenhagen; *Twofold. Kaspars Groševs and Jānis Borgs* (2017) Latvian National Museum of Art.

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