



Press Release – Prague, 15 January 2025

Abstract art pioneers Bergman and Hartung, and a celebration of Czech design. Kunsthalle Praha presents its 2025 programme

In its third year, Kunsthalle Praha welcomed over 100,000 visitors once again. The institution enters 2025 with the audience-favourite exhibition *Chiharu Shiota: The Unsettled Soul* and plans for five additional exhibitions. Highlights include a showcase of the finalists of the Czech Grand Design Awards with an artistic interpretation by the duo SHOTBY.US. Many artists will make their debut in Czechia, including Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung, pioneers of 20th-century abstract art, whose work will be presented together for the first time in the exhibition *And We'll Never Be Parted*. Internationally acclaimed Slovak artist Roman Ondak and New York-based duo Kristyna and Marek Milde will also hold their institutional premieres.



The exhibition *Chiharu Shiota: The Unsettled Soul* runs through April 28, 2025. These monumental installations has already captivated tens of thousands of visitors. In 2024, Kunsthalle Praha hosted **105,000 visitors** who attended six exhibitions and participated in over 100 cultural events. The institution also organized more than 250 free educational programs for school groups. *“In just three years, Kunsthalle Praha has become a vibrant, accessible space for a diverse audience, offering a rich program that appeals to all generations,”* says Director Ivana Goossen.

**Kunsthalle
Praha**

The institution will celebrate its third anniversary in February, with a packed program, including a “pay-what-you-can” admission day. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet Ivana Goossen in person during a wool weaving workshop inspired by *The Unsettled Soul* exhibition. As part of the celebrations, she will also join the staff of Kunsthalle Café, serving visitors on its terrace overlooking Prague Castle and Petřín Hill.

Upcoming Exhibitions and Collaborations

“In 2025, we remain committed to connecting Czech and international art scenes and audiences. Each of our exhibitions is created exclusively for Kunsthalle Praha, showcasing a diverse range of approaches and media,” says Chief Curator Christelle Havranek. February marks the start of a collaboration with the Czech Grand Design – annual awards of the Czech Design Academy, with a finalist showcase with artistic intervention by **SHOTBY.US** (Karolína Matušková and Lenka Glisníková) and curated by Iva Polanecká. Titled **Space of Desire**, the theatrically staged, surrealist exhibition examines the emotion of desire and critically explores our relationships with objects.

In April, the focus shifts to **Call of the Forest**, the most ambitious project by Kristyna and Marek Milde to date, and their first institutional exhibition in Prague. The New York-based duo examines the relationship between humanity and nature, presenting works such as *Arbomobile* (2024), a New York taxi filled with live trees, and *Call of the Forest* (2024), a video animation derived from public submissions of tree tattoos. Curated by Theo Carnegie-Tan, this exhibition will be followed by another groundbreaking project under his curatorial direction.

Kunsthalle Praha will host a comprehensive retrospective of **Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung: And We'll Never Be Parted**. While their work and lives are deeply intertwined, this marks the first joint exhibition of these pivotal figures in abstract art. Featuring unseen artworks and archival materials, the exhibition highlights overlooked aspects of their lives, such as their connections to music, architecture, and nature. Co-curated with Pierre Wat, the project is a collaboration with the Fondation Hartung-Bergman in Antibes and is under the honorary patronage of the Embassy of France in the Czech Republic. Notably, Christie's magazine has already listed this as one of the 12 best anticipated exhibitions in Europe for 2025.

Na podzim uvede Kunsthalle Praha **novou audiovizuální výstavu**, která díky špičkovému technickému vybavení Galerie 3 rozšíří spektrum prezentovaných médií. Rok 2025 pak završí sólová výstava **Romana Ondaka**, pro nějž půjde o první rozsáhlou prezentaci v českém a slovenském prostředí. Výstavu připravuje kurátorka sbírky Barbora Ropková a k vidění budou i vybraná díla z umělecké sbírky Kunsthalle Praha. Ondak, inspirovaný konceptualismem 60. a 70. let, ve svých instalacích a performancích přetváří běžné předměty a situace, propojuje historická specifika střední Evropy s rodinnou biografií a dodává dílům autentický a intimní rozměr.

In autumn, Kunsthalle Praha will debut an innovative audiovisual exhibition, leveraging the state-of-the-art technology of Gallery 3 to expand its range of media presentations. The year will conclude with **Roman Ondak's solo exhibition**—his first large-scale presentation in Czech and Slovak institutional settings. Curated by collection curator Barbora Ropková, it will also showcase selected works from Kunsthalle Praha's collection. Ondak's installations and performances explore themes of time, memory, and identity, blending Central European historical contexts with personal narratives.

Interdisciplinary Public Programs

The 2025 public program will bridge art, science, and societal questions. The spring semester of the *TransformArt* course (March 10–May 12, 2025) will delve into contemporary art's responses to today's challenges, drawing inspiration from *Call of the Forest* and *The Unsettled Soul*. Topics

include Japanese art, haptic perception, and spatial influences on worldview, presented by experts such as Oxford doctoral candidate Jason Waite, theorist Emma Hanzlíková, and artist Kasia Fudakowski. The popular *Ambient READ* programme returns, offering an immersive reading experience with ambient music in a serene, Japanese garden-inspired setting. For younger audiences, a new interactive program, *What I Don't See in the Gallery*, combines detective-style exploration with creative activities. Meanwhile, the *Warm-up with AI* workshops will continue to explore the creative potential of artificial intelligence.

The year will also see the fourth edition of the unique Student Debate League. *"We are dedicated to fostering art-related discussions. This platform helps students refine their debate skills while exploring topics connected to art,"* says Martina Freitagová, Public Programmes Manager.

Publications with International Distribution

Kunsthalle Praha is also preparing several significant publications. In February, an English-language catalog for the Chiharu Shiota exhibition will be released, distributed internationally by the prestigious Berlin-based publisher DCV. This uniquely crafted publication, featuring hand-sewn Japanese fukurotoji binding, will be launched on February 26 with the artist in attendance. To mark the opening of the Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung retrospective, a comprehensive exhibition catalog in Czech and English will be published, including texts by renowned French authors such as Thomas Schlessler, Director of the Fondation Hartung-Bergman. The book's design will be created by Studio Najbrt, with international distribution handled by Hatje Cantz. The autumn will see the release of a monograph on Bedřich Dlouhý from the *edice m* series, developed in long-term collaboration with Academia and Galerie KODL. A catalog accompanying Roman Ondak's exhibition will be published in early 2026. All books will be available at the Kunsthalle Praha Design Shop, both in its store in the gallery and online.

Membership with Community Focus

The Kunsthalle Praha community now consists of over **18,000 members**, including many young people under the age of 26, who benefit from free membership thanks to the support of other membership categories. Membership offers year-round access to exhibitions, free guided tours, and discounted cultural events, as well as exclusive opportunities such as art-focused trips across the Czech Republic and abroad. Upcoming **Members Trips** will, for instance, visit the Berlin Gallery Weekend and the Frieze Art Fair in London. Members can also look forward to visits to local artists' studios and member-exclusive parties. Beyond membership itself, Kunsthalle Praha provides a space for collaboration and dialogue with donors, sponsors, corporate partners, and anyone wishing to actively contribute to its development.

Kunsthalle Praha thanks its partners: The Pudil Family Foundation, My Clinic, and Dentons.

Press Contact

Zuzana Dusilová / +420 721 034 543 / zdusilova@kunsthallepraha.org

[instagram.com/kunsthallepraha](https://www.instagram.com/kunsthallepraha)

[kunsthallepraha.org](https://www.kunsthallepraha.org)

Open daily 11 am–7 pm, Wednesdays until 9 pm, closed on Tuesdays. Free entry for members: <https://www.kunsthallepraha.org/en/become-a-member>