

Press Release – Prague, 10 October 2025

Kunsthalle Praha presents the first large-scale exhibition of Roman Ondak in Czechia and Slovakia

Kunsthalle Praha will present *The Day After Yesterday*, the first major exhibition in Eastern and Central Europe of internationally acclaimed Slovak conceptual artist Roman Ondak. Offering a comprehensive overview of more than thirty years of his practice, the exhibition features a wide range of almost 50 works across media and includes some of his most iconic pieces, such as *Measuring the Universe*, a participatory performance that has travelled to leading museums worldwide and will be restaged in Prague.



Roman Ondak: The Day After Yesterday
13 November 2025 – 9 March 2026
Galleries 1 & 2, 900 m²
Curated by Barbora Ropková

Ondak first captured international attention with his project *LOOP* at the Czech and Slovak Pavilion of the 2009 Venice Biennale. Since then, he has developed a distinctive body of work rooted in the legacy of 1960s and 1970s conceptualism. His approach is characterized by the use of everyday objects and situations, transformed through subtle interventions into poetic reflections on time, memory, and identity. In his artistic practice, the ordinary becomes extraordinary, revealing hidden tensions and oscillations between opposites.

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„Ondak’s art is a layered, ambivalent whole that can be viewed from multiple angles and interpreted in various ways all at once. At the same time, it is also highly authentic and accessible to different types of viewers. The most important factor for reading Ondak’s works is his own personal life, which in many cases is mixed with the historical, the political, and the economic or existential. The poetic and slightly melancholic quality of his works does not convey any particular point of view but rather teaches us to observe the world around us,“ says Barbora Ropkova, exhibition curator and collection curator at Kunsthalle Praha.

The title of the exhibition refers to Ondak’s 2005 work *The Day After Yesterday*, in which he intertwined different temporal layers and balanced the personal with the conceptual. Across installations, performances, videos, photographs, drawings, and objects, the exhibition highlights his recurring themes of memory, time, and identity. Ondak often reflects on the historical particularities of Central Europe and its communist past, while also engaging with the globalized present. His subtle humour and conceptual precision allow existential and societal themes to merge seamlessly with personal experience. In his artistic universe, the political and the personal, the universal and the intimate, intertwine into authentic works that resonate across time and place.

The exhibition also marks Ondak’s long-awaited return to Prague after more than two decades. He exhibited here several times in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and this new presentation reconnects him with a city that has played an important role in his artistic journey as a stepping-stone towards the international art world.

Among the highlights of the exhibition is *do not walk outside this area*, a monumental readymade created from the wing of a Boeing 737-500, which invites visitors to step onto the sculpture and experience the gallery from an unexpected perspective. Works such as *The Joys of an Iron Curtain Trip to the Black Sea* and *Bad News Is a Thing of the Past Now* reflect on Central Europe’s communist past, interweaving personal biography with collective memory. In *Freed Doorway*, Ondak re-situates the door from his childhood bedroom, while *Resting Corner* consists of socialist-era furniture, creating an environment that can be used by the visitors.

In Gallery 2, visitors encounter the iconic participatory performance *Measuring the Universe*, which unfolds only through audience involvement, and *Event Horizon*, a daily-growing installation made of tree discs marked with world events spanning a century. *Escape Circuit* explores the illusion of freedom through interconnected cages, while video works like *The Stray Man* highlight Ondak’s interest in the subtle choreography of everyday life.

In the Box, installations such as *Eclipse*, from the Kunsthalle Praha collection and *Life on Mars* turn to the cosmos as a metaphor for our existence, suggesting the continuous oscillation between the microcosm of daily life and the vastness of the universe. Together, these works demonstrate Ondak’s ability to weave history, memory, and personal experience into a poetic yet critical reflection on the world we inhabit.

Perfect Society, an installation of industrial pipes evoking both utopian ideals and dystopian collapse, belongs to the art collection of Kunsthalle Praha, underscoring the institution’s commitment to supporting contemporary artists. Works from the collection are regularly integrated into Kunsthalle Praha’s exhibition programme, situating Ondak’s practice within the institution’s broader narrative.

Roman Ondak: *The Day After Yesterday* runs from 13 November 2025 to 9 March 2026. In January 2026 Kunsthalle Praha will release an exhibition catalogue with international distribution by the Berlin publishing house DCV. Essays by Barbora Ropková, and Dieter Roelstraete explore Ondak’s key societal themes, which naturally intertwine with his own

family biography. With its extensive photographic documentation, the catalogue captures the diversity of media in the exhibited works and the performative nature of the exhibition, which requires active visitor participation.

The exhibition is accompanied by a rich programme, including talks, screenings, workshops, as well as lectures and special events in the TransformArt series, which focuses on contemporary art and its intersections with other fields.

Visitors under the age of 26 are eligible for complimentary membership, allowing access to all Kunsthalle Praha exhibitions for free.

Kunsthalle Praha extends its thanks to its partners (My Clinic, The Pudil Family Foundation, Dentons).

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Roman Ondak

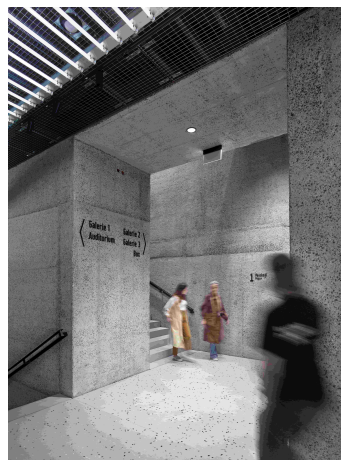
Roman Ondak was born in Žilina, Slovakia (1966), he lives and works in Bratislava. In 2018, he received the Lovis Corinth Prize, awarded to artists with ties to Eastern Europe. Since the second half of the 1990s, he has been active on the international art scene. He has had solo exhibitions at Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona (2023), Kunsten Museum of Modern Art Aalborg (2017), The Arts Club of Chicago (2017), South London Gallery (2016), Guangdong Times Museum, Guangzhou (2015), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2013), Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris (2012), Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin (2012), K21, Düsseldorf (2012), Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City (2011), Kunsthau Zürich (2011), Centre National d'Art Contemporain – Villa Arson, Nice (2010), The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2009), Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2007), basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht (2007), Tate Modern, London (2006), Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne (2004), and CCA, Kitakyushu, Japan (2004). He has also taken part in major international exhibitions, including Yuan Art Museum, Beijing (2025), Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA (2021), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2014), dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel (2012), New Museum, New York (2011), the 54th Venice Biennale (2011), Centre Pompidou, Paris (2009, 2010), MoMA PS1, New York (2009), Tate Modern, London (2007), Haus der Kunst, Munich (2003), and Secession, Vienna (2001). In 2009, he represented Slovakia at the 53rd Venice Biennale.



Kunsthalle Praha

Kunsthalle Praha is a unique arts institution in the heart of Prague's vibrant cultural scene. It presents art exhibitions, actively supports both Czech and international artists in developing and presenting new work and hosts engaging programmes and cultural events. Located in a former electric substation, the Kunsthalle building was awarded the Czech National Architecture Prize in 2022 for its transformation. Visitors can also enjoy a design shop and a café with a historic terrace offering views of Petřín Hill and Prague Castle.

Kunsthalle Praha's mission is to connect the Czech and international art scenes, present innovative perspectives on 20th and 21st century art and culture, and engage diverse audiences through a dynamic, interdisciplinary programme. The institution also holds its own art collection, focused on modern, post-war, and contemporary art. While not on permanent display, selected works are featured in exhibitions and accessible online. Kunsthalle Praha was established as a non-governmental, non-profit platform by The Pudil Family Foundation, founded by Pavlína and Petr Pudil.



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