**Karel Otto Hrubý**

**Photographer, Teacher, Theorist**

6 December, 2017 – 4 March, 2018

Curators: Lukáš Bártl, Antonín Dufek, Jana Vránová

Opening on 5 December, 2017 at 6 pm, press conference at 11 am

The House of Arts, Malinovského nám. 2, Brno

Brno, 23 November, 2017 **– A retrospective exhibition commemorates the legacy of Karel Otto Hrubý, a prominent personality in contemporary Czech photography. The year 2016 was the centenary of his birth. The exhibition at the House of Arts is accompanied with a monographic publication, bringing a survey of the artist’s photographic work, but also of his activities as a teacher, curator, lecturer, reviewer and organizer, and of his influence on the Czechoslovak photographic scene. It will feature for the first time so far unpublished photographs of K. O. Hrubý selected form public and private collections, and also from the private archive of the artist. The exhibition accompanying programme comprises several commented exhibition tours with curators Lukáš Bártl, Antonín Dufek and Jana Vránová, and also with photographers who had been Hrubý’s students - Pavel Dias, Miroslav Myška, Miloš Budík.**

The exhibition concept is based on the main thematic areas and spheres of interest in the photographer’s oeuvre that have been used to divide both the exhibition and the book into sections named Beginnings, New Future, Folklore and Traditions, The Everyday, Landscape, Staged Reality. The exhibition and the book featuring a selection from Hrubý’s work from the period between the 1940s and the 1970s will include also photographs that have not been published so far. “*The selection was made from thousands of photographs in both public and private collections – from original positives represented mainly in the collection funds of the Moravian Gallery in Brno, the Department of History and the Ethnographic Institute of the Moravian Museum in Brno, in the collection of the Czech Photographers’ Association, in the Hodonín Gallery of Fine Arts – but mainly from the numerous so far unknown previews constituting K. O. Hrubý’s private archive, created over the course of several decades and kindly made available for us to work with by the family of the artist,” says* Jana Vránová, exhibition curator.

Photographs by K. O. Hrubý are in conjunction with the period of their origin, reflecting the artist’s experience and personal interests, as well as the current social situation, and reacting to period opinions and style trends. His beginnings are tied in with the Czech interwar avant-garde, he felt close with one of the distinctive art movements of the post-war decades which captured the poetics of the everyday; towards the end he experimented with staged photography. He consistently maintained the classical values of black-and-white photography, its capacity to capture the unique situations of light and action of never-to-be repeated moments; he always emphasised its ability to communicate an idea and its orderly discipline.

The work of K. O. Hrubý is closely linked with Brno’s cultural environment; he held the position of a respected authority in the field of photography for several decades. He was a strong influence on the local professional and amateur scene since the late 1950s. He co-founded the Brno photographic group VOX. He left a clear trail as a teacher, being the head of the photography department at the College of Arts and Crafts in Brno (1952–1977); his opinions and his approach to the practice of photography have influenced several generations of Czechoslovak photographers. He was one of the founders of the Czech Photographers’ Association, the School of Artistic Photography (later Institute of Creative Photography at the Silesian University in Opava), he organised the activity of the Brno Photographers’ Club. In a period when the position of photography among the other art disciplines was not yet established, his theoretical and practical activities were of seminal importance.

As the impact of Karel Otto Hrubý’s legacy to Czech photography has not been adequately evaluated yet, this exhibition and monograph are the first to present comprehensively his photographic oeuvre in the context of Czech and international photography. In May 2016 the Brno House of Arts organised a symposium on the occasion of the centenary of K. O. Hrubý’s birth (more information at <http://www.dum-umeni.cz/cz/doprovodny-program/detail/id/79>).

The exhibition is held under the auspices of Mr Petr Vokřál, Mayor of the City of Brno.

**Accompanying Programme:**

10 January, 2018 at 5 pm – **Commented exhibition tour** with Lukáš Bártl, one of the exhibition curators, and photographer Miloš Budík, who was a friend of K. O. Hrubý and his unofficial student.

20‒21 January, 2018, every day from 9 am ‒ 6 pm – **The Everyday** / Two-day photography workshop inspired by the work of K. O. Hrubý, especially by the phenomenon of the “Poetry of the Everyday”.

24 January, 2018 at 5 pm – **Commented exhibition tour** with curator Jana Vránová and photographer Miroslav Myška, who was a student of K. O. Hrubý.

28 January, 2018, from 2 pm – 5 pm – **Cut-up Landscape** / Afternoon collage workshop for children aged 6–12 inspired by the work of K. O. Hrubý.

15 February, 2018 at 4 pm – **How to Teach Photography?** / Informal open gathering in the K. O. Hrubý exhibition with the exhibition curators, some of the present and former teachers of the photography studio at the Brno Secondary School of Art and Design and the present students.

21 February, 2018 at 5 pm – **Commented exhibition tour** with Antonín Dufek, one of the exhibition curators, and photographer Pavel Dias, who was one of the first students of K. O. Hrubý.

22 February, 2018 at 7 pm **– Poetry of the Everyday** / Evening programme with Lukáš Bártl, exhibition curator; the phenomenon of the so-called Poetry of the Everyday will be thoroughly explained from different aspects.

4 March, 2018 at 4 pm –**Commented exhibition tour** with a House of Arts docent.

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**Hi-resolution photographs (please publish together with captions)**: <https://goo.gl/2s6Y2J>