House of Arts Brno

Malinovského nám. 2

602 00 Brno

**Matěj Smetana at the House of Arts Brno**

**Brno, 11 April 2023 - Matěj Smetana's exhibition *Time from the Outside* presents new digital and hand-animated drawings by the artist projected on a large scale on the wall of the Jaroslav Kral Gallery in the House of Arts. The main theme of the exhibition is, as the title suggests, the observation of time and how it is mediated through the medium of animation. The opening will take place on Tuesday 18 April at 6 pm, with a musical performance by the singer-songwriter Člověk krve. On the same date, the exhibitions *Mutually* by Barbora Klímová on the first floor of the House of Arts and Lloyd Dunn's *Hypnagogic Cycles* at the Vašulka Kitchen Brno will open simultaneously. All three exhibitions will run until 9 July.**

The natural passage of time is usually taken for granted in everyday life. It seems to be something gradually passing, linear, irreversible. Yet there are situations when we feel it subjectively; time then passes, lazily dragging, wasted, lost, or not at all. Thanks to scientific knowledge, we know that time does not always last the same, but is related to the speed of motion, is relative and part of the structure of our universe. Cultural and historical time, on the other hand, can proceed asynchronously in relation to historical events and reversals. According to some contemporary philosophical theories, we have even lost time by being stuck in the present with no prospective prospects for the future. Time has become a commodity, a barter commodity for work done.

Matěj Smetana's exhibition takes a distant look at the theme of the passage of time through an observation that is not verifiable by exact measurement, but is open to artistic investigation. It emphasizes the fact that the passing action in animation consists of static images or drawings, which only when put into succession give the appearance of movement. The static records of moments that we do not perceive in the fluid movement or plot are made visible, made present and take on new meaning. For the artist, they are an opportunity to bring time under control. In the exhibition *Time from the Outside*, this applies, for example, to the inscription of the title itself, which is divided in such a way as to evoke the temporal plane when pronouncing it.

The exhibition also incorporates themes of ageing, extinction and feelings of nostalgia that are linked to human emotion and the experience of time. Inspired not only by the mysterious object from Dürer's engraving *Melancholia*, but also by Lars von Trier's apocalyptic film of the same name, the aging Caryatids or the flying meteoroid form cultural and historical references that are as elusive and mysterious as time, whose elusive dimension far exceeds us.

**Matěj Smetana (\*1980)** has long been associated with Brno through his pedagogical work in the Environmental Studio at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the BUT and in recent years also at the Department of Art Education of the Faculty of Education. From autumn 2023, together with Alice Nikitinová, he will take over the management of the Drawing Studio at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. His conceptual work is applied in animated drawings, videos, objects and installations, in which he often refers to scientific methods of researching and observing various types of complex communication, language or movement systems.

The exhibition is held under the auspices of the Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno, Markéta Vaňková.

**Matěj Smetana: Time from the Outside**

**House of Arts Brno**

**19. 4. – 9. 7. 2023**

**Exhibition opening 18. April 2023 at 6 pm**

**Curator: Marika Svobodová**

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