

The Exhibition “David Cronenberg: Evolution”

presenting more than 300 original artefacts from the films by

the most renowned Canadian film director

has launched

Prague, February 18, 2016 – Tomorrow, The Stone Bell House in Prague will open the long-awaited exhibition “David Cronenberg: Evolution” to the public. The speakers at the press conference for the retrospective exhibition devoted to the oeuvre of the legendary Canadian filmmaker included the exhibition organizers and its curator, Piers Handling, Director and CEO of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The exhibition presents more than 300 original artefacts, including photographs, sketches, drawings, set pieces, special effects, working documents and rare, unseen film clips. Prepared in close cooperation with David Cronenberg himself, it is the result of many years of research in the Cronenberg archive, which today forms part of the TIFF Film Reference Library and served as the main source of the objects on display. The event – co-organized by the civic association Art Movement, Prague City Gallery and Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) – follows the 2014 event entitled “Tim Burton and His World”, which was the most successful cultural undertaking held in the Czech Republic that year.

Exhibition concept

Divided into three major sections that follow the chronological and thematic trajectory of Cronenberg’s cinema, the exhibition traces how the author’s early fascination with the inner realms of body and mind – their drives, desires and, sometimes uncontrollable, powers – develops into an exploration of the outer world that those forces help to shape. Immersing us in Cronenberg’s creative process, his relationship to science fiction and science fact, and his affinities with other major 20th-century artists, “David Cronenberg: Evolution” celebrates not only one of the world’s most acclaimed filmmakers but also one of our most provocative and influential contemporary thinkers.

The Prague redesign of “David Cronenberg: Evolution” is unique in several aspects. The Gothic setting of The Stone Bell House inspired the organizers and the architects to come up with original design solutions: the director’s films are presented in a labyrinth of rooms that also incorporate an element of surprise, a key aspect of Cronenberg’s oeuvre.

Accompanying program

A retrospective of Cronenberg’s films (1969–2014) will be presented to the public from February 19 to July 17, 2016, and will include 640 screenings of his 21 features. These will be accompanied by lectures addressing the artist’s filmmaking oeuvre, given by film historian Martin Jiroušek and art

historian Zuzana Štefková, as well as weekend art workshops in which visitors can experiment with various artistic methods. The overview of the individual programs related to Cronenberg's work will be available and updated on the website www.cronenberg.cz.

Curator Piers Handling about the exhibition

"We are very excited to be presenting the exhibition 'David Cronenberg: Evolution' in Prague. Since its launch in 2013 in Toronto, which coincided with a major new scholarly publication produced by TIFF and the commissioning of a new short film by David Cronenberg, the exhibition has been touring internationally. It has been redesigned in each venue, and the organizers in Prague have done a phenomenal job reimagining it for the Gothic Stone Bell House of Prague City Gallery. I'm sure that people will enjoy seeing the strange and disturbing objects from Cronenberg's films in Franz Kafka's birthplace."

Art Movement about the exhibition

"We are very happy to have managed to bring the travelling exhibition of the Canadian filmmaker, David Cronenberg, to Prague and to follow in the footsteps of the previous and immensely successful event entitled 'Tim Burton and His World'. The Prague presentation will be significantly augmented by a retrospective of Cronenberg's 21 feature films, screened in a specially built cinema situated in the exhibition galleries. Viewers will have the unique opportunity to watch Cronenberg's early works, such as Stereo, Shivers, Rabid, and Crimes of the Future, as well as films only recently distributed in the Czech Republic, including Maps to the Stars, Eastern Promises and Cosmopolis. Five features will be screened each day, and the daily program will be available on the exhibition's website as well as in the exhibition."

Kateřina Riley

Prague City Gallery about the exhibition

"Following Tim Burton, David Cronenberg is the second globally known artist who will pay the Czech Republic a visit not only via his films but via an exhibition that shows the process of creation, leading us step by step through the complex birth of a final work. Cronenberg, too, begins with a concept, which is further elaborated by sculptors, animators and masters of special effects. As the filmmaker himself puts it, his initial imagery – contrary to that of Burton's – usually departs from a verbal level, and his main role is to carefully supervise the work of his colleagues and observe the realization of his own courageous visions. These methods jointly embody the fascinating process of filmmaking, which the Czech public will discover through direct contact with the artwork, props and artifacts in the exhibition. They will also experience the resulting form through a special screening program held in the gallery. Far too many of Cronenberg's films were not distributed in the Czech Republic, and local viewers will have the rare opportunity to watch both the iconic and lesser-known titles by this exceptional artist. He indeed may view humanity from its countless dark sides, but this stems from a desire to discover what it actually means to be human in all aspects, and to elicit discussion about the meaning and the facets of our existence."

The exhibition takes viewers inside the wide spectrum of Cronenberg's unorthodox ideas, which he tries to bring to life in equally unorthodox ways. His ideas seem to be particularly relevant today, as we cope with an increasing range of forms of evil."

Magdaléna Juříková

Olgoj Chorchoj about the exhibition

"We've resolved to conceive of the exhibition's architecture as rather austere, making only minor modifications to the space in order to make the objects stand out as much as possible. The only places designed to undergo major adaptations were the main hall, housing a cinema in a specially built cupola, and the entrance lobby of The Stone Bell House. Visitors thus enter the exhibition through a kind of a funnel which directly draws them to the intense world of Cronenberg's films."

Martina Kárová

David Cronenberg is a Canadian filmmaker and screenwriter. His most iconic films are *The Fly*, *Crash*, *A History of Violence*, *Cosmopolis*, *eXistenZ*, *Naked Lunch* and *Scanners*. All information about the exhibition is available on the website www.cronenberg.cz. More details and original content can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

David Cronenberg: Evolution

When: February 19 – July 17, 2016

Where: The Stone Bell House, Old Town Square 13

Web: www.cronenberg.cz

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

About the organizers

Art Movement is a non-governmental and non-profit organization (civic association), which invites artists, curators, lecturers and culture managers to cooperate on short- and long-term projects in the fields of culture and education and on production activities in the Czech Republic, as well as on an international scale. It cooperates with both young and established artists and with experienced lecturers and educators from the Czech Republic and the European Union. Its projects mainly aim at connecting visual arts and film (e.g., exhibitions of Czech Surrealists, "Tim Burton and His World"), the civic and the interactive (the project Civic Minds) and the civic and the educational (Parallel Worlds).

Prague City Gallery is one of the most significant galleries in the Czech Republic. Its exhibition activities mainly focus on modern and contemporary art. It collects, protects and professionally elaborates art collections of the City of Prague. It presently exhibits in eight buildings: The Stone Bell House, The Golden Ring House, Municipal

TISKOVÁ ZPRÁVA



Library of Prague – 2nd floor, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, House of Photography, Villa Bílek, Troja Château and František Bílek's House in Chýnov.

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