

## **The extended program for the exhibition “David Cronenberg: Evolution” will address the aesthetics of abjection, cyberpunk, and issues of art and censorship**

**Prague, 7 March 2016 – The exhibition “David Cronenberg: Evolution”, currently running in The Stone Bell House in Prague, closely follows the preceding, 2014 project “Tim Burton and His World” and introduces visitors to another visionary artist who has changed the world of cinema on a global scale. The interactive exhibition, presents work in many media and is accompanied by a rich program of lectures given by film scholars and art historians as well as art workshops for an adult audience.**

The exhibition is coorganized by Art Movement along with Prague City Gallery and Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and curated by Piers Handling and Noah Cowen.

The extended program will introduce Cronenberg’s filmmaking oeuvre in detail and will offer many new perspectives on its reception. Lectures given by film scholar Martin Jiroušek will focus on the director’s artistic evolution, the motif of the body and its modifications and transformations, and the rather sensitive subject of censorship in art in the context of Cronenberg’s film endeavors. They will address deleted and adapted scenes from selected films.

Art historian Zuzana Štefková will discuss the aesthetics of abjection in film and fine art, while the weekend art workshops lead by film experts will introduce participants to the world of professional make-up, posters, animation and lighting as they relate to cinema.

The capacity of the lectures and workshops is limited. We therefore kindly ask you to book your participation in advance. The updated and complete overview of the accompanying program is provided below and on the event’s website, [www.cronenberg.cz](http://www.cronenberg.cz).

### **Guided tours of the exhibition with the film scholar Martin Jiroušek**

Wednesday, 16 March, 4 p.m., The Stone Bell House

Wednesday, 18 May, 4 p.m., The Stone Bell House

### **Lectures with the film scholar Martin Jiroušek**

- 1) **Wednesday, 16 March, 6 p.m. Mastering Cronenberg’s Filmmaking Evolution – From Low-Budget-Horror *Infant Terrible* to Respected Mediator of Philosophical Messages. The Phenomenon of 1970s’ Low-Budget Film versus Great Literature** – subject: the development of Cronenberg’s oeuvre (low-budget film versus great literature; the early Cronenberg, full of resistance and ideas, versus the later sophisticated artist courageously exploring literature famed for being almost impossible to film, such as the novels of William Burroughs and J.G. Ballard).
- 2) **Wednesday, 13 April, 6 p.m. David Cronenberg’s Body Modification, Body-Horror and Cyberpunk** – subject: the motif of the body (Cronenberg’s oeuvre has been described since

the early 1980s as “body horror”, i.e. a sub-genre based on fear caused by the deformation of the human body. It was apparent from the early films such as *Shivers*, *Rabid* and *The Brood* that the modification of the body – and not just its deformation –, has allowed Cronenberg to present an original metaphor for human society. These tendencies climaxed in *Videodrome* and *The Fly*. The symbiosis of the human body with other bio-mechanisms and/or organisms is omnipresent in Cronenberg’s oeuvre, leading to the impressive visions seen in his films *eXistenZ*, *Crash* and *Dead Ringers*).

- 3) **Wednesday, 18 May, 6 p.m. A History of Violence, “The Gory Baron” – Cronenberg and Censorship** – subject: art and censorship (Cronenberg’s films have been “controversial” from the very beginning, causing a stir not only among the public but also with censors. An overview will be given of either cut or adapted scenes – from the scandalous allegory *Shivers* to the famous hits, *Scanners* and *Videodrome*).
- 4) **Wednesday, 8 June, 6 p.m. Surrealism and Film – Cronenberg versus European, and especially Czech Filmmakers** – subject: Cronenberg’s oeuvre as it relates to Czech and European filmmakers (e.g., some works by Jan Švankmajer and Juraj Herz).

#### **A Lecture given by art historian Tomáš Kolich**

**Wednesday, 11 May, 6 p.m. Between Human and Insect. Various Approaches to the Metamorphosis, Presented on Kafka’s Novel of the Same Name and Cronenberg’s *The Fly*** – the lecture will compare two different artistic approaches to the transformation of human into insect. Kafka intentionally described Gregor Samsa vaguely in his novella, *The Metamorphosis*, and did not want illustrators to present him visually. Cronenberg, on the contrary, based his film *The Fly* on vivid make-up and prosthetic devices, capturing the transformation of the hero into an insect in almost gruesome detail.

#### **A Lecture given by art historian Zuzana Štefková**

**Wednesday, 22 June, 6 p.m. The Aesthetics of Ejection in Fine Art and Film**

All the above-mentioned lectures will be held in the Concert Hall of The Stone Bell House. For other professional lectures given on more issues from David Cronenberg’s oeuvre, please check the project website, [www.cronenberg.cz](http://www.cronenberg.cz).

#### **Weekend art workshops held by film experts – Creative Dialogues with the Arts**

The weekend art workshops organized by Prague City Gallery will mainly focus on subjects related to film and fine art. Some of them represent distinctive, irreplaceable and significant aspects of the films of David Cronenberg (such as make-up and visual effects). Other workshops will concern the overlap of animation and graphic design (and the realm of the film poster). Participants will explore a wide array of artistic methods, mapping and trying out the most characteristic “attributes” of the sci-fi and horror genres as well as examining issues such as existence, experimentation, manipulation, consciousness versus unconsciousness, life versus death, and reality versus fiction.

- Saturday, 12 March, 1 p.m., subject: **David Cronenberg and Make-Up** – lead by professional film and theater visual artist, Dana Goldová
- Prague City Gallery Center of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

- Saturday, 16 April, 1–6 p.m., subject: **David Cronenberg and the Film Poster** –lead by Prague City Gallery educators  
Prague City Gallery Center of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
- Saturday, 14 May, 1–6 p.m., subject: **David Cronenberg and Animation** – lead by educators in the field of film animation in cooperation with the Aero School
- Prague City Gallery Center of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace
- Saturday, 11 June, 1–6 p.m., subject: **David Cronenberg and Light** – lead by professional lighting designer, Jan Dörner
- The Stone Bell House

Please book your participation in advance at: [edukace@ghmp.cz](mailto:edukace@ghmp.cz).

#### **Art workshop for adults and seniors**

- Saturday, 22 May, 3–6 p.m., subject: **Film Posters**  
Prague City Gallery Center of Education, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

Please book your participation in advance at: [pejchalovaeva@seznam.cz](mailto:pejchalovaeva@seznam.cz)

#### **Educators' guided tours of the exhibition for secondary and high schools and universities and other groups of visitors**

Secondary and high schools and universities as well as other groups of visitors can book their interactive guided tours of the exhibition at the e-mail address [edukace@ghmp.cz](mailto:edukace@ghmp.cz). Please note that the exhibition is only open to those over 16 years of age.

Complete information on the project is available on the website [www.cronenberg.cz](http://www.cronenberg.cz). For more details and points of interest, please consult our Facebook and Instagram.

#### **David Cronenberg: Evolution**

When: 19 February – 17 July 2016

Where: The Stone Bell House, Old Town Square 13, Prague

Web: [www.cronenberg.cz](http://www.cronenberg.cz)

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

The exhibition is coorganized by the civic association Art Movement along with Prague City Gallery and Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and curated by Piers Handling and Noah Cowen.

#### **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 Library of Prague – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace, House of Photography, Villa Bílek, Troja Château and František Bílek’s House in Chýnov.

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