



KAREL MALICH 06.02. – 24.05.2015 HALL

Curated by Petr Rehor & Esko Nummelin

Media Preview: 5th of February 2015 at 11.00 am

Curator Talks: 6th of February 2015 at 12 am

Exhibition opening: 6th of February 2015 at 6-8 pm

Karel Malich (1924) is one of the most respected classics on the Czech artistic scene. Today he is mainly known for his colored pastels and wire objects. The beginning of his artistic career – the turn of the 1940s and 1950s – is characteristic of landscape painting focused on the region of his native village of Holicе.

In the course of time, Malich's artistic expression turned to abstraction and geometry. The artist focused on monochrome surfaces, while his works did not reflect outside reality. During the 1960s, Malich switched to collages which led him to creating reliefs and subsequently spatial sculptures. At that time, he also executed his first spatial models of clouds and three-dimensional wire sculptures which, regardless of their inspiration by nature, retain their own technical as well as magical character.

Karel Malich's spatial sculptures gradually became dramatically dense and his wire structures were reminiscent of cosmic lines of force. "Inner light" is imbued with Malich's intrinsic experience which the artist himself described as "I saw light in myself" and which irreversibly influenced his future oeuvre. Malich began intensively involved in contemplating his own system of viewing, viewing his own intrinsic cosmos both from the inside and outside and writing records about the process. One of the most exceptional works by Malich are sculptures entitled *I Saw a Crack in a Space* and *I Slightly Turned My Head*, while theoreticians perceive his *Landscape with the Eternity* from between 1979–1983 as one of the most significant sculptures of the 20th-century Czech art. Malich also recorded his experiences with light in his exceptional pastels and gouaches that literally glow with colors.

The exhibition at the Pori Art Museum show cases Karel Malich's steel and wire sculptures from the years 2008-13, and drawings from the years 1980-12. A catalogue with the articles by Karel Malich, Hans-Ulrich Obrist, Federico Díaz and Jan Kratochvíl, is published for the exhibition and will be given to the visitors for free. The exclusive monograph of Karel Malich, accompanied by text written by Czech leading art historian Karel Šrp is available at the Pori Art Museum's museum shop.

In collaboration with: Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář

Karel Malich (born 1924 in Holicе) is considered to be one of the Czech Republic's most important artists. For a long time, behind the Iron Curtain, he had to work without international public perception. Since the 1960s Karel Malich developed a deep, fascinating work, dealing with the landscape and the cosmos. Drawings, sketched by only few lines, abstract material collages and complex filigree sculptures of wire demonstrate his constant examination of existential phenomena. His visionary architecture projects anticipate modern building demands. The artistic recognition of Karel Malich has been proved by numerous exhibition projects and acquisitions by international museum collections. Malich has functioned as teacher and mentor for artist Federico Díaz.

Additional information:

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