

Other Visions [©]CZ (2007–2015)

The Gallery AMU in collaboration with the cultural organization PAF presents an exhibition summarizing the development of the contemporary Czech art of the moving image. The exhibition will show ninety audio-visual artworks bordering on film, animation and video art. The works exhibited are curated selections from the Other Visions competition, which has been held annually in Olomouc as part of PAF – Festival of Film Animation and Contemporary Art, since 2007.



Other visions of the Czech moving image

The competition Other Visions was initiated in Olomouc by PAF and its efforts to grasp a specific area of contemporary art that has been, for various reasons, often neglected in the Czech context and that includes visually and narratively original projects bordering on film, video art, animation and fine art which creatively work with animation elements and methods in the broadest sense.

[T]he phrase “other visions” was first used in a lecture by filmmaker and historian of the film avant-garde and experimental film Martin Čihák in 2003. Dealing with animation in American experimental film, his lecture stirred interest in the theme among the festival dramaturgs. Originally focusing on classic animation only, the festival was later enriched by further genres employing animation not only in the context of film but also in the context of art while considering its wider links and interconnections. The theme of the moving image gradually became one of the dominant features of the festival, determining its further direction. (Jančík, Lehkoživová)

In the fifteen years of its existence, PAF – Festival of Film Animation has thus become PAF – Festival of Film Animation and Contemporary Art. The original four-day festival is now a cultural platform PAF Olomouc that offers contemporary forms of the moving image overlapping with visual arts all year round.

Every year, the Other Visions competition, that is, a selection of the most interesting contemporary audio-visual art works produced in Czech territory, is overseen by a different curator. PAF delegates this responsibility to respected figures from various areas of culture. Film and media theoreticians, art historians, curators and practicing artists select ten works and put them into a screening series that provides the particular year with a unique perspective and vision.

Artworks in competition are marked by their sophisticated and differentiated ways of working with the moving image: they employ classic animation, film and video, but also diverse performance recordings and documentary approaches, manipulate image, text and live action film sequences, and avail of new digital technologies in a creative way.

In the long term, PAF Olomouc has been focusing not only on the presentation of this area of art in the Czech Republic and abroad, but also building a general theoretical framework for it through lectures, discussions and publishing activities of its publishing series Edition PAF. Other Visions or more precisely, alternative film and contemporary art forms thus at last receive concentrated attention.

Moving image between film and contemporary art

In the Czech context, these audio-visual art works started to be referred to, also thanks to the activities of PAF, by Professor Carroll's term *moving image*.

The definition of *moving image* by the American philosopher Noël Carroll describes alternative art works bordering on film, fine art and other visual forms while avoiding the limits of traditional terms, for example film or video, that are derived from specific media. This is why the programmers of PAF have always preferred this expression, even to the already well-established term audio-visual (the term moving image is not burdened by the presence or absence of sound).

The definition of the moving image encompasses different media, similar to the Other Visions art works, although these are presented as videos within the competition. *"Some art works originated in virtual space and were only translated into video formats for the sake of their off-line presentation. Today, the term video art is thus not sufficient. This is why we use the term moving image that includes classic film production, animation, video art, net art and other forms that work with sequences of images,"* explained the director of PAF **Alexandr Jančík**.

The sample of contemporary Czech moving image that Other Visions represent makes it clear that the moving image plays a significant role in contemporary art. It is able to comprehend essentially all existing art forms and develop them in different projection and installation contexts.

Other Visions in GAMU: Archive, Showroom and the theory of the moving image

The exhibition Other Visions CZ (2007–2015) works with **three basic conceptual levels** in connection with the moving image: **archiving, presentation and theoretical reflection** of this specific area of audio-visual art. These are naturally reflected in the architecture of the installation within the space of the gallery.

Ninety videos (the result of nine years of the competition Other Visions which have ten finalists each) are exhibited in two rooms, each of which stresses different topics, such as the question of collecting and archiving the art of the moving image and the issue of its presentation and of the context that it is placed in while being presented.

// Archive

In the **first room – the Archive**, nine editions of Other Visions are being screened on nine classic television monitors as individual screening series – that is, in the way they were composed by the curator of the given year. Other Visions, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, is presented here as a functional platform for the collection of a particular type of audio-visual art works that despite certain links between them do not have much opportunity to meet, let alone be systematically archived or monitored in any other way.

// Showroom

The **second room – Showroom** – presents a different single edition of the competition each five days. Each of the ten finalist videos of the given year of the competition thus acquires its own LCD screen on which it is played in a loop. In relation to the form of the presentation, this represents a substantial detail because a number of the artists employ the format of gallery loop that becomes an inherent part of the art work.

The dynamic concept of periodic change of individual competition years allows a dignified and fair presentation for each of the ninety, in terms of both form and length, very different art works within the extensive retrospective exhibition. However, a fixed schedule also refers to primarily non-gallery modes of presenting the moving image out of the gallery such as film news or TV programmes. Finally, simultaneous showing of all ten finalists offers viewers an interesting opportunity to appreciate different types of visuality employed in a given year at one glance.

The presentation schedule of the videos in the Showroom is retrospective, starts with the last year of Other Visions and continues back to the beginning, that is, 2007. At the end of the exhibition, all past winners will be confronted for the first time.

// Theory

The **third viewpoint** that the exhibition adopts lies in the theoretical reflection of moving image. It is mirrored in the exhibition architecture conceived by the visual artist Viktor Takáč: both in the dominant, massive wall, rich with meaning, that boldly cuts through the space of the gallery and suggests conceptual links between individual rooms, and in the open, naturally lit foyer that can be organized variably. While undifferentiated visual noise oscillates behind the wall in the corridor and forms into a clear signal in the Archive and the Showroom, it transforms itself further in the Foyer. The Foyer does not present any audio-visual art works; on the other hand, it offers observation at a distance and space for thought on the topics that come forward in the two other strictly defined rooms and modes of presentation. During the whole time of the exhibition, publications from PAF's publishing series PAF Edition on issues of the moving image will be available here (for reading or sale).

At the end of the summer, a symposium consisting of three round tables aimed at both expert and general public will take place in this space. The debates will be hosted by film historians, theoreticians and specialists on relocation and archiving of film **Martin Mazanec**, **Sylva Poláková** and **Matěj Strnad** and will attempt to thoroughly discuss the questions of distribution, archiving and possible ways of acquiring and presenting the art of the moving image that have been the focus of PAF in the last several years.

The round tables will serve as the basis for a publication on the topic of contemporary Czech moving image that will be released at the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Other Visions competition in December 2016.

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Carroll, Noël. "Defining the Moving Image." First published in Carroll, Noël. *Theorizing the Moving Image*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996. Print.

Lehkoživová, Irena, and Alexandr Jančík. „Other Visions.“ *Mediabaze.cz*. FAMU, July 9 2016. Web. July 10 2016. <http://www.mediabaze.cz/page.php?set_lang=en&institution=33>.

"Other Visions." *PAF—Festival of Film Animation Olomouc*. PAF, n.d. Web. July 10 2016. <<http://www.pifpaf.cz/en/competition-other-visions>>.

*Showroom screening schedule

Other Visions 2015
selection: *Lenka Střeláková*
Tuesday 12 – Saturday 16/7/2016

Other Visions 2014
selection: *Marika Kupková*
Sunday 17 – Friday 22/7/2016

Other Visions 2013
selection: *David Kořínek*
Saturday 23 – Thursday 28/7/2016

Other Visions 2012
selection: *Dušan Zahoranský*
Friday 29/7 – Wednesday 3/8/2016

Other Visions 2011
selection: *Pavel Ryška*
Thursday 4 – Tuesday 9/8/2016

Other Visions 2010
selection: *Sylva Poláková*
Wednesday 10 – Monday 15/8/2016

Other Visions 2009
selection: *Lenka Dolanová*
Tuesday 16 – Saturday 20/8/2016

Other Visions 2008
selection: *Martin Fišr*
Sunday 21 – Friday 26/8/2016

Other Visions 2007
selection: *Friendly Cinema (Pěchouček, Mazanec)*
Saturday 27 – Wednesday 31/8/2016

Other Visions Winners (2007–2015)
Thursday 1 – Sunday 4/9/2016

If you are interested in receiving updates on the programme of the exhibition, sign up for the PAF newsletter at www.pifpaf.cz/en/paf-newsletter.

You will receive a detailed programme for all three rooms including a list of the artists and art works exhibited by e-mail each five days of the exhibition.

13. 7. – 4. 9. 2016

OTHER
VISIONS

JINÉ
VIZE
CZ

Galerie AMU

Hartigovský palác
Malostranské nám. 12
Prague 1

www.facebook.com/galerie.amu

www.pifpaf.cz

exhibition concept
Lenka Štřeláková & PAF

exhibition architecture
Viktor Takáč

graphic design
Filip Cenek

PAF Olomouc

The AMU Gallery, in collaboration with the cultural organization and festival PAF, presents an exhibition summarizing the development of the contemporary Czech moving image and its present forms. The exhibition will show 90 audiovisual artworks bordering on film, animation and video. The works exhibited are curated selections from the Other Visions competition, which has been held annually in Olomouc as part of PAF, the Festival of Film Animation and Contemporary Art, since 2007.

opening
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
at 6 pm

open
daily except Mondays
10 am – 12 pm
1 pm – 6 pm

(2007–2015)

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