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PRAGUE PARIS

TRAVEL GUIDE TO THE CZECH AVANT-GARDE IN PARIS

Exhibition

28 April/15 October. 22

Opening reception 27 April from 6pm

PARÍŽ



PARÍŽ

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O DOKONALOSTI
tohoto průvodce!



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Since the end of the 19th century, Czech artists have been constantly drawn to the City of Light. For them, it was a question of rubbing shoulders with modernity as well as finding recognition in this center of the art world. They frequented the latest artistic movements - from the Barbizon School to Surrealism - and the artists they had heard of, already famous through Czech publications. Paris, the capital of liberty, was also vital for their own creation.

To leave for France, as Věra Linhartová wrote, was to leave «her Bohemian pond» for the ocean.

Following the establishment of the communist regime in February 1948, and the Soviet invasion of August 1968, Paris became a safe haven for many. Some, like Alfons Mucha, stayed in Paris for long periods before returning to Czechoslovakia. Others only stayed for short spells, as in the case of legendary artists František Tichý and Jan Zrzavý.

Finally, there were those who settled permanently in France following the dramatic historical events that tore Central Europe apart: František Kupka, Josef Šíma, Toyen and Jindrich Heisler, joined by younger ones - Otto Mizera or Jan Krížek - were among those who stayed, as were, after 1968, Irena Dedicová, Jirí Kolár, Bela Kolárová and many others.

It is interesting to note that many Francophiles remained fascinated by their stay or by French influences: this was the case for František Foltýn, Adolf Hoffmeister, František Muzika, Ladislav Novák... Many of the artists presented here actively participated in the creative effervescence they encountered in Paris, and their contribution to certain avant-garde movements was fundamental, whether Cubism, Abstraction-Création, Surrealism or the Grand Jeu. The major retrospectives devoted to Kupka and Toyen bear witness to this. The most appreciated Czech artists often have a «French history». The Prague-Paris exhibition pays tribute to them here.

A catalogue of the exhibition, Prague – Paris, Guide de voyage de l'avant-garde tchèque, published by the galerie Orbis Picus is available for purchase.

120 pages

Price €25





František Kupka

(1871, Opočno – 1957, Puteaux)

L'Enfer (Hell), 1902

China ink, charcoal, blue pencil on paper

38 x 31 cm





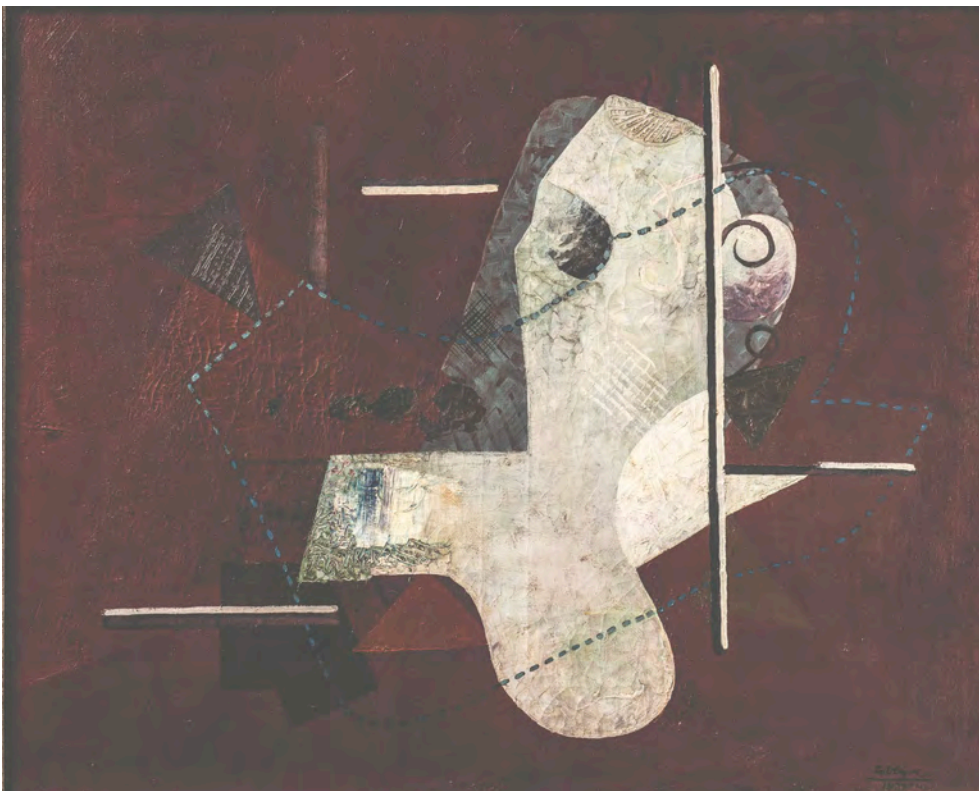
Josef Šíma

(1891, Jaroměř – 1971, Paris)

Impasse (Dead end) I, 1968

Oil on canvas

54 x 65 cm



František Foltýn

(1891, Královské Stachy – 1976, Brno)

Composition, 1927

Oil on canvas

74 x 93 cm





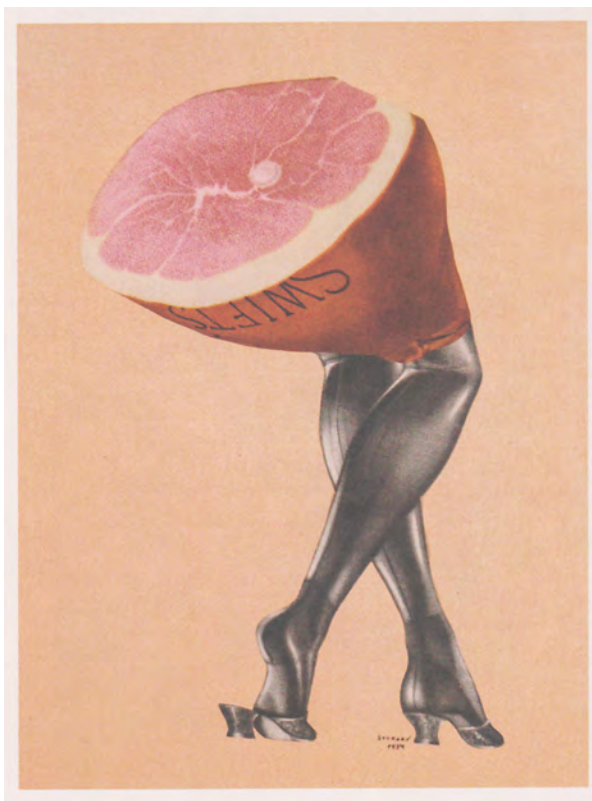
Toyen

(1902, Prague – 1980, Paris)

Zone de tir (Shooting area), 1939-1940

Zincography

32 x 44 cm



Jindřich Štyrský

(11899 Čermná u Kyšperka – 1942 Prague)

Le beau jambon (Nice ham), 1934

Collage from the cycle Le Cabinet ambulat

38 x 28 cm

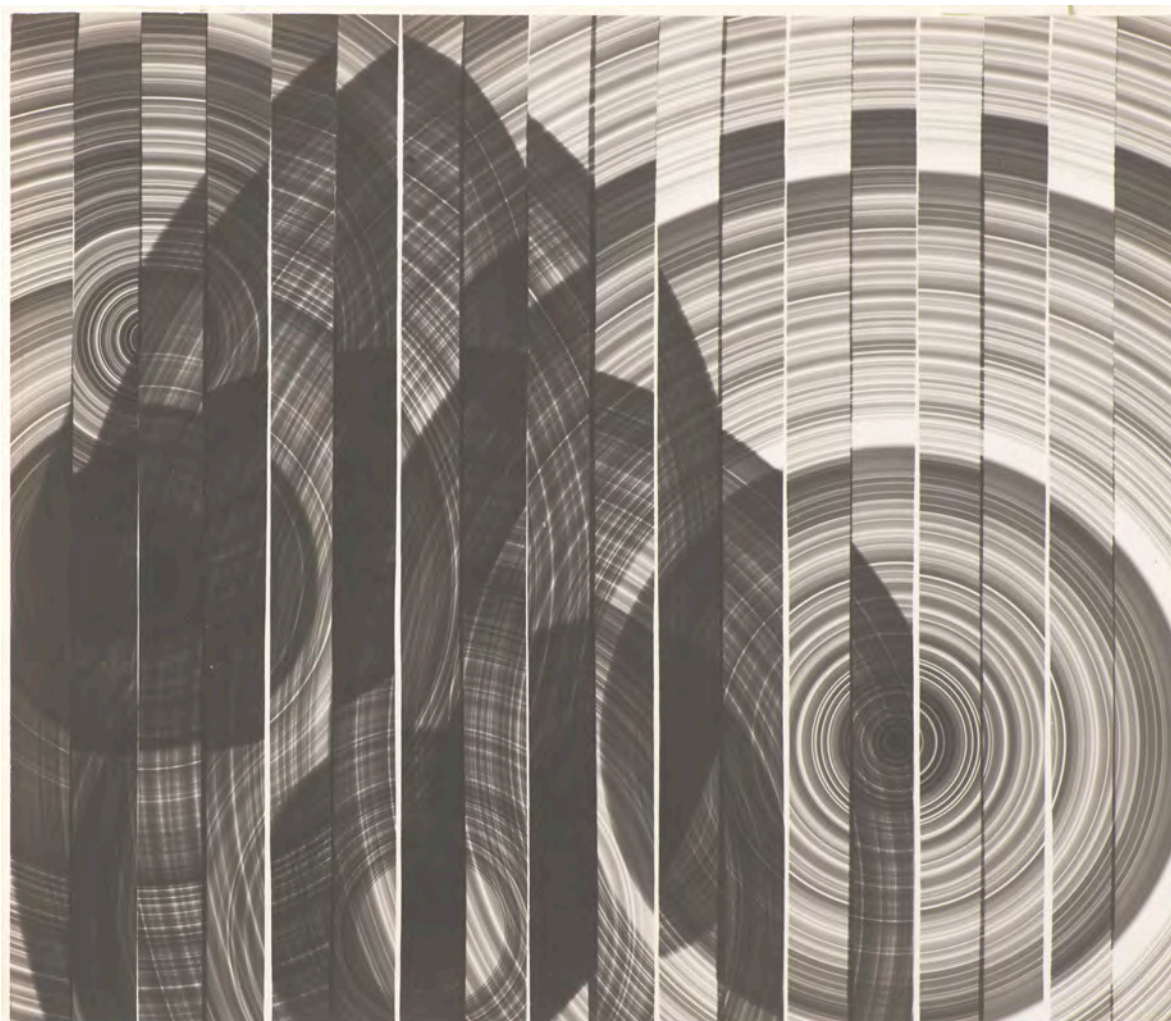


Jindřich Heisler

(1914, Chrast, 1953, Paris)

Poster project, 1949

39,5 x 29,8 cm



Běla Kolářová

(1923 Terezín – 2010, Prague)

Untitled, 1962

Photogram, vintage silverprint

15,4 x 18 cm



Jiří Kolář

(1914, Protivín – 2002, Prague)

Self-portrait, 1980

Froissage on offset paper

25 x 25 cm





Otta Mizera

(1919, Prague – 1953, Paris)

Head, 1942

Charcoal on paper

43,7 x 30 cm



František Muzika

(1900, Prague – 1974, Prague)

The swamp II, 1955

Pencil on paper

54,5 x 42,8 cm





Adolf Hoffmeister

(1902, Prague – 1973, Říčky v Orlických horách)

Pablo Picasso reads *Le Canard enchaîné*, 1965

China ink, watercolour and collage on paper

31 x 22 cm



Jan Křížek

(1919, Dobroměřice – 1985, Tulle)

Object, 1956

China ink on granit

28 x 13 x 12 cm





Ladislav Novák

(1924, Turnov – 1999, Třebíč)

Vanity Fair, 1952

Watercolour, alchimage and China ink on paper

31,5 x 23,5 cm



Irena Dědičová

(1932, Prague – 1987, Paris)

Fear, 1966

Mixed media on rhodoïd

38 x 38 cm