



Czech  
National  
Trust



Nový smysl starým hodnotám

## Press release

27.8.2018, Prague

### Ticket to the New World...

...is the name of a project, which from September 20th until October 12th, 2018 will feature the exceptional fates of prominent as well as less prominent Czech artists, who left Czechoslovakia at the beginning of World War II, and their impact on the US cultural scene.

The project focuses on sixteen people, including Jan Werich – which is why the center point of the activities is set at the Werich Villa and Park Kampa. Nonetheless, visitors will be able to choose from a rich program, which consists of six separate exhibitions, several film screenings, concerts, lectures and talks, which will take place in various locations in Prague 1.

The project - a part of the celebrations of 100 years of the founding of Czech Republic and 100 Years of U.S.-Czech Relations – is organized by the **Czech National Trust**, a non-profit organization focused on preserving Czech cultural heritage. Participating institutions in the project are: Werich Villa, Czech Museum of Music – National Museum, American Center, Municipal Library of Prague, Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, galleries Millennium and Art in Box, and National Film Archive – Ponrepo Cinema. Generous support has been provided by the U.S. Embassy in Czech Republic and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. The project is being implemented under the auspices of the Prague 1 municipality.

„No one should ever consider anything final as no one ever knows what can happen...“, wrote Voskovec and Werich to their friends on a New Year's greetings card before leaving. The card made by Adolf Hoffmeister portrayed them with suitcases in their hands, even Jaroslav Ježek's piano is changed into a large suitcase. What were their lives like once the Aquitania ship brought them to New York? A series of talks, theater sketches and a screening of a forgotten documentary in which Voskovec and Werich comment the war events will remind us of the stories of this famous duo and their inseparable partner Jaroslav Ježek.

An exceptionally adventurous route through a French prison and a Moroccan internment camp to safe havens on the other side of the Atlantic was that of Adolf Hoffmeister. His fiery and funny caricatures aimed at Hitler and Nazism eventually made it into *The New York Times* and were also presented in the first ever Czechoslovak exhibition in the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). Some of these caricatures, together with works by Antonín Pelc and other friends from the group of Czech artists living in New York at the time, will be presented at the Millenium Gallery.

Ladislav Sutnar designed the Czechoslovak exposition in the Hall of Nations at the New York World's Fair in Flushing Meadows. He was also responsible for the Czechoslovak Pavilion's exposition. The political situation in spring 1939, however, had changed the original plans. The fate of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the World's Fair, showcasing the miracles of the future in America while tanks and bombs were made in Europe in the meantime, will be the subject of an evening program and screening in the American Center. Exhibition *Ways of Visual Flow* will also provide an explanation of why Sutnar is considered the father of American information graphics.

The war period also saw the birth of two significant Czech music sonatas – two that have probably never been played together in one concert. Bohuslav Martinů's *Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano*

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and Ježek's *Piano Sonata*, the latter considered a very demanding piece as far as performance is concerned. The planned concert - featuring Ivan Štraus on violin and Martin Sekera and Daniel Wiesner – will thus be a premiere.

Stories of sixteen individuals and one group of writers will be presented in photographs and texts printed on external panels located in Park Kampa. Visitors will also be able to visit the Werich Villa attic and at the *Adventurers Against Their Will* exhibition, immerse themselves in letters exchanged across continents among Jewish friends seeking safety and new ways of their existence.

**Ticket to the New World** will turn into a traveling exhibition next year and move to the United States, where it will premiere in The President Woodrow Wilson House in Washington D.C. in autumn 2019.

*Detailed program of the project attached.*

***The press conference preceding the official opening of the project will take place at the Werich Villa, U Sovových mlýnů 7, Prague 1 on September 13th at 11 am. The publication Ticket to the New World, which is a part of the project, will be introduced at the press conference.***

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***Czech National Trust (CNT) is an independent, not-for-profit charitable organization that was established in the Czech Republic in October 2013 with the support of eminent heritage experts and the backing of the International National Trusts Organization (INTO). Its overall aim is to breathe new life into the heritage sector in the Czech Republic. Inspired by the British National Trust model, the founders envisioned a national movement for the preservation of the historic environment, gardens and cultural landscapes that would raise awareness, grow resources, and build engagement, with the long-term aim of developing a membership base and the voluntary involvement of citizens caring for and supporting their local heritage.***

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