

David Černý

Biography

David Černý was born in 1967 in Prague, Czech Republic

Černý burst into the public eye in 1991 when he painted a Soviet tank, that served as a war memorial in central Prague, the color pink. Creating extreme controversy with his work, this international sculptor has been described as “witty, exciting, kinetic, crass and provocative”. Černý is the son of a graphic designer father and a mother who was a restorer of art in the National Gallery of Prague. He learned his trade at the Academy of Applied Art in the country’s capital, studied in Boswil on a grant from the Swiss government, and also in New York City at P.S.I Artists Residence New York before taking part in the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program.

His works are characteristically bold, courageous and reach into sensitive political, historical and social themes, all sprinkled with the unconventional artist’s sarcastic humor. In his hometown of Prague alone, Černý has 14 installations in public spaces that have become major public attractions. In 2001 he created a non-profit cultural art and event center in a former 1920’s glass warehouse in Prague, which he named the “Meet Factory”. Černý calls his factory a “multicultural supermarket”, as it houses a theater, music stage and 16 studios occupied by a total of 30 international artists.

Education

- 1995-1996 Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, New York, USA
- 1994-1995 P.S.I. artists residence, New York, USA
- 1991 Sculptor’s residency grant Swiss government in Boswil, Switzerland
- 1988-1994 Academy of Applied Arts, Prof. Kurt Gebauer, Prague

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 "legs" rio de janeiro, Olympic house Czech republic
Black Hole DSC gallery prague
- 2014 DSC gallery, Prague
- 2013 Mucsarnok, Budapest
DSC gallery, Prague

- Kuchling Gallery, Berlin
- "Fuck You Mr President" Prague, Vltava river
- 2012 "London Booster", London Olympic games
- 2010 Mona Lisa gallery Olomouc
- Gallery Arsenal, Poznan
- 2009 DSC gallery prague
- "Entropa", European commity, Bruxels
- 2007 "Man hanging out" Chicago, USA
- 2002 "Cirkus Cerny", MAMA gallery / Netherlands Architecture Institute / TENT / Politiegalerie /
- "Political Pop", chromosome Berlin, Germany
- Galerie V kapli, Bruntal, Czech Republic
- 2000 NYU, Prague
- 1999 Czech Embassy London, Great Britain
- 1993 "Artificial", Spalova Gallery, Prague
- 1992 "Fertility", Rubin Club, Center of Performing Arts, with Marketa Bankova, Prague
- 1993 "Draft", Andy Warhol Museum of Modern Art, Medzilaborce, Slovakia
- "Smallness" State Gallery, Znojmo, Czech Republic
- 1990 "Exhibition for The Meanest Instincts", Club Delta, with Tomas Pospiszyl, Prague

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 "Art in Oisterwik", Holland
- 2019 "Sculpture by the sea" Sydney, Australia
- 2018 "Shenzen biennale", China
- 2016 "NordArt" Regensburg, Germany
- "Observations: A Digital Life" New York, USA
- 2015 "Open Air" Orebro, Sweden
- 2014 "Sculpture by the sea" Sydney, Australia
- "Signal festival" Prague

- 2013 “Light festival” Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 “Twente Biennale”, Hengelo, The Netherlands
 “Art Masters”, San Moritz, Swiss
- 2012 “Biele Noci” Kosice, Slovakia
- 2011 “Twente Biennale”, Hengelo, The Netherlands
 “Inspiracje”, Szczecin, Poland
 “ArtBoom”, Krakow, Poland
 “Cenzurovano” Zlin, CR
 “Mapy” GMB, Bratislava,
 “Groteska”, NOD, Praha
 MojA, Praha
 “Nord Art”, Rensbourg, Germany
- 2010 “Twente Biennale” Amsterdam
 “AntiBeeld” , Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam
 “Homo Erotica” National Museum Warsaw
 “Colours” Dresden motorhalle
 “Art Pricze” DOX Prague
 “Dekadence now” Umprum, Prague
 Danubiana, Bratislava
- 2009 Chalupecky Prize, Seoul, Korea
 Monument ghmp, Pragu
 “Po Sametu” U zlateho Prstenu , Prague
 Center for Contemporary Art - Plovdiv
 Pecsgallery, Hungary
 Irokez Gallery, Budapest
 “Katowice biennial” Poland
- 2008 Interferencia Barcelona Madrid
- 2006 “Project 2006 Beaufort”, Oostende,Belgium
 “Shadows of Humor”, Wroclaw BWA Gallery,Poland

- “Waste of Humor” Cieszyn, Poland
- 2005 “Prague Biennale” Prague
- “Pink”, Tokyo nat. univ. of art , Tokyo
- “Living Together”, Odapark Venray, Holland
- “happy materials” NTM, Prague
- “Beautyfreeshop” , Prague
- 2003 “SURVEY ’03“, Futura Gallery, Prague
- “Aus Liebe“, Galerie der Stadt Remscheid, Remscheid, Germany
- 2002 “Politikum”, Prague Castle, Pragu
- “Between Dresden and Prague”, Italian Embassy, Prague
- 2001 “to flow to”, chromosome Berlin, Germany
- “A Sense of Wellbeing”, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic
- 2000 “Czech History”, SKODA Pavillion, Autostadt
- Volkswagen, Wolfsburg, Germany
- “Maso / Meet“, Chalupeckého Prize, National Gallery, Prague
- “Bohemian Birds”, Kunsthalle Dresden, Germany
- “The End of the World”, National Gallery, Prague
- 1999-2000 “After the Wall. Art and Culture in post-Communist Europe”
- Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden;
- Ludwig Museum Budapest – Museum of
- Contemporary Art, Hungary
- Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, Germany
- 1999 99 CZ, Prague
- 1998 Atelier of all Sculpturing, Prague
- “Nad Možnosti” City Gallery, Brno, Czech Republic
- 1997 Jiri Svestka Gallery, Prague
- SCCA Kyjev, Ukraine
- Joslyn Memorial Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
- Veletržní palác, Art in public space, Prague

- Czech Cultural Center, Berlin, Germany
- 1996 Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, New York, USA
 Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, USA
 Technische Sammlung Dresden, Dresden, Germany
 "Object: Video", Landesgalerie Linz, Austria
 "Beyond Belief" Allen Memorial Arts Museum, Oberlin, USA
 Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, USA
- 1995 "Orbis Fictus", New Media in Contemporary Arts,
 National Gallery, Prague
 "Artcircolo 95", Castle Melnik by Prague
 P.S.1 94-95 Studio artists, The clocktower, New York, USA
 "Beyond Belief", Museum of Contemporary Arts, Chicago, USA
- 1994 600 SIAF, Seoul International Art Festival, Seoul, Korea
 The 22nd Sao Paulo International Biennial Sao Paulo, Brasil
 "Impermanent Places, Seven Installations from Prague"
 The World Financial Center, New York, USA
 "You Must Remember This", Ronald Feldman
 Fine Arts, New York, USA
 "Young Artist from Prague", Duesseldorf -
 Kunstmuseum, Germany
- 1993 "Europe without Walls", City Galleries
 Manchester, Great Britain
- 1992 "Edge 92", Madrid - London, International
 Biennial of Visual and Performance Art, Spain
- 1991 Light Festival of avant-garde Art under the former
 Stalin monument, Prague
 Sargfabrik, International Exhibition of Young
 Artists, Vienna, Austria
- 1990 "Czech Alternative", Galerie ULUV, Prague

Old Town Yards, open-air exhibition of
Contemporary Art, Prague

- 1989 "Smile, Joke and Grim", Palace of Culture,
State Gallery, Prague
"November 89", Manes, State Gallery, Prague
The Neostunners, Prague - underground exhibition of Art group

TV and Movies

- 1987 "Bridge", Prague "Vychovatel ke strachu", Dir P. Marek - Animation
1986 "Sounds", Ostrava, Czech Republic"
1997 "Buttoners (Knoflíkáji)", dir. Petr Zelenka - actor and stage designer
1998 "Prague stories", dir A.Benki - actor and stage designer
"Touch of picture", FAMU, architect
2002-2004 ARTOZA, Czech TV , monthly magazine about contemporary art, screenplay
and theme
2004 Zkamenělý dítě, Music video LUCIE band
2012 Karel Vas, dokument, narrator

Theater - Stage Design

- 1987-1990 Stage design for Theatre Rubin Praha, Prague
1999 Dir. David Czesaný, Drama Studio Ústí n.
Labem, Czech Republic
2001 George Tabori - Vídenský řízek, Dir.Jirí
Pokorný, Theatre On the Balustrade
2014 Vaclav Havel, Theatre Na zbradli, Prague

Selected Collections

SKODA Pavillion, Autostadt Volkswagen, Wolfsburg, Germany

Museum of Modern Art, San Diego, USA
German Embassy, Prague, Czech Republic
Gallery of Modern Art Olomouc
Museum Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin, Germany
Military museum, Lesany, Czech Republic
Private collections in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, USA, Greece,
GB, France etc..

Grants and Awards

2000 Chalupecky Prize, National prize for young artist, Czech Republic
1996 Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, USA
1990 Special Prize in the Biennale of Kortrijk, Belgium

Permanent Installations

Since 2020 "Lynch" Los Angeles, USA
"Falcons", Doha, Qatar
"Beetle", Prague, Czech Rep
"Quo Vadis" Berlin, Germany
Since 2018 "Horspowers", Prague, Czech Rep
Since 2017 "Thief" Museum of modern art Olomouc
Since 2016 "Head", Royal Caribbean
"Trifoot", Prague
Since 2015 "Thinker", San Moritz, Switzerland
Since 2014 "Three Babies", Private Collection, Australia
"K", Prague Czech republic
Since 2011 "Crychloids", Miura design hotel, Celadna, Czech Republic
Since 2010 "Golem", Poznan, Poland
Since 2008 "Embryo" theatre Na zbradli, Prague

- Since 2006 "Metalmorphosis" fountain, Charlotte, USA,
- Since 2005 "Bus Stop-Still-Life" Liberec, Czech Republic
- Since 2004 "Three Babies" Middelkerke, Belgium "Streams" Hergetova Cihelna, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2004 Winner of II WW memorial for Prague, not realized because of political statement of author
- Since 2003 "Sochy / Brownnosers" Futura Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic
- Since 2001 "10 Dkg Tanku / A Hundred Grams of Tank", Lázně Bohdaneč, Czech Republic
"Mimina / Babies", TV tower, Prague, Czech Republic
- Since 2000 "Czech native scene", autostadt Wolfsburg, Germany
- Since 1999 "Saint Wenceslav", Lucerna Passage, Prague, Czech Republic
- Since 1994 "Pink Tank", Vojenske Museum (Military Technical Museum), Lesany, Czech Republic
- Since 1990 "Quo Vadis", German embassy Prague, Czech Republic