



PRESS RELEASE

FRIEND OF A FRIEND PRAGUE 2019

Berlinskej model, Pplk. Sochora 1387/9, Holešovice, 170 00, Prague
CCA Prague, Dukelských hrdinů 500/25a, Holešovice, 170 00, Prague
hunt kastner, Bořivojova 745/85, Žižkov, 130 00, Prague
lítost, Vlkova 821/23, 130 00, Žižkov, 130 00, Prague
Lucie Drdova Gallery, Křížkovského 1288/10, Žižkov, 130 00, Prague
Polansky, Veletržní 841/45, Holešovice, 170 00, Prague
stone projects, Šimáčkova 911/24, Holešovice, 170 00, Prague
SVIT, Blanická 845/9, Vinohrady, 120 00, Prague
ZAHORIAN & VAN ESPEN, Šmeralova 137/3, Holešovice, 170 00, Prague
Preview: 30 August 2019, 4 pm - 9pm (n/a to CCA Prague)
Performance: 30 August 2019, 9 pm - Polansky, Veletržní 45, 170 00, Praha 7
Open: 31 August - 1 September 2019, 12:00 - 18:00. Free admission
Guided tours: 31 August 2019, 12:00 - 17:00 (n/a to CCA Prague and SVIT)
Web: <http://www.foaf.cz>
Facebook: [@foafprague](https://www.facebook.com/foafprague)
Instagram: [@foafprague](https://www.instagram.com/foafprague)

Hynek Alt, Athanasios Argianas, Zbyněk Baladrán, John Baldessari, Ondřej Basjuk, Karolina Bielawska, Nigin Beck, Julie Béna, Kévin Bray, Jakub Choma, Mark Dion, Filip Dvořák, Michaele Gabriele, Julius Heinemann, Klara Hobza, Nanami Hori, Nadira Husain, Botond Keresztesi, Zhanna Kadyrova, Martin Kohout, John Latham, Margarita Maximova, Gizela Mickiewicz, Mikołaj Moskal, Wolfgang Matuschek, Alice Nikitinová, Sharon Van Overmeiren, Jaroslav Panuška, Katarzina Przewanska, Rachel Reupke, Timo Seber, Jaro Varga, George Vasey, Julius Werner and Dardan Zhegrova

Friend of a Friend (FOAF), launched in Warsaw in 2018 as an international gallery sharing initiative. From the beginning, **FOAF** aims to establish new networks, to exchange ideas with guests - gallery colleagues, artists, curators, art critics and collectors from abroad. And to enable local audiences to interact with the works of international artists whose practices have not yet been extensively, if at all, exhibited at the city where the event takes place. **FOAF Prague 2019** organized by the **Alliance of Czech Contemporary Art Galleries (ACCAG)** emphasizes cooperation between galleries, the interconnection between local and international art scenes and the importance of a dialogue with the general public.

FOAF Prague 2019

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Earlier this year, **FOAF** successfully expanded to Berlin, bringing a diverse group of spaces, artists and audiences together. So, it's only natural that the next location will be in Prague. **FOAF Prague 2019**, initiated in dialogue with **FOAF's** founding galleries - **Stereo** and **Wschód** - will be staged in nine local contemporary art galleries and institutions that will open up their venues to international gallery guests, to friends and friends of friends.

Lucie Drdová – chair ACCAG, notes that *'Through a cross-pollination between local and international art scenes, Friend of a Friend Prague 2019's aim is to highlight the strength of Prague's contemporary art scene within its European context.'*

FOAF Prague 2019 brings together artists from all walks of life and artworks from diverse cultural backgrounds presenting a wide range of practices at several exhibitions and public programme events. The event will take place between 30 August and 1 September 2019.

Drdová further states that *'The outcome of our collaboration is a programme that aims to highlight the support that local galleries provide to foster artistic endeavours. The scale of this showcase is not only ambitious but also one that brings forth the ability, agility and connections that have been built by our membership over many years.'*

FOAF Prague 2019 will take place at **Berlinskej model, Center for Contemporary Arts Prague, Lucie Drdova Gallery, hunt kastner, lítost, Polansky, stone projects, SVIT** and at **ZAHORIAN & VAN ESPEN**. The list of hosting galleries and institutions include, **Damien and The Love Guru** (BE), **FUTURE GALLERY** (DE/MX), **Flat Time House** (UK), **Galeria Stereo** (PL), **Galerie Tobias Naehring** (DE), **Galleria Continua** (I/PRC/F/CU), **Ivan Gallery** (RO), **LambdaLambdaLambda** (KO), **VOLOSHYN GALLERY** (UA), **Waldburger Wouters** (BE/CH), **Wellcome Collection** (UK), **Wschód** (PL) and **XYZ collective** (JP).

Drdová concludes that *'Concurrently, our goal is also to enable our international colleagues to come in close dialogue with Prague's contemporary art gallery scene and to exchange experiences and share knowledge. We believe that the developments that have been happening locally over that past two decades put us in a strong position to hold such an ambitious event within our premises.'*

FOAF Prague 2019 includes a performance by a French artist **Julie Béna** at **Polansky** on Friday 30 August 2019 from 9 pm and a lecture by British curator **George Vasey** at the **Center for Contemporary Arts Prague** on Saturday 31 August 2019 from 6 pm. Additionally, there will be many guided tours that will take place across a majority of venues over Saturday, 31 August 2019.



Friend of a Friend Prague 2019 has been kindly supported by **J&T BANKA**, **Mama Shelter Prague** and **Prague City Hall's Cultural and Arts Grant**.

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For further information, participant's interviews and images, please contact: Nela Klajbanová, Production and PR manager, on +420 724 349 167 or info@foaf.cz

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. About the organizer:

Alliance of Czech Contemporary Art Galleries (ACCAG) is a non-profit organization that brings together galleries across the Czech Republic. ACCAG defends and promotes the interests of its membership. ACCAG aims to foster the cultivation of local gallery environment, to create a platform that will support opportunities for the artistic endeavour and to represent the interests of its membership in a dialogue with local authorities.

2. About the venues:

Berlinskej model is a non-profit contemporary art gallery established in 2011. The gallery presents several one-day exhibitions and programmes each month. Further to that Berlinskej Model publishes 'Rajon' magazine and is an active member of many initiatives, including 'Máme otevřeno', 'Zažit město jinak' and 'Malostranské dvorky'. Berlinskej Model regularly represents Czech contemporary art scene at the Supermarket art fair, Stockholm. (web: <https://berlinskejmodel.cz/>)

Center for Contemporary Arts Prague is a non-profit institution founded as the Soros Center for Contemporary Arts Prague in 1992. It was created to support the development of contemporary fine art in the belief that art is an irreplaceable element of harmoniously operating democratic society. The founder and employees of CCA are firmly of the opinion that through their activities, the artist symbolizes and each in their way realizes the process of free and creative human decision-making. The institution aims to support outstanding artistic projects and to present them to the general public. (web: <https://cca.fcca.cz/en>)

hunt kastner is a contemporary art gallery founded by Camille Hunt and Kacha Kastner in 2006. hunt kastner represents seventeen artists. The gallery produces 6-8 exhibitions a year, including solo exhibitions of gallery and invited artists, as well as curated group exhibitions. In 2017, we also opened a project space on site which hosts an additional three shows per year. (web: <http://huntkastner.com/>)



litost is a contemporary art and design gallery situated on Vlkova street in Prague's Žižkov district. The gallery presents up to four exhibitions per year alongside a parallel public programme. With a focus on speculative design and durational art, litost's objective is to present collaborations between artists, designers, cultural practitioners and specialists from other disciplines.

(web: <https://litost.gallery>)

Lucie Drdova Gallery ranks among the most prestigious contemporary art galleries in the Czech Republic with regular activities in Europe. Its long-term goals include the support of art, production of new artworks, mediation of contemporary art, education in the field of artistic practice, and navigation on the art market and in the area of investments. For several years, LDG has developed its activities in the art metropolis of Brussels; in September 2018, the gallery presented its own exhibition space there.

(web: <https://drdovagallery.com/>)

Polansky is a contemporary art gallery founded by Filip Polanský in 2012. It focuses on local and international contemporary artists. Polansky is situated in two locations in Prague and Brno. The gallery produces around ten exhibitions each year. (web: <http://polanskygallery.com/>)

stone projects is a contemporary art gallery founded by Monika Stonová in 2018. The gallery aims to create a platform for a dialogue between local and international art scenes. stone projects represents five artists.

(web: <http://stoneprojects.cz/>)

SVIT is a contemporary art gallery established in 2010. The gallery aims to present exhibitions, presentations, lectures and debates that focus on current issues and developments within the art world and beyond. SVIT seeks to strengthen the connections between local and global art scenes, to highlight and position contemporary Czech art within the relevant transnational context and to enable a dialogue between local audiences and international artworks.

(web: <http://www.svitpraha.org/>)

ZAHORIAN & VAN ESPEN is a contemporary art gallery founded in 2011 with branches in Prague and Bratislava. Gallery aims to present Czech and Slovak contemporary artists to transnational audiences. ZAHORIAN & VAN ESPEN regularly publishes artist books and exhibition catalogues and consistently participates at various international art fairs.

(web: <http://www.zahoriangallery.com/>)



3. About the host galleries:

Damien and The Love Guru is Brussels-based curatorial field of experimentation in contemporary art with an anthropological twist. It is currently functioning as an art gallery staging compelling and non-conventional exhibitions by emerging cross-disciplinary areas of visual art, performance and sound via independent projects and collaborations. At Damien & The Love Guru, we channel the emphasis of an art project as a way to create an inclusive and tangible environment.

(web: <https://www.damienandtheloveguru.com/>)

FUTURE GALLERY is an art space located in Berlin and Mexico City and a platform for showcasing future-oriented work. Since its inception, the gallery aims to promote and foster artistic positions that express contemporary moments. This juncture is up to date with emerging technologies, the internet, and social network culture. (web: <https://futuregallery.org/>)

Flat Time House (FTHo) was the studio home of John Latham (1921-2006). In 2003, Latham declared the house a living sculpture, naming it FTHo after his theory of time, 'Flat Time'. Until his death, Latham opened his door to anyone interested in thinking about art. It is in this spirit that Flat Time House opened in 2008 as a gallery with a programme of exhibitions and events exploring the artist's practice, his theoretical ideas and their continued relevance. It also provides a centre for alternative learning, which includes the John Latham Archive, an artist's residency space, and the academic journal NOIT.

(web: <http://flattimeho.org.uk/>)

Galeria Stereo is a contemporary art gallery founded by Zuzanna Hadryś and Michał Lasota located in 2009. Initially, the gallery was located in Poznań, before it moved to Warsaw in 2013. (web: <http://galeriastereo.pl/>)

Galerie Tobias Naehring is a contemporary art gallery based in Leipzig, Germany. (web: <https://tobiasnaehring.de/>)

Galleria Continua was founded in 1990 by Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo, with the intention, evident in the name, to give continuity to contemporary art in a landscape rich with the signs of ancient art. The gallery opened in a quite unexpected location, far from the big cities and the well-established art circuits – in San Gimignano, a town steeped in history and somehow out of time, in the heart of Tuscany. Over the years, generosity and altruism have formed the basis for numerous and multifaceted artistic collaborations. Currently the gallery has spaces in Italy, China, France and Cuba. (web: <https://www.galleriacontinua.com/>)



Ivan Gallery opened in 2007 as a private initiative of owner and director Marian Ivan, in the still-young Romanian commercial gallery scene. The gallery's programme started with local, Eastern European artists aiming at showing and making available their works and projects to a broader, international audience. Ivan Gallery has also worked with Romanian artists living and working abroad alongside foreign artists.

(web: <http://ivangallery.com/>)

LambdaLambdaLambda is an international art gallery for contemporary art located in Pristina. It aims to provide artists, professionals and audiences with an intimate and informal environment conducive to experimentation, discussion and learning. LambdaLambdaLambda was founded by Isabella Ritter and Katharina Schendl in October 2014.

(web: <http://www.lambdalambdalambda.org/>)

Voloshyn Gallery is a contemporary art gallery founded by Maksym and Julia Voloshyn in Kyiv. The gallery fosters the integration of Ukrainian art into global cultural processes, representing its artists at international art fairs and shows in Europe and the US. Its cutting-edge exhibition space is located in Kyiv's cultural and historical Center on Tereshchenkivska Street. Voloshyn's first gallery, Mystetska Zbirka Art Gallery, specialized in classical and post-war 20th-century Ukrainian art. In 2015, the Voloshyns made it to the Forbes' 30 Under 30 list. (web: <http://voloshyngallery.art/>)

Waldburger Wouters is a Brussels-based gallery for young and international art. Waldburger Wouters started its activities in November 2009 as Galerie Waldburger. In September 2014, Tim Wouters became a partner and the name consequently changed to Waldburger Wouters. The origins of the gallery go back a few years when first exhibitions with young artists organized in temporary spaces in Switzerland and Berlin. In spring 2018, Walburger Wouters opened an office and project space in Basel, in cooperation with ShanghART Gallery. (web: <https://www.waldburgerwouters.com/>)

Wellcome Collection is a London-based free museum and library that aims to challenge how we all think and feel about health. Through exhibitions, collections, live programming, digital, broadcast and publishing, we create opportunities for people to think deeply about the connections between science, medicine, life and art. Wellcome Collection is part of the Wellcome Trust, established under Sir Henry Wellcome's will in 1936.

(web: <https://wellcomecollection.org/>)



Wschód together with Wschód Gallery Foundation is an initiative established in autumn 2015, which cooperates with Polish and international artists. The main aim of Wschód is to promote artists by organizing continuous exhibitions, residencies, research projects and publications.

(web: <http://www.galeriawschod.com/>)

XYZ collective is Tokyo-based artist-run space founded by COBRA, Soshiro Matsubara and Futoshi Miyagi. XYZ consists of studio space for young artists in 20s and 30s and alternative area. XYZ is open to exhibitions with artists both in and out of XYZ, other events such as music and fashion shows. We aim the place to dispatch culture in formations deriving from art in Tokyo.
(web: <http://xyzcollective.org/>)

