

## King is Dead / Král je mrtev

### **Exhibition of works by Kirstine Roepstorff & Matyáš Chochola**

**Organizer:** Cermak Eisenkraft Gallery, [cermakeisenkraft.com](http://cermakeisenkraft.com)

**Project authors:** Kirstine Roepstorff, Matyáš Chochola and Tomáš Zapletal

**Location:** Cermak\_Eisenkraft Pop Up Gallery, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the SmetanaQ house  
Smetanovo nábřeží 4, 110 00 Praha 1

**Duration:** 7. 6. – 25. 9. 2019

**The patronage of the exhibition was taken over by J. E. Ole Frijs-Madsen, the Ambassador of Denmark in the Czech Republic.**

**The exhibition is held with the financial support of the Danish Arts Foundation.**

The gallery Cermak-Eisenkraft presents its already tenth original exposition named King is Dead / Král je mrtev, introducing the creations of Danish visual artist Kirstine Roepstorff and Czech visual artist Matyáš Chochola. The event takes place in the premises of Cermak Eisenkraft POP-UP Gallery in the SmetanaQ house.

The Danish representative in the Venice Biennale and the laureate of the Jindřich Chalupecký Award meet to present both their recent and older works, paintings, collages, statues and installations that create a symbolical, in shades of darkness rendered landscape that is allegorically produced to narrate mythical stories and to evoke a contemplative, at the same time magnificently spiritual and powerful mood.

The works of both authors are connected by their experimental philosophical interpretations of human existence. They represent the basic pillars of cultural and spiritual essence of the mind that are stored in our subconscious, defining and predetermining our ability to grasp the situation and orientate ourselves in the environment. The works on display evoke their own archetypes that should be comprehensible to the viewer even in the absence of a particular cultural association.

The name of the exhibition itself is, exactly as in Shakespeare plays, a reference to the concept of historical truth that is subject to interpretation and changes with time.

The basis of Kirstine Roepstorff's art is the awareness of balance in all of its diversity of meanings – from the failures of power structures (both today's and historical) up to the human condition and its principles of balance in both body and mind. Her works are often a composition of horizontal lines whose distribution reflects various layers of consciousness. The artist uses aesthetics with an omnipresent feeling and corporeal determination as a doorway to more delicate and immaterial aspects of everything that physically and spiritually affects us. Kirstine Roepstorff is acclaimed for her collages with juxtapositions of fragments and materials such as cloth, brass, wood and paper, focusing on the gaps between them and on the proposition of prospective possibilities. Her artistic style generally pursues the exploration of gaps and mutual relations and is determined by darkness that is a temporary and regenerative power and the genesis of art, lives and visions. In recent years, the work of Kirstine Roepstorff incorporates even objects and sculptural elements made mostly of concrete and brass.

The typical statues and installations of Matyáš Chochola are abstract, mostly three-dimensional objects that combine a range of unusual materials with everyday items. Together they create a harmonious chaos. Trash aesthetics is combined with precise glassmaker techniques, uniting the present day symbolic poetry with its ancient roots. Chochola experiments with the postinternet

art, the nontraditional yet elaborate combination of shamanism and pop culture of the 1990s. His intermedia art is occasionally accompanied by additional elements – video or performance.

Chochola repeatedly evaluates postmodern experience, confronts archaic and pop-cultural content and refers us to both totemism and corporate culture. His works are focused on observation of outlines of collective memory that never fully identified with the ideals of the enlightened absolutism, sustaining itself using older cultural layers. What Matyáš Chochola finds important is freedom, energy and overstepping the usual limits.

Entry to SmetanaQ is free throughout the duration of the exhibition.

**High resolution photographs on demand.**



Kirstine Roepstorff, *Rock In Rocks, Version 2*, 2008, mixed media, collage: photocopies on wood panel, 261 x 181 cm, © Hans Georg Gaul

**Kirstine Roepstorff** (\* 1972 in Denmark) lives and works in Berlin.

She studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen from 1994-2001 and Rutgers University, Mason School of Fine Art (MFA), USA (2000). She represents Denmark at the 57th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, 2017 with the exhibition *influenza. theatre of glowing darkness*. She has held numerous group and solo exhibitions among others at the Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2018); Trapholt Mueum For Moderne Kunst, Kolding

(2018); Andersens's Contemporary, Copenhagen (2016); Kunstverein Göttingen (2014); Kunstpalais Erlangen (2013); Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel (2010); National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo (2010); Galerie im Taxispalais, Innsbruck and Stadtgalerie Schwarz (2010). At present, its exhibition EX CAVE in Museum Haus Konstruktiv in Zurich is being held until September 8th. In recent years, she has created several large scale public art projects including an upcoming installation at Middelfart Townhall (2017), a major mural decoration at Lillebælt Hospital in Kolding (2016), "The Gong" for Dokk1, the Urban Media Space Aarhus (2015), and "Klangfrø" for the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at the University of Copenhagen (2014).

Her work is included in the permanent collection of Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; The Saatchi Gallery, London; National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo; The Royal Museum of Fine Art, Copenhagen, among others.



Matyáš Chochola, *Attavistic Cookbook of the Infinity (vol. 2)*, 2015, black molten glass and golden plated gyphs, plinth: venetian stucco on plywood 45 x 35 x 25 cm, © Trevor Good

**Matyáš Chochola** (\* 1986 in Hradec Králové) lives and works in Prague.

From 2005 to 2007, he studied FaVU (Faculty of Fine Arts) in Brno in the Michal Gabriel's Sculpting studio 1 and later, in 2014, graduated from Academy of Fine Arts in Prague in Vladimír Skrepl and Jiří Kovanda's Painting studio II. He completed several internships with foreign (visiting) teachers during that time. A part of his studies took place in academies in Poland, Austria and Germany. He also gained experience in glassmaking thanks to his internship at Rony Plesl's studio on VŠUP (Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague). In 2012, he acquired the Václav Chad Award on the VI. Zlín Youth Salon, and became the laureate of the Jindřich

Chalupecký Award in 2016. In addition to his artistic endeavours, he pursues a career as a curator. His works have been showcased by many exhibition institutions both in Czech Republic and abroad, for example at the Brno House of Arts (2015), European biennial of contemporary art Manifesta 11 in Zurich (2016) and Kunsthal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen (2017). Let's mention at least the last author's exhibitions The Most Successful Couple Of The Epoch, Cabinet, Milan (2018); Garden of Future, PLATO, Ostrava (2018); Big Bang Style, Last Tango, Zurich (2017); Magic, Exotic, Erotic, Jindřich Chalupecký Award, The National Gallery in Prague (2016); ASTRAL DUST ASTRAL, Grimmuseum, Berlin (2015). His work is represented, for example, in the following collections: J&T Bank, FAIT Gallery in Brno, Gallery of Fine Arts in Zlín (Krajská galerie výtvarného umění ve Zlíně), Czech Republic.

## Links:

In Czech Republic, Kirstine Roepstorff and Matyáš Chochola are represented exclusively by the Cermak Eisenkraft Gallery, Prague

### **Kirstine Roepstorff is represented by the following galleries:**

Cermak Eisenkraft, Prague  
KIRK Gallery, Aalborg, Denmark  
Andersen's contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark

### **Matyáš Chochola is represented by the following galleries:**

Cermak Eisenkraft, Praha

[kirstineroepstorff.net](http://kirstineroepstorff.net)  
[matyaschochola.cz](http://matyaschochola.cz)  
[cermakeisenkraft.com](http://cermakeisenkraft.com)  
[instagram.com/cermak\\_eisenkraft/](https://www.instagram.com/cermak_eisenkraft/)  
[kunst.dk/english/danish-arts-foundation](http://kunst.dk/english/danish-arts-foundation)  
[instagram.com/explore/tags/danishartfoundation/](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/danishartfoundation/)  
[tjekkiet.um.dk](http://tjekkiet.um.dk)  
[smetanaq.cz/#gallery](http://smetanaq.cz/#gallery)  
[goout.net/cs/vystavy/king-is-dead/lwime/+dwxtm/](http://goout.net/cs/vystavy/king-is-dead/lwime/+dwxtm/)

## About the gallery

The Cermak Eisenkraft Gallery was established in 2014 with the ambition to become a major player in the field of post-war and contemporary Czech art as well as world art. Founders Tomáš Zapletal and David Železný, are independently active in the Czech art market, and have as their main goal and ambition the creation of a trustworthy, reputable and internationally important institution. An institution that engages with creatively demanding art work, and which contributes to the promotion and expansion of the art market in the Czech Republic. The CE Foundation, now in its second year supports both Czech and foreign artists in their activities and actively cooperates with the gallery. For example, the foundation has supported the following artists: Magdalena Jetelová, Milan Kunc, Jiří Černický, Šimon Brejcha, Martin Velíšek, and František Matoušek among others.

Currently, the gallery owns two exhibition venues in Prague:

- . Gallery Cermak Eisenkraft, Dlouhá 12, Praha 1
- . POP UP gallery, Smetanovo nábřeží 4, Praha 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the SmetanaQ house

Dlouhá 12 Prague 1, 110 00 Czech Republic | [www.CermakEisenkraft.com](http://www.CermakEisenkraft.com) |  
[info@cermakeisenkraft.com](mailto:info@cermakeisenkraft.com).

## About the exhibition venue

### Location History

The apartment building in a Classical style was built on the right bank of the Vltava in the years of 1846 - 47, and was developed from a project undertaken by the architect Bernhard Grueber. The ferryman's lodge No. 334 was on the site of the present house—the number being transferred to the new house and retained until today. The South side the house is bordered by a small bay of the river. It therefore slopes on this side according to its plan of design. Originally the bay was used as a river port for local masonry. After the development of the wharf, the bay eventually disappeared and Lažanský Palace is today in its place where you find the Faculty of Cinema and Television AMU. While the building was originally designed as a residential building, gradually through several renovations and transformations, it has in the twentieth century become an office building. Among the owners of the house were V.J. Rott, a Prague shipping company (Pražská paroplavební společnost), and the Czech Air Traffic Control Directorate (Řízení letového provozu ČR).

### New life in the house on Smetanovo nabrezi (Smetana quay)

In 2013, the building was damaged by a strong gas explosion in Divadelní Street nearby. The original owner secured the house with extensive repairs, and then subsequently sold it. At the moment, part of the waterfront house, Smetana Quay, has been completely rebuilt. Its opposite side, giving out into Divadelní Street is still inaccessible and, for reasons of stability, it is difficult to know at this time when it will be possible to fully use the second part of the house. The cultural vision of the current building combines galleries and conference venues, young designers and shops in the lower part, while also facilitating gourmet coffee and extended refreshments at Café & Bistro SmetanaQ.

## Contacts

Tomáš Zapletal – Čermák, 00420 608 713 536, tom@cermakeisenkraft.com  
David Železný – Eisenkraft, 00420 732 489 824, david@cermakeisenkraft.com  
Renata Leroy-Vávrová, 00420 723 740 731, office@cermakeisenkraft.com

## Project partners



EMBASSY OF DENMARK

DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION

