

Press Release

Prague, 26 May 2016

Summer exhibition at the Josef Sudek Studio to commemorate Josef Sudek's anniversary with previously non-exhibited photographs of Prague's St Vitus Cathedral

Josef Sudek | V šeru chrámu (In the Shadow of the Cathedral)

An exhibition of St Vitus Cathedral photographs from the collection of the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Josef Sudek Studio (Újezd 30, Praha 1)

29 June 2016 – 30 August 2016

Official opening | Tuesday 28 June 2016 at 6:00 pm; accompanied by examples of organ music from St Vitus Cathedral, introduced by music historian Tomáš Slavický

Exhibition curators | Vojtěch Lahoda and Katarína Mašterová

The Josef Sudek Studio is operated by PPF Art, a PPF Group company.

Organised to mark the 120th anniversary of the birth of the globally renowned Czech photographer Josef Sudek (1896) and the 40th anniversary of his death (1976), the exhibition will introduce previously non-exhibited and mostly unpublished photographs of Prague's St Vitus Cathedral, loaned for the exhibition from the collection of the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Josef Sudek took the photographs between the late 1930s and approximately the end of World War II in 1945. This is not the well-known set of images of the cathedral under construction during the 1920s; these photographs were made during the wartime Protectorate period, are less well known and have not yet been studied in depth. At the time, Sudek photographed the cathedral extensively over a prolonged period of time for the purposes of a pictorial monograph. In the end, the book was not released, but some of the images from the St Vitus Cathedral cycle were published in Sudek's pictorial books on Prague Castle and on Prague between 1945 and 1948.

The subjects of the photographs from this cycle include views of St Vitus Cathedral as a whole and in detail. The images show its interiors and exteriors, architectural details, decorations, furniture and equipment including various items of the cathedral treasure, in a multitude of alternate takes and trial prints.

For the “Josef Sudek: In the Shadow of the Cathedral” exhibition to be held at the Josef Sudek Studio, the curators chose a presentational set of approximately thirty original photographs, mostly contact prints of large format negatives sized 13 x 18 cm and enlargements in the 18 x 24 cm format. The images of the cathedral’s interiors and details perfectly capture Sudek’s precise technique, the atmosphere of the location and the author’s ability to convey an ultimately intimate message about a monument silenced by the war. Sensitive in theme choices as well as execution, the images convey emotion through the subtle play of light rays coming into the cathedral interior in cursory moments of the day.

Accompanying events:

Guided tour of the exhibition with the curators, Katarína Mašterová and Vojtěch Lahoda, with Mariana Dufková’s lecture on the history of the cathedral in the 20th century

Guided tour of the exhibition with the curators, Katarína Mašterová and Vojtěch Lahoda, with Taťána Petrasová’s lecture on the completion of St Vitus Cathedral in the 19th and 20th centuries

A musical evening with Josef Sudek’s assistant and friend Petr Helbich: recollections of the Musical Tuesdays that Josef Sudek regularly held at his studio for his friends. Pavel Vančát will be the host for the evening.

The dates of these events will be confirmed.

Collection of Josef Sudek’s photographs of the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

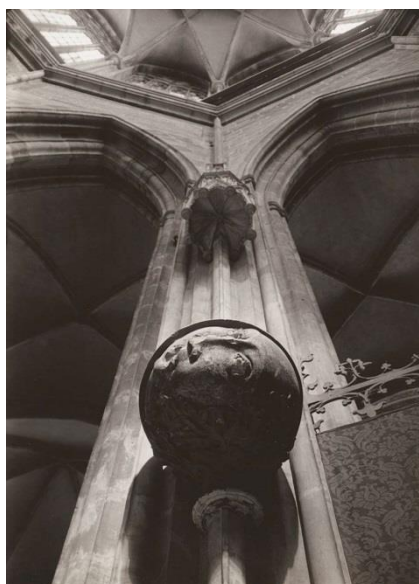
Mrs Božena Sudková donated the collection of Josef Sudek’s photographs to the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences (IAH) on the recommendation of the photography historian Anna Fárová who organised the photographer’s inheritance after his death. As a result, the IAH obtained a gift of some 13,500 negatives and 6,000 positives of Josef Sudek’s photographs. These photographs captured works of art, architecture, exhibits, and artists’ studios and portraits, as well as images of the city of Prague and St Vitus Cathedral that were taken during the second period of documenting the monument during the wartime

between the late 1930s and early 1940s. The majority of the negatives are sized 13 x 18 cm (with some sized 10 x 15 and 18 x 24 cm) while the positives are mostly contact prints sized 13 x 18 cm and enlargements sized 18 x 24 cm.

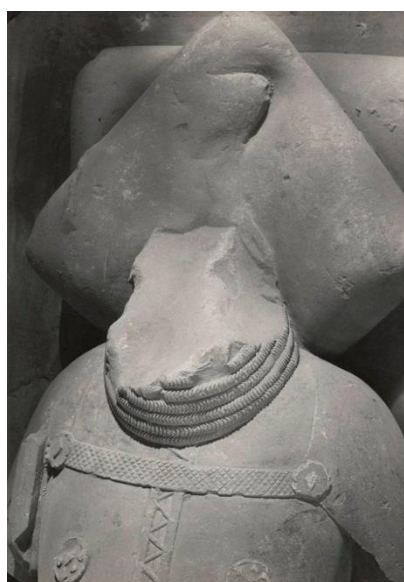
The collection is stored at the Fototéka (Photo Library), a service unit of IAH that serves researchers as a source of art work replicas for the purpose of study or as illustrations for research texts. Since 2013 the positives in the collection have been undergoing stock-taking, and the year 2016 marks the beginning of a five-year project aimed at the comprehensive preservation and restoration of the entire Sudek collection. Also being undertaken is research and theoretical evaluation and presentation as part of the NAKI II Programme organised by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

The revision of the collection, which contains a total of 689 photographs of St Vitus Cathedral (both positives and negatives), revealed a great number of original images that had not been recorded previously. Those images were not included in the latest monograph on Sudek's St Vitus Cathedral photographs (Torst, 2010) or studied by experts in any manner.

Illustrative photographs for the media:



S 14058



S 2621



S 2681



S 14065

A selected image can be obtained from the IAH Photo Library by sending an email for the attention of Markéta Janotová, at janotova@udu.cas.cz or by calling 221 183 509.

Information for editors:

PPF Art

PPF Art cultivates PPF Group's activities in art and culture. At the turn of the century, it started systematically building a collection of Czechoslovak and Czech photography, at the heart of which is an extensive collection of photographs by the world-renowned Czech photographer Josef Sudek. The collection is gradually being expanded to include works by other artists, and now boasts more than 1,800 works by 150 photographers. The springboard for further collecting activities has become 270 works of art bought by PPF Group from the Česká pojišťovna collection in 2014. The collection includes the works of Alphonse Mucha, Jakub Schikaneder and Mikuláš Medek, with contemporary artists including Petr Nikl, Jan Merta, Tomáš Císařovský and others.

PPF Art runs the exhibition programme at Prague's Václav Špála Gallery in Národní třída and at the Josef Sudek Studio in Újezd. It loans artwork to other exhibitors in the Czech Republic and abroad.

The Josef Sudek Studio exhibits photographic works by established Czech and foreign artists, as well as the work of up-and-coming photographers. Exhibitions hosted here have included the works of Josef Sudek, František Drtikol, Emilia Medková, Jan Lukas, Ivan Pinkava, Jaroslav Rössler, Gábina Fárová and others.

Quick links:

Josef Sudek Studio
Václav Špála Gallery
PPF Group Photography Collection
PPF Group Painting Collection

<http://www.atelierjosefasudka.cz/cz/>
<http://www.galerievaclavaspany.cz>
<http://www.atelierjosefasudka.cz/cz/sbirka.html>
<http://www.atelierjosefasudka.cz/cz/sbirka-obrazu.html>



For more information please contact:

Lucie Mlynářová, Josef Sudek Studio Curator | mlynarova@ppf.cz, tel. 725 723 410

Jitka Tkadlecová | tkadlecova@ppf.cz, tel. 725 461 574

Markéta Janotová, IAH Photo Library (illustration images) | janotova@udu.cas.cz or tel. 221 183 509