

Press release

# Life is Painful and Brings Disappointment

Massakr, Vol. 1: Lovecraft

24 November 2016 to 15 January 2017

Exhibiting authors: Josef Bolf, Jakub Gajdošík, Stanislav Karoli, Eva Maceková, Martin Mulač, Martin Salajka, Richard Stipl, Marek Škubal, František Štorm, Jan Vytiska

The exhibition titled **Life is Painful and Brings Disappointment: Lovecraft** deals with the influence of the celebrity of modern horror H. P. Lovecraft in contemporary graphic art, being the first attempt of mapping this topic in our country. An earnest and growing interest in his work became also evident in the recent publications focused on it as well as in the spheres of film and literature. In the years 2010 – 2013, Puls published his collected works, and great attention was paid to Lovecraft by periodicals Živel (No. 37 / 2013) and A2 (No. 6 / 2015). His name appeared for the first time as early as in the anthology Lupiči mrtvol (1970). At that time, prominent personalities such as Josef Škvorecký and František Jungwirth took interest in Lovecraft. After that, however, Lovecraft's work could not be published for a long period of time. The genre of horror was perceived by the communist ideology as bourgeois-decadent. It meant in practice that no horror books were published (save for some inconsiderable exceptions), and film horrors were rather infrequently part of film distribution. A certain change occurred as late as in the 1980s with the onset of video. Primitively dubbed (mostly by one dubber only) horrors were among the most favoured film copies shared in private throughout the country. It was just the generation that grew up in 1980s and was, in a certain sense of the word, first to have the opportunity to know not only the classic works of the genre but also the second-rate production. In this respect, therefore, the generation experience of Czech artists did not differ much from that of their contemporaries abroad. No wonder then that the 1990s brought a fierce penetration of the subject matter of horror into graphic art worldwide. The range of works is quite large both in form and content, from the atmospheric depiction of anxiety through the pop wildness up to nerve-racking cruelty. Hardly any topic resonates so strongly with our present, which is also full of fear and anxiety. No longer is H. P. Lovecraft underrated and neglected by the literary historians, his works enjoying earnest attention. The exhibition will present the works of artists who deal with the phenomenon of H. P. Lovecraft's work in different ways and various forms from paintings, drawings, sculptures, up to installations and videos. A catalogue of the same name will be issued for the exhibition, containing, in addition to the exhibited works, also four theoretical texts (Urban, Hříbek, Adamovič, Jiroušek).

Film performances, lecture cycles and commented tours are offered as side events. A wide range of side events for children will also be organized during the exhibition.

Otto M. Urban - exhibition author and curator

Petr Krejzek (ReDesign) – graphic arrangement of book and exhibition

Filip Kosek, Ondřej Císler – exhibition architecture

Blanka Čermáková – production

**24. 11. 2016 – 15:00** – Press conference

**24. 11. 2016 – 17:00** – Exhibition preview

ASSOCIATED PROGRAMME:

**1. 12. 2016 – 11:00 – Gallery of the City of Pilsen**

A lecture and a programme composed by film critic and horror expert Martin Jiroušek. Intended for schools.

**1. 12. 2016 – 17:00 – Divadlo pod Lampou (Theatre below the Lamp)**

**Silver threads from Lovecraft, or the Master's legacy in film.**

From The Dunwich Horror to 3D Psychopompos, the tradition of H. P. Lovecraft's impact on the global and Czech film industry. A lecture and a programme composed by the film critic and horror expert Martin Jiroušek. Length approximately 90 minutes.

Admission fee: CZK 40 (free for the holders of admission tickets to the exhibition in the Gallery of the City of Pilsen)

**4. 12. 2016 - 13:00-18:00 – Gallery of the City of Pilsen**

Creative workshop for children and parents within free Sunday, free admission.

**15. 12. 2016 – 17:00 – Divadlo pod Lampou (Theatre below the Lamp)**

**Where worms gnaw.**

Worms and film! The symphony of horror dedicated to one of the unjustifiably neglected phenomena.

Worms will crawl in all directions. Pod Lampou (below the Lamp). Film critic and horror expert Martin Jiroušek talks about the less known aspects of Lovecraft's world in film and about worms in cinematography, and shows extracts. Length approximately 70 minutes.

Admission fee: CZK 40 (free for the holders of admission tickets to the exhibition in the Gallery of the City of Pilsen)

**16. 12. 2016 – 11:00 – Gallery of the City of Pilsen**

A lecture and a programme composed by film critic and horror expert Martin Jiroušek.  
Intended for schools.

**27. 12. 2016 – 17:00 – Film Club Pilsen, Burghers' House**

**Greedy Tiffany / film horror**

Film horror projection. Pepa (Leoš Noha) spends most of his time sitting in pubs. To support his meagre lifestyle, he breaks into weekend cottages and sells the stolen goods in a nearby pawn shop. During one of these robberies he is nearly caught red-handed and, while running away, he stumbles upon an old video camera, which holds a record revealing the way to an unimaginable treasure. Pepa is shocked and immediately a craving for the treasure overtakes him. Soon he realizes, though, that to get the whole treasure won't involve long hours of digging only. The price will be much greater...

**27. 12. 2016 – 20:00 – Film Club Pilsen, Burghers' House**

**The Lunatics / horror / drama / comedy**

The screenplay of the film is loosely based on the theme of two Edgar Allan Poe's tales "The Premature Burial" and "The Mad Psychiatrist". One of the characters is Marquis, a figure inspired by Marquis de Sade. The scene of the film is seemingly situated in France at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century but the film is full of anachronisms and realities of today, as it is conceived as an allegory of the present world. And the lunatic asylum is its fitting scene, with absolute freedom and civilization repressions and manipulations being its topics...