

Museum of Photography and Modern Visual Media in Jindřichův Hradec (CZ) **– crossborder project STORIES**

Jindřichův Hradec

The historical city (with more than 23 thousand habitants) in South Bohemia with a big castle areal (third largest areal after Prague and Český Krumlov) and interesting museums (also museum of goblins).

About the museum – www.mfmom.cz

The activities of the Museum of Photography and Modern Visual Media in Jindřichův Hradec (The Czech Republic) are concentrated primarily on photography but it also covers other visual media. In its exhibition programme the Museum presents the works of Czech and foreign photographers – the work of acclaimed classic and important contemporary photographers, both professional and amateur. The Museum has collections of contemporary and historical photographs, photographic equipment and operates a high-tech digitization workshop.

In collaboration with the National Technical Museum in Prague, an extensive exposition called the „Power of the Media“ has been gradually installed to give an idea of the history of photography and audiovisual media in the Czech Lands since the invention of photography in 1839 to the present.

The total exhibition area of the Museum is about 1,700 sq. metres.

The Museum also presents its own exhibition projects abroad, such as the current selection from the exhibition „Closely Watched Hrabal“, „Via Lucis 1989–2009 / Czech Society in Photographs“ and „Stories“. The Museum collaborates with Czech as well as foreign institutions which have the same field of interest.

The Museum is located in the historic centre near the 15th Meridian in the completely renovated Jesuit College, built in the Renaissance style in the late 16th century. The cultural heritage building has many interesting architectural elements, including valuable ceiling and wall paintings of exceptional artistic quality.

The crossborder project Stories

Three years (2009 – 2012) did take a project from the program “Target 3 European territorial cooperation Czech Republic – Austria 2007–2013”, it was co-financed from the EU – from the ERDF. The main target was the mapping of common history of Czechs and Austrians living in selected cities and villages in South Bohemia and Waldviertel in the postwar period. The foundation of the project were the life stories of local residents, therefore the title Stories.

With historians, which were oriented for the years 1945 till 1989 with the researching, went to the terrain also 20 Czech and Austrian photographers. They did document, how the history projected into the current life of the people in the border region. They did catch them in the job, after work at home, in the time of relaxation, by the fests and by entertainment. In joyful and sad moments, in daily and festive life. From photographs you can see the differences between the two regions and personal features of border region and compliances, converging the people from both countries.

The science and art of the project helped to the cognition of historical contexts and through the meetings of people from both sides of the border also to the good neighbourhood relationships between Austria and the Czech Republic.

Official partners of the project

Waldviertel Academy in Waidhofen an der Thaya and The Museum of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

Project outputs

Traveling exhibition „Stories of the people in the border“, leaflet to the exhibition, main photographic exhibition, catalogue to the mail exhibition and publication with texts of historians “So near and so far away / People in South Bohemia and in Waldviertel 1945-1989” (Czech and German language version. New collections for the museums.

It came to a crossborder threedays public scientific conference in Groß-Siegharts, many discussions with historians for schools and other public and the final seminar about the life in the Czech-Austrian border region in the years 1945–1989.

Project and both exhibitions were presented in more than 30 places in Czech Republic and Austria, not only in the border region, but also for example in Vienna etc.