



Michal Macků

(I)LLUSIO

(I)LUSIO

11 – 28 September 2024

Michal Macků, a renowned Czech artist and photographer, is known for his unique photographic technique of “Gellage” (a combination of the terms gelatin and collage), a term he coined himself. He returns with *'(I)LUSIO'*, featuring a spectacular range of glass objects.

The title *'(I)LUSIO'* is a play on the Latin words “Illusio”, meaning “illusion”, and “lusio”, meaning “game” or “play”. This pun reflects the artist’s European roots in ancient traditional iconography and also nods to the Eastern concept of “Maya”, which views life as an illusion or game.

Since 2000, he has been expanding his scope to include historical photographic processes, gravure printing, platinography, and especially carbon printing. Since 2005, he has been stepping out of the surface of paper into the third dimension with his photographic glass objects, initially of intimate dimensions but gradually growing larger to today’s life-size abstract glass steles.

The exhibition showcases the artist’s works, ranging from expressive black-and-white pieces to the spiritually calm and colourful works of recent years with elements of sacred geometry. It is an intriguing and fascinating look at the evolution of a body of work that replicates in its expression the personal and spiritual growth of its artist.



Glass object LXXVII



Glass object LXXV

ARTWORK ON THE LEFT

Glass object LXXVII

Tona lischkeana

Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print,

stainless steel, white granite

22cm x 110cm x 15cm, 95kg

Edition 1/9

2021

ARTWORK ON THE RIGHT

Glass object LXXV

Tiarella stictica

Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print,

stainless steel, white granite

22cm x 110cm x 15cm, 95 kg

Edition 2/9

2021



Glass object XC
"Golden man figure in red"
 Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print
 30cm x 40cm x 6cm, 19 kg
 Edition 1/9
 2023



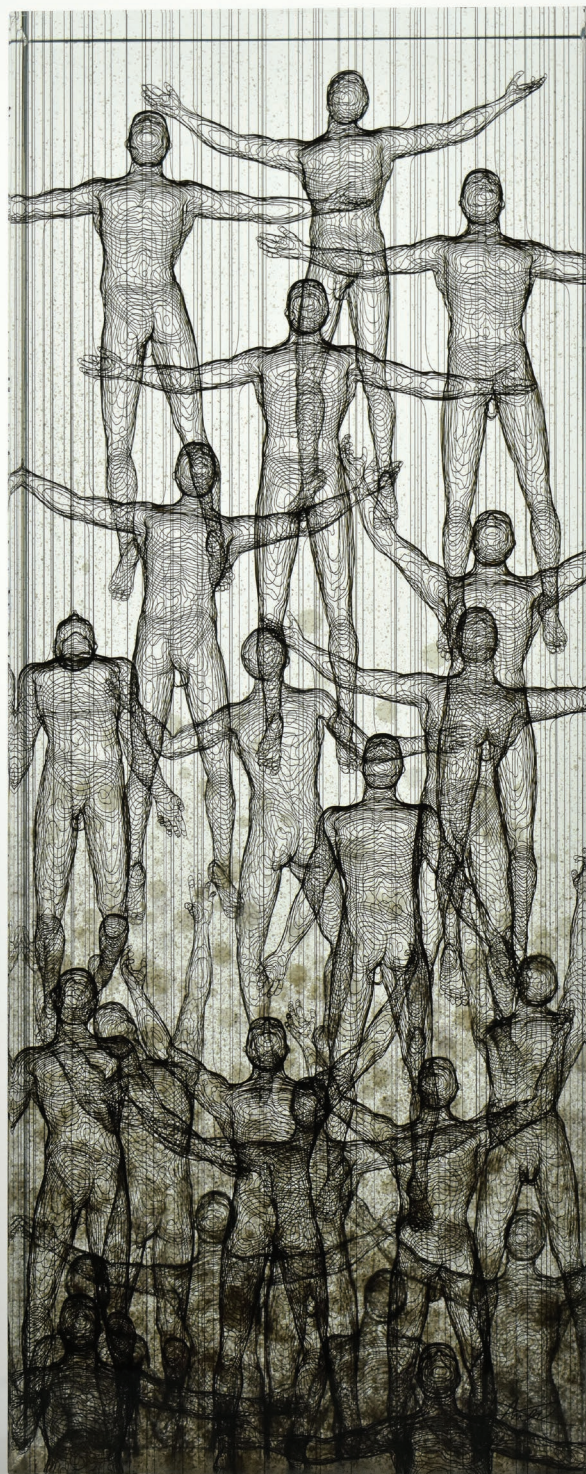
Glass object XC1
"Silver woman figure in blue"
 Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print
 30cm x 40cm x 6cm, 19 kg
 Edition 1/9
 2024



Glass object LXXXI
white and red shell "Tona lischkeanea"
 Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print
 21cm x 30cm x 15cm, 24 kg
 Edition 2/9
 2024



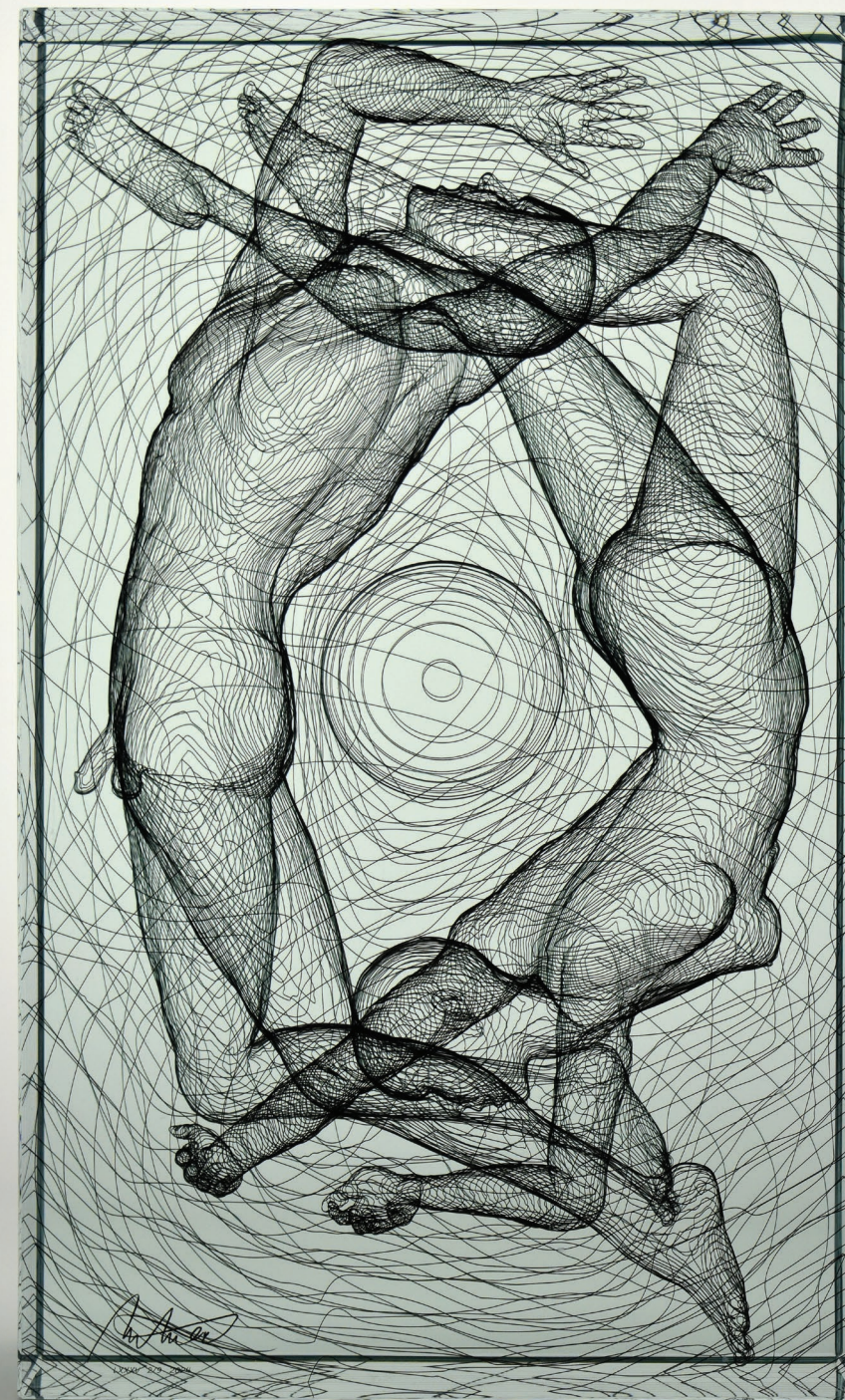
Glass object LXXXIX
shell "Blue Nautilus"
 Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print
 24cm x 34cm x 14cm, 29 kg
 Edition 2/9
 2024



Glass object LXXXVI

"Men in black lines"

Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print
 24cm x 60cm x 12cm, 42 kg
 Edition 1/9
 2023



Glass object LXXXV

"Dance of love"

Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print
 30cm x 50cm x 12cm, 45 kg
 Edition 1/9
 2023



Glass object LXXXIV

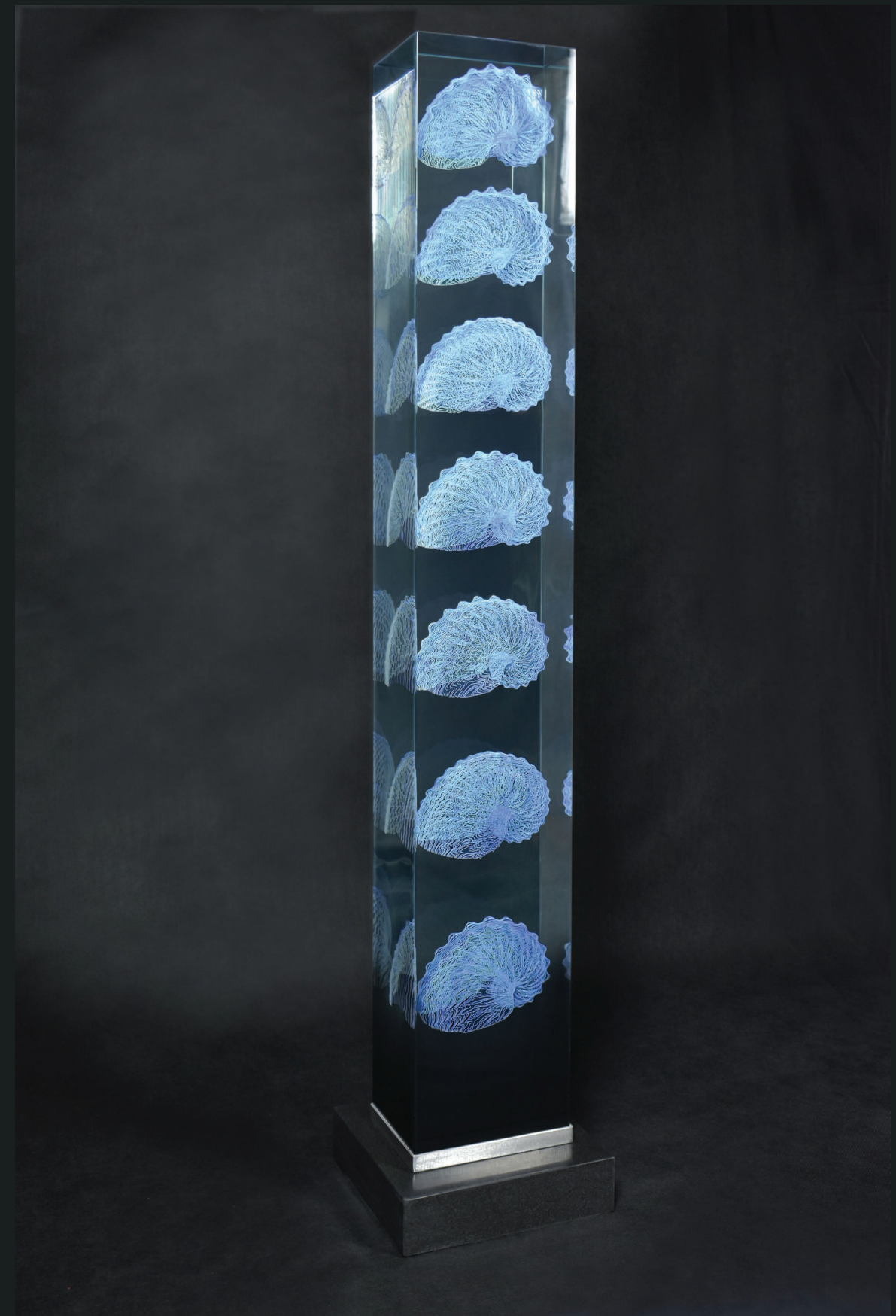
3 white shells "Tona lischkeanea"

Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print, stainless steel, black granite

20cm x 125cm x 15cm, pedestal 26cm x 7cm x 26cm, 110 kg

Edition 1/9

2024



Glass object XCIII

7 blue shells "Argonauta hians"

Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print, stainless steel, black granite

20cm x 130cm x 15cm, pedestal 26cm x 7cm x 26cm, 110 kg

Edition 1/9

2024



Glass object LXXXII
blue shell "Terebra subulate"
 Optical clear glass, special glue, pigment print
 14cm x 64cm x 12cm, 28 kg
 Edition 1/9
 2023

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Michal Macků

Michal Macků, Czech artist (1963), graduated from the Technological Faculty of the Polytechnic Institute in Brno in 1985. After the political changes and democratisation of Czechoslovakia at the end of the 1990s, he graduated from the Institute of Fine Art Photography in Prague in 1989 and has been a freelance artist since 1991.



At the beginning of his artistic career, he became known for his "Gellages"—large-format black and white photographic compositions. To create them, Macků developed his own method of composing images by manipulating exposed photographic emulsion (hence the name Gellage, a compound of the words collage and gelatin). He often creates these expressive compositions of mostly male nudes using his own body and a self-portrait. Gradually, at the beginning of the new millennium, he expanded his technique to include the use of historical large-format techniques, platinotype, intaglio, and especially carbon printing. Soon he also stepped out of the two-dimensional paper format into the third dimension with his glass objects. These works in glass are initially thematically based on his photographic work. Gradually, new motifs and a new colour palette emerge. From an initially expressive position, the artist moves into a more geometric and aesthetic position, reflecting his personal and spiritual growth and transformation. Art glass also has a glorious history in the Czech lands, and the artist continues this tradition.

Throughout his creative career, Michal Macků has been interested in philosophical and spiritual aspects of being, actively practising yoga and meditation. Since 2012, he has repeatedly travelled to the South American Amazon, where he has encountered the shamanic practices of the local indigenous culture. These experiences have gradually been reflected in the artist's work, bringing in elements of natural aesthetics and sacred geometry.

Macků's works are represented in private and public collections such as Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Harvard Visual Center, Cambridge; Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego; and others. Macků has also exhibited in many European and international galleries and, in recent years, has regularly appeared at contemporary art fairs such as AIPAD Show New York, MIART Milano, ARTEFIERA Bologna, Art Verona, Art Stage Singapore, and Photo London.



Installation shot at Wei-Ling Contemporary



Installation shot at Wei-Ling Contemporary

Installation shot at Wei-Ling Contemporary

Michal Macků (b.1963, Bruntal, Czechoslovakia)

- 2005 Began focus on third-dimensional glass photo objects
- 2000 Began working with historical photo techniques, esp, carbon printing
- 1992 becomes Freelance Artist
- 1989 Institute of Art / Photography at Prague – creates bespoke ‘Gellage’ technique’
- 1985 Technological Faculty of the Polytechnic Institute in Brno

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Michal Macků – Glass Sacred Geometries, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2018 Michal Macků – Gellages 1989 – 2005, Fotogalerie Fiducia, Ostrava, Czech Republic
- 2016 Michal Macků – Glass objects, Galerie Zet, Velká Bystřice, Czech Republic
- 2014 ‘Michal Macků – Gelages, Verres, Carbones’, Czech Centre and Galerie David Guiraud, Paris
- 2013 ‘Michal Macků – 3D Photography’, Paci Contemporary, Brescia, Italy
- 2013 Michal Macků, Antonin Tesar – Galerie Mona Lisa, Olomouc, Czechia 2012 Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2011 ‘Michal Macků – Glass Photo’, Karin Weber Gallery, HK 2009 ‘Glass Photo’, PaciArte Contemporary, Brescia, Italy
- 2009 ‘(Glass) Gellages’, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2009 Galerie Museum Art St.Urban. St. Urban, Switzerland
- 2008 ‘Sklenene Gelaze’, Galerie V Kapli, Bruntal, Czech Republic 2008 Galerie David Guiraud, Paris, France
- 2007 Bielske centrum kultury, Foto Art Festival, Bielsko-Biala, Poland 2007 ‘Over the photo’, Galleria PaciArte contemporanea, Brescia, Italy 2007 ‘Bilder vom Menschen’, In focus Galerie, Köln, Germany
- 2007 Galery Na Soljanke, Moscow, Russia
- 2007 G/F, 20 Aberdeen Street, Central, Hong Kong 2007 Galerie Caesar, Olomouc, Czech rep.
- 2006 Ottoman Mint complex, IFSAK, Istanbul, Turkey 2006 Photo Event, Turnhout, Belgium
- 2006 Galerie Art Affair, Regensburg, Germany 2005 Czech Centre, Munich, Germany
- 2005 Státní zámek Třeboň, Czech rep., Galerie Palais Breuner, Vien, Austria
- 2005 Gallery “pf”, Poznań, Poland Vize, čin, sen, smrt“, Galerie Brno, Brno, Czech rep. 2004 J&T Bank, Prague, Czech rep.
- 2004 In focus Galerie am Dom, Cologne, Germany 2004 John Stevenson Gallery, New York
- 2004 Aberystwyth Art College, Aberystwyth, UK 2004 Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea, UK
- 2002 Galeria Omar Alonzo, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
- 2001 FotoGaleria Teatro San Martin, Buenos Aires, Estudio Lisenberg, Buenos Aires 2000 John Stevenson Gallery, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Czech Glass, Quo Vadis!? Exhibition of 10 Czech artists, Giudecca art district, Giudecca Island, Venice, Italy, 3.9.-3.10.2021 (Venice Glass week)
- 2016 Michal Macku, Antonit Tesař, Jan Saudek, Galerie STP, Greifswald, Germany
- 2015 ‘Love is...’, In Focus Galeria, Cologne, Germany 2015 ‘A Touch of Glass’, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2014 Zářivý Krystal, 1905- 2013, Galerie Výtrvarného umění v Ostravě, Ostrava, Czech Republic
- 2014 ‘Meta-Illusioni: il giardino dell’impossibile’, Villa di Donato, Napoli, Italy
- 2010 Exposed – Nude Photography in the XX. Century, In Focus Galerie, Cologne, Germany 2010 Darkness for Light – Czech Photography Today, Shiseido Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2009 Czech Photography of the 20th Century, Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn 2008 Love, Gallerie Civiche d’Arte Contemporanea di Palazzo Ducale, Modena, Italy 2007 Expressive Bodies, Herron Gallery, Indianapolis, USA

COLLECTIONS

- Museum Ludwig, Cologne
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- Museum for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark
- The Royal Library of Denmark, Copenhagen
- Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris
- Harvard Visual Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- The Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois
- Moravská galerie v Brně, Brno, Czech Republic
- Muzeum Umění Olomouc, Czech Republic
- MOPA – Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, USA
- Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA
- Kinsey Institute, Indianapolis, USA
- Collection of Cherye R. and James F. Pierce
- Private art collection of Jacqueline Bisset

REPRESENTED BY GALLERIES

Galleria Paciarte Contemporanea
GV Art, London
Galerie, Museum Art–St–Urban
Wei–Ling Gallery
In Focus Galerie
Volakis Gallery

PUBLICATIONS

2019 Carbon Print Process by Sandy King, with John Lockhard, Hong–Kong, ISBN 978–7–5514–2394–6, 2019
2013 The Metamorphosis of Macku, Walter Guadagnini, Brescia, Italy, 2013
2008 The Elements of Photography, Angela Faris Belt, Focal Press, USA, 2008
2007 Black & White Magazine, Issue 79, March 2007, USA
2005 Schwarzweiss 46, Das Magazin für Fotografie, Juni–Juli 2005, Germany
2001 Akt v ceske fotografii – The Nude in Czech Photography, Vladimir Birgus and Jan Mlcoch, KANT, Prague
Re–presenting Representation V, 2001, Arnot Art Museum, NY.
Strange Genius, 2002, The Journal of Contemporary Photography, Volume V, USA
Vize, čin, sen, smrt (Vision, Deed, Dream, Death), 2005, Exhibition catalogue, Galerie Brno, CR
1999 Česká fotografie 90 let – Czech photography of the 1990s by Vladimír Birgus and Miroslav Vojtechovský, Prague, Chicago
Fotografie v Českých zemích 1839 – 1999, Vladimír Birgus, Pavel Scheufler, Prague 1999
The AIPAD Photography Show, 2000 Membership Directory and Illustrated Catalogue, Washington, D.C.
1998 Chimaera, Aktuelle Photokunst aus Mitteleuropa, 1997, Staatliche Galerie Moritzburg Halle, BRD
Kamera Obskura, No.3, 1998, Moscow
1997 Katalog, Journal of Photography and Video, winter 1997, Museet for Fotokunst, Odense C. Denmark
1996 Jistoty a hledání v české fotografii 90.let – Certainty and Searching in Czech Photography of the 1990s by Vladimír Birgus and Miroslav Vojtechovský, Prague
1996 Photographers Encyclopedia International – 1839 to the present, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris
Photographie des 20.Jahrhundrets, Museum Ludwig Koln, Taschen
1995 Contemporary Photographers, 3rd edition, St. James Press, Detroit
1995 Fully exposed – The Male Nude in Photography by Emanuel Cooper, Routledge, London
1993 Encyklopedie českých a slovenských fotografů, Prague
1993 Graphis Photo, Zurich
1991 Současná česká a slovenská fotografie, Prague
1991 Bilder Lust by Ulrich Domrose, Heilderberg
1990 Tschechoslovakische Fotografie Des Gegenwart by Vladimír Birgus and Reinhold Misselbeck, Cologne

To accompany the exhibition entitled '*(IL)LUSIO*' by Michal Macků from 11 - 28 September 2024

Gallery Information

Free Admission for visitors with appointments.

Walk-ins permitted upon registration, otherwise a RM10 fee will be imposed.

(Applicable to individuals aged 12 years and above.)

Operating Hours:

10 AM – 6 PM (Tuesday to Friday), 10 AM – 5 PM (Saturday)

Closed: Sundays, Mondays, and Public Holidays

Wei-Ling Gallery

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PROJECT DIRECTOR : Lim Wei-Ling

DESIGNED BY : Prissie Ong

ARTWORK IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHED BY: Michal Macků

INSITU PHOTOS PHOTOGRAPHED BY: Ang Zheng Feng

FRONT COVER IMAGE: Close-up of "*Silver woman figure in blue*", 2024

BACK COVER IMAGE: Close-up of '*Glass object LXXV "Tiarella stictica"*', 2021

IMAGE COURTESY: Wei-Ling Gallery & Michal Macků

