



Dům umění města Brna
The Brno House of Arts



Centre for New Media Arts, opening at the Brno House of Arts, to bear name of Woody Vašulka

Vašulka Kitchen Brno, the Centre for New Media Art, inspired by the life-long work of Brno native Woody Vašulka and his wife Steina, will officially open in the Brno House of Arts on 30 October, 2018 at 6 pm. The Vašulkas have established themselves on the international art scene as pioneers of video art, and inspired generations of artists to explore the nature of new media and the relationship between art and digital technologies. The Vašulkas and other international guests will be in attendance at the grand opening of the Centre.

Interconnecting early electronic media works with the live artistic present, the Vašulka Kitchen Brno creative centre shall also maintain the Vašulkas' unique archive and develop their legacy by means of contemporary artistic work both locally and internationally.

The rich audiovisual programme will start with a projection of the Vašulkas' Wave on the façade of the Brno House of Arts – a dynamic algorithmic wave made from a liquid pictogram alphabet. Its authors Michael Bielický and Kamila B. Richterová will thus pay tribute to the work of the Vašulkas. Besides Woody and Steina Vašulka, the grand opening will be attended by Peter Weibel, Director of the Ars Electronica festival in Linz and of the Centre for the Arts and Media in Karlsruhe, and Kristín Sheving, Director of the Vasulka Chamber in Reykjavík. The programme will further include a lecture performance of the Hungarian Studio Binaura titled Bricolage, which will examine chance operations, ancient permutational methods as well as cutting-edge machine learning algorithms. Contemporary work inspired by the Vašulkas' most significant works will be presented by Jiří Suchánek (Atomtone), Ondřej Merta (OGJ), Matěj Kotouček and Jakub Krejčí (Sky to Speak). The programme will be complemented with an audiovisual performance of the Brno collective Bastl Instruments. All performances are based in highlighting the relation between the present DIY scene and work using audiovisual synthesizers.

The Brno cultural public owes the development of the Centre for New Media Art to the members of the Vašulka Kitchen Brno association, sharing their admiration for the work of video art pioneers and electronic media experimenters. *“Since the beginning, our mission was to develop a decent place in the form of a study room and workshop with a digital archive of the Vašulkas' work, which would provide free access to students, researchers, artists and curators. Now after two years we are pleased to have succeeded, and to have Woody and Steina Vašulka in attendance at the opening,”* say the association's founding members Tomáš Ruller, Jennifer Helia De Felice and Viktor Pantůček.

The name of the new institution refers to The Electronic Kitchen, launched by the Vašulkas together with Andreas Mannik in New York in 1971, which has cult status and still exists. The Brno “Kitchen” was supported by the City of Brno and the House of Arts, which houses the Centre in its building. The basement of the functionalist building with a separate entrance and facilities enabled the architectural studio VIZAGE to draw inspiration from the original space concept of the New York



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Kitchen. The Centre has two exhibition rooms. The first hosts an exhibition of Vašulka's digital prints *Lucifer's Commission* (1977–2003, 2016) and *Triade* (2003, 2016), while the second holds one of Vašulka's most famous and popular works: *Light Revisited – Noisefields* (1974, 2002). Besides exhibition activities, the Centre will focus primarily on providing facilities for researchers, teachers, curators and all those interested in the Vašulkas' archive, containing over 27,000 pages of documents.

Woody and Steina Vašulka were there at the beginning of all the important activities in the field of new media in the Czech Republic, participating in them, or directly inspiring their origin:

Pioneers of Electronic Art, 1992

Theatre of Hybrid Automats, INVEX Trade Fair Brno, 1993

Czech Electronic Image, Mánes Prague, 1994

Orbis Fictus, an exhibition of new media and technologies, Prague, 1994

High-tech/art, a series of international exhibitions (realised between 1994–1997 by the VMP studio in Brno)

Open Archives workshop

The presentation of media arts and digital archives, Intermedia Institute, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, 2007

The importance and extent of the Vašulkas' work was commemorated in Brno in autumn 2016 on the occasion of the artists' approaching 80th birthday by the exhibition *Mystery of Memory* (Brno City Museum). In January 2017 it was followed up by the Moravian Gallery that displayed the reconstructed work *Light Revisited – Noisefields* (1974, 2002) in its permanent exhibition *ART IS HERE* with accompanying events dedicated to the Vašulkas at the Praha café / Forum for Architecture and Media.

Vašulka Kitchen Brno – Grand Opening

30 October, 2018 from 6 pm to 10 pm

The Brno House of Arts

Malinovského Square 2

A press conference attended by the Vašulka couple will be held on 30 October at 11 am in the Brno House of Arts.

<http://vasulkakitchen.org/cs>

<https://www.facebook.com/vasulkakitchenbrno/>

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