

NOT SELECTED

The thirteenth Annual Czech Studies Workshop,
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/creees/news/4293>

which will be held at the University of Texas at Austin on April 27-28, 2012, welcomes proposals for papers on Czech topics, broadly defined, in all disciplines. Slovak topics will also be considered. In the past, our interdisciplinary conference has drawn participants from colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. Areas of interest have included: anthropology, architecture, art, economics, education, film, geography, history, Jewish studies, literature, music, philosophy, politics, religion, and theater. Work in progress is appropriate for our workshop format. Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are particularly encouraged to participate. Limited funding is available to reimburse participants' travel and accommodation costs.

To submit a proposal for the workshop, please send an abstract of approximately 450 words

Dear Tomas,

The selection committee for the 13th Annual Czech Workshop met yesterday. This year, we received a record number of applications and the committee faced difficult choices. In order to create coherent and interdisciplinary panels, we had to reject many interesting proposals and highly qualified candidates. Unfortunately, we were not able to include your proposal among the ones selected for this year's workshop. We wish you the best of luck with your research and encourage you to apply to the Czech Studies Workshop again.

Best Regards,
Tatjana

ABSTRACT

Journey as part of Czech visual arts and literature

by Tomas Hodbod, Faculty of Fine Arts - Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic

"Walking is like reading the landscape or in his own heart."

Rebecca Solnit

The roots of this topic can be found in mythical time of arrival of the first Slavs, in the legend of the forefather Čech, which describes his famous ascent of the mountain Říp, but ... the main aim of the lecture is to explore elements of journey in Czech culture, and to compare ideological and formal differences and parallels in chosen examples. I will also contemplate the significance of the Czech countryside for these artists, their journey and influence on their creativity.

At the beginning I have to mention Peripatetic philosophical school, founded by the followers of Aristotle (335 BC). The teaching occurred when walking alley or portico.

Now let me introduce the main personalities of the lecture. Chronologically John Amos Comenius (17th. century). The theme appears in his teaching as well as in literary work. Encourages the reader not only to the spiritual journey of discovery, but also to the physical journey and it's discoveries. Comenius often metaphorically describes the path to inner peace.

In the Czech culture is strongly rooted myth of Karel Hynek Mácha (19th. century). Romantic poet reflects his journeys in his work and the work itself becomes. Some of Mácha's journeys can be seen through the prism of the ritual of transition: Mácha moves away from the community of people, he goes through a deep existential confrontation with death, and when it all passes through, he comes back with a strong poetry that expresses a deep understanding of life.

Link of Mácha's cult is strong in sixties and seventies of the last century, when the journey becomes a means, but also the actual content of particular artists's action, which was connected with a new wave of interest in the phenomenon of physicality and the human relationship to nature.

8th. of August 1988 (August 8, 88), the date of the performance made by Tomas Ruller. Action was saturated with symbols, it was a physical journey, not only through the closed space of communist Czechoslovakia, but also a visual metaphor for the journey of life, death and rebirth - Calvary.

Frantisek Skala's walking journey on the Venice Biennale (1993), follows not only Mácha's romantic link, but also the tradition of trips of Czech artists and craftsmen, because of education and in search of work. Such journeys were mostly directed to Vienna and Italy.

As a contemporary example, serve my own projects realised with students of Faculty of Fine Arts (Brno University of Technology), in the context of my doctoral studies (pedagogy and performance art). Above all, it will be a project called "*Performance on the road*". Journey as a new experience and an opportunity to compare different cultural backgrounds that is used as a framed for a piece of performance art.

I would like to run workshop based on the topic of a journey in Czech culture in a connection with performance art based on my resent projects and lectures.

