

Bohemian Rhapsody? Writing and Collecting Queer Cultural History in the Czech Republic

Ladislav Zikmund-Lender Faculty of Fina Arts, Brno University of Technology Socity for Queer Memory, Prague

bohemian

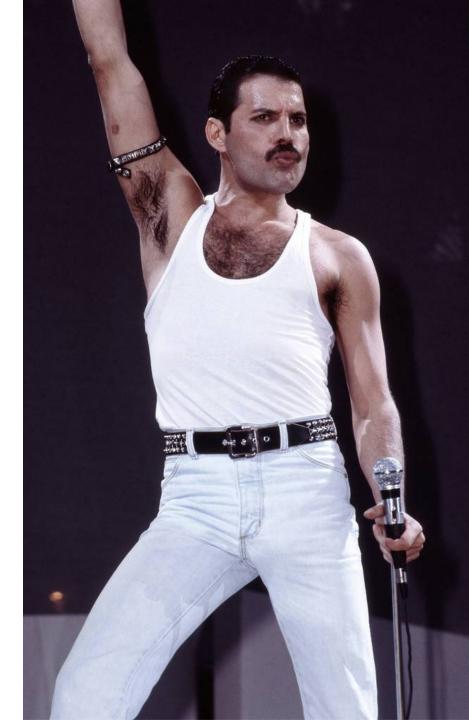
1. a socially unconventional person, especially one who is involved in the arts.

2. a native or inhabitant of Bohemia (now the western part of the Czech Republic), related to Bohemia

rhapsody

1. an epic poem, or part of it, of a suitable length for recitation at one time.

2. an effusively enthusiastic or ecstatic expression of feeling



Show *Prague Pride: East Side Story*, Karlin Studios, 2014

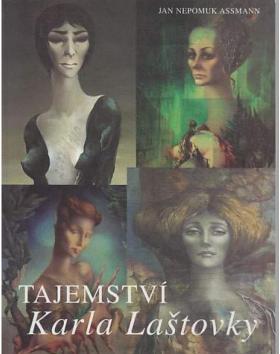
• "Something as LGBT, homosexual, gay or lesbian art for sure doesn't exist. As much as there is no such thing as Czech art. At least until we create certain definition to apply on the original diversity." curator Michal Novotný

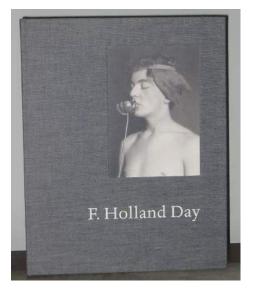


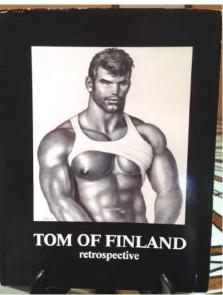


Jan Nepomuk Assmann (1956–2013)

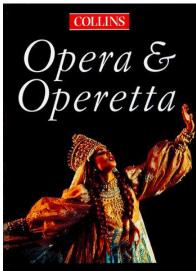












Michael White & Elaine Henderson

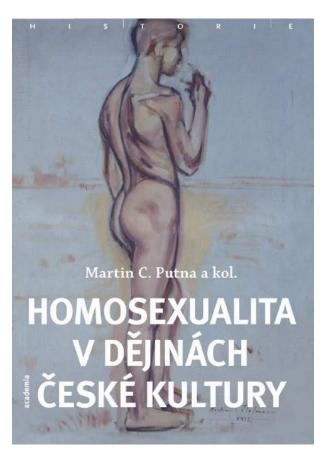
MYzzU2A22EQ0W0QQW0BQEMM@@@M@MMMM@#0QE00Q0Q0Q0Q0MMnAb68AZAZ6EoIAAzUIAIi;YvYv7Xtc2Q\$\$#WMM@ES77vviv;v;c;c;ci;76...,...i,,ii,. W ,,:,::i,,.iYnttCoSItn8@@@tY;i;viv;YYXYXXXXXX1X177Yc:;iv;;iv;v::,,..., Q.,:,i:i:;:i.,t1t17ntStXYS7 ;c7vccCSU29z21SC1CtCtXYiviv;v;cvi::,:,.,: W :,::i:i:i:;7XCttnt1C17X7cvcccXU6ZU6ZUz2nSt1Ct7t7v;v;v;cii:i::..: Q..i:i:i:i:iii.vicXtXnt1tStS1n;i;YcYcYcYcYCzS2z2ozttYv;v;v;v;:i:i,:.i B ::i:i:iiiiii:..iCYCCnto121n28:..ii;;cvccYVYYCCooInn;;;v;v;c;i:i::,,i Q.,i:i:iii:iiv:..i7C7ttS12A\$UI9ovXC1t1t1Xt7XYYvYc7XSoti;;v;v;cii:i::.i B ::i:i:iiiii;:..:77C7o1SIQ\$212ootn7C777C7C7CYCYCYcYcXtv;v;v;v;;:i:i,,i Q.,i:iiiiiiiic, .vi77XtSC6Qc.71UzA22Sz1otSC1Xt7C7C7CcYvv;c;v;cii:iii B i:i:iiiiiiivY: i;;tY7Yo80;YSSX1tI2U22oznz1z1ntnCt7CYYvc;v;cvv:i:i::i W.:i:i:iiiivv. ,.v;:z8nnAObZ98UIttnIS2ozSz1o1z1Stz1nXX7Yvc;c;c;i:i:i,; B ::i:iiiic;. ,8AZU880E8A0bEb0b0Z92AzIzUS2nznS1StS1S117c;cvc;ciiii::i ..7\$1cQEIb0bAb9E00992AzUzIzIS2SzSznz1ntS22;v;c;cc;:i:i,; Q.,i:;iiic; .;ii81 i606ZZEZEbWQ8z2zUzUzIz2zIz2o2S2nSC1ooicvc;Y;i:i::i B.iii:iiv; Q.:ii:i:c. .;;c:1Q:.cSb8b90b0E#ZzoIzUzUoUzUoIzUzIo2nSttnc;YvYccii:i,; .i;cvc;ZQ;YonUAE600WW61oSIoIzIzU2Az6zAIIzUSzttcvvcvcv;iiiii B.i:ii:vi W.:ii;;7 i;YvYYtiZWtz69Z9EbB@A71tonIoUzU2U2AI6I9IA22no77vYvcvYi;ii:; \$.ii;icv .;YcYc7CY.CCz29UAzAU6c7Xn1zzIzUzIzAIA2AI62Ioz1nY7vYvYv;iiiii 0.i:i:v: ,YY7YC7tz,.7tzo21n77vYYt1onzSUzI2UoIzIzAzUzISot1Yc;;;;::,:i B.ii;iY: .ivC71tSSZt.iCCnXt77cYYCto1znzn2nzS2SIoIzIzAzInSttctC1CXvciii W.i;i;ci .i77ttonzIOc,vX7C7XcYcX7S1o1znSnz1oSzoUSIzU2Uz2ootXoWbb8Q0QbQ W.ii;iYi .;YtX11zzA9Wć;c7Y7cYc77ttznztz1S1o1zSzSIoUzUzUoISoX70\$QQÈOÈOO b.:;ivvc .;77ntzo6UZE\$n;v7cYvYYCCntStnC1X1Cnto1zSIoIzIzIzISSY7b00Q00bW M#ci;ii;...cctConI26U8EBA7;;;cv77tXn7tCt7t7ttn1zn2o2SUzIzIo2nnvI#\$QWW\$W MMXiiYt90i;XCSn2zAA89Eb\$\$b7iivcXX1Xt7XY77C71tSnznIzIoIzAzIz2S1YM@@@@#@ M\$87U#@WM:.7SnIzUI96bb00B#@Et:vcX77vcvYc77tCS1S1on2SUzI26zIoUnc2@\$@MMM #0@#0B\$1 vtz26UZ6EbEb0Eww@@Z,;;v;;i;vYcC71to1zS2SIzUzAIA2UzUtYMMMMQ2 @\$M@E#Q ,Y7II9A8ZEbEZ0b00B@X.ii;i;icc77tCSto1zS2zU2UIAUA262ovbMbc;z QEMMMM1 ;; ,;77S12z9A8ZbZE80b\$0,,ii;ivv7YtX1tStzn2SUzAIZA6U62AzocnzbWE Q7MMMMZwMX .vYXtSzU26Ib9EZEb0E@; :ii;;cc77tCnton2S2oA29UZAZUAUA27EM@M@ #;;IWMZMES: :;v7711zoA29AbZEZE#U.,,i:;;cv7YC7tCStonIzAI6A9AAzAzI71MM\$#

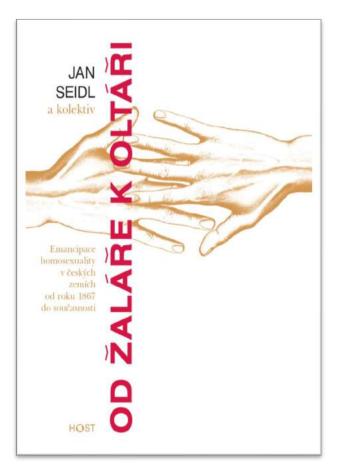
conference Homosexuality in the Czech Humanities





2011, 2012, 2013 three books





PAVEL HIML JAN SEIDL FRANZ SCHINDLER ((44) "MILUJI TVORY SVÉHO POHLAVÍ"



2014 comprehensive tourist guide

Teplá Praha

Průvodce po queer historii hlavního města

1380-2000

Queer Prague

WWW.CDimusic.cz

A Guide to the LGBT History of the Czech Capital

1380-2000

Černé pole

2014 Society for Queer Memory founded





$2019 \quad \text{Conference Queering Czech History}$

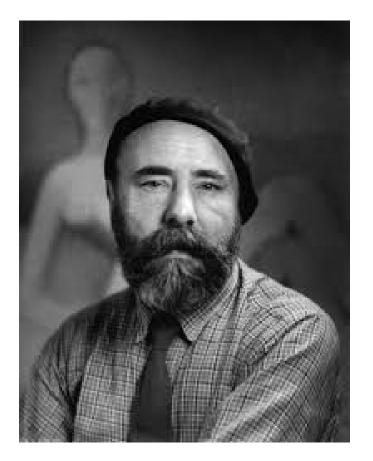


Content

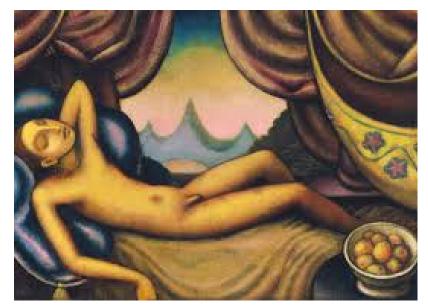
- Queer History as a history of what was left out
- Opressed or priviledged?
- Where have all the queer critics gone?
- Queer constellations
- Searching for a queer space
- What now?

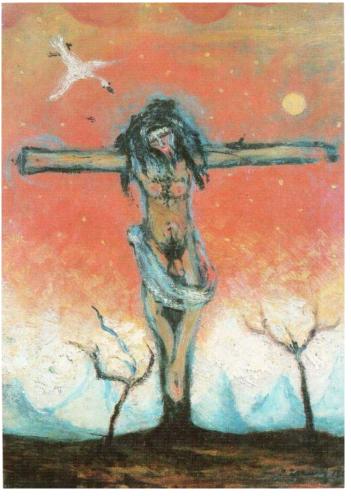
Queer History as a history of what was left out

- Denial
- Ignorance
- Confusion/Misunderstanding





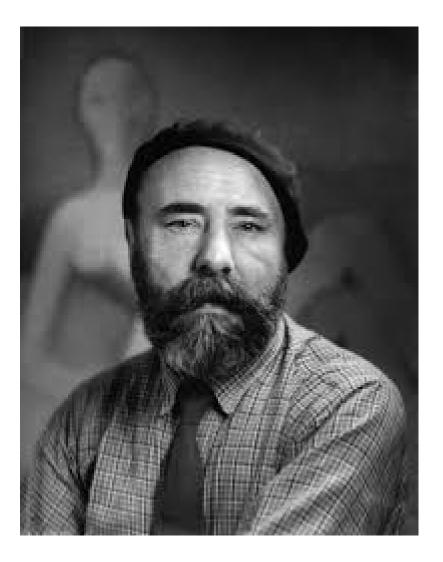




Anti-Krist, 1908

Jan Zrzavý (1890–1977): Prince (Self-portrait), 1907

Sleeping boy, ca 1911

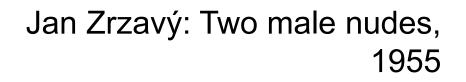




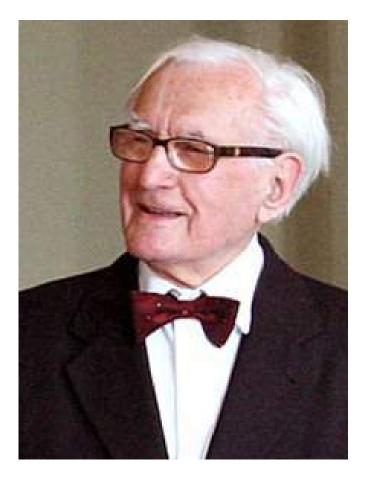
Josef Váchal (1884–1969): "Is his homeland Paris or London? Is he blond or ginger (=,,zrzavý)? Does he like girls or boys?"



Jan Zrzavý: Fanouš, 1920s







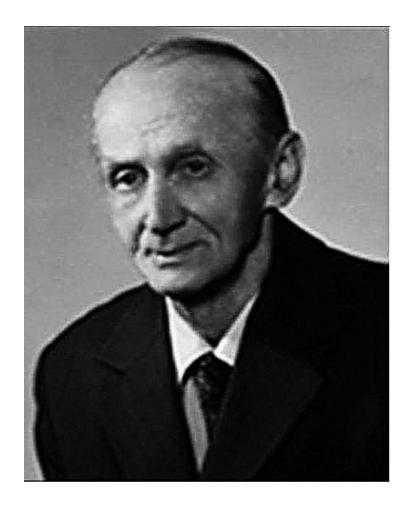
Art historian František Dvořák (1920–2015)

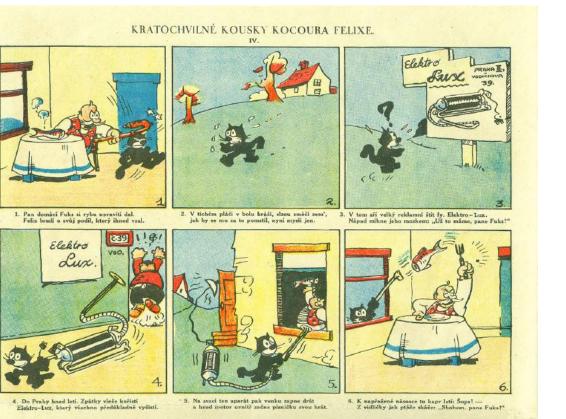


Orrin Peck (1860–1921)

"unidentified woman"



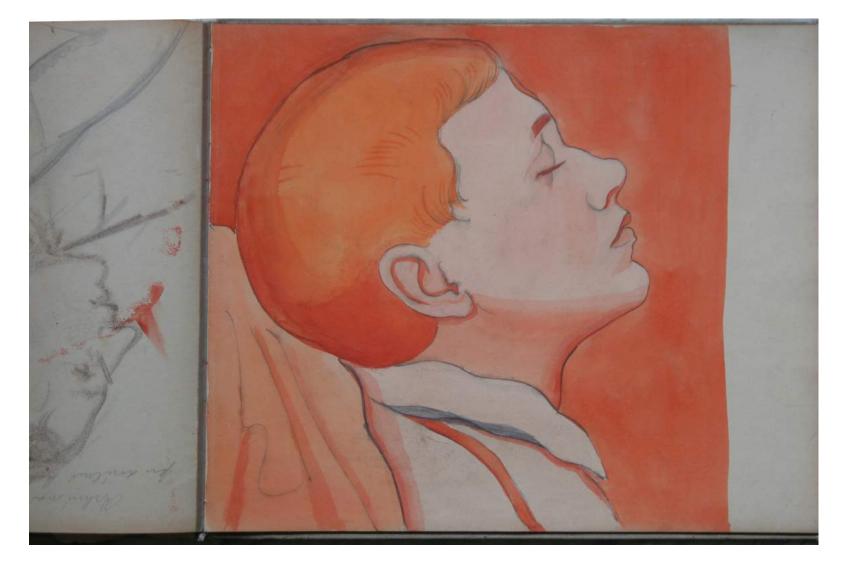




Ladislav Vlodek (1907–1996)

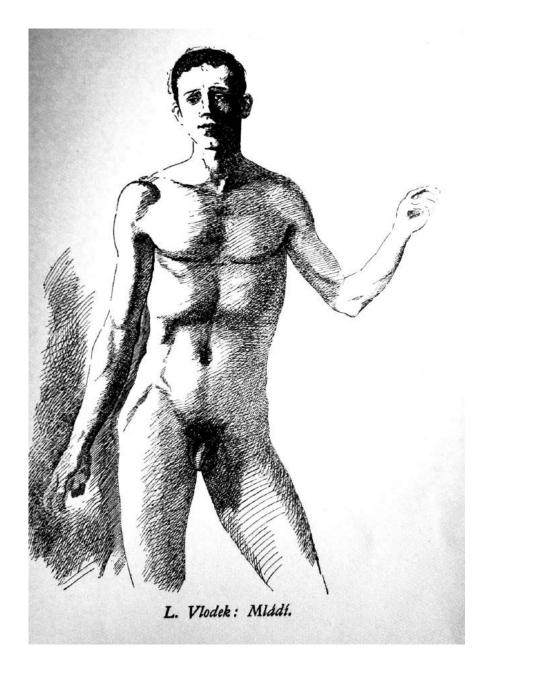








Ladislav Vlodek: Boy, 1924



Ladislav Vlodek: Youth, before 1932

NOVÝ HLAS

OBSAH: Dr. M. Hirschfeld: Přece se jde ku předu. ~ Of. Březina: Z tajemných dálek. ~ Dr. V. Chalupný: Březinovy názory o homosexualitě. P. Vlk: Přichozí večera. ~ Tresckow: Proces Eulenburgův. ~ C. M.: Lisfy Katonovy III. ~ L. Ř.: Ku předu. ~ V. Vávra: Slovo čtenářům. Poznámky a informace. ~ Listárna redakce.

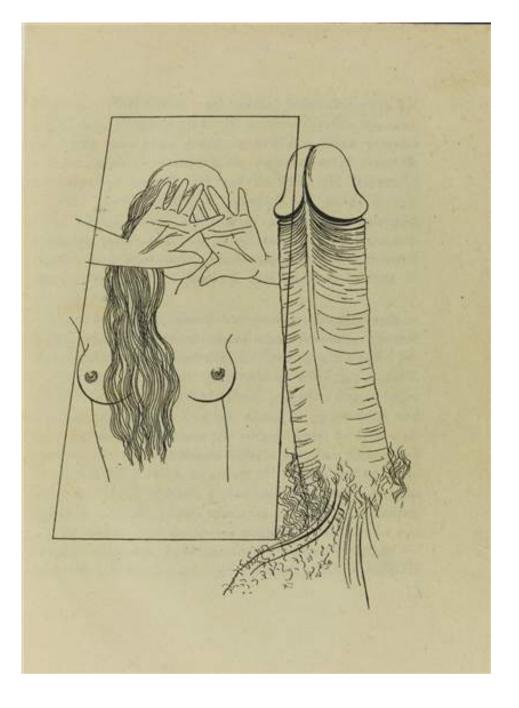
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Ročník II. Leden 1933 Cena 2 Kč

New Voice Magazine, 1932–1934

Toyen (1902–1980)









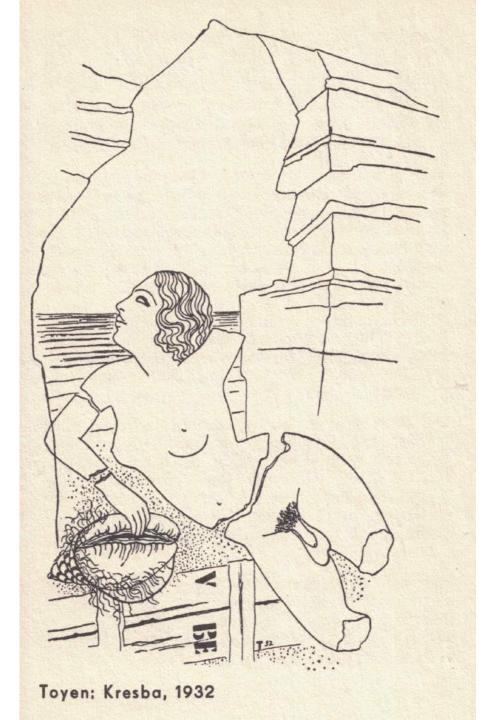




Marléne Dietrich

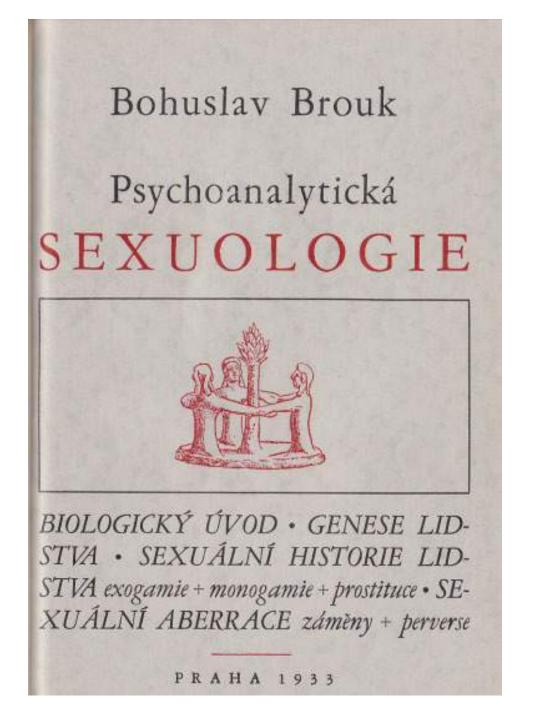
Marcel Duchamp as Rose Sélavy

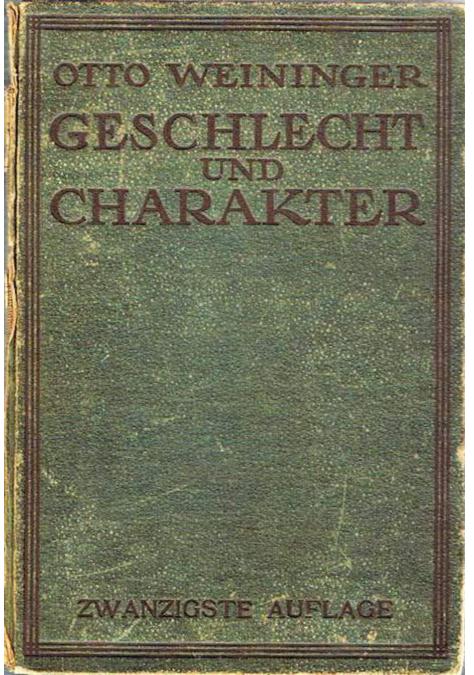




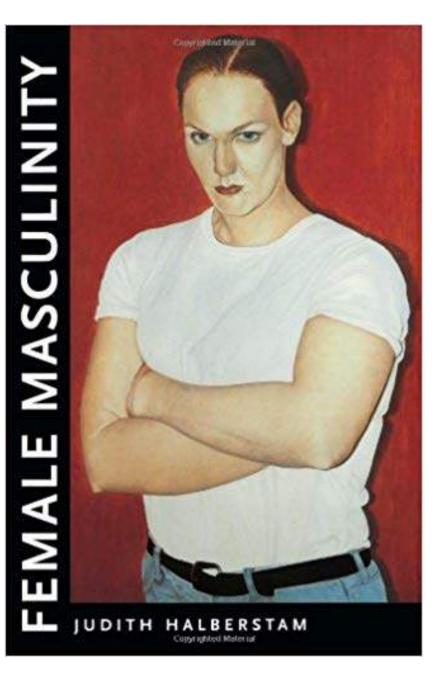
Adolf Hofmeister: Ten-Ta-Toyen

Toyen: Drawing, 1932



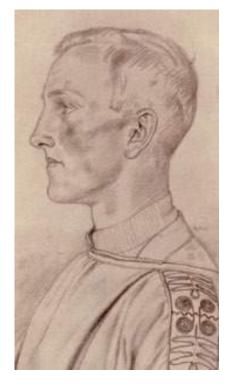






Jack Halberstam

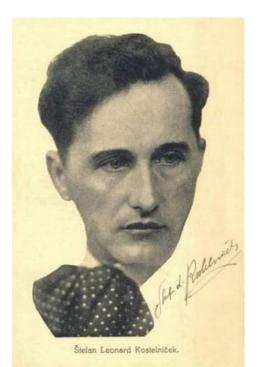
Opressed or priviledged? 1933–1945



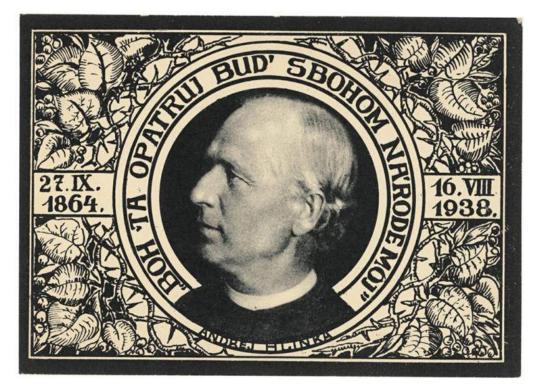
Oskar Just





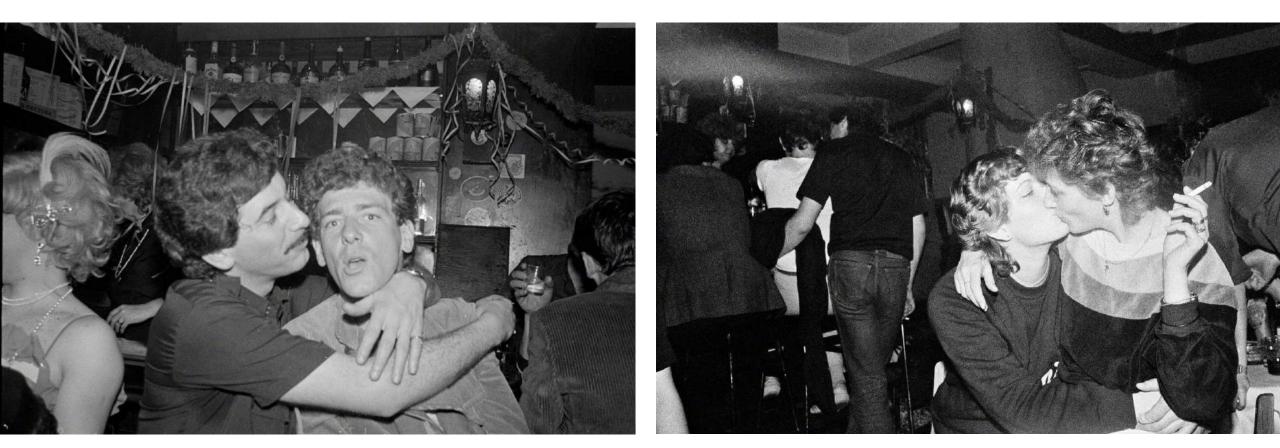






Štefan Leonard Kostelníček

Opressed or priviledged? 1948–1989

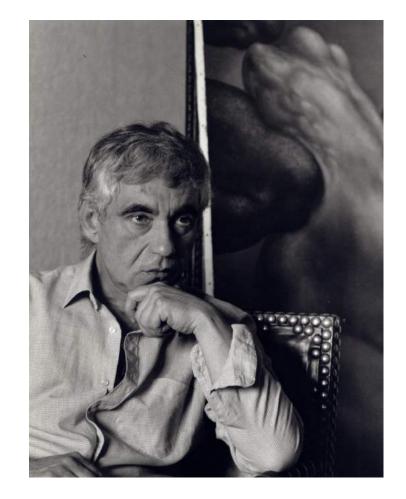


Libuše Jarcovjáková: T-club, 1980–1982

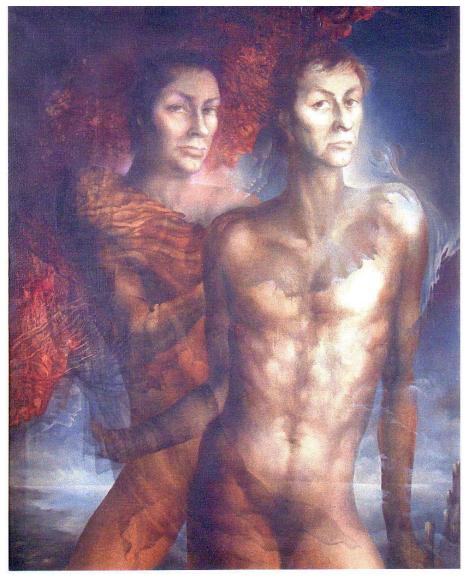


Ryszard Kisiel: T-club, 1981

Secret police ID



Karel Laštovka (1938–1986)

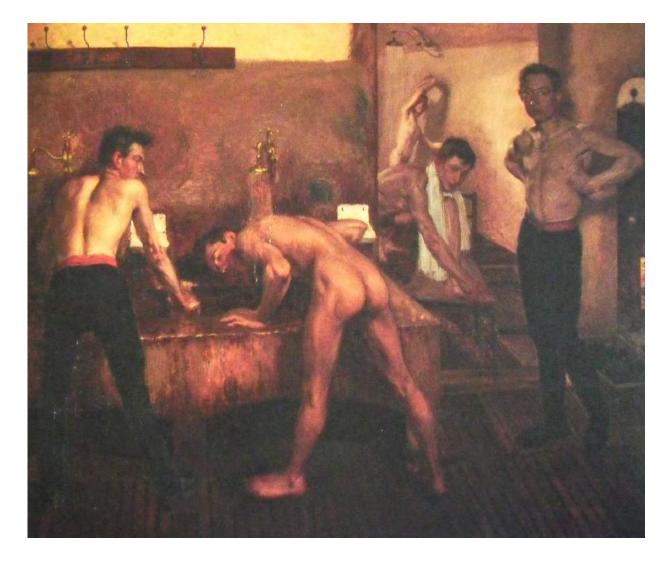






Tomáš Fragner's attic

Where have all the queer critics gone?





Miloš Jiránek Showers in the Sokol, Prague 1901–1903



May Švabinský Study for Harvesting Time 1925



William Ritter (1867–1955)

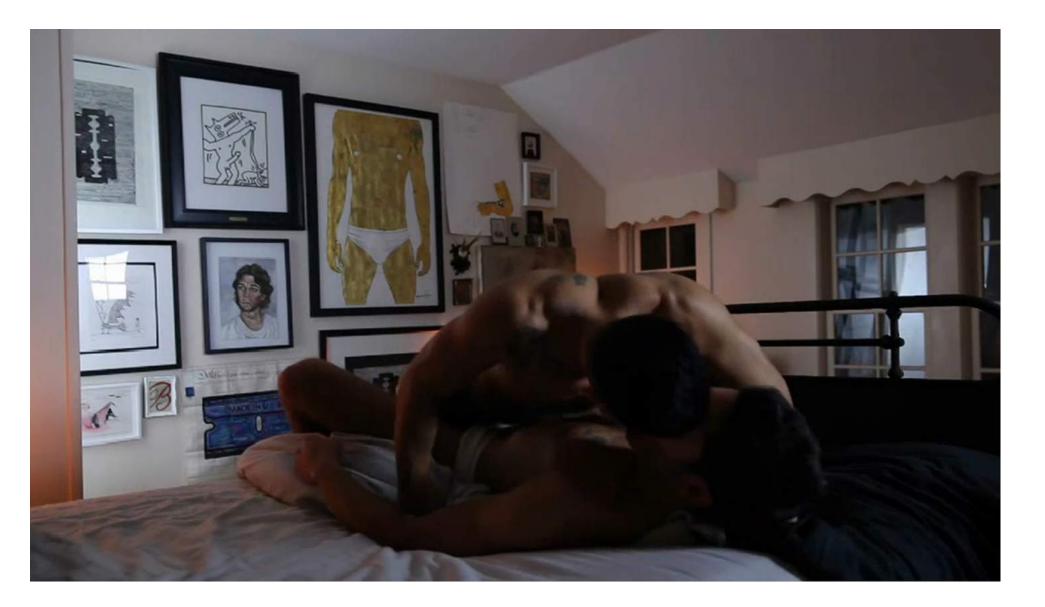
Queer Constellations



Jiří Karásek's ze Lvovic apartment, ca 1920s



Castle in Třebešice, since 2005



Pornographic video from the production of CockyBoys, screenshot, 2014







Villa Lysis at Capri, Jacques d'Adelswärd Fersen

Paris apartment of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas

Fontihill Abbey, William Beckford







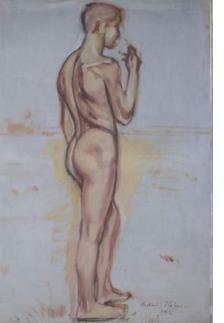


"He was no longer interested in women. [...] The walls were covered with paintings. Shelves were filled with china. The collection of weaponry increased in the same number as the collecion of coins. One room was filled with books, another one with plates with engravings and drawings. [...] He wandered like a forgotten shadow around the chamber, from one thing to another, here enjoying a Grud's picture, there admiring a lovely rose on a Meissen cup." — Jiri Karasek ze Lvovic: Ganymedes, 1925

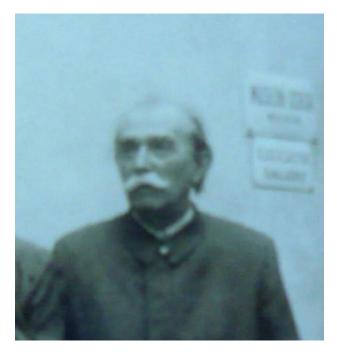
Wlastimil Hofman: Jiri Karasek with his collections.

Wlastimil Hofman: Paintings for Karasek, ca 1914–1930

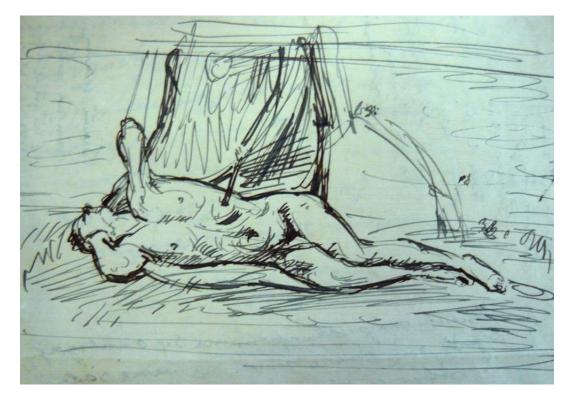


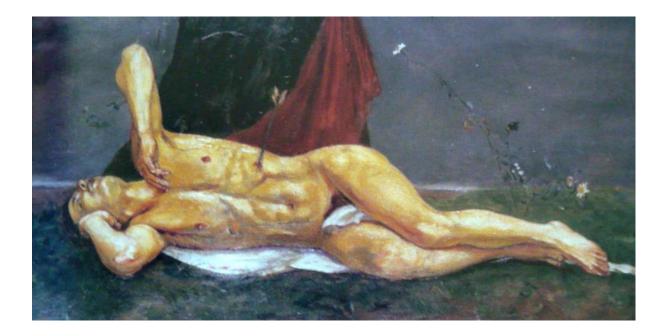




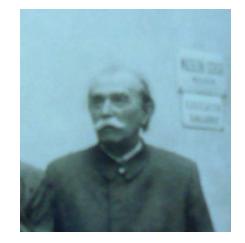
















Wlastimil Hofman: Ganymede, 1925 *"I am still thinking of the painting from your gallery, that Hofman's Ganymede, that sad, distant face, all that vanity and desire, all the grief of an autumn mist in a remoteness..."*

– Director Vaclav Krška to Karasek



Václav Krška: *Silver Wind* movie, 1956







"The museum is going to be a testimony of our times. It is also going to be the museum of death. We are at the end of the journey, Sofia! There is no way to go from here. We can only reminisce!

[...]

You live slowly, my lady. Because you perceive every event in all the details and you make every detail and marginalia bigger than it actually is."

— Ladislav Fuchs: *The Duchess and the Cook*, 1983



Kynžvart Castle: Collection of curiosities, 18th and the 19th Century

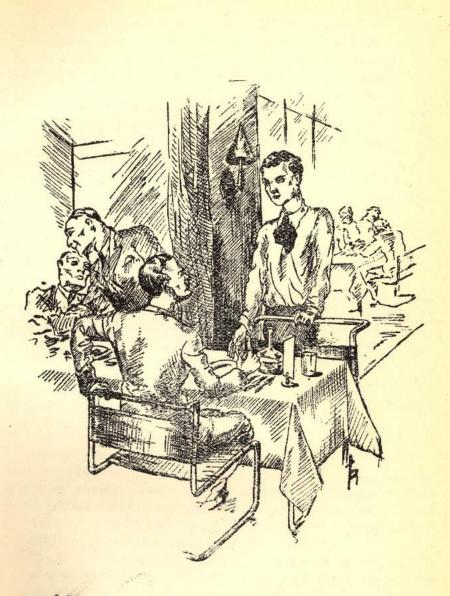




Searching for a queer space



... a v tom okamžiku se vztyčila Marta na posteli. (Str. 118.)



Líbezně se mu usmívala vstříc a přece ho zamrazilo... (Str. 18.)

Spaces of Desire: Is Architecture Sexy?, 2016











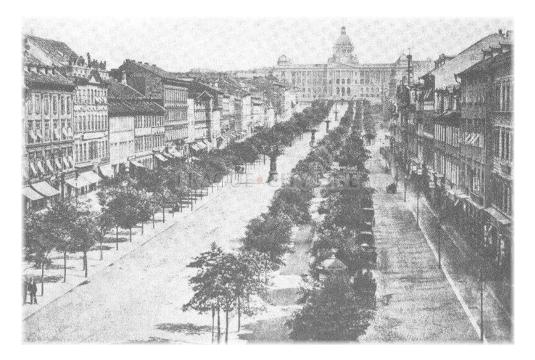




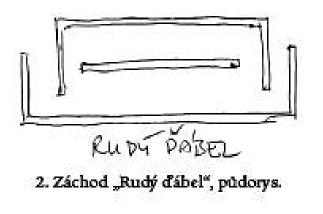


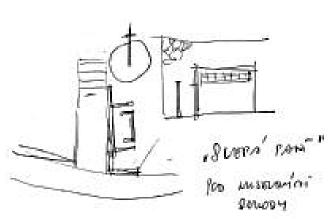








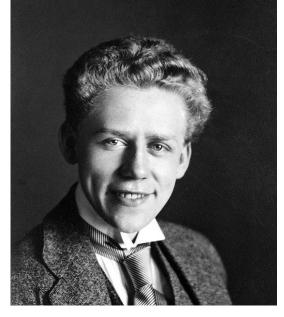




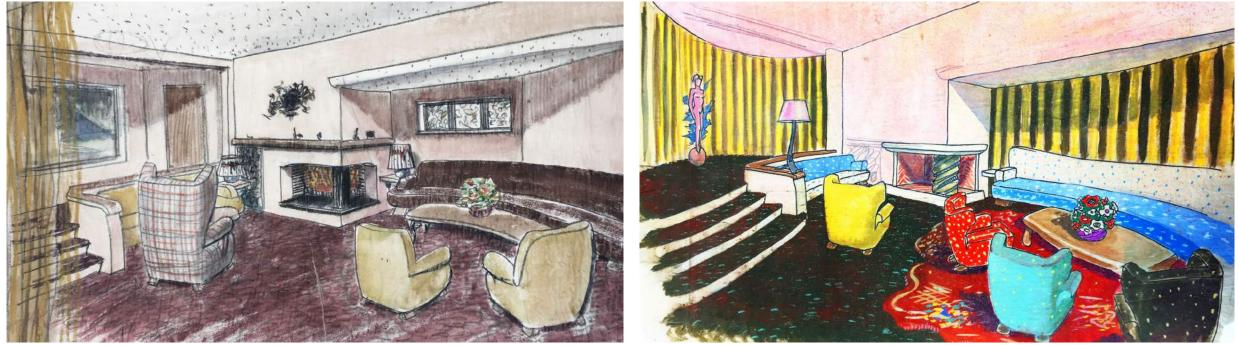
 Záchod "Slepá paní", vlevo situační plán s půdorysem, vpravo pohled zepředu.

A Room of Queer's Own? Queer Domesticity in Modern Prague, 2018

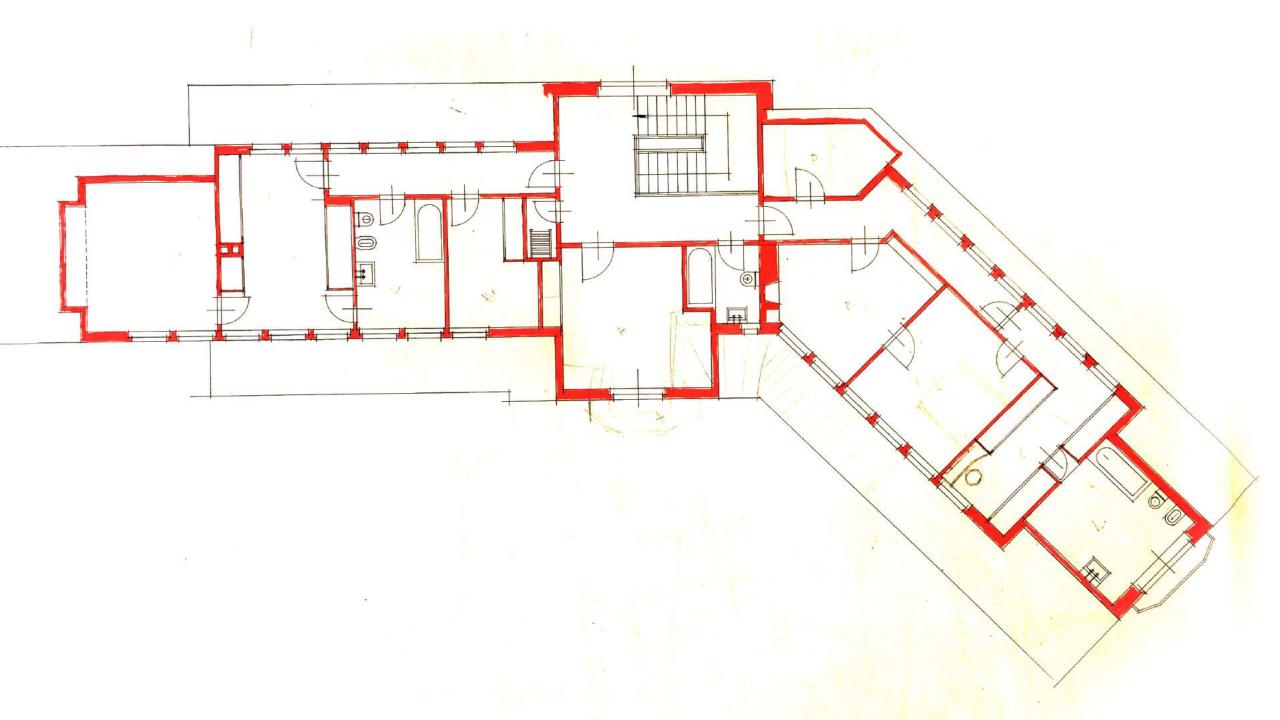


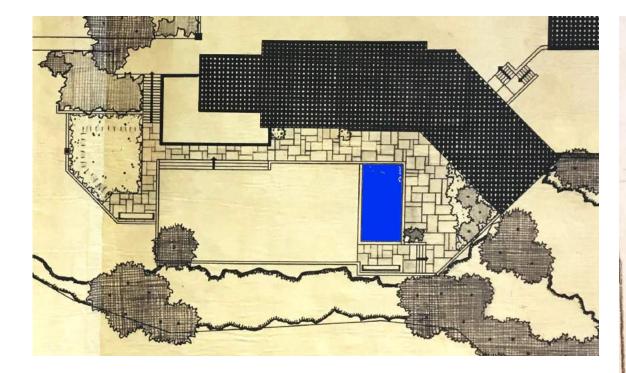


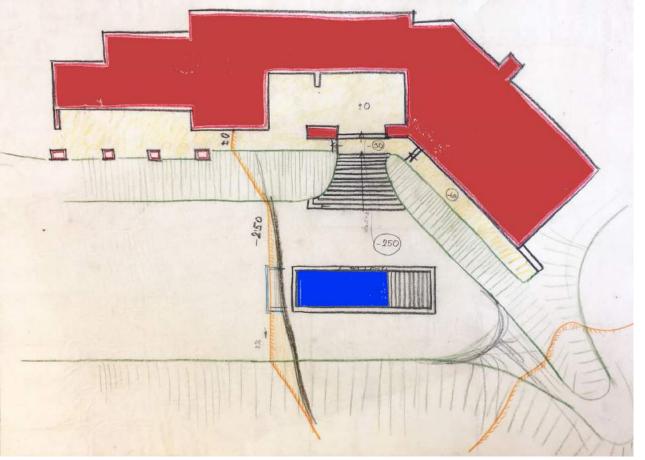
Miloš Havel (1899–1968)

















Philip Johnson: Glass House, 1949

What Now?

Mark Ther *1977







"Closed due to homosexual and Nazi propaganda" — curator Olga Malá



"Ludvik Victor and an unknown woman" Ludvik Victor as a man and as Ludvika Victorie

- It is important to acknowledge historic figures who deserve it no matter what their sexuality was."
- "All I care about is that he invented a rocket drive. I don't care who he slept with."
- It is not important to point out a minor sexual orientation if it there was no connection to the person's life.
- Cultural heritage has nothing to do with sexuality. It eithar conteins the aesthetic qualities or it does not."
- "We need a positive proof that someone was not heterosexual!"

- "While working on my diploma thesis, I wanted to include a queer studies approach but I decided not to."
- •"While I was writing my diploma thesis, I mentioned a copy of a statue of Hadrian and Antinous, which is in Castle Hořovice, and wanted to point out their homosexual relationship. I was asked to edit it out."

What is the Society for Queer Memory?

- Museum
- Archive
- Library
- Research and community center

Museum

- Clip boards
- Visual Arts
- Prints
- Photography
- Postcards
- Video VHS and DVD
- Audio Tapes

- Evereday Life Objects
- Deposited Objects
- Archive of the Society
- Personal Archives
- Texts and Meta Data for the Interviews
- Oral History Interviews
- Digital Documents

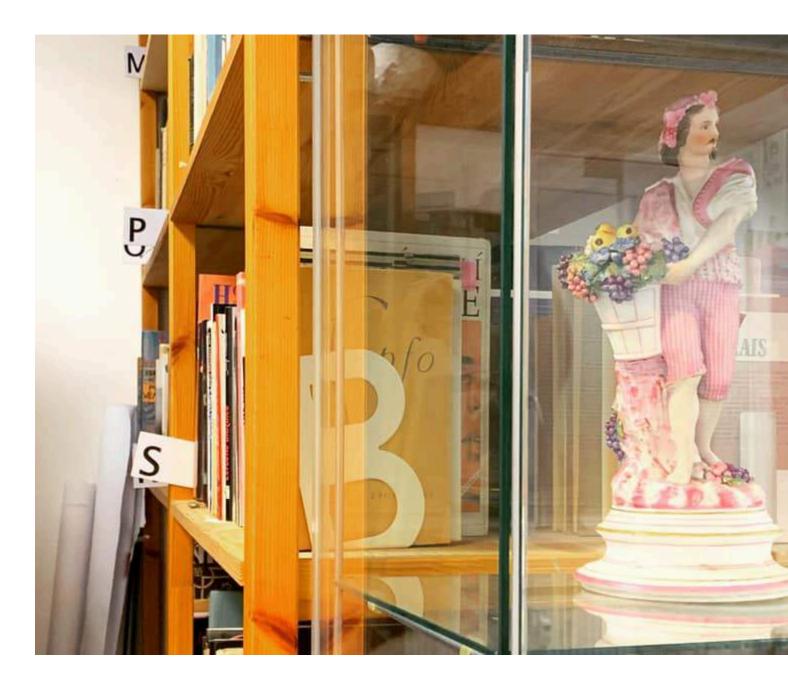
Oral history

- 34 interviews
- 6 women who identify as lesbian
- 28 men who identify as gay, bisexual or queer



Archive

- 55 archival funds
- Origin:
 9 women,
 36 men,
 3 institutions,
 6 institutions



Library

- 826 books
- 1061 issues of periodicals





- Tours
- Lectures
- Exhibits
- Conferences
- School programs

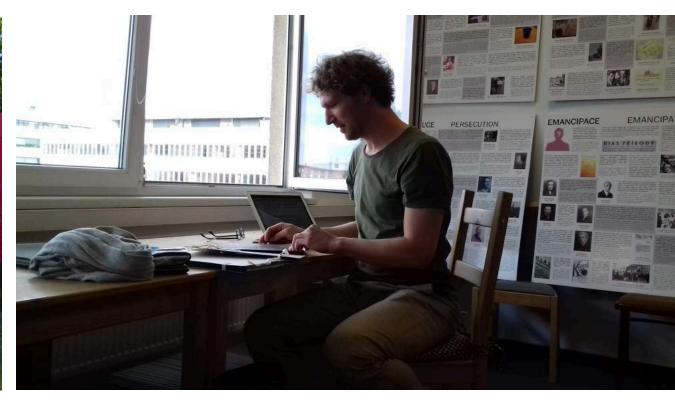


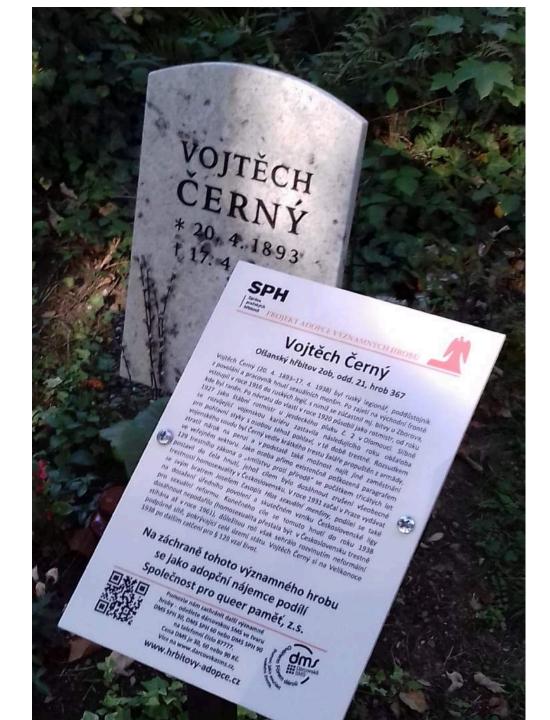




- School programs
- Consultations for Researchers
 and Activists
- Attendance to Prague Pride

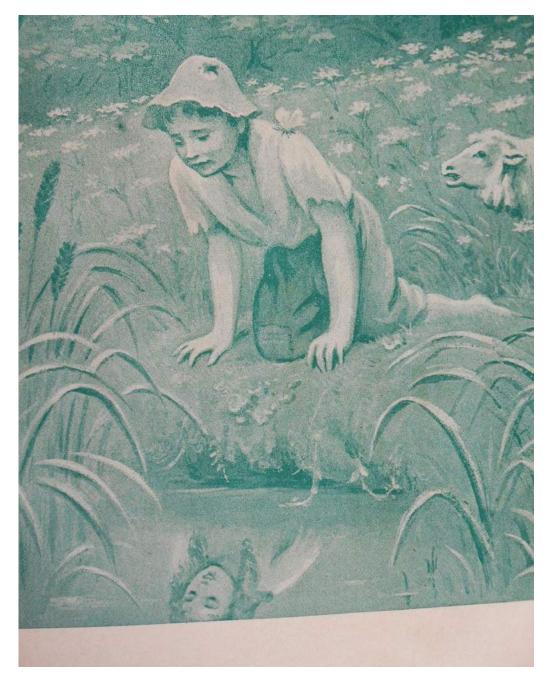






graves adoption





Thank you for your attention.

Fernand Vácha: Fairy tale illustration, 1948