**MILAN GRYGAR 2018**

31 May to 29 July 2018

Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář

Mikulandská 7, Prague 1, CZ

Tuesday to Saturday from 1 pm to 6 pm

[www.zdeneksklenar.cz](http://www.zdeneksklenar.cz)

**PRESS RELEASE**

17 May 2018

**Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář is pleased to present the current developments in the artwork of Milan Grygar – the artist who discovered sound in relation to the creation of an image – at its venue in Mikulandská Street. Grygar creates acoustic and tactile drawings, spatial musical scores, and sound performances. The exhibition includes his most current paintings, lithographs and drawings, chiefly from his *Antiphons* cycle, which Grygar has been working on since 1996.**

Milan Grygar, one of the most prominent figures on the international art scene, has for decades been continuously exploring and searching for so-far undiscovered possibilities for the development of painting. The artist had a pioneering impact on the development of art as early as the mid-1960s, when he interlinked the creation of an artwork with the phenomenon of the spatiality of sound. At that point, sound became a permanent element in his works and influenced the subsequent evolution of Grygar’s artistic endeavours. The artist started to make acoustic drawings in 1965, when they came to life together with ink drawings – at first made with a piece of wood and subsequently with other objects, including a berry-picking comb, cogwheels, and mechanical toys, such as metal frogs and chickens, which he continues to use to make his acoustic drawings and record sound and video tracks

Grygar has been involved in further developing the art of acoustic drawings since the late 1960s, later creating a series of tactile drawings in which the human body becomes the drawing tool. This is an original creative performance, which, in the words of the artist, is “a theatre of drawing on the surface of paper, coordinated through touch and hearing”. Since the end of the 1960s he has performed a series of visual music scores, which consist of a visual transcription of sound that follows clear-cut rules. Grygar’s experience with the spatiality of sound has prompted the interest of prominent composers in performing his works. For instance, Grygar has collaborated in arranging his visual scores to music with Erhard Karkoschka, a German composer and creator of new music who performed Grygar’s work with the well-known Ensemble Neue Musik in Stuttgart. In what was then still Czechoslovakia, Grygar’s works were first introduced by Jiří Stivín.

*“Films have their music and, in a similar manner, Milan Grygar’s drawings and paintings have their own soundtrack*,” writes art theorist Hans Ulrich Obrist in the book *Milan Grygar: Sound on Paper*.

The current exhibition at Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář presents the most recent colour paintings from Grygar’s *Antiphons* cycle. “An antiphonlinks the creative elements of the work,” says Milan Grygar, who discovered sound in the silence of his studio. From the way in which Grygar conceives colours, they may be understood as individual, mutually resonating tones, similar to those found in music.

A new interpretation of a set of five lithographs, first created by Grygar in 1992, is being produced in conjunction with this exhibition. In addition to the lithographs and paintings from the *Antiphons* cycle, the show also includes new acoustic drawings. When explaining the nature of acoustic drawings, Grygar says: “Acoustic drawing is drawing based on hearing – drawing of created and organised sound.’

Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář has been collaborating with Milan Grygar on an ongoing basis since the gallery was first established in 1990, and has organised several exhibitions for the artist in both the Czech Republic and abroad, even outside the European continent. These include the exhibition *Milan Grygar – Light, Sound, Movement* held at the Today Art Museum in Beijing, China, in 2012, which, because of the artist’s original concept, came to be viewed as a leading example of sound and the visual arts. A catalogue was published to accompany the exhibition. Another important display of Grygar’s art was the 2015 exhibition, entitled *John Cage / Milan Grygar* *Chance Operations & Intention*, held at the Ludwig Museum in Koblenz, Germany. The exhibition of the artist’s acoustic drawings – *Milan Grygar: Sound on Paper* – at the renowned ZKM | Centre for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, Germany, is simply unforgettable. An eponymous catalogue was published to accompany the exhibition, and includes texts written by the art theorists Peter Weibel and Hans Ulrich Obrist.

Currently, Milan Grygar’s art may also be admired in London, where a few of his exterior sculptures are on display in the garden of the residence of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, together with sculptures by Karel Malich. All of these artworks were lent by Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář.

A new edition of five lithographs of the artist’s Acoustic Drawings, 1992/2018 (63.5 x 79 cm), consisting of 30 copies of each and all signed by the artist, has been produced to accompany the exhibition.

For more information about the exhibition, please contact Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář**:**

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[www.zdeneksklenar.cz](http://www.zdeneksklenar.cz/)

[www.instagram.com/galerie\_zdenek\_sklenar/](http://www.instagram.com/galerie_zdenek_sklenar/)

[**David Hanvald: Conceptual Spring in Aesthetic Prague**](http://zdeneksklenar.cz/vystavy/289-jiri-straka--stary-pritel--porcelan-qinghua)

until 14 July 2018

Salvátorská 6, Prague 1, CZ

**Krištof Kintera: I’m a Piece of Stick Painted White**

9 June – 8 July 2018

Mariánská 1097, Litomyšl