**JIŘÍ KOLÁŘ: THE NUDE FIGURE**

4 October 2018 – 17 November 2018

Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář

Salvátorská 6, 110 00 Prague 1, CZ

Thursday to Saturday from 1 pm to 6 pm

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

**PRESS RELEASE**

Prague, 4 October 2018

**Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář is pleased to present an exhibition of the work of Jiří Kolář – poet, playwright, and later an experimental artist, who transformed the spoken word into an image, giving rise to a number of creative techniques. This series of 100 nudes, created using the crumplage technique and inspired by romantic lyricism, represents the endless possibilities offered by combinatorics and chance. Within the context of Kolář’s oeuvre, this cycle of female nudes is an exception, as he only very rarely used actual photographs for his collages.**

The exhibition *THE NUDE FIGURE* is a loose interpretation of Kolář’simportant series, *Songs of Songs*, based on the Hebrew and Armenian collection of love poems, the *Song of Solomon*. In his cycle of 100 works made using his original crumplage technique, Kolář portrays the chain motif of one woman in a perfectly synchronised repetitive rhythm. It is specifically this crumplage technique that allows Kolář’s work to function with collage as if it were written text.

“Crumpling signalises both temporariness and repetitiveness to the same degree. In a different context, Kolář mentioned how once, dissatisfied by some of his written texts, he crumpled up the pages and tossed them into the dustbin. Some time later, he took them out and smoothed out the creases. Kolář was fascinated both by the results of the crumpling, when the object of the text could no longer be read in its original context, and the possibility of its recovery,” says the German art theoretician Hans Peter-Riese about Kolář’s work.

Jiří Kolář (1914–2002,) one of whose earliest creative methods was confrontage – a collage method based on connecting motifs with either related or opposite characteristics – first made a name for himself as a poet. His collection *Prométheova játra /Prometheus’s Liver* was published in the 1950s, and the author was persecuted for it by the political regime in power at that time. Later, during the 1960s, Kolář started to show his artworks. Collage became his mainstay technique to which he added experimental approaches and poetry. He invented dozens of diverse techniques – ranging from rollage, including prolage and crumplage, to anti-collage – thus significantly enriching the visual arts with his new, unique techniques as well as by adding the principles of lyrical playfulness.

The exhibition at Galerie Zdeněk Sklenář in Salvátorská Street is not only a tribute to Kolář and his creative work but also a personal thank you from gallerist Zdeněk Sklenář to this important Czech artist, who says: “In the early days of 1990, my path led me to Kolář’s studio in Rue Olivier Métra in Paris. Jiří Kolář supported me in my decision to become a gallerist. This exhibition is therefore not only another contribution towards helping discover more about this great Czech artist, but mainly my personal thanks for the support I always received from Jiří and Běla Kolář.”

Download print quality photos [here](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y41dtp7amoafs9q/AAB_PFq0h3Ps-lzgNIj4MV6ia?dl=0).

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

press@zdeneksklenar.cz

+420 720 435 754, +420 605 936 390

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[**Karel Malich**](http://zdeneksklenar.cz/en/exhibitions/296-karel-malich-)

12 September to 24 November 2018

Mikulandská 7, Prague 1, CZ

[**Sculptures by Milan Grygar and Karel Malich Embellish the Garden Adjoining the Czech Ambassador’s Residence in London**](http://zdeneksklenar.cz/en/news/14-sculptures-by-milan-grygar-and-karel-malich-embellish-the-garden-adjoining-the-czech-ambassadors-residence-in-london-)

70 Redington Rd., London, UK