

## Building a Colletion

### 55th anniversary of the founding of the Lidice Collection of Fine Arts (LCFA)

*In 2022, we will commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Lidice Collection of Fine Arts, which was initiated by Sir Barnett Stross, when, at the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Lidice tragedy, he prepared a call that addressed artists from all over the world to lay the foundation for the Lidice Collection and later for the creation of a gallery that would become a place symbolizing the solidarity of artists with the Lidice tragedy.*

The collection was significantly expanded by the Berlin gallerist René Block. In 1967, in response to Stross's appeal, he organized the exhibition *Hommage à Lidice*, commemorating the destruction of the Czech village by the Nazis in 1942. Three decades later, he brought a set of thirty works of art from the already united Germany. He called it *Pro Lidice*.

The LCFA includes authors Gerhard Richter, Joseph Beuys, Wolf Vostell, KP Brehmer, Konrad Lueg, Sigmar Polke, Dagmar Demming, VALIE EXPORT, Karin Sander, Rosemarie Trockel, Hermann Pitz, Thomas Ruff, Imi Knoebel, Lawrence Weiner, Rosa Barba, Alfredo Jaar, Gülsün Karamustafa and many others.

Sir Barnett Stross's call was joined by the Union of Czechoslovak Fine Artists. At that time, the local artists were approached by the chairman of the association, Adolf Hoffmeister. The Lidice Collection includes Jan Smetana, Karel Souček, Vojtěch Tittelbach, Pravoslav Kotík, František Gross, Jitka and Květa Válový, František Foltýn, Aleš Veselý, Karel Malich, Kurt Gebauer, Eva Kmentová, Olbram Zoubek and more. German and Czech authors form the core of the Lidice Collection and their donations are among the most valuable works not only of the Lidice Collection, but also of contemporary fine art in general.

On the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the founding of this unique collection of fine arts we organize, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Prague, a one-day discussion forum on the history and present of the Lidice Collection of Fine Arts under the title ***Building a Collection***.

The discussion forum consists of two parts separated by a lunch break. In the morning session, there will be a discussion focused solely on the Lidice Collection of Fine Arts. We will host Czech and foreign artists represented in the collection, the German gallerist René Block, and experts from the art community. For more details, see the preliminary guest list. The discussion will be moderated by the current curator of the Lidice Collection of Fine Arts, Petra Samberg Vargová.

In the afternoon, the discussion will be focused on the historical contexts of the Lidice Collection of Fine Arts and the Lidice tragedy itself. We have invited leading experts among the contemporary historians to this part of the discussion. The afternoon session will be moderated by director of the Lidice Memorial and historian Dr. Eduard Stehlík.

## Organization info:

### Date

28.4.2022

### Venue

Goethe Institute

Masarykovo nábřeží 32, Prague 1

### Languages

Czech, German, English – interpretation service provided

### Morning Session Guests

René Block – gallerist, member of the advisory board of the LCFA curator

Eduard Stehlík – director of Lidice Memorial

Jiří Kovanda – member of the advisory board of the LCFA curator, visual artist

Foreign artist represented by a gift in the LCFA

Czech artist represented by a gift in the LCFA

Václav Hájek – art historian, curator, critique

### Morning Session Host

Petra Samberg Vargová – curator of the Lidice Collection of Fine Arts

### Afternoon Session Guests

In preparation

### Afternoon Session Host

Dr. Eduard Stehlík – historian and director of the Lidice Memorial

### Program

09:30 Press conference

09:50 Opening – introduction by GI Director and LM Director

10:00 – 12:00 Moderated discussion Part I (Art focused)

12:00 – 12:15/20 Questions and discussions with the public

12:20 Lunch break

13:30 Opening of the afternoon session – short introductory word from the moderator

13:35 Moderated discussion Part II (History focused)

15:30 – 15:45 Questions and discussions with the public

15:45 Refreshments and informal meeting of all participants

16:45 End of the event

**For our international guests we cover all the expenses (travel, accommodation, meals etc.)**