

Press release: Artwall 2012 **LADISLAV VONDRÁK: AFTERTASTE**

This year's program of ARTWALL gallery will open an exhibition by Ladislav Vondrák entitled **Aftertaste**. The project of a student of the Academy of Art, Architecture, and Design was selected out of more than 80 proposals by Czech as well as foreign artists. Thematically it follows the trend set by last year's project by Voina group aiming at problems of the contemporary society. "When choosing projects for ARTWALL 2012 we have searched for one that would reach public by its visual appearance, while critically commenting on the situation around us," declared one of the curators, Petr Motyčka.

On seven panels we can see the face of the author "fed" on paint by someone else's hand. Seemingly, Vondrák returns to the visual means of symbolic injuries typical for body art of the 60s and 70s, but as he points out in his own text, the work is not as much about the possibilities of the body and its expressivity, as a response to the situation of the contemporary political scene with its ceaseless power scrambles, corruption scandals, and unfulfilled promises.

"We will fester and you will eat it up," comments Vondrák on the approach of the Czech politicians, whose prime interest is an unlimited access to their feed-troughs and demonstrates how this "eating up" looks. "Let us enjoy the colours of our coalitions," encourages the author while paint that dribbles down from his mouth transforms itself into a brown slop. His passive position and abandon, with which he accepts his humiliation, reflects feelings of total resignation. What is left to the voter disgusted by constant lies? According to the author it is "the open mouth and an aftertaste of vomit." However, even Vondrák's stance offers a more optimistic answer. The antidote to the scepticism of the society should become a functional civil society.

"**Aftertaste**" can be also perceived as a challenge that the author, himself a discontent voter, addresses to his representatives," concludes Zuzana Štefková, one of the curators of the Artwall gallery. "His gesture could, in spite of its sceptical tone, express the belief in mechanisms of the civic society."

Gallery Artwall has renewed its existence after three years of forced break in the fall 2011 under the auspices of Lord Mayor of the city of Prague Bohuslav Svoboda. In the year 2012, the curatorial team plans to present four to five exhibitions concepts. Together with ARTWALL we have launched a new project ARTWALL: LINK that runs parallel in the public transport, on trams, and selected advertising spaces.

More info:

www.artwallgallery.cz

Opening will take place on the 26th of April 2012 at 6 pm in café of the Centre of Contemporary Art DOX, Poupětova 1, Prague 7

Press conference will be held at the same place and date from 5 pm.

Project was initiated by **Centre for Contemporary Art Prague**. Today the program is realised by **c2c Circle of Curators and Critics**, under the auspices of **Lord Mayor MUDr. Bohuslav Svoboda** and in cooperation with the **Centre of Contemporary Art DOX**

Media partners: **Umělec, A2 kulturní týdeník**

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