



# PROGRAMME 2024

From Trauma to Hope



## YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMME



### THE BELARUSIAN MARTYROLOGY

**MARCH**

A discussion on the situation in Belarus will take place at the Institute of the Memory of Nations Brno on the occasion of the opening of an exhibition of portraits of Belarusian political prisoners. The artist Ksisha Aniolawa drew inspiration for her work from the peaceful protests against the falsification of the results of the European Parliament and presidential elections in the summer and autumn of 2020. Thousands of people were fined, tortured and imprisoned. The portraits have already been exhibited in Berlin, Munich and Brussels.

**12 March, Institute of the Memory of the Nation Brno**



### TODAY WE DIVIDE

**APRIL, MAY**

Two years have passed since November 1989 and the talks of how to organize the new state, which would finally bring the promised bigger autonomy of both parts of Czechoslovakia, are growing. The dialogue between the then Czech prime minister Václav Klaus and president of Slovakia Vladimír Mečiar promises a thrilling duel between two different, yet in some sense similar men.

**10, 24 and 25 April, 30 May, Villa Tugendhat**



### VRBA-WETZLER REPORT

**APRIL**

Two Slovak Jews, Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler, escaped from Auschwitz 80 years ago. The significance of their escape was not only in gaining freedom. They planned their escape to tell the world what was happening in Auschwitz. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of these events, we will travel to Žilina, where we will pass through the sites associated with Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler.

**27 April, Žilina**



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FESTIVAL 21. 6.– 30. 6. 2024

## FROM TRAUMA TO HOPE

### DISCUSSION, FESTIVAL OPENING

"The past is not closed and finished once and for all," wrote the poet Zbyněk Hejda in his essay *Taboo* in Czech historiography. "By returning to it, then, we open its meaning to the future through ourselves. If it operates in our historical moment, it operates by understanding this present historical moment in the dimension of the past and the future. Yet the direction, the meaning of this dimension depends on us. The meaning of history is not given once and for all; it is always being created anew."

**Timothy Snyder, Marci Shore, Karel "Kovy" Kovář, Alice Koubová**

**June 21, Kraví Hora**

## RECONCILIATION MARCH

### MARCH

We will follow the footsteps of more than twenty thousand Brno citizens who were driven towards the Austrian border 79 years ago. While able-bodied men had to stay in the city for forced labour, women, children and the elderly were herded into the procession. At least 1,700 of them succumbed to the hardships on the way and in the days and weeks that followed.

**22 June, Pohořelice-Brno**

## CROSSING OUR THRESHOLDS

### FILM

Neighbours' ideas of each other are not only formed by meeting each other, but also by prejudice. This, of course, also applies to the relationship between Czechs and Germans. In the documentary film *Across Our Thresholds*, pupils from the Karl Rehbein School in Hanau, students from the American Academy in Brno and their teachers Markus Harzer and Pavel Novák, as well as other memoirists and academics from both countries explore this image.

**22 June, Augustinian Abbey**

## RICHARD HENKES

### EXHIBITION



The Czech-German exhibition will commemorate the Pallottine priest Richard Henkes, who was persecuted by the Gestapo. In 1943, he was arrested for "seditious sedition from the pulpit" and later deported to the Dachau concentration camp, where he volunteered to care for typhus patients. However, he also contracted the disease himself and died.

**22-30 June, Augustinian Abbey**





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## FRANZ KAFKA - RUTH KOHN

### EXHIBITION

The festival will present the life story and work of painter Ruth Kohn (\*1937). Her parents, who lived in Třebušice, which became part of the occupied Sudetenland, refused to declare their German nationality in 1938. During the communist totalitarian regime, Ruth was not admitted to grammar school because of her "unsuitable" class background. She married Pavel Kohn, a writer and dramaturge of the Karlovy Vary theater, who was the only one from his original family to survive the stay in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps. For political reasons, they emigrated in 1967.

**23 June, Arnold Villa**

## THE FATE OF THE BELCREDI FAMILY

### MODERATED TOUR

Do you know the turbulent history of the Moravian noble family in the 1920s? The Belcredi family, members of an ancient family with Italian roots, did not escape the consequences of the turbulent 20th century. Ludvík Hugo Belcredi was imprisoned in Hodonín near Kunštát for two years in 1949. They were left with a small apartment in the Lysen castle and were completely evicted in the 1980s. The walk will be led by Ludvík Belcredi, son of the imprisoned Ludvík Hugo.

**24 and 25 June, Belcredi Castle**

## EUROPE AS AN EDUCATION VILLAGE

### CONFERENCE

"Be the change you want to see in the world" (M. Gandhi). The purpose of conceiving of an area as an education village is to create strong, often unexpected coalitions of actors so that the quality of education and training can grow. The third education conference, which will be one of the main conferences of the Ministry of Education in 2024, will focus on the psychological well-being of pupils and students.

**24 June, Špilberk Castle Summer Stage**

## MÁGA

### THEATRE



After Magor and His Time, a biography of Ivan Martin Jirous by journalist Marek Švehla, there is another very interesting addition to Magor's portrait - the book Mága. It is compiled from the diary entries of his daughter Františka and her friend Jana M. Bauerová, in which Magor is the central figure. This production from Mikro-Teatro will present the next piece in the Strong Women series.

**24th and 25th June, Residence Cafe Kaprál**





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## TEREZIN FAMILY CAMP IN AUSCHWITZ

### LECTURE

On the night of 8-9 March 1944, nearly four thousand Jews from the Terezín family camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau were murdered in the gas chambers. This was one of the largest mass murders of the Czech population during the Second World War and in modern history. The existence of the family camp for the Jews of Terezín at Auschwitz will be presented by documentary filmmaker and publicist Adam Drda, who wrote a book about the camp called *Strange Treatment*.

**25 June, Arnold Villa**

## CZECH AND SLOVAK EXILE OF THE 20TH CENTURY

### VIEW

Guided tour of the Museum of Czech, Slovak and Rusyn Exile and Emigration of the 20th Century. This museum was created primarily so that the younger generation would not forget the dramatic events of the 20th century that drove millions of Czechs and Slovaks out of the country. Without resources, in many cases without knowledge of the language and without contacts, they began to rebuild their existence in difficult conditions... Conducted by Jan Kratochvíl.

**26 June, Museum of Czech, Slovak and Ruthenian Exile of the 20th Century**

## TRANSGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION

### DISCUSSION

Transgenerational transmission is the term for passing on a trauma or phenomenon to individuals who have not experienced the event themselves, between generations of the same family. We will discuss with writer and director Eva Lustig and conductor Tomáš Hanus, whose parents survived the Holocaust. Do they perceive and work with the traumas associated with their parents' horrific past?

**26 June, Arnold Villa**

## RECTIFYING THE WRONGS OF COMMUNIST JUSTICE

### DISCUSSION


In the context of some of the nominations for judges to the Constitutional Court, it has become clear that we are not sure how the crimes of the judiciary under communism were actually dealt with. How did those who participated in political trials fare after November 1989? Can judges who themselves committed injustices continue to decide people's fates? The discussion will be moderated by Petr Blažek, Jaroslav Spurný, Andrea Procházková. The discussion will be preceded by a tour of the courthouse.

**27 June, Brno Regional Court**





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## VRBA-WETZLER REPORT

### DISCUSSION

Two Slovak Jews, Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler (then named Walter Rosenberg), escaped from Auschwitz 80 years ago. The significance of their escape was not only in gaining freedom. They planned their escape to give the world a message about what was happening in Auschwitz. The discussion will be moderated by Fedor Gál, Marek Adamov (New Synagogue in Žilina), Milena Holcová, historian Jan Hlavinka (Director of the Holocaust Documentation Centre in Bratislava).

**28 June, Memory of the Nation**

## EDVARD BENEŠ ASSESSING

### THEATRE

After the successful production *Today We Divide*, which presented the dialogue between Václav Kalus and Vladimír Mečiar during the division of the republic, the playwright Markéta Špetíková comes up with an equally controversial topic. How to evaluate the post-war tenure of our president? The theatrical treatment of the visit of the Beneš family to Brno in 1945 and 1946 will provide ample space for reflection. Directed by Michal Zetel

**28 and 29 June, Villa Stiassni**

## FROM TRAUMA TO HOPE

### WORKSHOPS

Trauma is an invisible force that shapes our lives. It shapes how we live, how we love, and how we make sense of the world. It is the root of our deepest wounds. Working with it gives us hope for a trauma-informed society in which parents, teachers, doctors, politicians, and lawyers are not concerned with correcting behavior, making diagnoses, suppressing symptoms, and making judgments, but instead seek to understand the causes that give rise to troubling behaviors and illnesses in the wounded human soul.

**Martina Viktorie Kopecká, Alice Koubová**

**29 June, Arnold Villa**

## STARTING FROM ZERO

### EXHIBITION, DISCUSSION

A unique exhibition will tell the stories of Jewish textile artists who survived the Holocaust and had to rediscover the meaning of their lives after the war. Daniel Low-Beer, who bought the factory in Brnenec to create the Survivors' Museum, has collaborated on the exhibition.

**30 June, Tugendhat Villa**

