

PRESS RELEASE .08.2016

## Spike Island

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Roman Štětina and Miroslav Buriánek, *Instructions for use of Jiří Kolář*  
1 October to 11 December 2016  
Preview: Friday 30 September, 6–9pm



Czech artist Roman Štětina's work investigates the ways in which broadcast media including film, television and radio are created. His videos, installations and sculptures foreground the props, studios and technologies that are otherwise hidden behind the sounds and images received by an audience. At Spike Island, Štětina presents a new feature-length film made in collaboration with Miroslav Buriánek—a long standing director of radio drama for Czech Radio—which traces the process of recording a series of poems by the Czech poet, artist and translator Jiří Kolář (1914-2002).

Buriánek's interpretation of the poems, *Instructions for Use* (1969) is documented over the course of an arduous two-day recording session; translating them from the page through a precise and dynamic process, refining intonation, intensity and silences to convey Kolář's meaning and Buriánek's interpretation of it. The film exposes method, which we see in exhaustive detail and extreme close-up, with the final faultless recording being the one thing we never hear.

It was Buriánek who first opened doors for Štětina at the studios of Czech Radio (the country's public radio broadcaster), enabling him to produce a body of work over the past ten years staged in their premises and using their technologies and archival records. As Buriánek approached retirement as a director, Štětina wanted to pay tribute to his personal generosity by capturing on film his exceptional way of working with a script, with actors, and physically,

within the delimited space of the recording studio. Buriánek was invited by Štětina to select a text and – rather than a play or novel – he selected Kolář's, *Instructions for Use*, first published in Czechoslovakia in 1969.

Kolář was an important figure in the artistic and literary avant-garde which spoke out about the communist regime in place in Czechoslovakia from 1945 until the Velvet Revolution of 1989. The collection *Instructions for Use* sits between poetry and what might be called 'action art'. Kolář's texts suggest actions that are impossible in the real world and could only exist in the imagination. Within a repressive and censorious political system, the freedom of thought implicit in these poems proved a strong declaration and the collection became highly influential for Buriánek's generation, who were coming of age during the Prague Spring of 1968. Kolář has been a significant figure for Štětina as well, revealing paths to expression that sideline traditional forms of art making. In the exhibition's title, Štětina alludes to the way the words and images of one artist can be made use of by another, and the exhibition traces the movement of ideas across three generations.

Image credit: Roman Štětina and Miroslav Buriánek, *Instructions for Use of Jiří Kolář* (2016)  
Film still

– Ends –

**For further information and high resolution images please contact Jane Faram, Communications Manager on 0117 929 2266 or [jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk](mailto:jane.faram@spikeisland.org.uk)**

#### Notes for editors:

- Roman Štětina and Miroslav Buriánek's exhibition is organised in partnership with the Czech Centre London. Štětina's film *Instructions for use of Jiří Kolář* is commissioned by Jindrich Chalupecky Society. The exhibition *Návod k použití Jiřího Koláře* was presented at PLATO, Ostrava from 23 June to 19 September 2016, curated by Marek Pokorný.
- Roman Štětina (b. Kadaň, 1986) currently lives and works in Prague, Czech Republic. Štětina graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague in 2015 after spending two years on the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main studying under Judith Hopf and Douglas Gordon. Štětina is included in Manifesta 11, Zurich curated by Christian Jankowski. Recent solo exhibitions include: *The Fortress of Solitude from the holy wood of eternal noise*, MNAC Bucharest, curated by Anca V. Mihulet and Diana Marincu (2016); *Souvenir*, Polansky Gallery, Prague; *Lecture*, Gallery of Fine Arts, Zlín (CZ) (both 2015); *Mluv, abych tě viděl*, Kabinet Gallery, TIC, Brno (CZ) (2014). Recent group exhibitions include: *All Watched Over*, James Cohan Gallery; *Silver Lining*, National Gallery, Prague; *Graduates of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague*, National Gallery, Prague; *7th Zlín Youth Salon*, Gallery of Fine Arts, Zlín (CZ); *The Importance of Being in a (Moving) Image*, National Gallery, Prague; *Jindrich Chalupecky Award*, National Gallery, Prague (all 2015); *Straight to Camera: Performance for Film*, Modern Art Oxford, *Peripheral Vision, IV*, Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, MMOMA; *Explain Me Not*, Autocenter, Berlin (all 2014).
- Štětina's films and video works have been presented at Anthology Film Archive, New York, International Film Festival Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic), goEAST, 14th Festival of Central

and Eastern European Film in Wiesbaden in Germany, Bosse & Baum London, PAF Olomouc (Czech Republic), Delfina Art Foundation London.

- Miroslav Buriánek (b. 1951) is one of Czech Republic's leading radio directors. After graduating as a theatre director from the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (DAMU), he worked for Czech Radio in Pilsen from 1978 until 2015, creating thousands of reports, radio documentaries and radio dramas.
- Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design. It is a place where artists and the public can meet, enabling audiences to engage with artists' research and production. It also creates pathways for artists and other creative producers by nurturing a rich arts ecology that supports professional development beyond the confines of the organisation.
- Spike Island is a partner of Tate as part of the Plus Tate network.
- Within the 80,000 square foot building, Spike Island offers visitors a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and activities in the central gallery spaces, as well as providing working space for artists, designers and creative businesses.
- The gallery is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12–5pm. Entrance is free.

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