

PRESS RELEASE

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The art historian Professor Vojtěch Lahoda has passed

It is with deep regret that we inform you that art historian and former Director of the Institute of Art History Prof. PhDr. Vojtěch Lahoda, CSc. passed on Monday, 18 March 2019 at the age of 63.



Vojtěch Lahoda graduated in the field of Art History and Aesthetics at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. After completing his studies, he became a researcher at the Institute of the Theory and History of Art of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and under the leadership of Petr Wittlich in 1985 he defended his Ph.D. dissertation here *The Figure in Czech Painting 1907–1932: The Cubist Solution*, which set his further direction in the field.

At the Institute of Art History, Professor Lahoda started to work as a scientific assistant. He gradually became head of department, assistant director and later held the post of director for more than ten years. In that function, he led the institute to terrific results and an outstanding international evaluation.

Professor Vojtěch Lahoda was a first-class art historian with a specialization in the history of modernism and the avant-garde. He understood art history in all of its breadth and complexity with an enormous interdisciplinary overlap and did not avoid even complicated theoretical and methodological problems. He contributed many innovative findings in the area of his scientific interest and entirely new perspectives on artistic

works. He also served as a recognized university pedagogue at Charles University. He was an indisputable authority in the field of art history, both on the domestic and foreign scenes. His international significance is proved by a wide range of projects into which he was invited or he himself initiated and in which he actively participated.

"You always circle around the problem you are dealing with from different sides and from different points of view to finally reveal to us what the rest of us often don't see. At the same time, you do not mechanically repeat the already-tried methods, but you always come up with something new: art history is a creative process in your conception, just as it is with the production of true art," said Tomáš Winter, current Director of the Institute of Art History, CAS, on his work in his laudation given on the occasion of the presentation of the Award of the Art Historical Society, which Professor Lahoda won in 2017 for long-term contribution to the field of art history.

Vojtěch Lahoda is the author of a large number of publications that have been published in the Czech Republic and abroad. Among the most significant of them are the book. The most important of them include the book *Czech Cubism*, monographs of the painters Zdeněk Rykr, Jan Autengruber, Karel Černý and especially Emil Filla – a monumental seven-hundred-page work, which was nominated for the Magnesia Litera award in 2008.

As a curator, Professor Lahoda participated in a number of exhibitions. Until the last few moments, he led the team project entitled the Sudek Project, which processes Josef Sudek's photographs and negatives, deposited in the collections of the Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and introduces new interpretations of Sudek's work.

The departure of Professor Vojtěch Lahoda, our wise colleague and a kind and helpful friend, represents an extremely painful and irreplaceable loss for all his loved ones, for our institute and for the whole field of art history.

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Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, v. v. i.

The Institute of Art History has been a component of the Czech Academy of Sciences since its creation in 1953. Its scientific employees focus on research in the area of the history and theory of the fine arts and architecture and on art-historical topography. They participate in domestic and foreign research projects, are the curators of exhibitions and authors of books on art and treatises published in domestic and foreign scientific journals and proceedings. They serve as pedagogues at universities and lecture at home and abroad. They also devote attention to the issue of the protection of the

cultural heritage. The most important projects include the multi-volume History of Czech Fine Arts and the inventories of Artistic Monuments of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Prague. Since its inception, the institute has also issued the internationally respected field journal *Umění/Art*. Since 2019, the Institute of Art History expanded by a new Department of Musicology.