

CATERINA TOGNON  
arte contemporanea  
CATERINA TOGNON  
vetro contemporaneo

Ca Nova di Palazzo Treves in Corte Barozzi  
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VACLAV CIGLER  
MICHAL MOTHICKA  
*Prisms and Cylinders*

Opening: Saturday Sept. 07 6.00pm | 9.00pm  
**Sept 07 | 15 for The Glass Week**  
**every day 10.00 am | 8.00 pm**  
Sept.16 | Nov. 24 2019  
Tuesday | Saturday 10.00 am | 19.00 pm



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For Caterina Tognon the authors Václav Cigler and Michal Motyčka have prepared an installation titled *Prisms and Cylinders*, which presents their joint thinking on many levels, from the sensory experience of the perception of a given space to the understanding of implicit symbolic meanings and optical changes of glass sculptures in a gallery environment.

Using the words of Václav Cigler: *“Glass is a magical, and in some sense spiritual, material. Optical glass, which I have been working with since the late 1950s, is a material that has been developed for technical and scientific purposes. Working with it, one can discover the secrets of the micro and macro world and see a world that is different from the world one sees with the naked eye. The optical properties of glass are therefore artistic and aesthetic means for me with the help of which I can introduce to the viewer a world featuring new shapes, lights and colors.”*

The exhibited works are transparent objects, elementary forms of prisms and cylinders made of optical glass. They create sensory and architectural relationships using compositions based on element sorting, change of horizon perception, and the gate composition principle. The horizon defined by the onlooker's view changes with the change of prism bevel angles. Close to the gate, the edges of two slanting blocks converge to the center and form a narrow slot. Light transforms the shapes of objects, radiates and distorts their exact forms. Through the installation, the authors attempt to change the perception of space by the viewer.

In his artistic work, Václav Cigler has been working on glass sculptures since the late 1950s, as the first artist he discovered the potential of optical glass developed for technical and scientific purposes and began using it for the creation of works of art. He was selected to participate in major international exhibitions (1959 at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, USA, 1957 and 1960 at the 11th and 12th Triennial in Milan, Expo 58 in Brussels, 1964 at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts of the American Craftsmen's Council in New York) and at the Expo 67 in Montreal, where his prism sculpture was for the first time awarded an international recognition.

Isaac Newton also experimented with the optical properties of prisms. Trying to determine the nature of light, he was able to decompose white light into a rainbow spectrum and merge it again, thereby refuting Aristotle's theory, who claimed that white light is substantially pure.

Václav Cigler and Michal Motyčka present *Prisms and Cylinders* made of optical glass that precisely formulate space and, with the help of a visual installation, develop a minimalist story of a symbolic shape - together with the physical presence of the viewer. They deal with the issue of optical displaying but also with a more serious reflection on the nature of light and the perception of colors, simply with experimenting with our senses. The objects having a seemingly simple geometric shape are enhanced by the events and actions of this light, color and shape-changing environment gallery space.

*Jana Šindelová*

## **Václav Cigler**

Was born on 21 April 1929 in the East-Moravian city of Vsetín. He is one of the most important authors of the artistic generation emerging in the early 1960s. In his work, he anticipated the arising concepts of then contemporary art expression (constructive tendencies, minimalism, land-art, light and kinetic sculpture). He works primarily with space, glass, light and water. Between 1951 and 1957 he studied at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague in the studio of Josef Kaplický. In 1965 he founded, and until 1979 led, the Department of Glass in Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava. The work of Václav Cigler is focused on plastic objects made of cut optical glass, design and realization of lighting and jewelry, drawings, as well as projects and compositions for architecture. He has implemented a number of objects and spatial installations. He has presented his work at many solo and collective exhibitions in the Czech Republic and abroad.

### **His works are represented in a number of important private and public collections.**

Národní galerie, Praha, CZ • Uměleckoprůmyslové museum, Praha, CZ • Muzeum umění Olomouc, CZ • Severočeské muzeum, Liberec, CZ • Moravská galerie, Brno, CZ • Galerie Benedikta Rejta, Louny, CZ • Galerie Klatovy/Klenová, CZ • Galerie Středočeského kraje, Kutná Hora, CZ • Muzeum skla a bižuterie, Jablonec nad Nisou, CZ • Museum Kampa – Nadace Jana a Medy Mládkových, Praha, CZ • Slovenská národná galéria, Bratislava, SK • Múzeum Milana Dobeša, Bratislava, SK • Galéria Miloša Bazovského v Trenčíne, Trenčín, SK • Kunstgewerbemuseum/Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, D • Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, D • Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe, D • Museum, Coburg, D • Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, D • Museum Bellerive, Zürich, CH • Musée Lausanne, Lausanne, CH • Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, NL • Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL • Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, NL • Glas Museum, Leiden, NL • Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, F • Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK • Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Montréal, Montréal, CAN • The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, USA • American Craft Museum, New York, USA • Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, J • The Rose-Asenbaum Collection, Dallas Museum of Art, USA • The Design Museum, München, D.

## **Michal Motyčka**

Was born on 18 March 1974 in Prague. He is an architect and art graduate from the Faculty of Architecture at the Czech Technical University in Prague and from the studio of Glass in Architecture (with Professor Marian Karel) at the Prague Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design; he completed an internship at the School of Architecture (with Professor Emil Příklad) at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and received a research fellowship focusing on the field of glass at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, Rhode Island, USA (with Professor Bruce Chao). He is a diverse multi-disciplinary artist, and his works spans between architecture and contemporary visual art. Since 1999, he works together with Václav Cigler.

**Joint project highlights:**

2003 *Václav Cigler and Graduates from the Dpt. of Glass in Architecture at the High School of Fine Arts in Bratislava between 1965 and 1979*, Mánes, Prague, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler and Graduates from the Dpt. of Glass in Architecture at the High School of Fine Arts in Bratislava between 1965 and 1979*, The Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava, Slovak Republic • 2004 *Václav Cigler*, The Caesar Gallery, Olomouc, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler*, The Trade Fair Palace, The National Gallery in Prague, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler*, The Benedikt Rejt Gallery, Louny, Czech Republic • *Thinking in glass, Václav Cigler and His School*, Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag, Netherlands • 2006 *Václav Cigler*, The Pokorná Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic • 2007 *Václav Cigler*, Caterina Tognon Arte Contemporanea, Venice, Italy • *Václav Cigler, Drawings*, Gallery of Modern Art, Roudnice nad Labem, Czech Republic • 2008 *Zerbrechliche Schönheit [Fragile Beauty]*, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany • *Water Surfaces / Mirroring / Rippling*, Gallery Kai de kai, Prague, Czech Republic • 2009 *Meeting Places*, Museum Kampa, Prague, Czech Republic • *Doubled Vertical*, The Kramář Villa, Prague, Czech Republic • *Light and Water as a Principle*, The National Glass Centre, Sunderland, Great Britain • 2010 *Václav Cigler: Light and Space in the Garden of Reason*, The Litvak Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel • 2012 *Václav Cigler in Cooperation with Michal Motyčka: Seeking Order*, DSC Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic • 2013 *Václav Cigler: Here Again*, Gallery 19, Bratislava, Slovak Republic • *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: At the Castle*, Bruntál Museum, Sovinec Castle, Czech Republic • *Space of a Temple, Space of a Crypt*, The Castle Brewery, Litomyšl, Czech Republic • 2015 *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: Projects 2003–2015*, Litomyšl Regional Museum, Litomyšl, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler: Here and Now*, Prague City Gallery, Troja Château, Prague, Czech Republic • 2016 *CIGLER MOTYČKA AKČY TOM RELGIC*, Gallery of Contemporary Art/ House of Art, České Budějovice, Czech Republic • 2017 *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: Dialogue*, DSC Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic • 2018 *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: Spatial Occasion*, Miroslav Kubík Gallery, Litomyšl, Czech Republic • 2019 *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: Light Field*, Gallery of Modern Art Roudnice nad Labem, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler: Drawings*, Olomouc Museum of Art, Olomouc, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: Prisms and Cylinders*, Václav Chad Gallery, Zlín Castle, Zlín, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: Human Space I, II, III*, North Bohemian Gallery of Fine Art, Litoměřice, Czech Republic.

**Joint works in public spaces:**

2000–2009 Kampa Museum, The Sova Mills, terrace and glass footbridge – realization, Prague, Czech Republic • 2005 zwinger, The North-Bohemian Gallery of Fine Arts, Litoměřice, Czech Republic • 2008 Palladium, *Verticals*, Prague, Czech Republic • 2009 *Wings Mirroring on Water Surface*, Fraeylemaborg water château, Netherlands • 2014 *Column with a Reflexive Surface*, Piarist Church of the Discovery of the Holy Cross, Litomyšl, Czech Republic • 2015 *Mensa and Cross of Light*, Piarist Church of the Discovery of the Holy Cross, Litomyšl, Czech Republic • 2016 *Artistic Intervention*, Pilgrimage site of our Lady Victorious, White Mountain, Prague, Czech Republic • 2018 *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: WE ARE 100*, Litomyšl, Czech Republic • 2018 *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: The Open Tomb*, an artistic intervention in the crypt of the Piarist Church of the Discovery of the Holy Cross, Litomyšl, Czech Republic • 2019 *Václav Cigler a Michal Motyčka: Luminously*, The Olomouc Archdiocesan Museum, Olomouc, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler a Michal Motyčka: Externalization*, Archbishops Chateau and Flower Garden, Kroměříž, Czech Republic • *Václav Cigler, Michal Motyčka: Edge*, Třeboň, Czech Republic.