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**Does photography steal one's soul? What do we still believe to be true today? These and many other questions will be explored at this year's Fotograf Festival.**

**Does reality as seen through our eyes provide the true image of what is there? What are we willing to believe when it comes to photography, and what not? Are we wary and doubtful when seeing a strange visual image, yet perfectly willing to accept an abstract scientific photograph taken by a microscope or satellite because it corresponds to our technocratic view of the world? These questions will be conjured up during the 4th edition of Fotograf Festival, the only photography festival in the Czech Republic with a curatorial concept.**

In cooperation with Prague's galleries, we've prepared more than 20 exhibitions, performances, lectures and discussions related to "**Seeing is believing**", the main subject of this year's edition of the festival, which will take place in October 2014. This subject encourages us to question the authenticity of photographic images as well as the nature of mechanisms that influence our visual perception, and to search for the boundaries between reality and its depiction. It also invites us to enter an imaginary space behind the mirror, showing us photography as proof positive of phenomena unexplained by science and blurring the lines between the natural and supernatural.

The festival will be complemented by a special 24<sup>th</sup> issue of *Fotograf* magazine dedicated to the main subject. Photography professionals will be welcome to attend "**The Mirror Stage**", an international discussion forum with distinguished speakers from the Czech Republic and abroad. **Margaret Iversen**, an art history professor at the University of Essex; **Karen Irvine**, a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; **Katarzyna Majak**, a photography curator and a college professor; **Patrizia Munforte**, an art historian at Universität Zürich; and **Václav Hájek**, a theoretician of visual culture, will discuss the subject of this year's festival in the context of visual art. And, in addition to the discussion forum, guided exhibition tours, performances and lectures, you can also look forward to a psychic session.



This year's festival will be full of oddities and unusual approaches. In the gallery of National Library of Technology (Gallery NTK), preparations are underway for the **SPOT** exhibition, an experiment by Milan Mikuláščík. It will be shrouded in darkness, with individual projects being illuminated at irregular intervals by cones of light, thus determining the order of perceived images.

**Sam Ashley**, an American multimedia artist and experimenter, will be on hand to present his unique project in a world premiere. In 1984, Ashley took several rolls of photographs in the Amazonian rainforest, but decided to leave them undeveloped. And now, after thirty years, we'll be the first to see if the photographs captured something of his former search for shamanism.

**David Miller**, a Canadian artist, uses photography to record the life processes of objects, capturing the disappearance of their visible and tangible outlines, which are being replaced by a zone of darkness, enveloping the image until it's completely gone, and thus questioning the shelf-life of the image.

**Cinema Peephole (Kinokukátko)** is a special festival exhibition displayed in a public space, offering a nonstop screening of four silent films from the National Film Archive, at Korzo, Veletržní Palace. The first day of the Fotograf Festival will also see two multimedia interactive **performances** that will take advantage of the Veletržní Palace courtyard (**Richard Loskot: Time Holds Everything Together**) as well as of the urban space around it (**Jonáš Strouhal and Jonáš Rosůlek: CRIPPLED BY CONSCIOUSNESS**).

Among other festival events, we'd like to draw your attention to an impressive performance by **Boris Ondreička**, a famous Slovak artist who has transformed his lifelong interest in psychic photography into a night session called **Manifestation of the Spirit (mis-en-scène)**. The event will be premiered in the spectacular Baroque ballroom of the Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace.

For the complete programme and more information, please go to [www.fotografestival.cz](http://www.fotografestival.cz)

The festival is organised by Fotograf 07 o.s. with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the City of Prague.

Partners: Galerie hlavního města Prahy, Národní Filmový Archiv, Parkhotel Praha, Národní Galerie, Polský institut v Praze, Česká centra, Pro Helvetia, FAMU

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