



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Veronica Corpuz, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust  
(412) 471-6082 / corpuz@pgharts.org

***Czech it***

12 Czech photographers exhibit new work at SPACE

April 3 – May 31, 2009

SPACE, 812 Liberty Avenue, Cultural District  
Pittsburgh, PA

*Opening Reception on Friday, April 3, 5-7pm*

PITTSBURGH, PA: The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and SPACE present *Czech it*, an exhibition by eleven Czech photographers, co-curated by Jen Saffron and Eva Heyd, the director of the Prague House of Photography. *Czech it* showcases the contributions of three generations of photographers, each responding to distinct social and political times of the Czech Republic, which over the past 80 years has seen war, communism and revolution. Ranging from the 1920s to now, *Czech it* chronicles Bauhaus-influenced avant-garde abstractions, post-war reportage of social oppression, and the emerging new aesthetics following the Velvet Revolution.

*Czech it* includes selections of three films from the series entitled Rare Bohemians II, screened at the Harris Theater, directly across the street from SPACE. *Bored in Brno* will be screened at the Harris, Friday, April 3, at 8 p.m. A gallery party called *One Night Stand* will be held on Friday, April 24, at ## p.m.

A major exhibition highlight includes vintage portfolios by avant-garde masters Jaromír Funke and Eugen Wiškovský, featuring their pre-war abstracts that speak to the Bauhaus. Works by Funke, Wiškovský and other Czech avant-garde photographers from the 1920 and 30s are rarely exhibited in the U.S.

Jen Saffron, co-curator and photographer, initially conceived of this exhibition through her participation in a workshop with renowned Czech documentary photographer, Jindřich Štreit. Štreit, from the Moravia region of the Czech Republic, recorded the decades before the Velvet Revolution, documenting the every day trials of rural villagers struggling under an oppressive regime. Following the presentation of his documentation of village poverty, he himself experienced government censure in the forced closing of his photographic exhibition and grammar school where he served as Headmaster. He has ten works in the exhibit, dating from the late 1970s.

With a critical and ironic eye, Dana Kyndrová's photography quietly underscore the plights of women surviving the fading days of Czech's communist rule. Contemporary Czech photographers include Dana Kyndrová, Štěpán Grygar, Evžen Sobek, Michal Pěchouček, Kateřina Držková, Petra Malá, Kristyna Milde, Alena Kotzmannová. Work ranges from black and white fiber prints to saturated color ink-jets, including the work of members from the Prague House of Photography, one of the exhibition sponsors.

This exhibition is supported in part by the Prague House of Photography, Czech Center New York, Vladimir Birgus, and Tomáš Pospiszył. The films are presented as part of a touring series RARE BOHEMIANS II, produced by Irena Kovarova in collaboration with the Czech Film Center. Additional support provided by the Czech Embassy and Czech Center New York; Center for Russian and East European Studies and Film Studies at the University of Pittsburgh; and Point Park University. Special thanks to Murray Horne, Volodia Padunov, Lucy Fischer, Carol Hochman, Gary Kaboly, Fred Johnson, Andrew Swensen, and Rich Engel.

A project of The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, SPACE is free and open to the public Tuesday-Thursday 11:00 am-6:00 pm and Friday-Saturday 11:00 am to 8:00 pm. For more information call (412) 325-7723 or visit [pgharts.org](http://pgharts.org).

### **Exhibition Details**

Exhibition dates: April 3 – May 31

Co-curated by Jen Saffron and Eva Heyd

**Opening Reception:** Friday, April 3, 5 – 7 p.m. free and open to the public

**Opening Film Screening:** *Bored in Brno* at the Harris, Friday, April 3, 8 p.m.

Additional Czech films at the Harris Theater, April 3 – 9, [www.pghfilmmakers.org](http://www.pghfilmmakers.org)

[<http://www.pghfilmmakers.org>](http://www.pghfilmmakers.org) [insert Filmmakers logo, here]

**One Night Stand: art, music, performance** – April 24 7:30 – 11:30pm

SPACE

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 11am-6pm, Friday and Saturday 11am-8pm

812 Liberty Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh

412-325-7723, [www.spacepittsburgh.org](http://www.spacepittsburgh.org)

###