

Habatat Galleries
PRAGUE / BRATISLAVA Glass Art Tour
“Working” Itinerary
September 2 - 10, 2015

Tuesday, September 1 **Depart Home City**

Today you fly from your home city to **Prague**, the jewel of Central Europe.

Wednesday, September 2 **Arrival in Prague**

After clearing arrival formalities, our tour representative will meet you outside the airport Arrivals Hall, holding a sign with your name and then transfer you into the heart of Prague. The **Hotel Intercontinental Prague** is where our group has reserved deluxe and executive rooms.

This afternoon you have time for your own leisure pursuits. We assemble in the lobby late afternoon to meet your art expert hosts **Ferdinand** and **Kathy Hampson** of **Habatat Galleries**, and tour escorts **Susan** and **Allan Weiner** of **Professional Travel**. A quick rundown of the Czech itinerary and some logistical information will be discussed.

A “glass” venue or speaker will be selected for us to visit following the discussion. TBA

Boarding our private coach we travel thru the city to our Group “Welcome Dinner” at the quaint **V Zatisi Restaurant**. (D)

Thursday, September 3 **Prague**

***Full breakfast buffet is included each morning during the Prague/Bratislava Glass Art Tour 2015.**

Wear your walking shoes today, as we meet our knowledgeable local guide, at the hotel for a tour of the spires, turrets, and colorful architecture of **Old Prague**. We start with an overview of the city from our coach. Then we aim for the **Josefov District (Jewish Quarter)**, where we visit the **Old Jewish Cemetery** where 12,000 gravestones are layered into the ancient grounds. We will visit the 700 year old **Old-New Synagogue** and the **High Synagogue**. The **Pinkas Synagogue** now serving as a memorial to all the Jewish Czech citizens who were imprisoned in **Terezin Concentration Camp**, features the emotional pictures drawn by the children held in the camp.

Our group will walk the narrow winding streets of the Old Town to view the **Old Town Hall**, with its

famous astronomical clock. Nearby, **The Church of Our Lady Before Tyn** dominates the Square.

Continuing on foot, we walk over the **Karlův Most**, (Charles Bridge) with its wonderful assortment of 30 statues of the Catholic Saints and Gothic Towers.

A Group Lunch will be held in **Old Town** at a noted fine restaurant.

Deep in the city of Prague, off a busy avenue, we find an exhibition space where **Jaromir Rybak** and his son **Krystof** have an exhibition of their recent work in glass and bronze.

Continuing on, our coach takes us out into the suburbs to join **Jaromir** and his wife **Katherine** at his home/studio. Stepping down the spiral staircase, we enter Jaromir's private studio. Here he creates his bold cast and etched interpretations on nature.

We have been invited to the studio of **Tomas Hlavicka**, Grand Prize Winner of the **2001 Kanazawa International Exhibition of Glass** and the **European Prize for Fine Art** in Prague and Brussels. An architect by trade, Mr. Hlavicka has apprenticed by assisting important Czech glass artist **Pavel Hlava**.

As the son in-law of this late great glass artist, he and the family have offered us a very private viewing of some remaining sculptures from this “master” artist, along with new exciting work of Tomas.

Late afternoon we return to the city center and our hotel.

Tonight you have time to explore the many restaurants around the **Old Town Square** or walk the city for dinner on your own. (B,L)

Friday, September 4 **Northern Bohemia
Zelezny Brod**

Our itinerary takes us north into the glass region of **Zelezny Brod**. We first visit the home of **Bretislav Novak Jr.** A long-time teacher and a world renowned artist, Mr. Novak works in a small

studio in his home. By cutting and beveling pieces of glass in various colors, Mr. Novak laminates them together at odd angles. The results are both large-scale and small sculptures, showing brilliant plays of light through tricks of refraction.

A student of **Professor Stanislav Libensky**, at the *Academy of Applied Arts of Prague*, and winner of many notable glass invitational awards, **Vladimira Klumpar** shares space at the casting studio run by **Petr Novotny**. Vladimira will meet us at Mr. Novak's studio and accompany us directly through this historic workroom. Glass sculptures designed from many great Czech and American artists are brought to reality in this facility and then shipped to the artists for final finishing and polishing.

Lunch on tour will be in a selected country café.

Building on the learned concepts of color-light and optical geometry, Ms. Klumpar has created a new terrain of her own. By re-examining nature, enlarging and contouring shapes against normal type, she provides ever-changing themes to her sculptures. Vladimira shows us her work-space and an exhibit of her latest creations.

We plan to visit the retrospective exhibit of work by renowned artists **Stanislav Libensky** and **Jaroslava Brychtova** at a new *Zelezny Brod* museum. This partnership, which began in 1954, has been recognized globally as the most important collaborative team of innovative artists working in glass.

Over the years Professor Libensky painted and sketched, later worked on glass and eventually created massive glass sculptures. Ms. Brychtova would then create the *maquettes* and clay sculptures and molds to complete their artworks.

Professor Libensky was a dynamic teacher. He influenced many students with his modernistic ideas and independent new approaches to using the medium of glass.

Jaroslava experimented in carving glass and casting in the late 1940's. She founded the **Center for Architectural Glass** at the **Specialized School of Glassmaking** in 1950. Married in 1963, they worked together until Professor Libensky's death on February 24th, 2002.

Ivana Houserova is a Czech artist in the best traditions of casting. Her "signature" differs the work from others, by combining smoothness to

her vibrant monotone kinetic cast pieces. Ivana then heavily cold-works textures onto the surfaces. We meet her in her private home/studio.

The return to Prague will be in the late afternoon.

The rest of the evening is at leisure with dinner on your own. Enjoy walking by the river or taking in a musical performance. (B,L)

Saturday, September 5 Northern Bohemia Novy Bor

Early this morning we travel out of the city into *Northern Bohemia*, to the region called *Sluknov*.

A very special visit is planned with **Jan Frydrych** and his wife **Anna** in their "*fairy tale castle*" home. We can relax and roam through the extensively renovated grand home and gardens.

Jan's exhibition of work will dazzles us with amazingly bright luminescent cubes, cones, spheres, and blocks of highly polished clear and royal blue crystal-optical glass. He will bring us down into his large work space, to explain his processes and techniques.

Leaving *Sluknov*, we enter the historic glass center of *Novy Bor*. Because of extensive forests and rivers to fuel hundreds of small glass factories, the Liberec Region has boasted the making of many varieties of Bohemian Glass since the 1700's.

Every artist we asked in the region told us we *must* have lunch at the new hot shop/café of **Petr Novotny's Ajeto Glassworks**.

This complex houses an exhibition space and gallery, hot shop and production rooms, Glass Sculptural Garden plus a café.

The **Ajeto Restaurant** was built with a large windowed viewing passage to the working hot shop. There is also a museum showing regional glass art upstairs for us to view.

Martin Janecky is an accomplished artist who was born into a glass-making family. Martin observed the glass factory settings while visiting his technician father at his job.

Beginning his career at the pipe himself at the age of 13, Martin went on to attend the famous **Secondary Glass Art School** and at the age of 20 was employed by a leading Czech artist as an assistant. Mr. Janecky has been an instructor,

gaffer and visiting artist at both **Penland School of Crafts** and **Pilchuck Glass School**. Working on American glass-master **William Morris'** team, has lead to the development of his striking high-caliber figurative artwork.

The last stop in the area is the home/studio of **Milan Handl** and his wife **Stanislava Grebenickova**. Both of these established artists cast large-scale glass into unusual shapes, using bright clear colors with detailed cutting and polishing of the surfaces.

***We have a story to tell about our last visit to this studio...**

Our coach driver will return the group to central Prague.

Dinner this evening is on your own. (B,L)

Sunday, September 6

Prague

We have a mid-morning appointment to enter the impressive **Museum of Decorative Arts**. Here we will meet the Senior Curator who will escort us through the museum, for a "government sanctioned" behind-the-scenes look at the seldom seen **Glass Archives**. The curator will give a short talk on Czech Glass Art while visiting part of the permanent collection.

A Group Lunch to follow in a local café.

Ivana Sramkova was a student in **Professor Stanislav Libensky's** "last class". She is one of the Czech new generation of glass artists. Ivana works in both large and small-scale, bold cubist block castings. Her work is representative of figurative, animal and nature in the simplest of geometric terms. Ms. Sramkova has had many "one woman" shows all throughout Europe.

A few years ago we lost the exciting artist **Bohumil Elias**. A man so vibrant that he worked obsessed into the night, coming up with many different expressions of his artistry. A large smiling face, and an enthusiastic hug were always a welcoming part of visiting the center of Bohumil's creativity.

His legacy continues, as we visit his son **Bohumil Elias Jr.**, who has emerged as a strong talent in his own right. Working in his father's original glass studio, Bohumil Jr. also has many facets to his artworks. Some are heavily cold-worked with

textures onto the surfaces and some are smooth cast pieces in the Czech tradition. Tonight you will have some time to take in the sights of **Old Town**. There are many restaurants and shops to explore. A great place to "people watch". (B,L)

Monday, September 7

Prague

High on the hill overlooking the city of Prague, sits the 1000 year old **Prague Castle** and **Hradcany**. Our guide will take us through the gates to see the Gothic splendor. **St. Vitus Cathedral**, **Lobkowitz Palace**, and the **Golden Lane** featuring the 16th century artists' cottages along the inside of the castle wall, are all included on the tour this morning.

Your host **Ferdinand Hampson** of **Habatat Galleries** has arranged a very special, private viewing of historic and new Czech Glass for us at **Galerie Meridian**.

The remainder of the day is at your leisure to have a café lunch, stroll the narrow winding streets of Old Town, or visit the many Bohemian glass and Amber stores. Great finds for gifts! You might try just relaxing at the hotel's pool and fitness club and pack for our departure tomorrow for Bratislava.

Tonight's **Farewell to Prague Dinner** has been arranged at **Ginger and Fred Restaurant**, formerly named **Celeste Restaurant**. Considered one of the best restaurants in Prague, it is located on the 7th floor of the unique curvy cubist "**Dancing House**," designed by American architect **Frank Gehry**. The restaurant offers unparalleled views of the City, the Vltava River and Prague Castle. (B,D)

Tuesday, September 8

Southern Bohemia/ Bratislava, Slovakia

Our art explorations begin by traveling south out of Prague, past pastoral countryside fields to **Zdar nad Sazavou** in **Southern Bohemia**.

Our schedule here begins with a visit to the newly constructed **Glass Art Center** owned and run by **Frantisek Janak**, a noted glass designer and freelance artist.

A long time professor at the prestigious **Kemenicky Senov School of Glassmaking**, and a student himself of Professor **Stanislav**

Libensky, he has influenced many students in the Czech Republic.

Frantisek has taken this former glass manufacturing facility and created a public interactive art studio. Here workshops are given by guest artists from Europe and the US. Mr. Janak wishes to continue the historic involvement in glassmaking which dates from the Middle Ages on into the future.

Along the way we plan to visit the studio of a young artist. **Alena Matejkova** works in both small and large-scale installations. She is known for her colonnades of melted and sheet glass and basalt stone.

In the charming small town of *Zdar nad Sazavou*, we find the studio of **Petr Hora**. The minute Mr. Hora heard we were returning to the Czech Republic, he offered to have us come to his home/studio and have us meet with his family.

Creator of many highly polished cast pieces, Petr designs each piece in a varied assortment of exciting geometric shapes. Light and color jump out of his sculptures.

A Group Luncheon will be provided.

Motoring on back to the main road from Prague, we stop in *Havlickuv Brod* at the studio of glass pioneer, **Jan Exnar**. Using the Czech esthetic of bold cast pieces, Mr. Exnar creates veils of bubbled nebular to form interesting "life" shapes inside his glass sculptures.

From here we continue south on to *Bratislava, Slovakia* where we will check into the grand **Arcadia Hotel**, situated in the walkable *Old Towne*. Rooms have been reserved for our tour members.

This evening is on your own for dinner and exploring the picturesque streets of *Old Towne*.
(B,L)

Wednesday, September 9

Bratislava

Once a part of *Czechoslovakia*, *Bratislava* is now the capital of *Slovakia*. Our local guide will explain the city history on tour in this beautiful city.

**The importance of Czech artist Vaclav Cigler's influence shows in many of the artists working in Slovakia today. Mr. Cigler, a renowned artist using optical glass and large-scale installations, had taught the arts from 1965 thru 1979 in the Department of Glass and Architecture at the Visual*

Arts College in Bratislava. Now 85 years old, Mr. Cigler is still a force of inspiration in Europe.

Traveling out into the countryside we will find the home and studio of **Stepan Pala** and **Zora Palova**.

Stepan's work follows the **School of Vaclav Cigler** in its influence into cubistic geometric and architectural abstract forms. Circles, spheres, cylinders and rectangles are used to mark his style of artistry. By melting and molding the transparent optical glass, he creates flowing forms. With Stepan's knowledge of cold working the glass, the finished work catches and reflects the light beautifully.

Zora has a more intense colorful hand with her sculptures. She likes to "hand-model" the material by kiln-forming her mostly abstract pieces.

Lunch will be in a local café.

Pavol Hloska has studied with Professor Cigler in the "Optical School". Pavol uses the glass forms that allow him to originate illusions of infinite space. Pure surfaces and sharp angles show the complex technology used in making his art glass.

It has been suggested we visit the studios of **Lukas Mjartan**. Kiln-formed casting is used in Mr. Mjartan's sculptures. Lukas apprenticed with Stepan Pala and Zora Palova. He draws his inspirations from architectural forms, geometric shapes and some different rough textures. Mr. Mjartan uses intensity of color to express the depth of mass in his work.

**In each of these studios we will meet other young artists and will be presented with an exhibition of their artistry.*

A Group "Farewell Dinner" is being planned in a fine local restaurant for tonight. (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 10

Flight Home

After an early breakfast we check out of the hotel and transfer to the **Vienna Airport**. Here you will check-in and go through security for your flight home or to your next destination. (B)

**We Thank You for your participation and wish you a safe and easy flight!*

**Please Note: This itinerary is the "Working Itinerary" of The Prague / Bratislava Glass Art Tour 2015. There may be shifting of the visits, additions or subtractions due to reconfirmation by artists, glass facilities and logistical adjustments. However, be assured that any changes made will be done to enhance the total program and to accommodate the artists, studios and smooth operation of the tour.*

Tour Price: \$ 4379.00
per person double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$ 1195.00

Deposit: \$ 1000.00 per person
to reserve your space on the tour

Final Payment: Due before July 1st, 2015

Travel Insurance: Is highly recommended and available and payable at the time of Deposit.

Room Upgrades available in **Prague:**

Executive Rooms \$ 120.00 per person
double occupancy for **all** six nights
Single Upgrade \$ 228.00 for **all** six nights

Prague Extra Nights:

Deluxe Room \$ 198.00 per person
double occupancy
Executive Room \$ 210.00 per person
double occupancy
Single Occupancy
Deluxe Room \$ 369.00
Executive Room \$ 405.00

Extra Nights available in **Bratislava:**

\$120.00 per person double occupancy
\$190.00 Single Occupancy

This tour has been created exclusively for
Habatat Galleries

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