

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

KAMILA ŽENATÁ : BOOK OF CHANGES

Opening reception: Thursday 23rd August 2018, 7-10 pm

Curator: Helena Gaudekova

"Synchronicity takes the coincidence of events in space and time as meaning something more than mere chance, namely, a peculiar interdependence of objective events among themselves as well as with the subjective (psychic) states of the observer or observers."

C.G. Jung's Foreword to the I Ching

This exhibition is a tribute to the I Ching - the Book of Changes. This ancient Chinese collection of wisdom was traditionally used as a divination text and an oracle from 1000 BC onwards. When utilised as a cleromancy through casting stalks of yarrow plant or coins, apparently random sets of yin and yang characters are generated to form a hexagram, which is then looked up in the Book. Deciphering such readings offers numerous ways of interpretation, from symbolical to mythical. Scholars and sages from China as well as all over the world have been elaborating on the understanding of I Ching for centuries. Since its dispersal across Western cultures, The Book of Changes has also had a profound influence on modern psychology, literature and art.

Whether used as an oracle, spiritual wisdom guide or as a literary source, the I Ching reflects in a poetic way the unceasing movement, a constant stream of changes unravelling in individual lives as well as on the grander societal level. The readers of I Ching, similarly to the visitors to Kamila's exhibition, become themselves part of this stream of processes. Simply by being present, the observer becomes an inseparable part of what is happening around them. The exhibition consists of eight videos, introducing the natural symbols from the Book: sky, earth, water, fire, thunder, mountain, wind and lake. Visitors to the exhibition are encouraged to immerse themselves into the stream of the eight videos and become part of the all-encompassing experience of images appearing and disappearing, overlapping and entering into mutual visual dialogues. Being on a loop, the videos create a dynamic image of unceasing change, transformation, interaction and synchronicity. As the length of the videos vary, the overall impression they co-create is never the same. They interact in a new way each time, coinciding and vividly communicating. The effect of this interaction is different in any given moment, offering the viewer a myriad of parallel occurrences, celebrating synchronicity in its everlasting cycle of appearing and disappearing.

The Master featured in the videos is a symbol for a conscious human being, who moves in synergy with the forces of nature and life - a sage who lives in harmony with the underlying rhythm of being, knowing they are part of a greater scheme, understanding the world as a shared dynamic environment. As such, they respect the principles of nature, creating a union between the earth, the sky and the human mind.

The artist Kamila Ženatá

Kamila represents an unconventional phenomenon on the Czech art scene. Like a brook gradually growing into a river, the graphic art student has successively become a painter, then a multimedia artist, therapist and author. In her artistic work, Kamila consistently pursues two main directions. One being her interest in shared memory, individual memories, dreams, networks of relations and influences (the unconscious) and other principles, operating outside of conventional time and space. The other direction is Kamila's observations and monitoring of the phenomena and changing states of nature. The shared field of both of these directions is the perception of the world as a play of energies, continuously transforming into narratives in an ineffable cycle. Kamila lives and works in Prague, Czech Republic.

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