



Presence/Absence: Constructing Queer Histories

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University of Technology
Society for Queer Memory,
Prague

Czech History

- Until 1918: Austrian-Hungarian Empire
- 1918-1938: Democratic Czechoslovakia
- 1938-1945: WWII
- 1945-1948: Democratic Czechoslovakia
- 1948-1989 Socialist totalitarian state
- 1989-1993: Democratic Czechoslovakia
- 1993: Separation of the Czech and Slovak Republic

Queer History

- Until 1918: homosexuality illegal
- 1918-1938: homosexuality illegal
- Late 1920s and 1930s: movement to decriminalize homosexuality
- 1938-1945: WWII, homosexuality illegal, gay men and women oppressed, sent to concentration camps
- 1961: decriminalization of homosexuality
- 1961-1989: homosexuality is legal, yet a matter of blackmail by the secret police
- 1990: Secret police dissolved
- 2006: Same sex domestic partnership became legal
- 2012: New civil law ordering transgender people to be sterilized during sex change

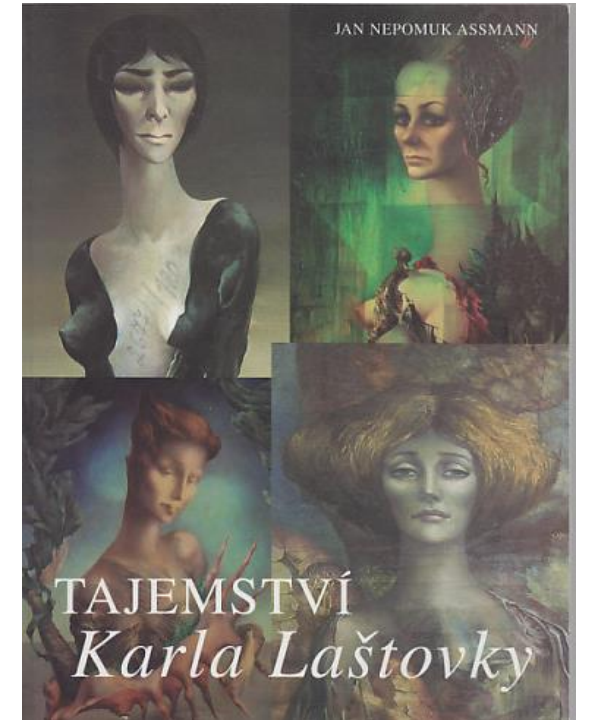
Show *Prague Pride: East Side Story*, Karlin Studios, 2014

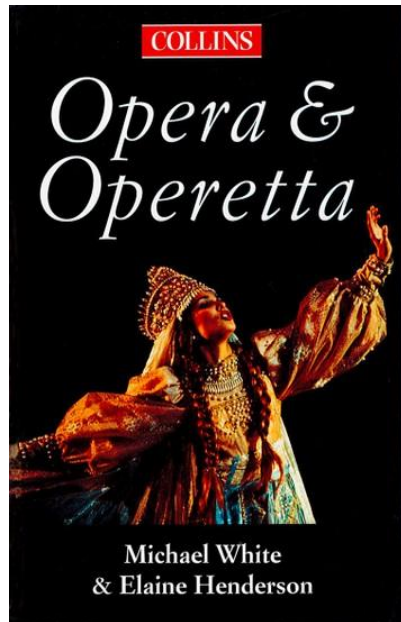
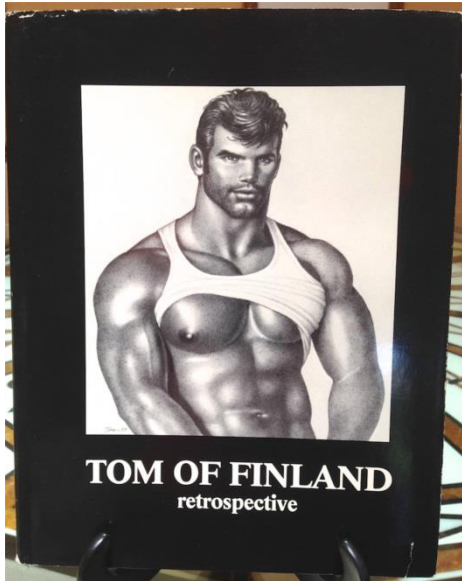
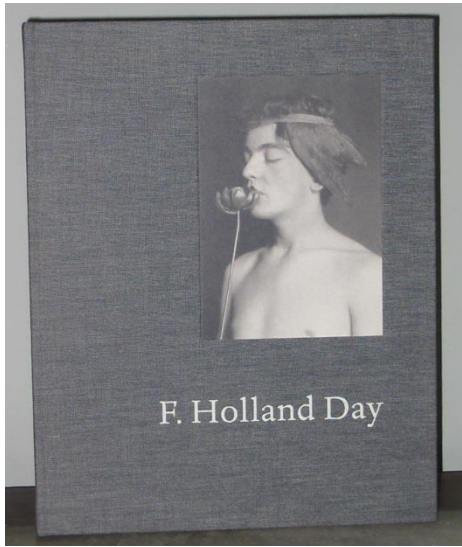
- „Something as LGBT, homosexual, gay or lesbian art for sure doesn't exist. As much as there is no such thing as Czech art. At least until we create certain definition to apply on the original diversity.“
curator Michal Novotný





Jan Nepomuk
Assmann
(1956–2013)





MYzzU2A22EQOWOQQWOBQEMM@#M@MMMMM@#0QE00QQ000QMMnAb68AZAZ6EoIAAZUIAI
E, i; Yv7xTc2Q\$\$#WMM@ES77wiv; v; c; c; i; 76., i, ii, .
W , , , . : i, . . . iYnttCoSItn8@atY; i; v; v; YXXYXX1X177Yc; : i; v; v;
Q. , , . i; i; : i, . . . t1t17ntStXYS7 ; c7vccCSU29z21SC1CtCtXyiviv; v; cvi
W : . . . i; i; i; . . . ; 7XCttnt1C17X7cvcccXU6ZU6zUz2nSt1Ct7t7v; v; v; v; cii; i; . . .
Q. . . i; i; i; i; i; . . . vicXtXnt1tStS1n; i; YcYcYcYtCzS2z2ozttYv; v; v; v; i; i; . . . i
B : . . . i; i; i; i; i; . . . iCYCnnto121n28. . . i; ; cvccYvYYCCooInn; ; v; v; c; i; i; . . . i
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B i; i; i; i; i; i; vY: i; ; tY7Yo80; YSSX1tI2U22oznz1z1ntnct7CYv; v; cv; i; i; . . . i
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B : . . . i; i; i; i; c. . . ; 8AZU880E8A0bE0b0292AzIzUS2nznS1StS1S117c; cvc; ciii; . . . i
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#; ; IWMZMES: ; ; v7711zoA29AbZEZE#U. . . ; i; ; ; cv7YC7tCStonIzAI6A9AAzAzI71MM\$#



„Ludvik Victor and
an unknown
woman“


Ludvik Victor
as a man and as
Ludvika Victorie

- „It is important to acknowledge historic figures who deserve it no matter what their sexuality was.“
- „All I care about is that he invented a rocket drive. I don't care who he slept with.“
- „It is not important to point out a minor sexual orientation if it there was no connection to the person's life.
- „Cultural heritage has nothing to do with sexuality. It either contains the aesthetic qualities or it does not.“
- „We need a positive proof that someone was not heterosexual!“

- „While working on my diploma thesis, I wanted to include a queer studies approach but I decided not to.“
- „While I was writing my diploma thesis, I mentioned a copy of a statue of Hadrian and Antinous, which is in Castle Hořovice, and wanted to point out their homosexual relationship. I was asked to edit it out.“

2009

conference Homosexuality in the Czech Humanities



Univerzita Karlova
Fakulta humanitních studií
U Krže 8, 158 00 Praha-Jinonice

Fakulta humanitních studií Univerzity Karlovy
pořádá ve dnech 20.–22. března 2009
mezinárodní mezioborovou konferenci

HOMOSEXUALITA V ČESKÝCH ZEMÍCH A HUMANITNÍ VĚDY


pátek 20. března 2009:
Goethe-Institut Praha,
Masarykovo nábřeží 32, 110 00 Praha 1

sobota 21. března a neděle 22. března 2009:
Fakulta humanitních studií Univerzity Karlovy,
U Krže 8, 158 00 Praha-Jinonice

Vstup volný.
Konferenční jazyky: čeština a angličtina

Srdečně zvou organizátoři:
Doc. Dr. Martin Putna
Dr. Pavel Hámel
Dr. Franz Schindler
PhDr. Jan Seidl

kontakt: gl2009@fhs.cuni.cz



Univerzita Karlova
Fakulta humanitních studií
U Krže 8, 158 00 Praha-Jinonice

HOMOSEXUALITA V ČESKÝCH ZEMÍCH A HUMANITNÍ VĚDY

Program

pátek 20. března 2009
REPREZENTACE

místo: Goethe-Institut Praha, Masarykovo nábřeží 32, 110 00 Praha 1

8.30–9.00 prezence
9.00–9.45 zahájení konference

10.00–10.30 **Doc. Dr. Martin Putna, *V čem je specifická česká homosexuální literatura?***
(Univerzita Karlova, Fakulta humanitních studií, Historický modul)

10.30–11.00 **Prof. Alfred Thomas, *Self, Sex and the City: Walt Whitman and Jiri Karasek to Lvovic***
(University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Germanic Studies)

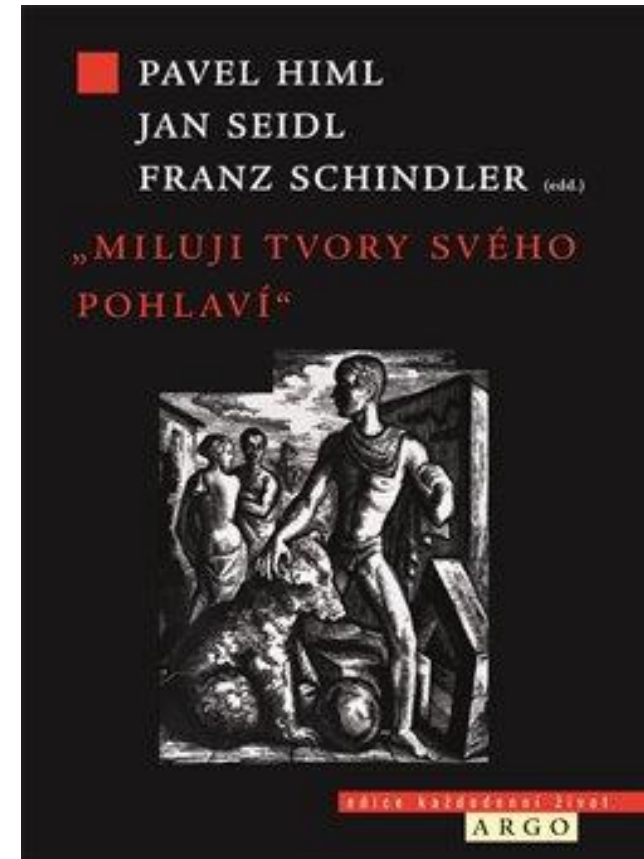
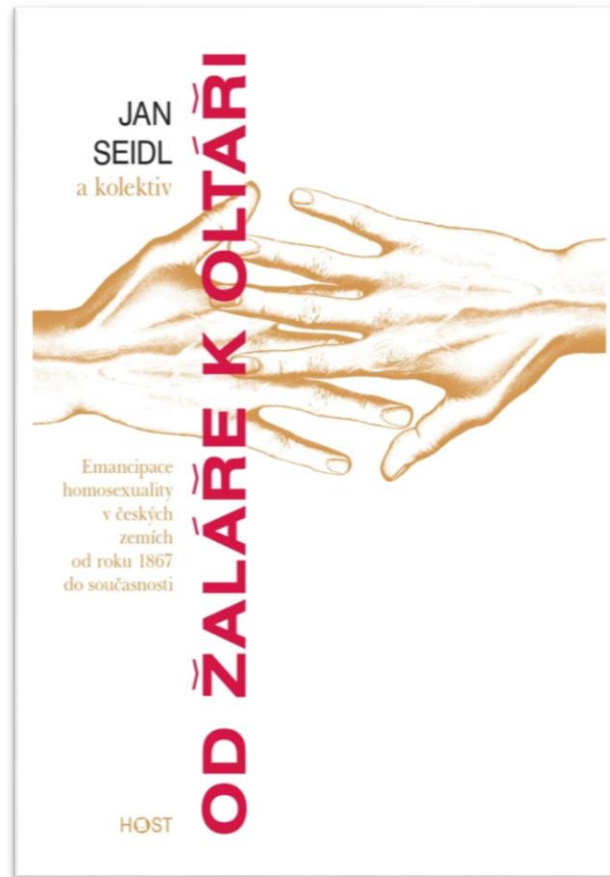
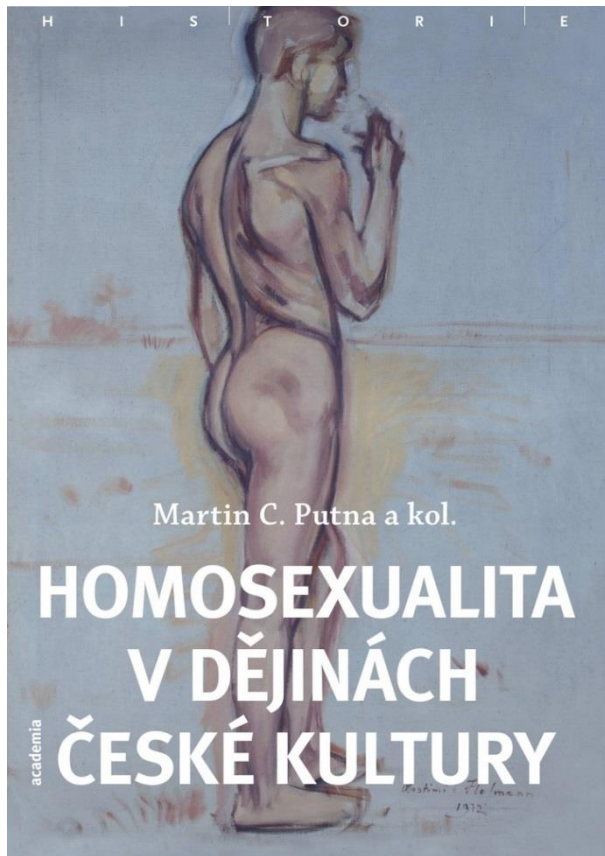
11.00–11.30 diskuse, káva

11.30–12.00 **Be. Tomáš Fénis, *Spiritualita mužského přátelství v pozadí díla Julia Zeyera***
(Univerzita Karlova, Katolická teologická fakulta)

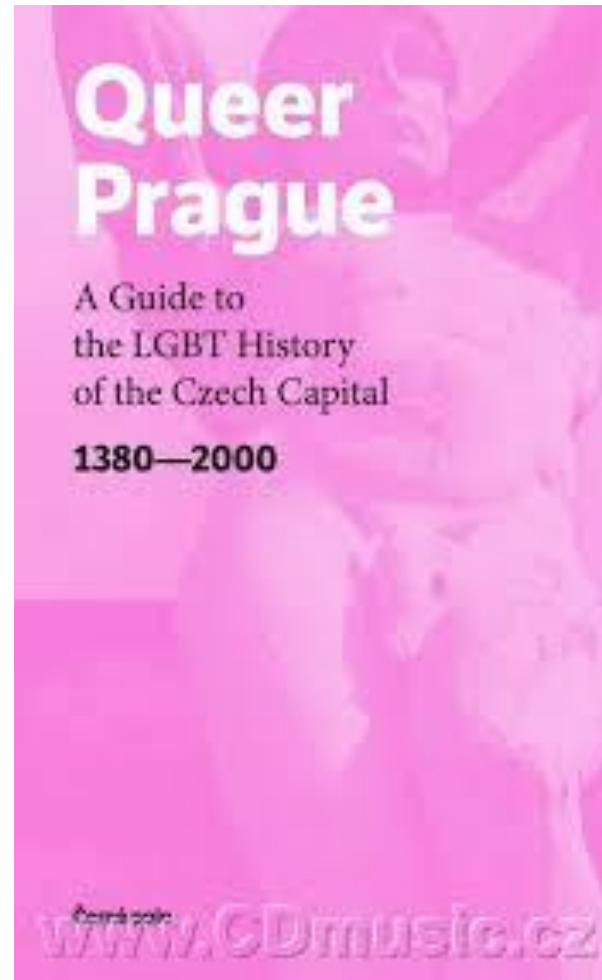
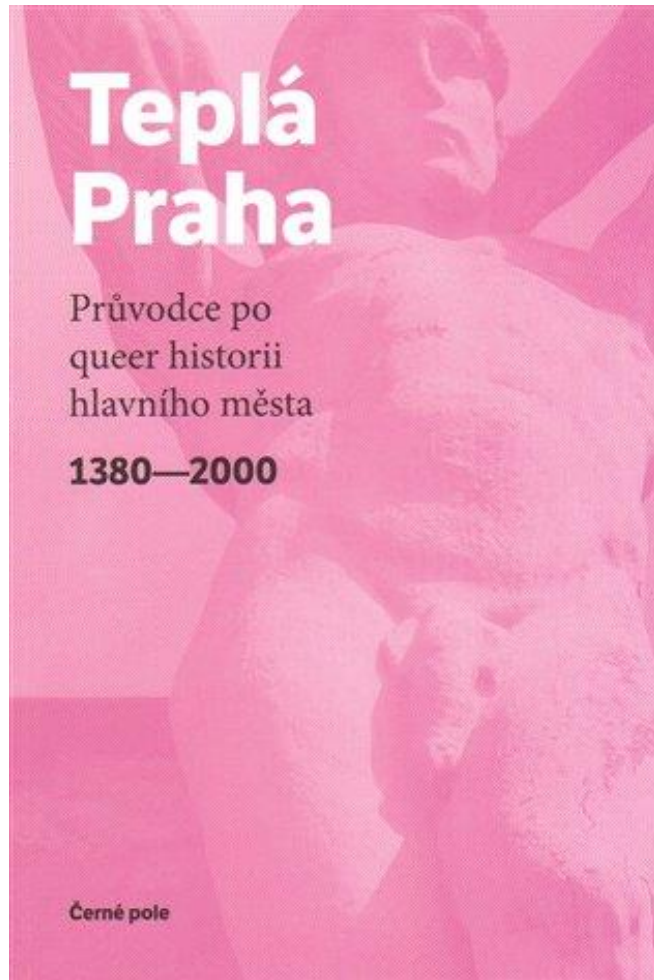
12.00–12.30 **Mgr. Lukáš Motýlka, *Homosexuální komužál v díle Josefa Mühlbergera***
(Univerzita Palackého, Filozofická fakulta, Katedra germanistiky)

12.30–13.00 diskuse
13.00–14.00 oběd

2011, 2012, 2013 three books



2014 comprehensive tourist guide



2014 Society for Queer Memory founded



What is the Society for Queer Memory?

- Museum
- Archive
- Library
- Research and community center

Museum

- Clip boards
- Visual Arts
- Prints
- Photography
- Postcards
- Video VHS and DVD
- Audio Tapes
- Evereday Life Objects
- Deposited Objects
- Archive of the Society
- Personal Archives
- Texts and Meta Data for the Interviews
- Oral History Interviews
- Digital Documents

Oral history

- **34 interviews**
- 6 women who identify as lesbian
- 28 men who identify as gay, bisexual or queer



Archive

- **55 archival funds**
- Origin:
 - 9 women,
 - 36 men,
 - 3 institutions,
 - 6 institutions



Library

- 826 books
- 1061 issues of periodicals





- Tours
- Lectures
- Exhibits
- Conferences
- School programs





- School programs
- Consultations for Researchers and Activists
- Attendance to Prague Pride



VOJTĚCH
ČERNÝ
* 20. 4. 1893
† 17. 4.

SPH
Společnost pro
darování
smašů

PROJEKT ADOPTCE VÝZNAMNÝCH HROBŮ



Vojtěch Černý

Olšanský hřbitov 20b, odd. 21, hrob 367

Vojtěch Černý (20. 4. 1893–17. 4. 1938) byl ruský legionář, poddůstojník z povolání a pracovník hnutí sexuálních menšin. Po zajetí na východní frontě vstoupil v roce 1916 do ruských legií, s nimiž se zúčastnil mj. bitvy u Zborova, kde byl raněn. Po návratu do vlasti v roce 1920 působil jako rotmistr, od roku 1927 jako štábní rotmistr u jezdeckého pluku č. 2 v Olomouci. Silně se rozvíjející vojenskou kariéru zastavila následujícího roku obžaloba pro pohavní styky s osobou téhož pohlaví, v té době trestně. Rozsudkem vojenského soudu byl Černý vedle krátkého trestu žaláře propuštěn z armády, ztratil nárok na penzi a v podstatě také možnost najít jiné zaměstnání ve veřejném sektoru. Jako osoba přímo existenčně poškozená paragrafem 129 trestního zákona o „smilstvu proti přírodě“ se podávkem třicátých let postavil do čela hnutí „smilstvu proti přírodě“ se podávkem třicátých let trestnosti homosexuality v Československu. V roce 1931 začal v Praze vydávat se svým bratrem Josefem časopis *Milos sexuální menšiny*, podílel se také na dosažení úředního povolení a skutečném vzniku Československé ligy pro sexuální reformu. Konečného cíle se tomuto hnutí do roku 1938 dosáhnout nepodařilo (homosexualita přestala být v Československu trestně stíhána až v roce 1963), důležitou roli však sehrálo rozvinutím neformální podpůrné sítě pokrývající celé území státu. Vojtěch Černý si na Velikonoce 1938 po dalším zatčení pro § 129 vzal život.

**Na záchraně tohoto významného hrobu
se jako adoptivní nájemce podílí
Společnost pro queer paměť, z.s.**



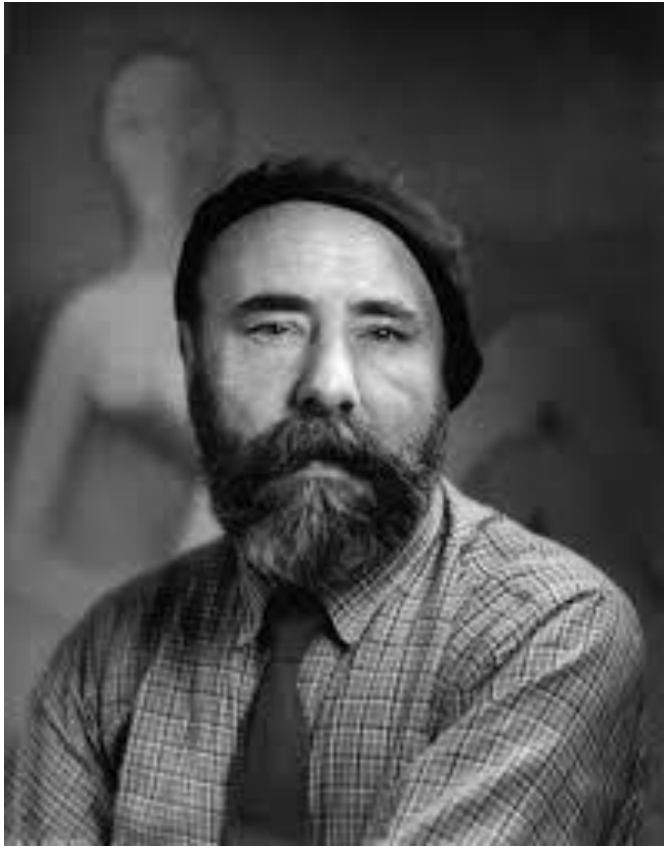
Pomozte nám zachránit další významné hroby - odešlete dárcovskou SMS ve tvaru DMS SPH 30, DMS SPH 60 nebo DMS SPH 90 na telefonní číslo 87777.
Cena DMS je 30, 60 nebo 90 Kč.
Více na www.darcovskasms.cz
www.hrbitovy-adoptce.cz



- graves adoption

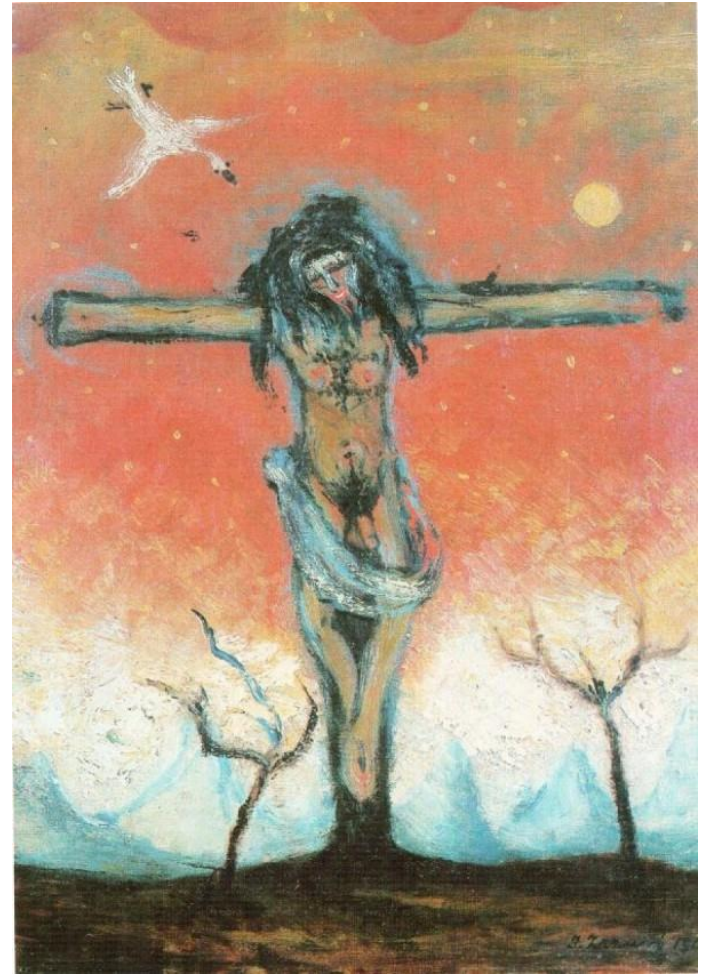
Queer History as a history of what was left out

- Denial
- Ignorance
- Confusion/Misunderstanding

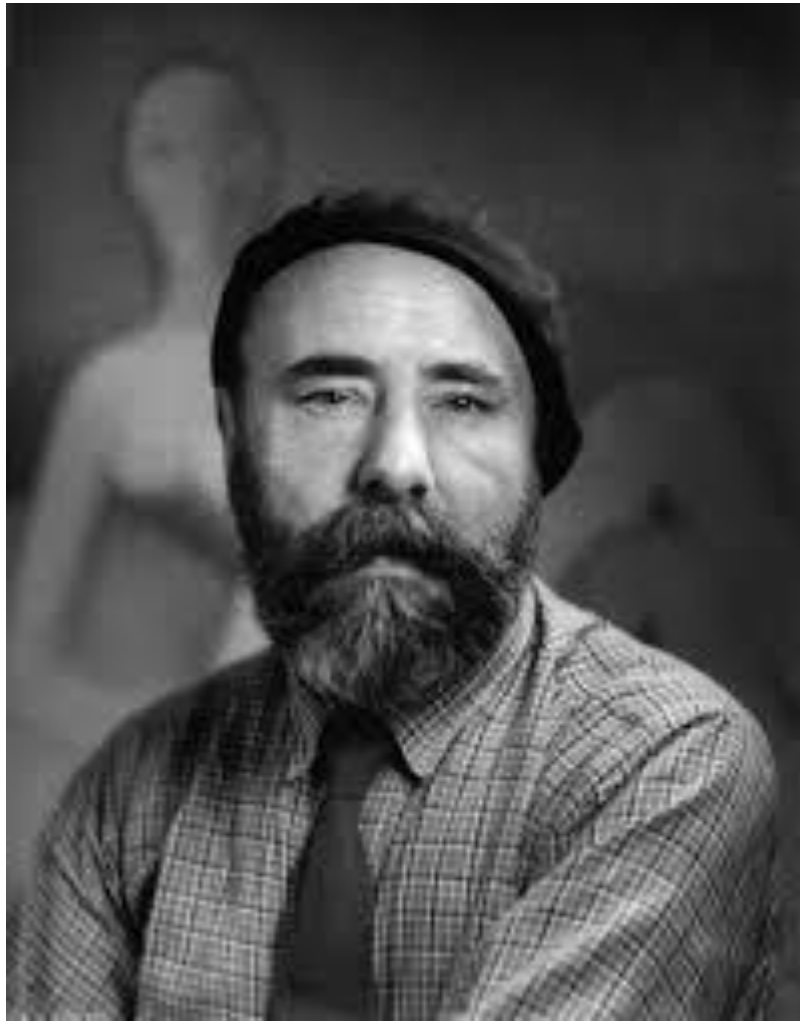


Jan Zrzavý (1890–1977):
Prince
(Self-portrait), 1907

Sleeping boy, ca 1911



Anti-Krist, 1908

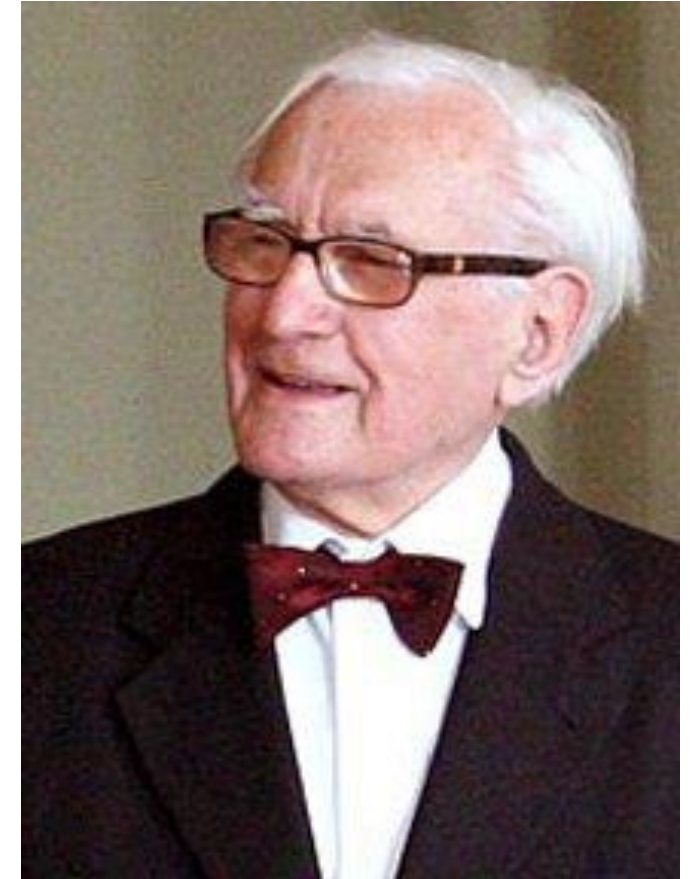


Josef Váchal (1884–1969):
**„Is his homeland Paris or London?
Is he blond or ginger (=„zrzavý“)?
Does he like girls or boys?“**



Jan Zrzavý: Fanouš, 1920s

Jan Zrzavý: Two male nudes,
1955



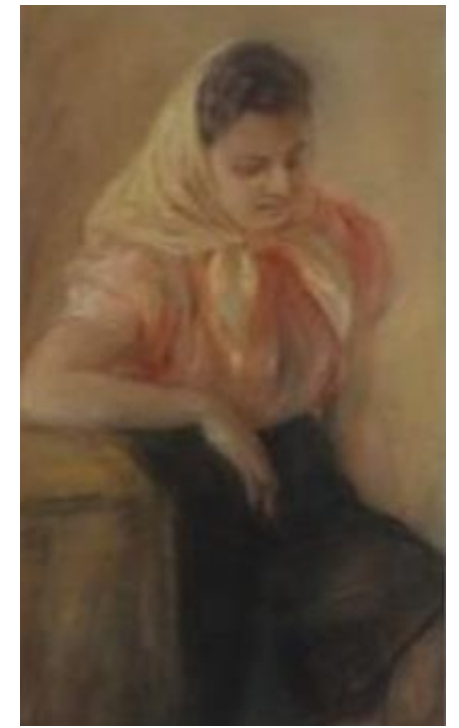
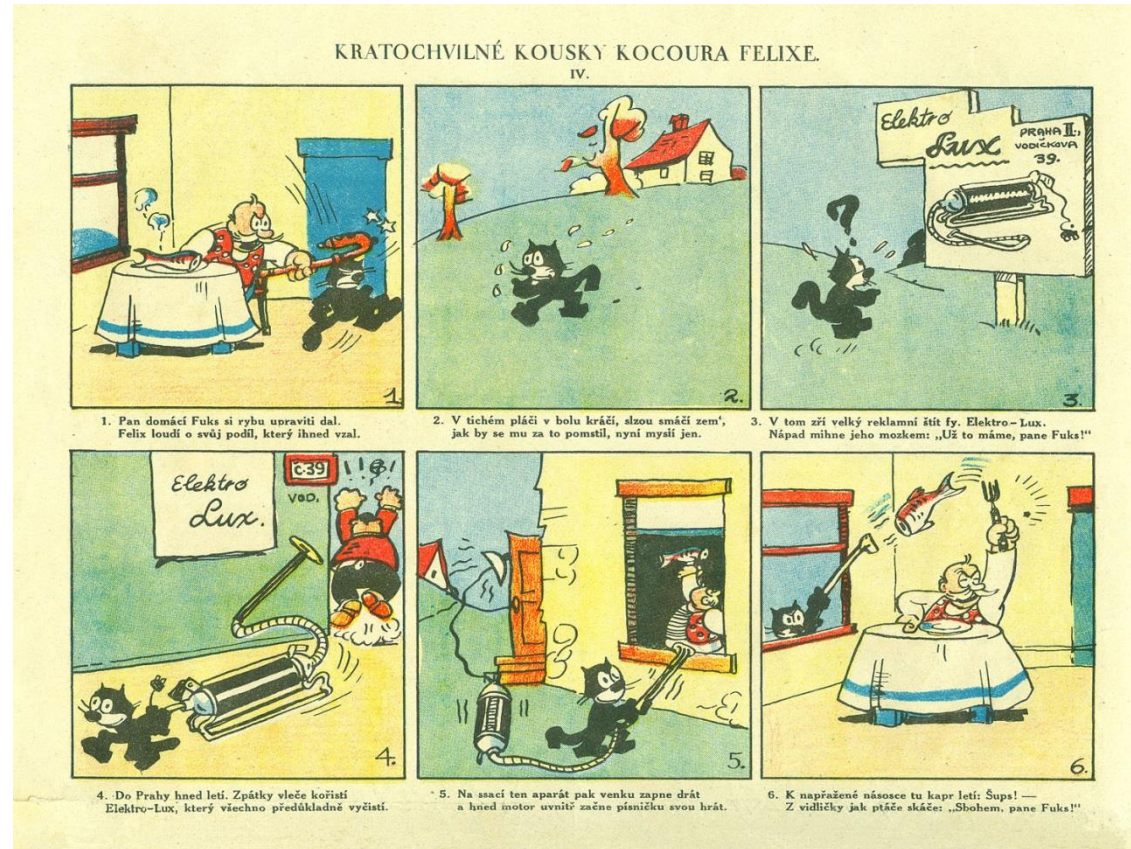
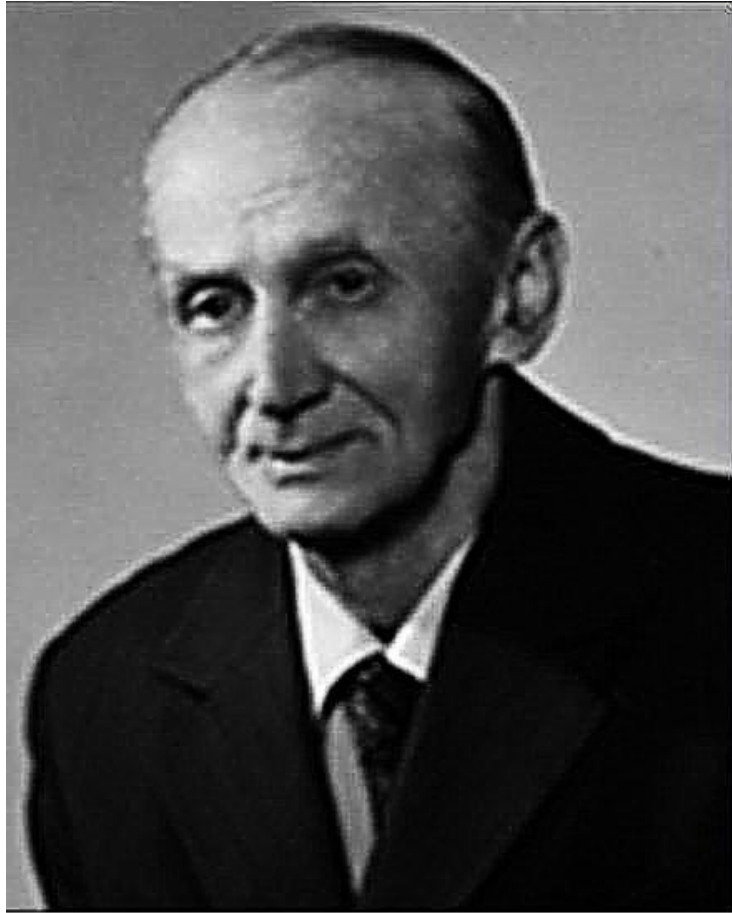
Art historian František
Dvořák (1920–2015)



Orrin Peck (1860–1921)

„unidentified
woman“

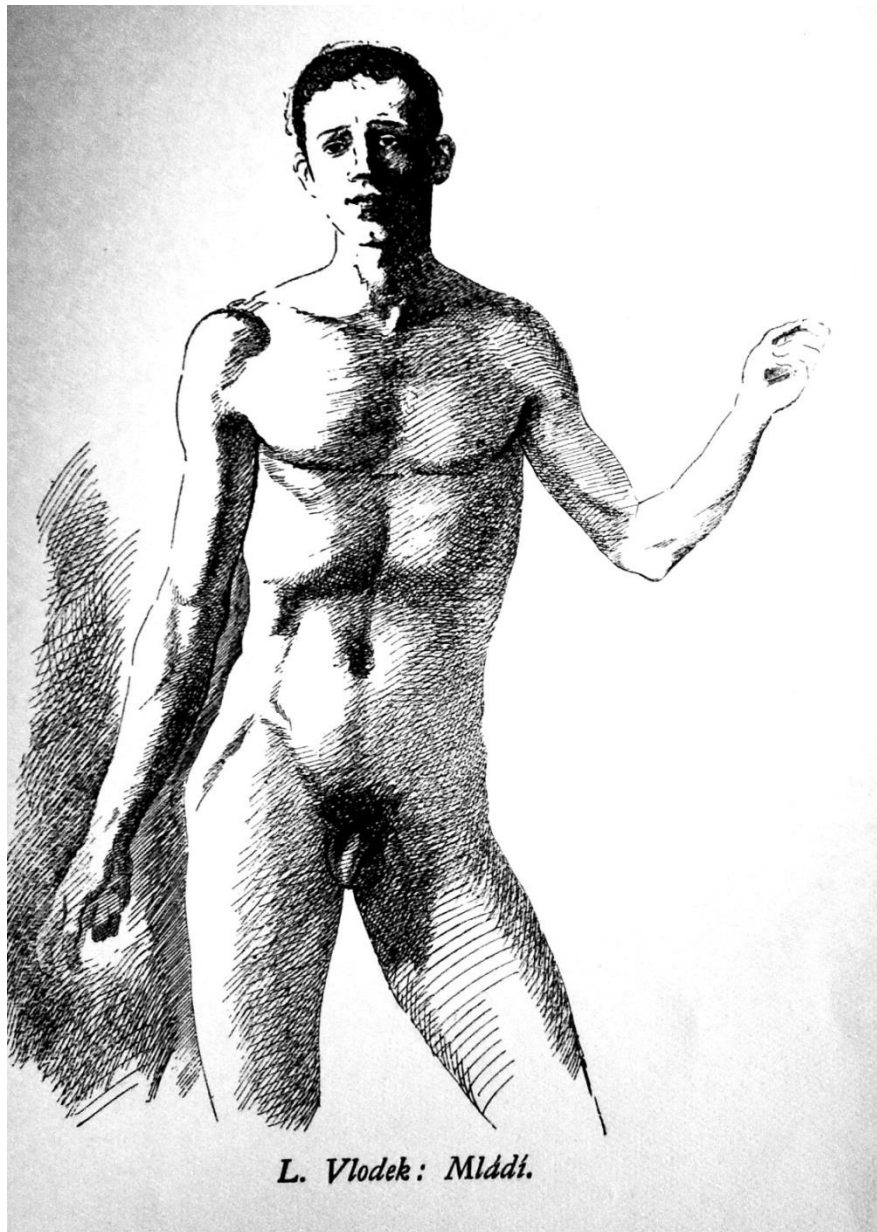




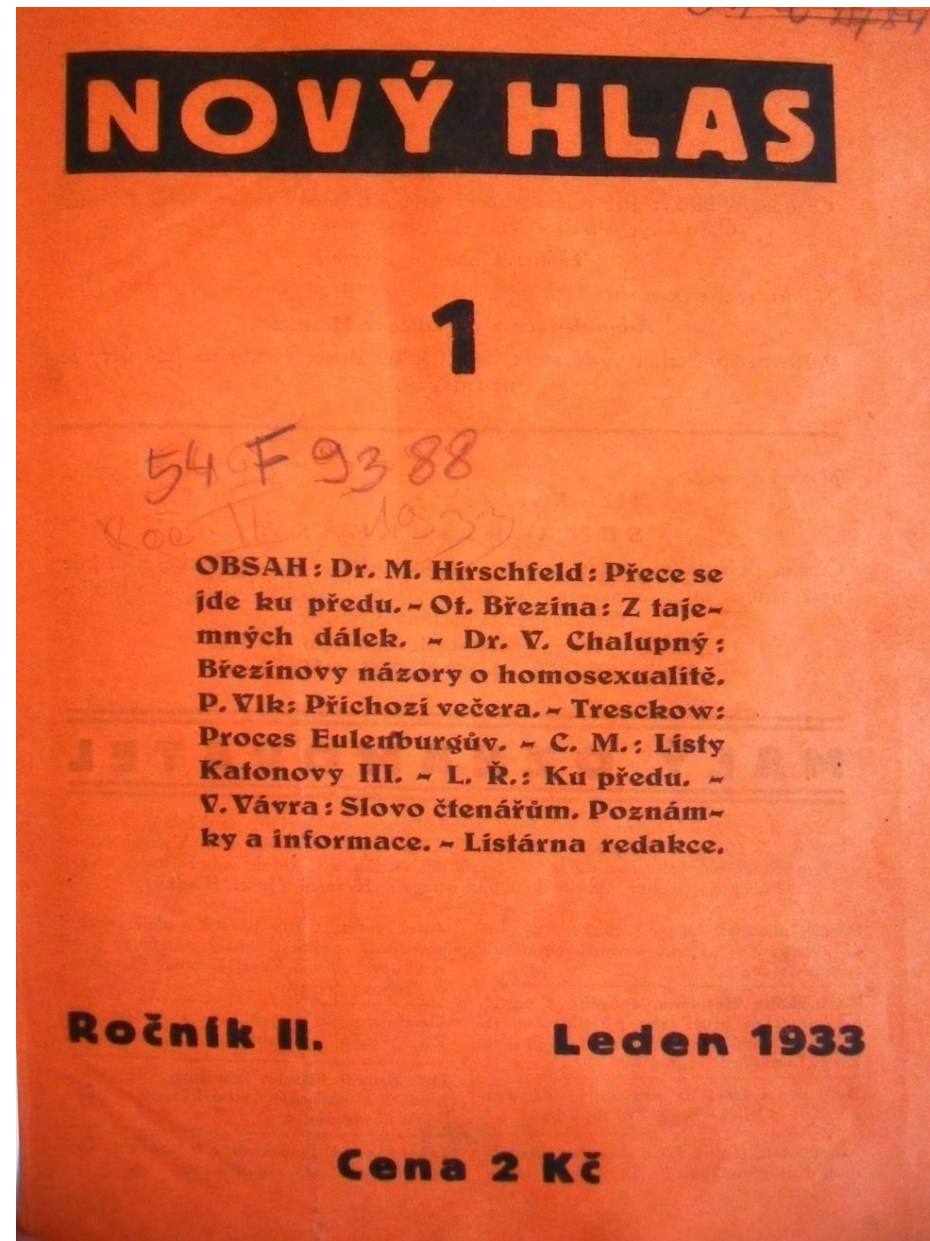
Ladislav Vlodek (1907–1996)



Ladislav Vlodek: Boy, 1924

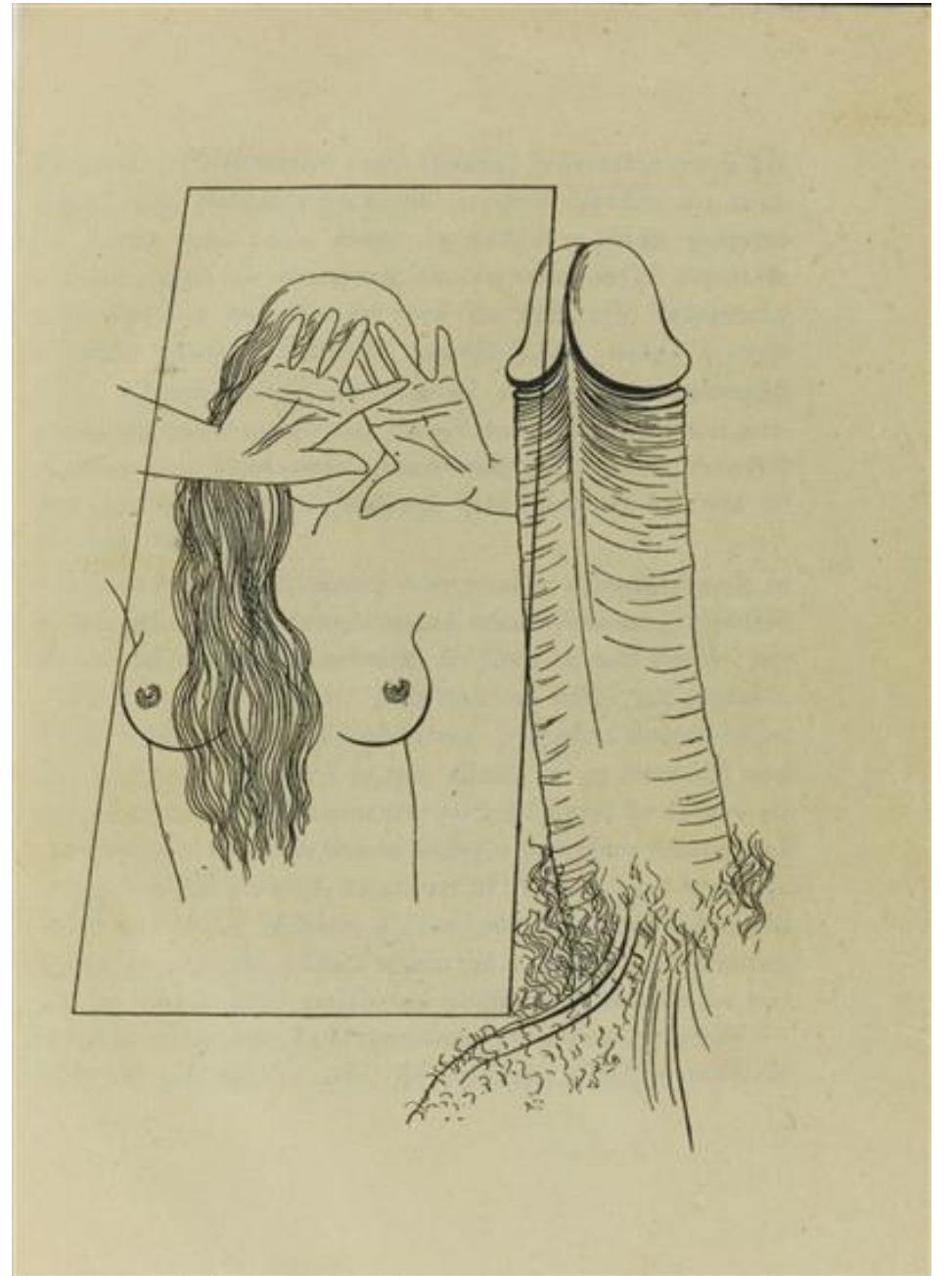
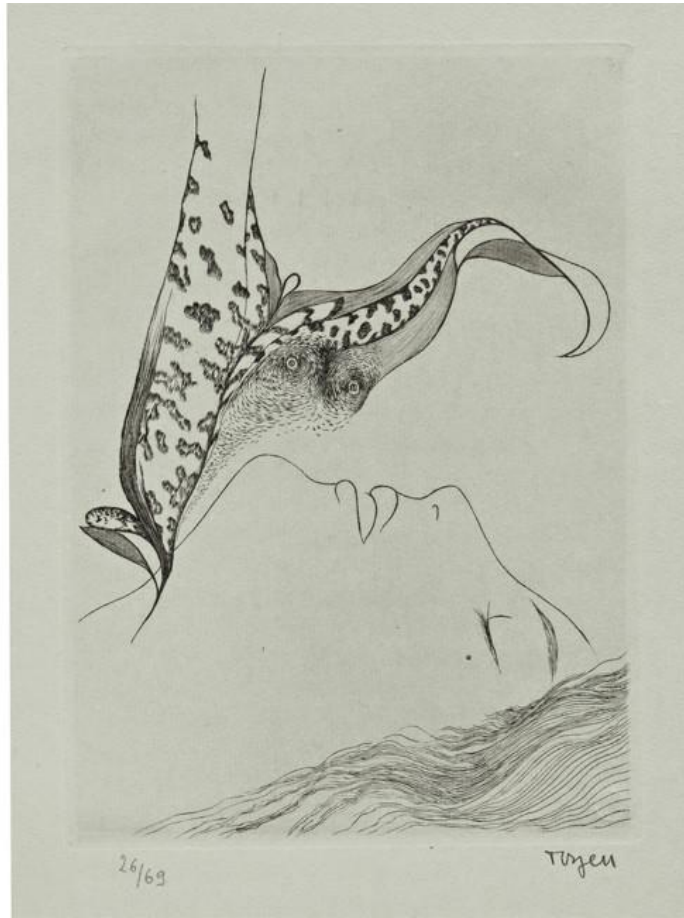


Ladislav Vlodek: Youth, before 1932



New Voice Magazine, 1932–1934

Toyen (1902–1980)







Marléne Dietrich



Marcel Duchamp as Rose Sélavy



Adolf Hofmeister: Ten-Ta-Toyen



Toyen: Drawing, 1932

Toyen: Kresba, 1932

Bohuslav Brouk

Psychoanalytická

SEXUOLOGIE



BIOLOGICKÝ ÚVOD • GENESE LID-
STVA • SEXUÁLNÍ HISTORIE LID-
STVA *exogamie + monogamie + prostituce* • SE-
XUÁLNÍ ABERRACE *záměny + perverse*

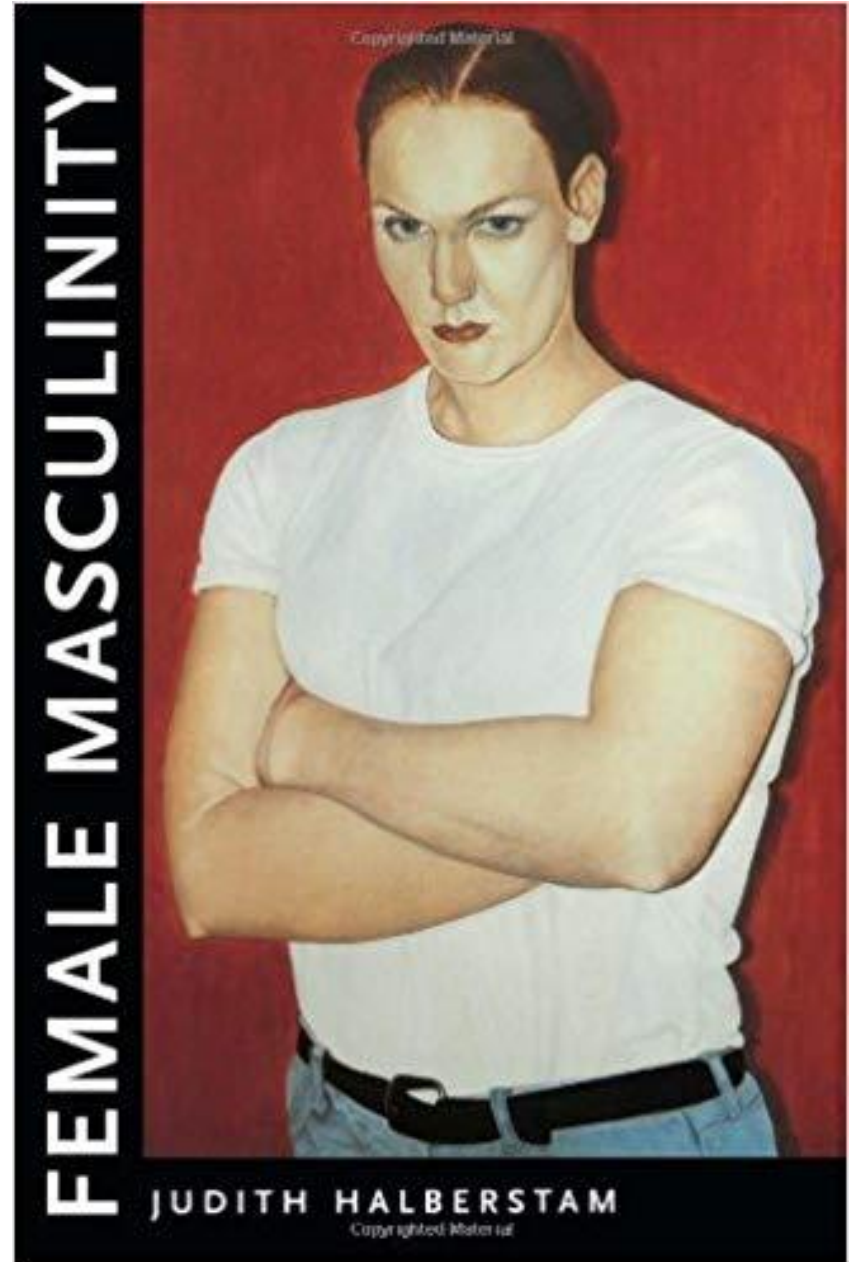
PRAHA 1933

OTTO WEININGER GESCHLECHT UND CHARAKTER

ZWANZIGSTE AUFLAGE



Jack Halberstam

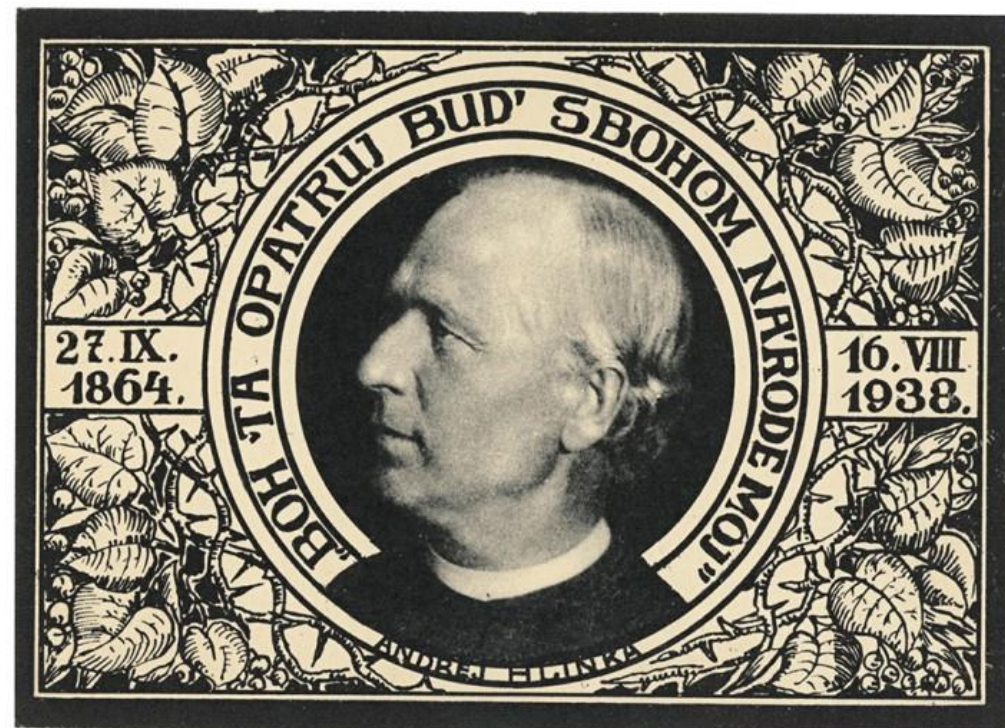
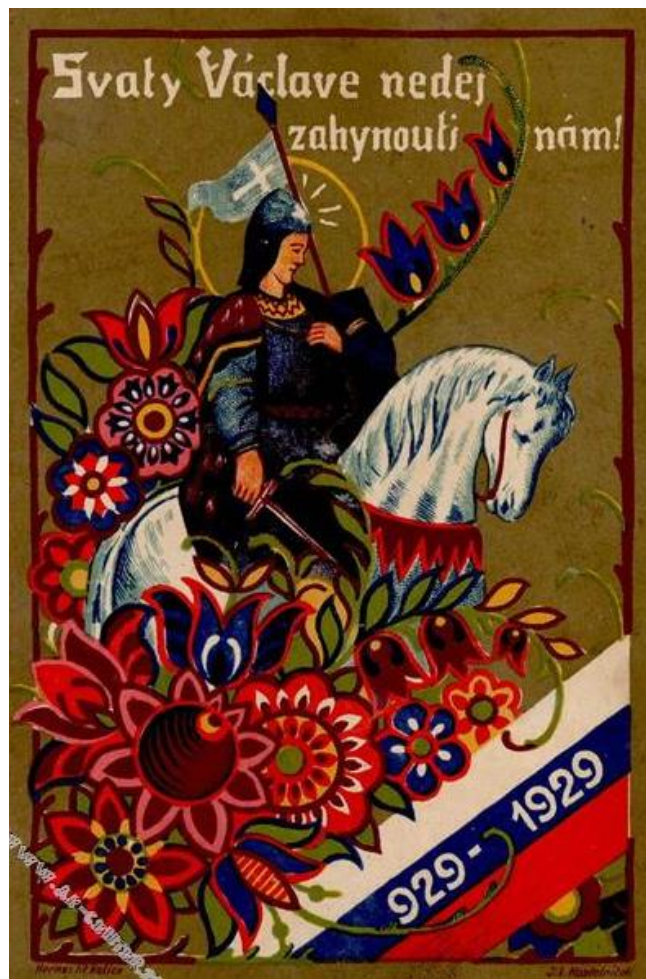
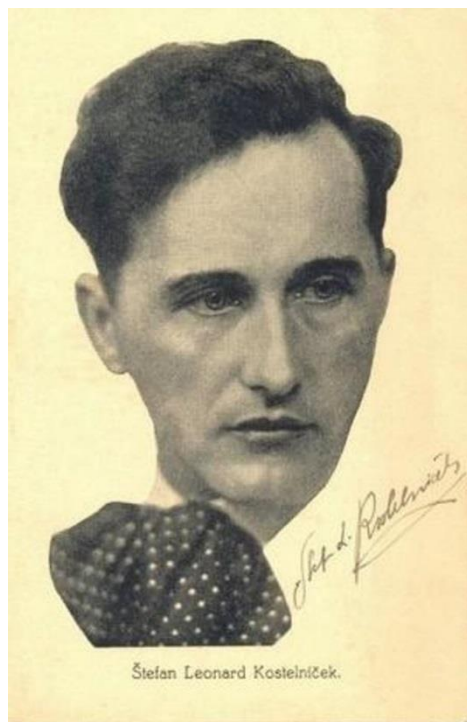


Opressed or priviledged? 1933–1945



Oskar Just





Štefan Leonard
Kostelníček

Opressed or priviledged? 1948–1989



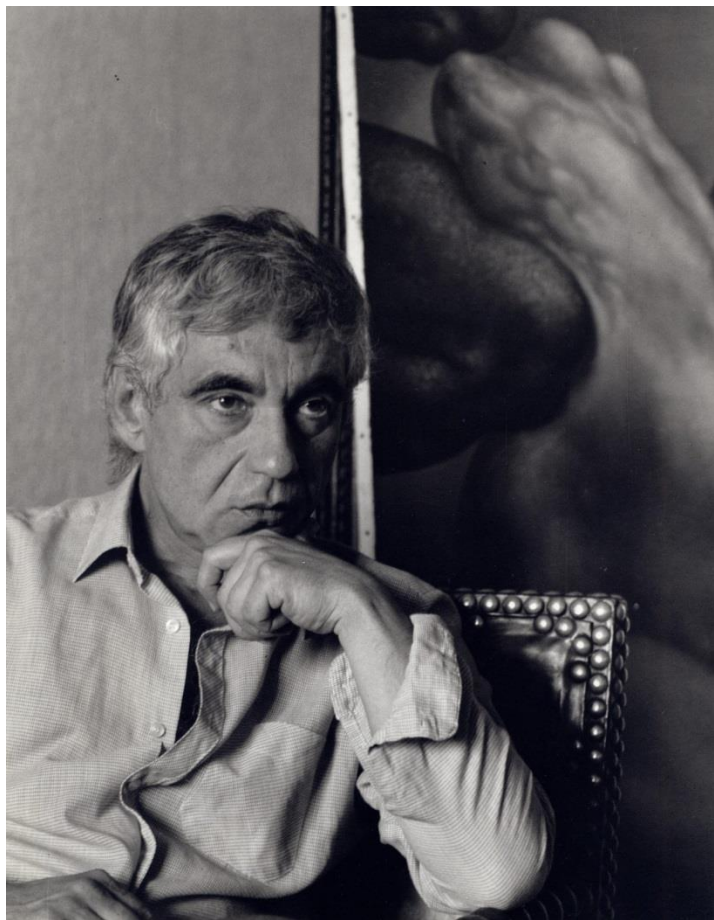
Libuše Jarcovj\u00e1kov\u00e1: T-club, 1980–1982



Ryszard Kisiel: T-club, 1981



Secret police ID



Karel Laštovka (1938–1986)





Tomáš Fragner's attic

Where have all the queer critics gone?



Miloš Jiránek
Showers in the Sokol, Prague
1901–1903



Max
Švabinský
Study for
Harvesting
Time
1925



William Ritter (1867–1955)

Queer Constellations



Jiří
Karásek's
ze Lvovic
apartment,
ca 1920s



Castle in Třebešice,
since 2005



Pornographic video from the production of CockyBoys, screenshot, 2014

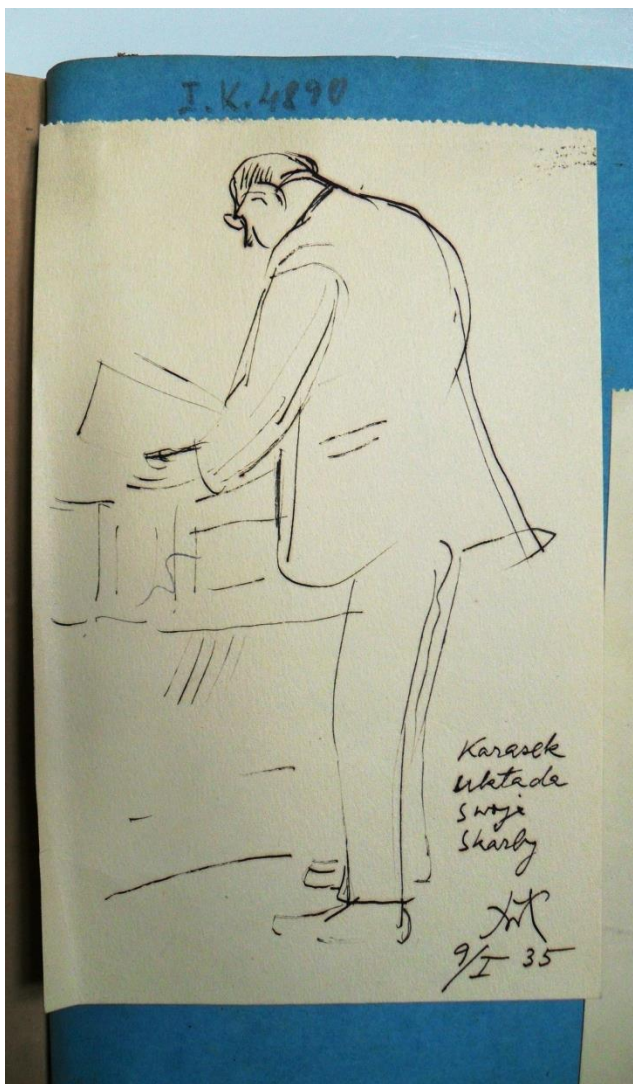


Villa Lysis at Capri,
Jacques
d'Adelswärd Fersen

Paris apartment of
Gertrude Stein and
Alice B. Toklas

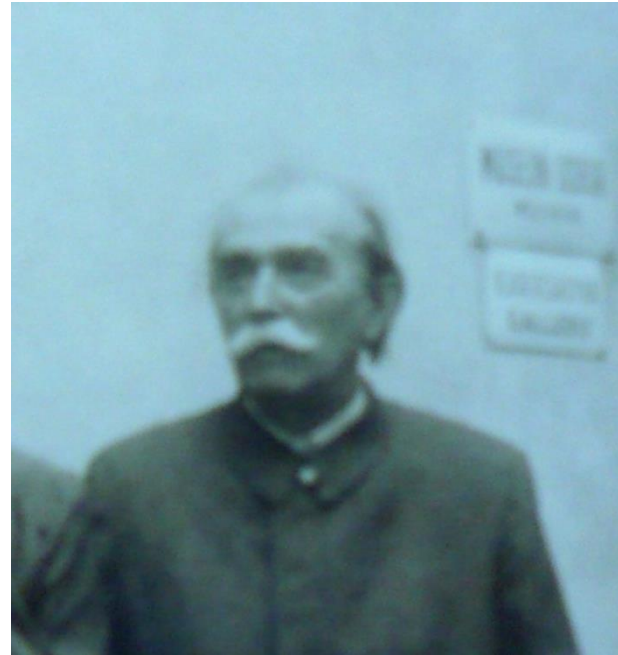
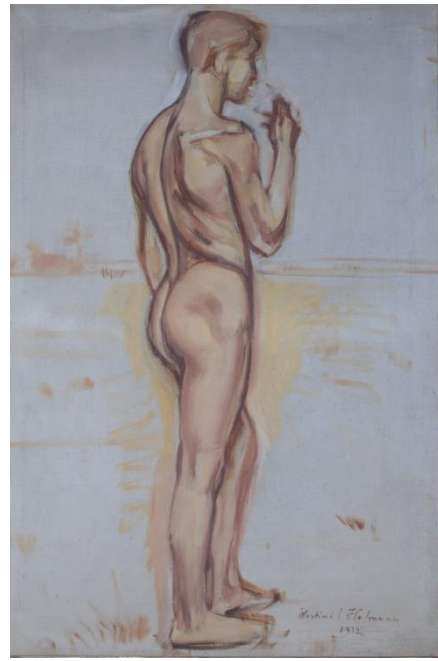
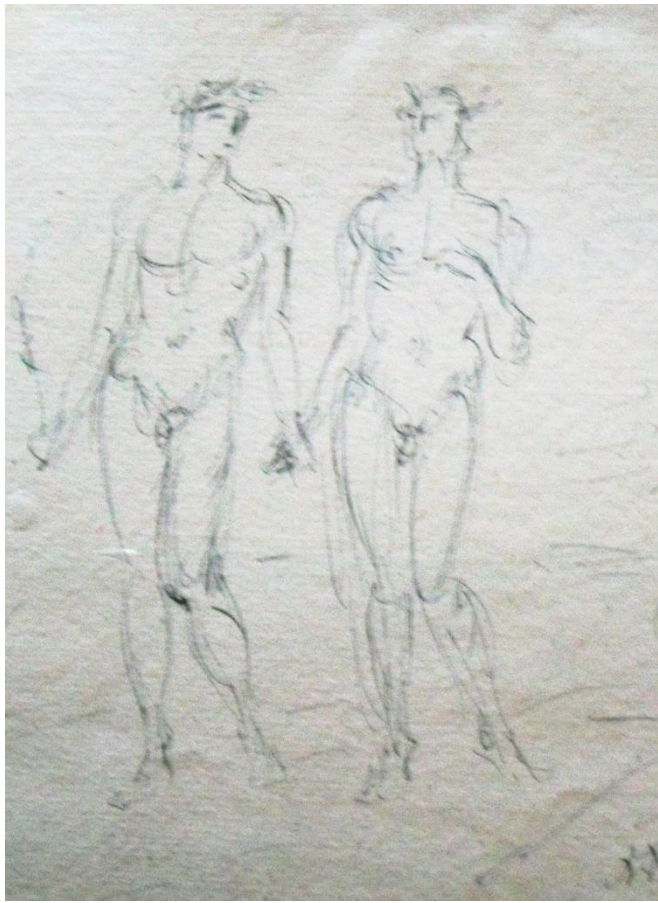
Fontihill Abbey,
William Beckford



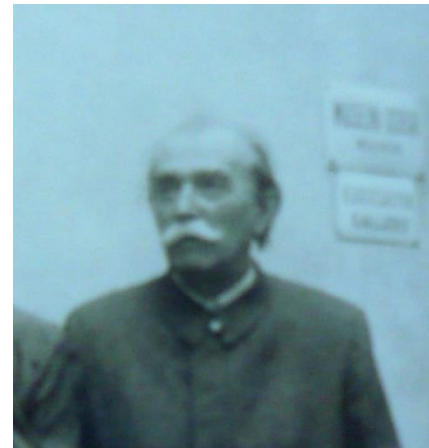


„He was no longer interested in women. [...] The walls were covered with paintings. Shelves were filled with china. The collection of weaponry increased in the same number as the collection of coins. One room was filled with books, another one with plates with engravings and drawings. [...] He wandered like a forgotten shadow around the chamber, from one thing to another, here enjoying a Grud's picture, there admiring a lovely rose on a Meissen cup.“ — Jiri Karasek ze Lvovic: Ganymedes, 1925

Wlastimil Hofman: Jiri Karasek with his collections.



Wlastimil Hofman: Paintings
for Karasek, ca 1914–1930





„I am still thinking of the painting from your gallery, that Hofman's Ganymede, that sad, distant face, all that vanity and desire, all the grief of an autumn mist in a remoteness...“

– Director Vaclav Krška to Karasek



Wlastimil
Hofman:
Ganymede,
1925



Václav
Krška:
Silver Wind
movie, 1956





„The museum is going to be a testimony of our times. It is also going to be the museum of death. We are at the end of the journey, Sofia! There is no way to go from here. We can only reminisce!

[...]

You live slowly, my lady. Because you perceive every event in all the details and you make every detail and marginalia bigger than it actually is.“

— Ladislav Fuchs: *The Duchess and the Cook*, 1983



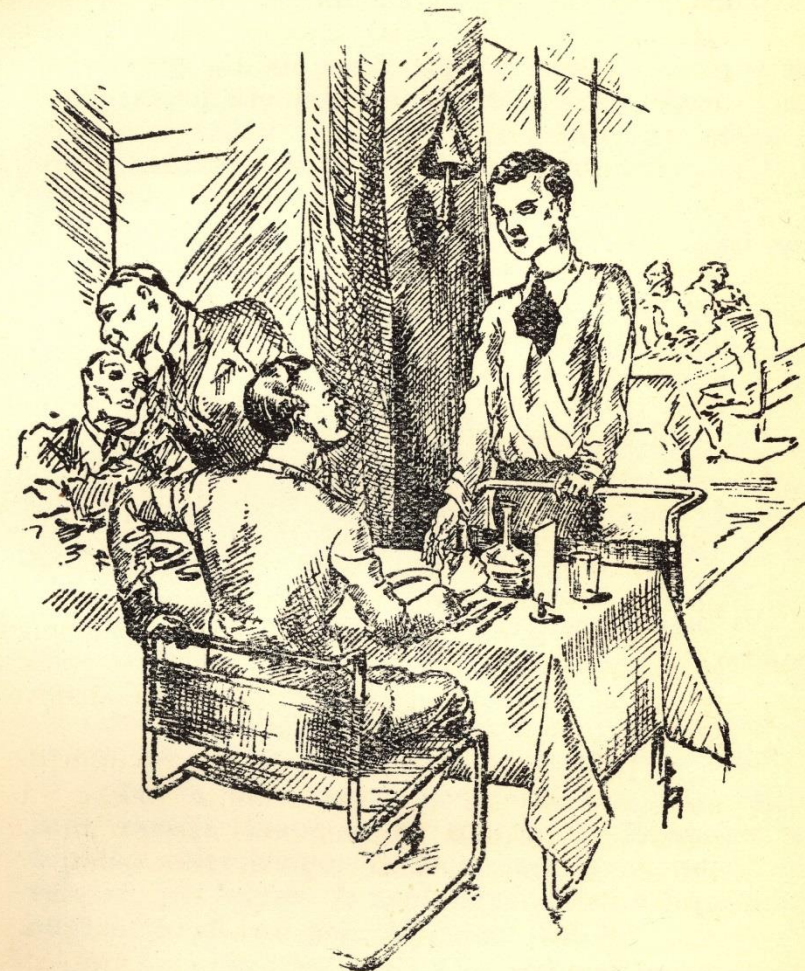
Kynžvart Castle: Collection of curiosities,
18th and the 19th Century



Searching for a queer space

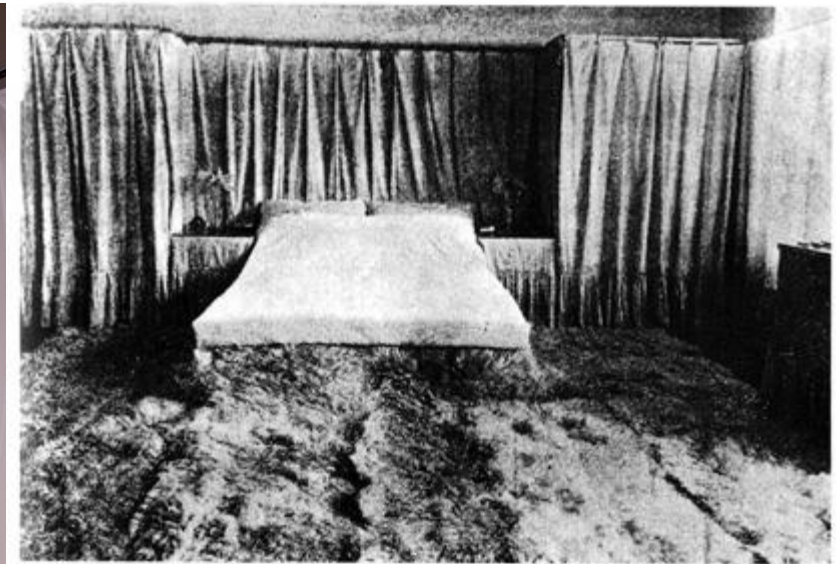


... a v tom okamžiku se vztyčila Marta na posteli. (Str. 118.)



Líbezně se mu usmívala vstříc a přece ho zamrazilo... (Str. 18.)

Spaces of Desire: Is Architecture Sexy?, 2016











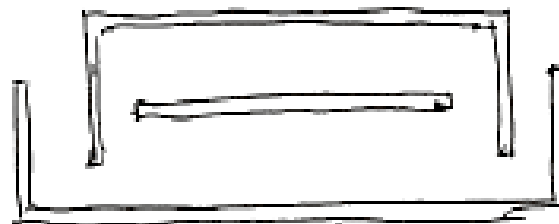




Dostaveníčko nejlepších přátel je
v restauraci
„CASINO“
PRAHA II., JEČNÁ UL. 10
 Telefon 331-30.

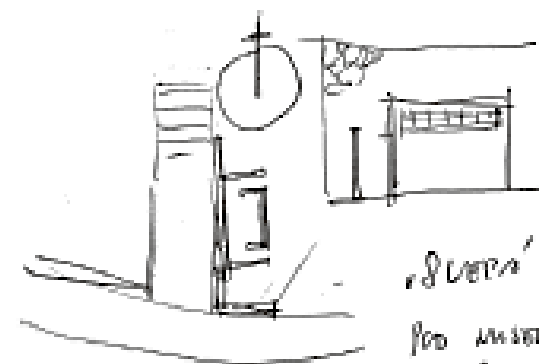


Večer Jazz-orchester. Taneční parket.
 Veselo vždy.
 Nádherné večerní osvětlení.
 Výborná kuchyně. Vzorná obsluha.
 Levné ceny.



RUDÝ PÁBEL

2. Záchod „Rudý ďábel“, půdorys.

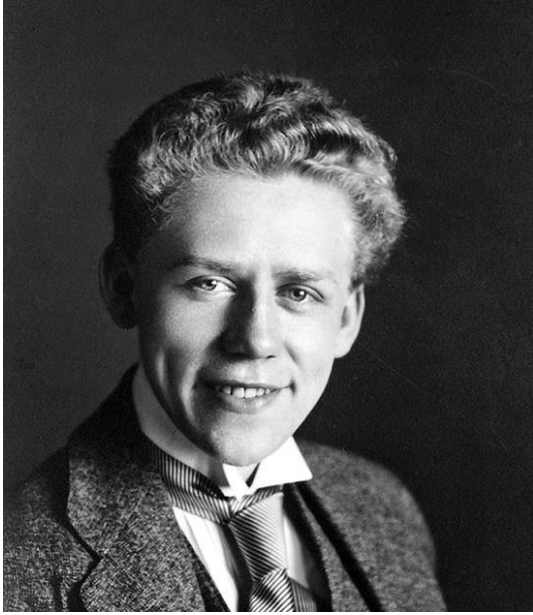


„SLEPÁ PANÍ“
 Pod instalací
 zrcadla

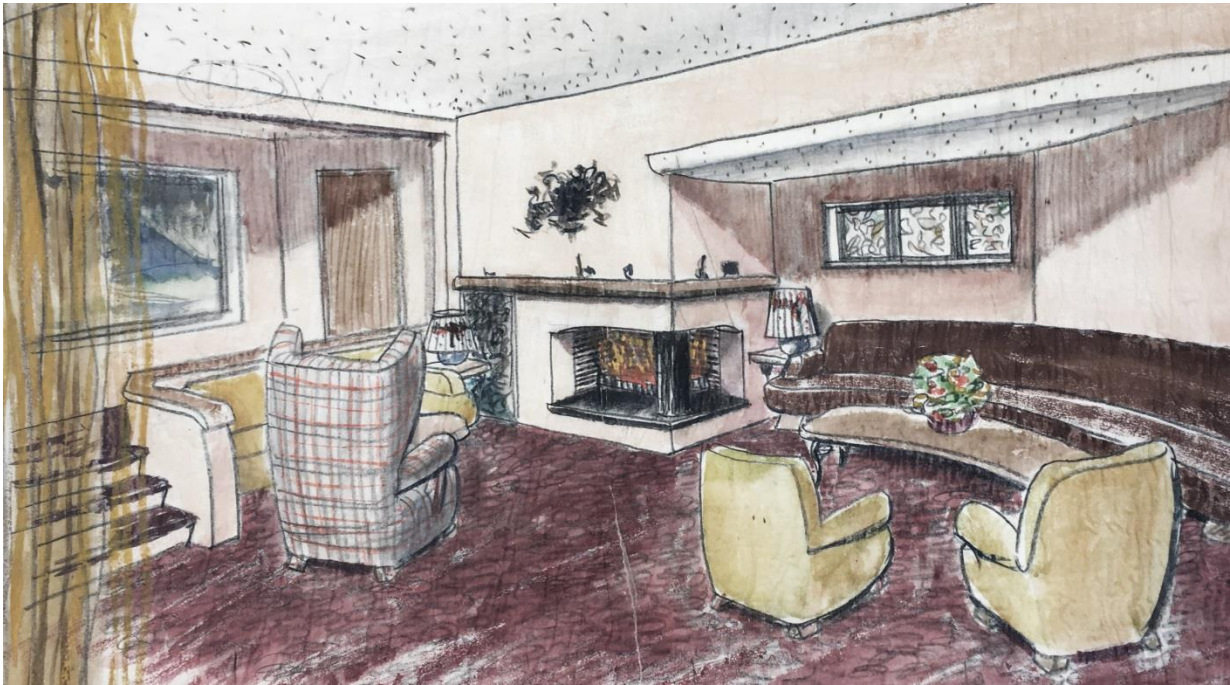
4. Záchod „Slepá paní“, vlevo situační plán s půdorysem, vpravo pohled zepředu.

A Room of Queer's Own? Queer Domesticity in Modern Prague, 2018

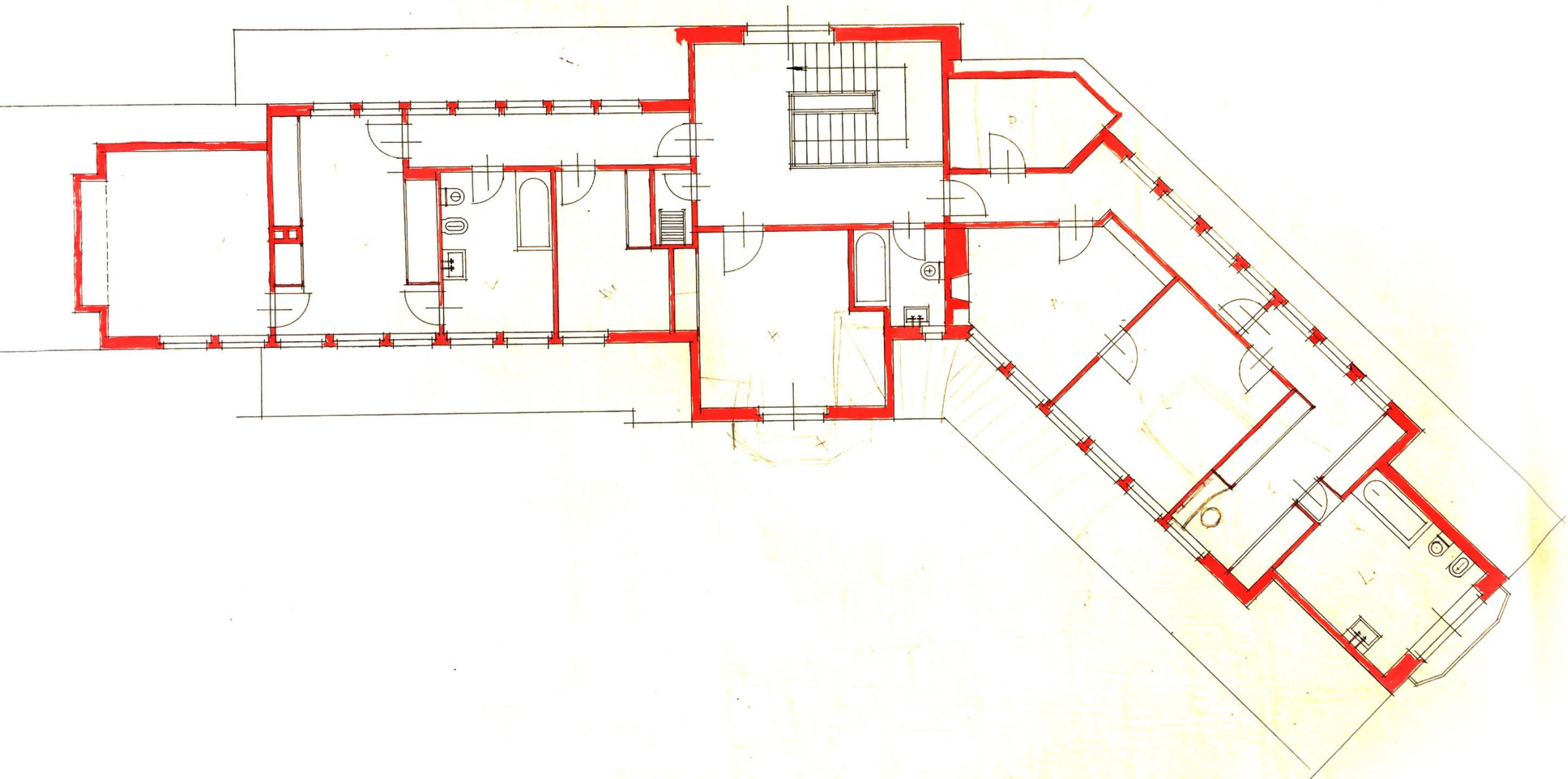


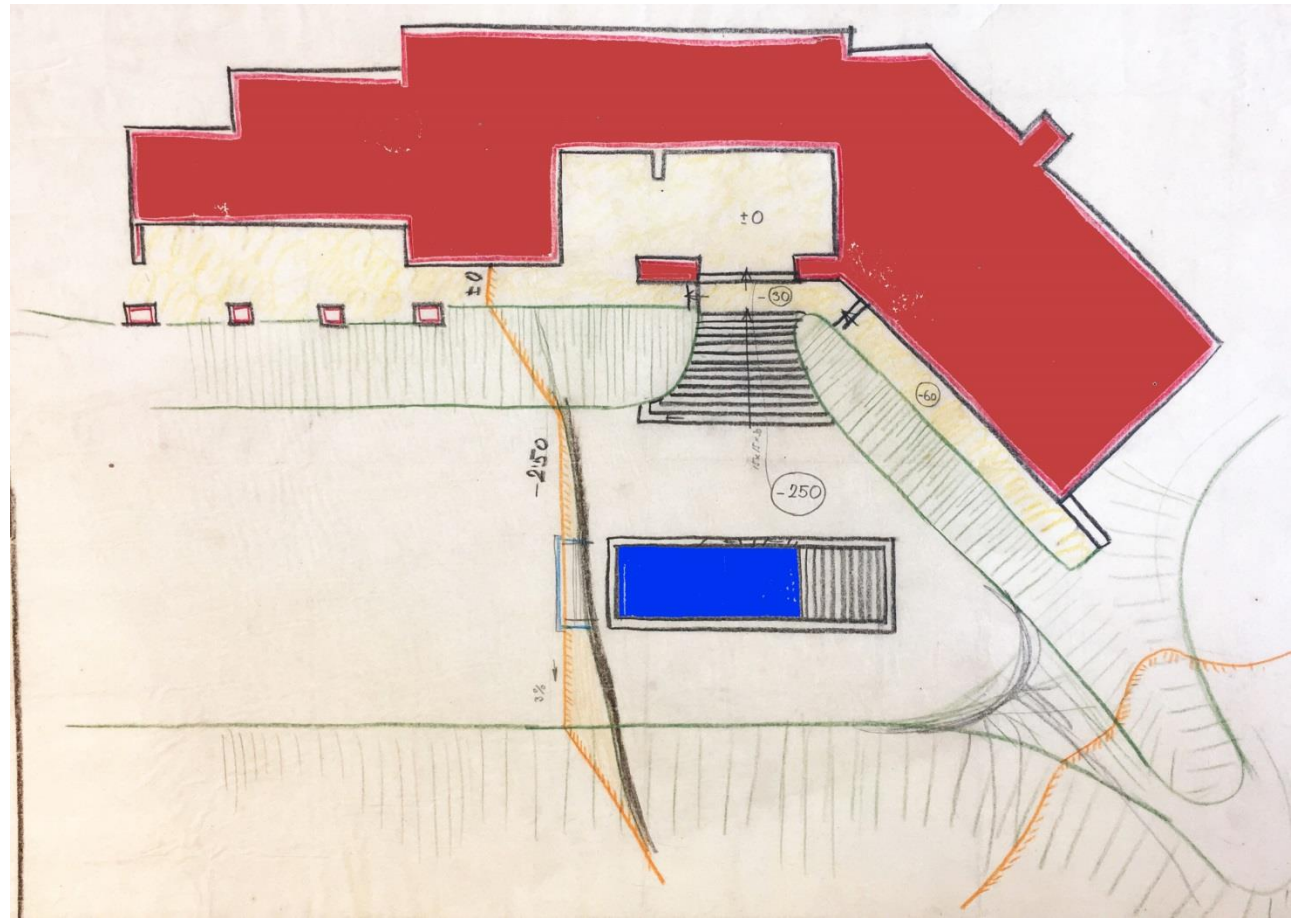
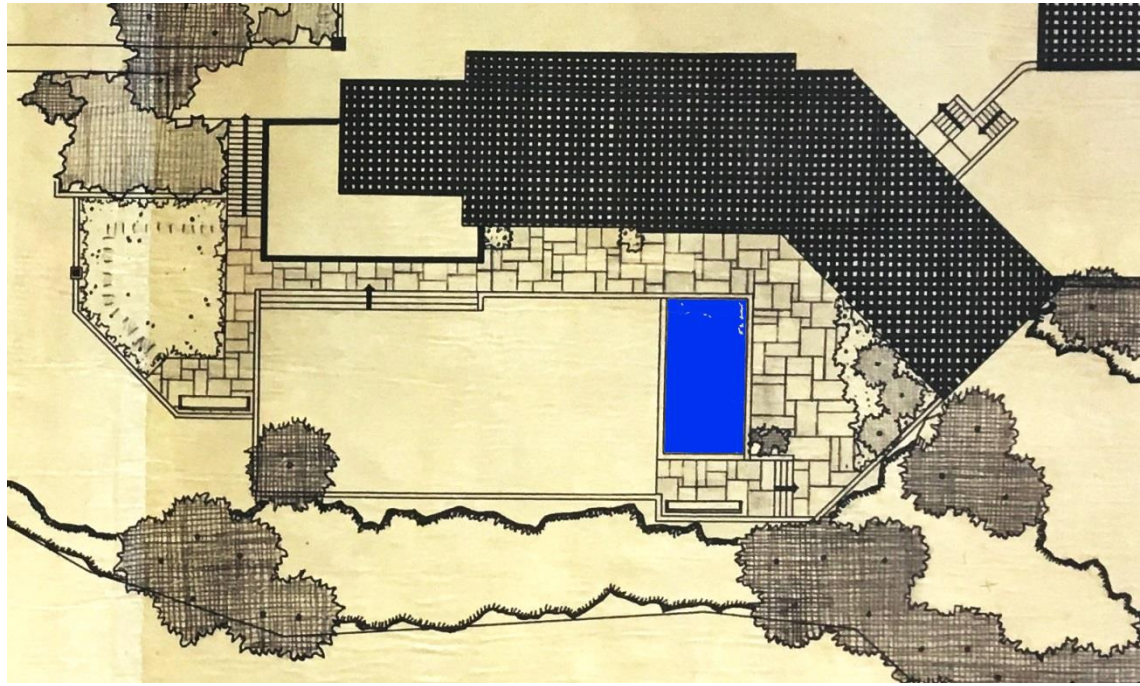


Miloš Havel (1899–1968)













Philip Johnson: Glass House, 1949



What Now?



Mark Ther *1977



„Closed due to homosexual and
Nazi propaganda“
— curator Olga Malá

2010-2011: Ars Homo Erotica





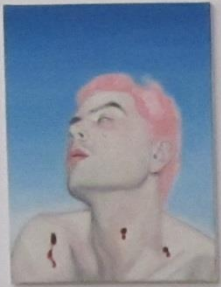


2012: What a Material? Queer Art from Central Europe





Francis Bacon
Two Figures
1969



Francis Bacon
Self-Portrait
1969



Francis Bacon
Two Figures in a Landscape
1969





2012-2013: *Unrealized*: Queer Codes



2015-present: Queer Archives Institute







Thank you for
your attention.

Fernand Vácha: Fairy tale
illustration, 1948