

## MY CUP OF KAFKA...

drawings, prints and paintings by Jiří Slíva

Prague 16 February 2018 -- **New exhibition of the Jewish Museum in Prague launches on 22 Feb 2018**

„Slíva’s humour is characterized by a desire to have fun, to be among people, and to disseminate ideas from pure joy of life and its vagaries. His jesting playfulness is a spontaneous feature and a natural expression of humour that is borne of a deep-rooted need to clown around. Putting on a clown nose at the right moment can turn human conflict into a circus gag. Slíva’s humour is irrational but not mystical. He is easy to understand. His humour is both humane and humanistic, a Praise of Folly for the present today,” observes the Czech art historian, essayist and writer *Josef Kroutvor*.

An exhibition of works by the well-known Prague-based graphic artist and illustrator Jiří Slíva is being held at the Jewish Museum’s Robert Guttmann Gallery for his 71st birthday. It features a number of drawings, colour lithographs, etchings, pastels and oil paintings on the artist’s favourite themes – Franz Kafka, Sigmund Freud, the Golem, Jewish customs/symbols, and biblical motifs – as well as other material inspired by the works of Jewish writers. Jiří Slíva has been preoccupied with Jewish humour and illustrating the works of Franz Kafka for many years. In December 2017, the Franz Kafka Publishing House published *My Cup of Kafka*, a book featuring Slíva’s main artworks inspired by the great writer. A selection of these works is on display at the exhibition. Also on view is a range of Slíva’s illustrations from books by the Czech-Israeli writer Ruth Bondy, which are dedicated to the language, names and special idioms of Czech Jews. Slíva’s exhibited work also includes depictions of café society and scenes from everyday life, which are marked by absurd humour and a love of jazz, wine and dancing.

The exhibition was curated by Jiří Slíva and Arno Pařík (JMP) and produced by the Jewish Museum in Prague with the financial support of the City of Prague. It will run between 22 February 2018 – 27 Jan 2019.

**Jewish Museum in Prague – Robert Guttmann Gallery, U Staré školy 3, Prague 1**

**Open daily** except Saturdays and other Jewish holidays: **9 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. (winter), 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (summer)**

**Admission:** regular CZK 40, reduced CZK 20, children under 6 free of charge

**Meeting with Jiří Slíva and photo op: 21 February 2018 at 4 p.m.**

**Exhibition opening: 21 February 2018 at 5 p.m.**

**Photographs for download incl. © information and captions:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QUtbu1wLoJ0VZkTVIUsKJOIEBgs-Qbbz?usp=sharing>

or <http://www.uschovna.cz/zasilka/VQD58ZSCBIVT7EBA-ENV/>

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