CZECH CENTRE LONDON

‘Breathing’ with ‘Breaths – Air Bladders’ and Silent Systems: Breathing Devices – two interconnected exhibitions reshape the way we think about breathing

Press release

Two exhibitions inspired by the act of breathing will be hosted by Notting Hill’s Bouda and Vitrínka galleries this autumn. Opening on 31 October 2025, the Bouda gallery showcases ‘*Breathing’ with ‘Breaths – Air Bladders’*, an exhibition featuring artwork and research findings by Czech artist Filomena Borecká, previously shown at Maison Française d’Oxford and Prague’s National Gallery. Complementing Borecká’s long-standing work dedicated to breath, the neighbouring Vitrínka gallery lends its space to *Silent Systems: Breathing Devices*, a group exhibition featuring Borecká’s work alongside pieces by four international, UK-based artists: Evar Hussanyi, Appau Junior Boakye-Yiadom, Esther Gaton, and Henrique Paris. Both exhibitions are part of the 29th Made in Prague Festival organised by the Czech Centre.



Image: Filomena Borecká, ‘Breaths - Air Bladders’, photo by Bruno Duboi

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'I'm breathing. That's not all! I'm breathing...'
Paul Valéry

'Breathing' with 'Breaths – Air Bladders'

Where does one breath end and another begin? **Filomena Borecká's** captivating artwork invites visitors to experience the shared act of breathing and reflect on our connection with the living world. Sparked by the global awareness of breath during the COVID-19 pandemic, and blending art, science and sensorial experience, the exhibition curated by Judith Rainhorn and Charles-Antoine Wanecq explores the cultural, social, and scientific histories of respiration from the 18th century to today.
Drawing on the outcomes of two interdisciplinary workshops, it brings together perspectives from historians, scientists, artists, and healthcare professionals.
Central to the exhibition is Borecká's breathing sculpture *Air Bladders.* Made of recycled hot-air balloon fabric that inflates in response to the viewer's presence, the piece transforms a fundamental act of life into a sensorial, collective, and thought-provoking experience.

Filomena Borecká is a Czech artist based in France. Her artistic practice encompasses sculpture, performance, and drawing, mostly concerned with themes that are visually difficult to grasp. She uses participatory sound sculptures that often incorporate the recorded breaths of others to link the external with the internal, underlining our interdependence with our surroundings.

Silent Systems: Breathing Devices

This group exhibition, curated for the Vitrínka gallery by British curator Daré Dada, gathers works by **Appau Junior Boakye-Yiadom, Filomena Borecká, Esther Gaton, Evar Hussanyi** and **Henrique Paris** to reimagine breath as more than a biological act. Breathing becomes rhythm and pulse, presence and absence, the invisible measure of life that extends beyond the body into objects, spaces, and systems. It invites viewers to ask: What is a breath of a city, a machine, a material archive? How might breathing become a metaphor for cultural memory, ecological interdependence, or technological survival?

Filomena Borecká's practice, attuned to the subtle energies of air and time, anchors the exhibition's meditation on breath as both force and metaphor. Here, stillness is unsettled: objects expand and contract, silent systems exhale, and the unseen currents of existence ripple quietly through matter, inviting us to reconsider our entanglement with the material world.

‚I'm thrilled that the joint Czech–British group exhibition, with its overarching theme of Breathing, will open the five-week Made in Prague Festival — a distinctive showcase of Czech art in London — and will symbolically breathe fresh air and energy into its 29th edition' adds Přemysl Pela, director of the Czech Centre.



Image: First Touch, Filomena Borecká, ink and colour pencils on paper (24 x 32 cm) Paris, 2025

PRIVATE VIEW for both exhibitions: Friday 31 October 2025, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Dates: 31 October 2025 – 15 January 2026
Address: Bouda Gallery, 32 Palace Gardens Terrace, London W8 4RT
Vitrínka Gallery, 30 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QY
More information about the exhibitions:
https://london.czechcentres.cz/en/program/breaths-air-bladders
Silent Systems: Breathing Devices / Czech Centre London

Breathing with 'Breaths – Air Bladders' and *Silent Systems: Breathing Devices* are kindly supported by Chaire Santé-SHS Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.
Both exhibitions are part of the 29th Made in Prague Festival organised by the Czech Centre. www.czechcentre.org.uk

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The Made in Prague Festival is a vibrant celebration of contemporary Czech culture showcasing film, music, visual art, theatre, and literature.
Organised by the Czech Centre annually since 1997, it serves as a bridge, transcending borders, and bringing diverse and captivating Czech cultural encounters to audiences in London and across the country. #MadeInPragueFestival

Full festival programme: https://bit.ly/29thMadeInPragueFestival

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