



Press Release – Prague, 2 September 2024

## **You are being watched by the Nine Eyes of Google Street View. Kunsthalle will present a free screening of a work by famous contemporary artist Jon Rafman**

On 4 September, Kunsthalle Praha will unveil a new pop-up video installation, which will also be featured in the Prague Art Week festival. This bold work titled *Nine Eyes of Google Street View* presents several hundred photographs of life around the world, with images ranging from humorous, poetic, and bizarre to terrifying and unsettling. Renowned Canadian artist Jon Rafman has been working on this project continuously since 2008. Besides mapping our surroundings, the video installation also conveys a critical commentary on the omnipresent structures of digital social control. Free screenings will take place every until 25 November.



*Jon Rafman: Nine Eyes of Google Street View*  
5 September – 25 November 2024  
Booklounge at Kunsthalle Praha  
Curator: Martina Freitagová  
Free entry

**Kunsthalle  
Praha**

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Kunsthalle Praha, nadační fond  
Klárov 132/5, 118 00 Praha 1  
IČO: 04535871 DIČ: CZ04535871

When Canadian artist Jon Rafman began collecting various frames from Google Street View in 2008, the app had only existed for a year. It promised to provide valuable information and help with better orientation worldwide. As a professional internet surfer, Rafman used it to travel across the world and compile a collection of unique images. Some are reminiscent of the early days of street photography while others echo classical landscape painting or depict fully abstract compositions. Yet other images capture glitches in Google's renderings and spotlight the materiality of these purely technical shots.

Visitors to Kunsthalle Praha will be able to watch the work free of charge on a projection screen in the Booklounge, located next to the café, which includes a terrace with views of Petřín Hill and the Prague Castle. Until now, Rafman has presented this work through blogs, books, and large-format prints in prominent galleries worldwide. Rafman is no stranger to these spaces, with his work included in the collections of famous institutions such as MoMA in New York, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, and MAXXI in Rome.

Since the first archived images sixteen years ago, the *Nine Eyes of Google Street View* database has continued to grow and evolve toward new meanings. It poses questions regarding the authorship and ownership of artworks and the omnipresent surveillance of our lives. The work's title references the nine cameras mounted on top of the cars Google uses to capture surroundings and passersby for Street View. These photographs are taken from a supposedly neutral angle of view and without any apparent ethical or aesthetic concern. Rafman's slideshow thus also functions as a silent commentary on the process of image creation and the nature of photography in the digital age.

The screening is Kunsthalle Praha's second autumn video pop-up. Last year, Kunsthalle presented the emblematic film *An Incomplete History of Great Britain 1984-1992* by English artist Jeremy Deller. "Rafman and Deller are among the most important names in contemporary art. Rafman's work explores questions about our understanding of and power over the technologies that shape our current perception of reality. We're glad that we can show this piece in Prague, accessibly and free of charge," comments Martina Freitagová, Education Programme Manager at Kunsthalle Praha and curator of the video pop-up series.

The pop-up video installation *Nine Eyes of Google Street View* by Jon Rafman will be on show from 4 September to 25 November 2024 in the Booklounge on the third floor. From 5 to 8 September, it will also be part of the Prague Art Week festival.

The video installation is accessible free of charge and has a runtime of one hour and six minutes. All exhibitions at Kunsthalle Praha are free for visitors up to 26 years old with a free membership

The exhibition *Lucia Moholy: Exposures* is on show until 28 October.

Kunsthalle Praha would like to thank its partners: The Pudil Family Foundation, BMW, and Dentons.

#### Press Contact

Zuzana Dusilová / +420 721 034 543 / [zdusilova@kunsthallepraha.org](mailto:zdusilova@kunsthallepraha.org)

#### Press Images

<https://kunsthalle.brandcloud.pro/link/hpCHkPBR>



## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### Jon Rafman



Montreal-born Canadian artist Jon Rafman is known for complex work in video, animation, installation, and sculpture, which he uses to explore our everyday lives, dreams, and fantasies, as well as loss, sadness, and dependence on digital technologies. Rafman studied literature and philosophy before completing an M.F.A. in Film, Video and New Media at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His artistic practice carries an anthropological dimension, searching for humanity in the context of his virtual experiences as what he calls a “professional internet surfer”. Rafman’s work is commonly associated with the post-internet art movement. It has featured in several prestigious biennials (58th Venice Biennale, 13th Lyon Biennale, 9th Berlin Biennale, Manifesta 11) and is included in the collections of institutions such as MoMA in New York, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, and MAXXI in Rome.

<https://www.instagram.com/jonrafman>

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Kunsthalle Praha

# Kunsthalle Praha

Kunsthalle Praha is a new space for art on Prague's vibrant cultural scene. Founded as a non-governmental, non-profit platform by The Pudil Family Foundation, it opened its doors to the public on 22 February 2022. Kunsthalle was created through the conversion of the Zenger Electrical Substation, built in the 1930s. In 2022, the renovated building won the main prize of the Grand Prix of Architects — National Architecture Award.

The building is now home to a modern gallery space for short-term exhibitions, cultural events, and innovative educational programmes. With a total floor space of 5,687 m<sup>2</sup>, Kunsthalle Praha comprises three large gallery spaces, a design shop, and a café with a historic terrace overlooking Petřín Hill and the Prague Castle.

Kunsthalle Praha's mission is to connect the Czech and international art scenes, present innovative perspectives on the art and culture of the 20th and 21st centuries, and engage with a wide audience, offering insights into art through a dynamic programme. Kunsthalle also has its own art collection focused on modern, post-war, and contemporary art.

[instagram.com/kunsthallepraha](https://www.instagram.com/kunsthallepraha)

[kunsthallepraha.org](https://www.kunsthallepraha.org)

Open daily (11 am—7 pm) and on Wednesdays (11 am—9 pm). Closed on Tuesdays. Free as a Member, <https://www.kunsthallepraha.org/en/become-a-member>.

