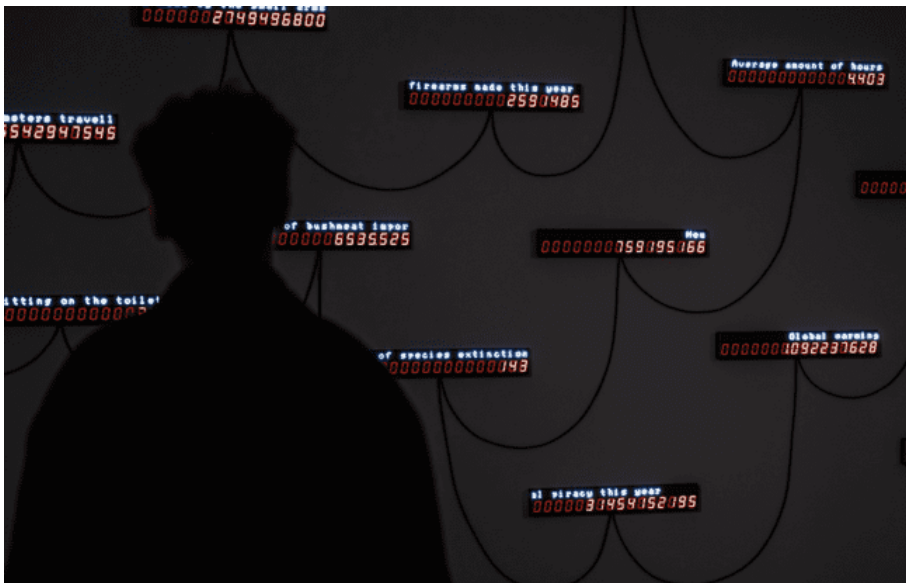


Press Release – Prague, 9 October 2024

United Visual Artists debut an exhibition at Kunsthalle Praha

For the third year, Kunsthalle Praha and Signal Festival are coming together to reveal a new audiovisual art project. Starting on 10 October, the acclaimed London-based studio United Visual Artists (UVA) will present their *Strange Attractions*. The practice showcases a diverse range of works that integrate new technologies with traditional media. UVA is renowned for its large-scale, performative installations and collaborative projects with musicians, including James Blake and Massive Attack. For their first exhibition in Prague, UVA chose the theme of chaos theory, using it to explore the emergence of patterns in our big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence era. The centerpiece of the exhibition is the kinetic double pendulum called *Strange Attractor*. Its movements are translated in real time into data and striking projections that bridge physical and digital worlds as well as experience. Three additional works—*Present Shock*, *Etymologies*, and *Serendipity*—further investigate the interplay of order and chaos in language and society under the pressure of overwhelming data streams. The exhibition embodies a contemporary artistic approach, translating complex scientific concepts into accessible experiences for a broader audience. It will be on view until January 13, 2025.



United Visual Artists (UVA): Strange Attractions

10 October 2024 – 13 January 2025

Gallery 3, Kunsthalle Praha

Curators: Iva Polanecká (Kunsthalle Praha), Pavel Mrkus a Martin Pošta (Signal Festival)

**Kunsthalle
Praha**

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

*“The pivotal concept of the exhibition is **chaos theory**, originally formulated by meteorologist Edward Lorenz in the 1960s to describe the complex behaviour of dynamic systems. In UVA’s hands it becomes a tool for exploring fundamental questions about the nature of reality and our perception of the world,”* explains curator **Iva Polanecká**.

UVA is celebrated for their ability to translate intricate scientific and philosophical ideas into compelling visual art experiences. Founded in 2003 by artist Matt Clark, who has guided the studio since its inception, UVA fosters a collaborative spirit that spans a diverse range of disciplines. The initial impetus and opportunity came from their collaboration with Massive Attack and its enigmatic frontman Robert Del Naja. At that time, the groundbreaking visuals explored themes of surveillance, misinformation, and state control. UVA continued to visually accompany the band's subversive message for several more years, establishing themselves on the London art scene. UVA’s collaboration with other professionals extends far **beyond the visual arts** and touches many disciplines. It includes figures such as choreographers from the Paris Opéra Ballet, filmmaker Adam Curtis, musicians James Blake and Ben Frost, and cognitive scientist Mark Changizi. Their works are also part of collections in major institutions, including the Royal Academy of Arts, Serpentine Gallery, and Victoria & Albert Museum.

This marks the third collaboration between Kunsthalle Praha and Signal Festival on an audiovisual exhibition. Together, they have showcased the young generation of digital artists, including notable Czech artist Ondřej Zunka and his Zünc Studio. Last year, they featured Lunchmeat Studio’s large-scale artwork installation. This year’s partnership culminates with *Strange Attractions*. *“United Visual Artists create dynamic experiences and atmospheric performances that envelop the audience through the interplay of light and shadow. They explore the nature of perception and cognition and reflect on the ways in which we seek to understand the world and our place in it,”* adds **Pavel Mrkus**, curator of **Signal Festival**.

The centerpiece of the exhibition at Kunsthalle Praha is the double pendulum **Strange Attractor**, accompanied by a large-scale multi-screen projection linked to it in real time. The data records of the movements are transferred into a dynamic projection that draws the audience directly into the expansive gallery space. One arm is under motorized control, while the other introduces elements of chaos and unpredictability into the piece. Exploring the phenomena of randomness and structured patterns within seemingly chaotic systems is a key theme here.

The dynamics of this work reflect the tradition of kinetic art and light installations that developed in the mid-20th century. The fascination with light, movement, and mechanical apparatus traces back to pioneers like Man Ray and László Moholy-Nagy. Their work was significant not only for its technical innovations but also for its fundamental conceptual shift in artistic creation. UVA builds upon and advances this tradition, incorporating digital technologies and algorithms while exploring their philosophical and social implications in **art, nature, and society**.

Further artworks **Present Shock** and **Etymologies** also engage with the contemporary debate about the relationship between humans and technology in the age of artificial intelligence. *Etymologies* re-arranges and deconstructs texts by Franz Kafka, creating an intriguing interaction between human consciousness and machine algorithms. The last piece, a light sculpture called **Serendipity**, is inspired by Lorenz’s discovery of the sensitivity of nonlinear systems to initial conditions. It serves as a visual metaphor for the principles of chaos theory as two laser-projected light points intertwine in a captivating dance in the gallery.

The entire multimedia installation is an encounter with abstract concepts translated into a tangible, visually stunning form. It challenges the audience to reflect on how initial conditions and

fundamental dynamics shape the world around us. Similarly, it poses questions related to life in the age of big data, artificial intelligence, information overload, and digitalization.

The exhibition *United Visual Artists: Strange Attractions* runs from 10 October 2024 to 13 January 2025. From 10 to 13 October in the evening, visits are available with a ticket for the Gallery Zone of the Signal Festival. From 11 to 13 October during the day, visits are available with Kunsthalle Praha membership. From 14 October to 13 January, visits are available with Kunsthalle Praha membership or regular admission to Kunsthalle Praha.

The exhibition is accompanied by a rich programme, including an Artist Talk with Matt Clark, the founder of UVA, on 12 October; guided tours, and AI workshops.

Curators Iva Polanecká and Pavel Mrkus have written online texts to accompany the exhibition.

Admission and membership at Kunsthalle Praha are free for visitors under 26 years of age.

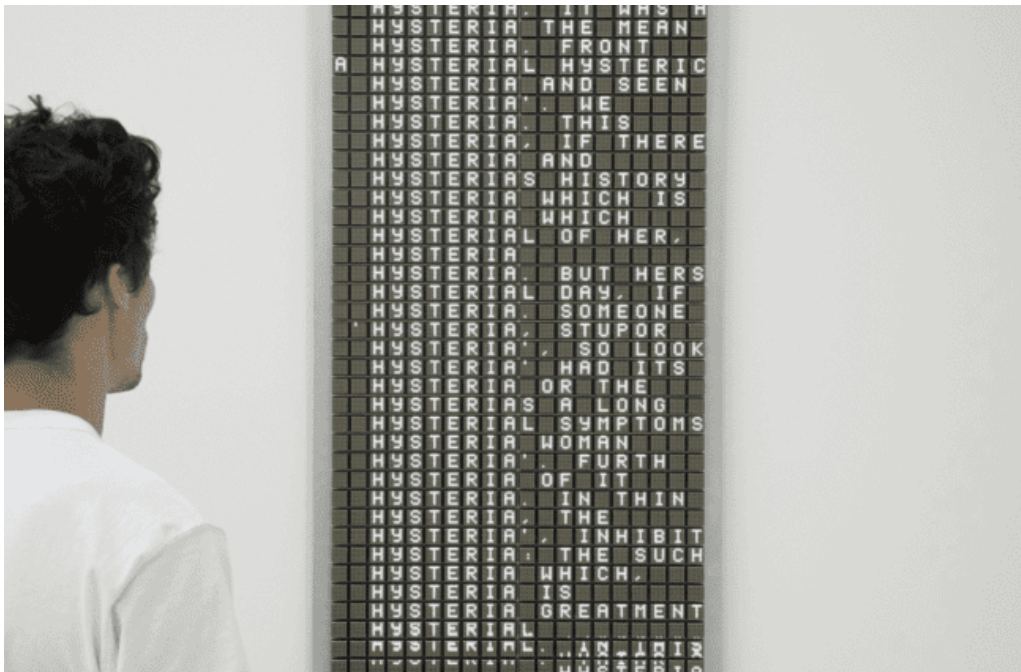
Kunsthalle Praha extends its thanks to its partners (The Pudil Family Foundation, BMW, Dentons). The exhibition was created in collaboration between Kunsthalle Praha and the Signal Festival.

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Press Photos

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



NOTES FOR EDITORS

United Visual Artists

UVA is a London-based contemporary art practice established in 2003. UVA's diverse work integrates new technologies with traditional media, such as sculpture, performance, and site-specific installation. Drawing from sources ranging from ancient philosophy to theoretical science, the practice explores the cultural frameworks and natural phenomena that shape our cognition, creating instruments that manipulate our perception and expose the relativity of our experiences.

Rather than material objects, UVA's works are better understood as events in time, in which the performance of light, sound and movement unfolds. UVA has been commissioned internationally by institutions including the Barbican Curve Gallery, London; Manchester International Festival; Royal Academy of Arts; Serpentine Gallery, London; The Wellcome Trust; Victoria & Albert Museum; YCAM, Tokyo, Japan; and the Biennale of Sydney, amongst others. The studio's work is collected by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, France, and MONA, Australia. In 2023, UVA marked its 20th year at 180 Studios London with the exhibition 'UVA: Synchronicity,' the studio's largest survey show to date.



[instagram.com/unitedvisualartists](https://www.instagram.com/unitedvisualartists)
uva.co.uk

Kunsthalle Praha

Kunsthalle Praha is a space for art on Prague's vibrant cultural scene. It hosts temporary art exhibitions, innovative educational programmes and cultural events in three large galleries. The Kunsthalle building won the National Architecture Award for 2022. It also offers a design shop and a café with a historic terrace overlooking Petrin Hill and 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. Kunsthalle Praha was founded a non-governmental, non-profit platform by The Pudil Family Foundation of Pavlina Pudil and Petr Pudil.



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

Kunsthalle Praha

Signal Festival

Signal Festival is the largest showcase of digital and creative culture in Prague. It embarks on a journey through ecosystems filled with artworks from the fields of light design, visual and digital art, artificial intelligence, as well as conceptual art. It connects the historic backdrop of beloved Prague with the latest technologies and contemporary social themes.

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

