

ADAM VACKAR

Artist, researcher
b. Prague, Czech Republic

Website Portfolio www.adamvackar.com

Co-director of Transparent Eyeball www.transparenteyeball.net

Co-director of Hope Recycling Station www.h-r-s.cz

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RESUME

Profile

Adam Vackar is an artist and researcher based in Prague, Czech Republic. His conceptually driven work spans the fields of visual art, biology, ecological thought, and power structures. His recent artistic research explores biological processes and human interactions with migrant (invasive) plants, examining how knowledge production and power dynamics shape political, social, racial, and spiritual relationships. Since 2021, he has focused on research around the Giant Hogweed, investigating both non-human and human perspectives. Vačkář approaches the plant not only as a botanical phenomenon but as a complex cultural and historical metaphor. Originally from the Caucasus and introduced as an ornamental plant by botanists and nobles to Europe in the 19th century, this plant has come to symbolize deeper ecological disruptions linked to human intervention. His research traces the spread of Hogweed in post-World War II Czechoslovakia, focusing on how the mass displacement of populations following the expulsion of Sudeten Germans facilitated the plant's colonization of abandoned landscapes. This research positions the Hogweed as a "biological ghost" of historical trauma, a living trace of war-torn, neglected regions left in ruin. Engaging with botanists, biologists, media psychologists, engineers in new technology, eco-feminists, as well as spiritual thinkers and healers focused on plants in the UK, US and Czechia, Adam Vackar creates a complex analysis of humanity's approach to nature, as well as envisioning possible scenarios and new paths of thinking for the ecological challenges of the 21st century. Vackar is currently working on a book showcasing his research on the subject, set to be published in 2025 by the Dutch publisher Onomatopoe, along with a documentary film, for which he's been gathering material over the past three years.

His work has been presented at institutions such as Centre Pompidou, Art Basel, S.M.A.K., Palais de Tokyo, Cologne Kunstverein, Museum Morsbroich, National Gallery in Prague, City Gallery Prague, FRAC Occitanie Montpellier, FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, FRAC Franche-Comté, among others. His work has been reviewed in Artforum, Flash Art, Tique, Mousse Magazine, Art Net. His works are in numerous institutional and private collections.

Professional Positions and Community Service

Since 2021 Adam Vackar co-runs the interdisciplinary platform Transparent Eyeball with evolutionary biologist Dr. Jindřich Břejcha, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and History of Science, Faculty of Science at Charles University. Transparent Eyeball, being a collaborative practice at the intersection of visual art and biology, with overlaps in botany, anthropology, landscape architecture, geology, and philosophy, focuses on organizing exhibitions, conferences, lectures and performances. The platform aims to explore new axes of knowledge based on the understanding of the biological perspective of life and existence for both non-human species and humans. It aims to raise both expert and wide audience awareness about natural processes and visual art.

Since 2016 Adam Vackar co-runs the platform Hope Recycling Station in collaboration with renown Berlin-based art historian Noemi Smolik, organizing lectures with distinguishes international artists, curators, museum directors, thinkers, scientists, philosophers, and writers. In its recent projects, the platform focuses on decolonial reflections in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia. Vackar is also a co-curator of the 2024 edition of the renowned Fotograf Festival in Prague, presented across four major venues and showcasing works by eighteen international artists.

Vackar regularly gives lectures and seminars on his work and research at his home institution - the Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno University of Technology - as well as at other institutions such as the Center for Contemporary Art in Prague, the Fotograf Festival, previously also at Jeu de Paume in Paris and Palais de Tokyo. He also conducts regular courses with Czech high school students.

Between 2021 and 22 Adam Vackar held the position of Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education, Charles University, where he taught new approaches and methods of art education.

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic
Postgraduate Program Le Pavillon, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
MA École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
BA Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design, Prague, Czech Republic
Nichiei Kaiwa Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan

COLLECTIONS

Vackar's works are included in public collections such as S.M.A.K., Belgium; Museum Morsbroich, Germany; FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon, France; ETH Zürich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; Prague City Gallery, Czech Republic; GASK, Czech Republic; Galerie Klatovy/Klenová; Czech Republic

His works are also part of private collections, including Fondation Antoine de Galbert, France; Marc et Josée Gensollen Collection, Marseille, France; Anetma, France; Frédéric de Goldschmidt Collection, Brussels, Belgium; Time Capsule Collection, Zürich, Switzerland; Sanz Esquide & Cortell Collection, Barcelona, Spain, and others.

RESIDENCIES

Delfina Foundation, London, United Kingdom
Le Pavillon, residency at Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Boghossian Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
Residence at Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
Centre d'art contemporain La Synagogue de Delme, Delme, France

TEXTS

Texts about Adam Vačkář's work have been written by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Guillaume Désanges, Noemi Smolik for Artforum, Daniel Kurjakovic for Torrent Magazine, Max Glauner for Artforum, Marc Glöde for Art Basel/Art Film, Isabella Indolfi, Jan Zálešák, Alessandro Facente, Thierry Davila, Timothée Chaillou, Jean-Marc Avrilla, Marketa Kubackova for Flash Art, Michal Komarek for Reflex, Mariana Serranova, Jiri Ptacek, Jiri Machalicky, Lucia Gavulova, among others.

GRANTS

Czech National Recovery Plan
Ministry of Culture Czech Republic
Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic
Foundation for Contemporary Art Prague
Cultures France

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2024

Cy-fest: New media festival of visual art, Yerevan, Armenia
Fotograf Festival co-curator MeetFactory, Hunt Kastner, Fotograf, Prague, CZ
Decolonialisation in Central, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, co-organizer, Fotograf Festival, Academy of Arts and Design, Prague, CZ
Giant Hogweed: From Eradication to Nourishment, from Struggle to Care symposium, 1014 Inc - Space for Ideas, New York, USA
Through the Labyrinth exhibition from collection GASK, Kutná Hora, CZ
New Land group exhibition, collection of Antoine de Galbert, Arkas Art Center, Çeşme, Turkey
Exhibition from the collections S.M.A.K., Ghent, BE

2023

Make Voices Be Heard: Decolonial Reflections on Power and Racism in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, organization of the symposium at Academy of Arts, Prague, CZ
JT Bank Art Index Pop-Up group exhibition Prague, CZ
Federico Campagna organization of a lecture, Center for Contemporary Art, Prague, CZ
Niche Construction co-curator, group exhibition of artists and biologists NOD Gallery, Prague, CZ
Inner Harmonies - Adam Vačkář & Anna Zemánková duo exhibition Untitled Gallery, Prague, CZ
Herbarium solo exhibition, Kabinet T, Zlín, CZ (Text by Maja and Reuben Fowkes)

2022

Fairy Empire Motol Hospital Public Installation, Prague, CZ
Delfina Foundation Residency, London, UK
Farmakon solo exhibition, Šopa Gallery, Košice, Slovakia

2021

Ruka Na Konci Ramene group exhibition, 8smička, Humpolec, CZ
How Much Land Does A Man Need group exhibition, GAMPA, Pardubice, CZ

2020

Taxon Three performance, Tanec Praha Contemporary Dance Festival, Prague, CZ
Taxon Two performance, Polansky Gallery, SUMO – International Gallery Co-op, Prague, CZ
Veys–Verhaevert Collection group exhibition, Maison des Arts de Schaerbeek, Brussels, BE
Such Sweet Thunder Gandy Gallery, Bratislava, SK (Reviewed on Art Viewer, Ofluxo, etc.)

2019

Nanospasm Lab NOD, Prague (Reviewed by Artviewer.org, Daily-lazy.com, Artmirror.org, Ofluxo)
The Collection - Highlights for the Future 20 years of the museum collection, S.M.A.K., Ghent, BE
Festival M3 sculpture project at Prague, Public Space Sculpture Festival, Prague, CZ
Alien Crash Site solo exhibition, Berlinskej Model, Prague, CZ
Bad Seeds solo exhibition, Atelier Josefa Sudka, Prague, CZ

2018

Where No Man Has Gone Before solo exhibition Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, BE
Gyeongju International Residency Art Festival Gyeongju, Korea
Liquid Bodies group exhibition aqb Project Space, Budapest, HU
À la Lumière group exhibition FRAC Occitanie Montpellier, FR
Heavy Metal group exhibition Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, BE
The Idle Oyster in Swamp performance Boghossian Foundation, Villa Empain, Brussels, BE

2017

New Acquisitions - From the Collections Prague City Gallery - Municipal Library of Prague, CZ
Art Brussels Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, BE
Lost & Found Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, BE
Doomdoom performance at Fotograf Festival, National Gallery, Prague, CZ
Moving Image Department: Economies of Time duo show: Adrian Paci, Adam Vačkář curated by Adam Budak, National Gallery, Prague, CZ

2016

Day For Night video collection of Antoine de Galbert Le SHED, Centre d'art, Normandy, FR
This Side of Paradise Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, BE (Reviewed in Artforum)
S.M.A.K.: From the Collection | NEW Ghent, BE
Poppositions Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, BE
Synesthesia archival material in TORRENT MAGAZINE N.3
The Rule and the Exception National Gallery, Skopje, MK
Was It a Cat or a Car I Saw group exhibition ŠKUC Gallery, Ljubljana, SI
Artists and Architecture, Variable Dimensions Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Paris, FR
Laughter and Forgetting Bucharest Art Week, RO
Sirens group exhibition Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, BE

2015

More Konzeption Conception Now Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany
Objectonomy: The Economy of the Object group exhibition MeetFactory, Prague, CZ
In my Beginning is my End Galerie Alberta Pane, Paris, FR
Dimensions Variables Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Paris, FR
Hidden Language of Flowers National Gallery, Prague, CZ
Sirens Dauwens & Beernaert Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

2014

Atla(s)now - The Age of Decentralization Marrakech Biennale, Marrakech, Morocco
Wie auch immer Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten in Graz, Graz, Austria
Kruhové ruiny MeetFactory, Prague, CZ
Posterity is a Form of Spectator Galerie Sobering, Paris, FR

2013

Rhythm in it. On Rhythm in Contemporary Art Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, Switzerland
How to Tell a Story Depo, Istanbul, Turkey
Situation 62 Bleibtreu Galerie, Berlin, Germany
Choix du coeur French Institute, Prague
The ikono On Air Festival Berlin, Germany

2012

Art Basel - Art Statements + Art Film solo booth at Art Basel, Switzerland
Uchronie FRAC Franche-Comté, Besançon, France
Filliation Espace de l'Art Concret, Château de Mouans / Mouans-Sartoux, France
Ça & là Curated by Claude Closky, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, France
Word out of Joint ŠKUC Gallery, Ljubljana, Slovenia
20 Years of Gandy Gallery Institut Français, Bratislava

2011

Videonale 13 Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany
Realfictions Galerie de l'Indépendance, Luxembourg
Věznice Místo pro Umění DOX, Prague
2001-2011 : Soudain, déjà École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
28th Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival Kassel, Germany
Step by Step Gandy Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
Uchronie Galerie Klatovy/Klenová, House at the White Unicorn, Klatovy
Free Port of Art Old Harbour of Trieste, Trieste, Italy

2010

It is Written Centre Pompidou Metz, Metz, France
Nuit Blanche Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Telling Stories WUK Kunsthalle, Vienna, Austria
Drawing Time Musée de Beaux-Arts, Nancy, France
Fragments From Nowhere Palazzo Ducale, Sassari, Sardinia, Italy
Art with a Past Mieszkanie Gepperta Gallery, Wrocław, Poland
Planet Eden House of Arts, Brno
Planet Eden DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague
Wie war das mit Kain und Abel Künstlerhaus Sootbörn, Hamburg, Germany