

PRESS RELEASE

Art breathes new energy into a historic Venetian church: Czech sculptress Veronika Psotková's outstanding installation

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The Italian city of Venice—a center of art and boundless inspiration—is set to host the most extensive international exhibition to date of Czech sculptress Veronika Psotková's work. Her monumental wire sculptures, seemingly defying gravity, will take over the Renaissance church of Santa Maria della Visitazione in the heart of the city. The installation named PERPETUO, produced with the support of Valea Art, will be open to the public from May 9 to November 23, 2025.

Veronika Psotková's figurative sculptures, crafted from metallic wire mesh, appear weightless and translucent. They interact with light and give the impression of drawings floating in mid-air. In the historical setting of Santa Maria della Visitazione, her hand-shaped figures seamlessly merge historical architecture with contemporary sculpture, exploring how the online environment influences our perception of reality and human existence.

"The inspiration for this installation came directly from the church itself. Today, social media has replaced religion to some extent, people spend countless hours on social media, returning to it obsessively and allowing to be conditioned by it. This is not a judgement, just an observation on how it influences our perception of the world and ourselves," explains the Czech sculptress. The sculptures in the installation capture a moment of suspension in time—like a single photo frame—mirroring the endless flood of content in the virtual space. *"It is not just about visual composition. Each figure represents a specific thought, gesture, or experience, appearing and disappearing in a constant stream of information. Each sculpture is unique and tells its own story,"* she adds.

As visitors step into the nave of Santa Maria della Visitazione, they will be met with a breathtaking sight: a suspended loop of over thirty figures and torsos, some towering up to three meters high. *"I work with both natural and artificial light inside the church. The light, along with the viewing angle, constantly changes the perception of the sculptures. Sometimes they almost vanish, other times they stand out in full force. It's not just about their physical presence, but about their dialogue with the space around them. I see them as an organic part of the church,"* the artist says. Psotková has invented and mastered a unique technique of hand-sewing metallic wire mesh to create her figures. This process requires both spatial and composition awareness, and meticulous craftsmanship; these are an integral part of her artistic expression.

Veronika Psotková's installation PERPETUO builds on the historical tradition of sculpture as an integral element of architecture. Designed to harmonize with its surroundings, it feels as if it has always belonged to the architecture of the church. *"PERPETUO co-creates the architecture of the interior, anticipating the interaction with visitors and offering different possibilities of its perception. Visitors can walk through it like a gateway, yet its floor plan shape, resembling an open-ended figure eight, invites them to complete the loop with their own body, becoming part of its dynamic flow,"* points out exhibition curator Robert Janás.

Weighing several tons, the installation required nearly 1.5 kilometres of metallic wire mesh. After several months of work in the Czech Republic, it will be transported to Venice by truck in five large wooden crates, then shipped to the installation site via two cargo vessels.

"I see the Venice installation as an opportunity of a lifetime and I am very grateful for having the chance to realize it. For artists, Venice represents not only a symbol of tradition, but also one of the

most significant platforms for contemporary art," says Psotková. "From conception to execution, this project reaffirmed my belief how important it is to be sensitive to the space. PERPETUO is the culmination of many years of work and my search for the ideal connection between sculpture and environment. I truly hope that visitors will appreciate the theme opened up by this exhibition, because I believe that many people will identify with it and perhaps find a piece of their own story within it," she concludes.

The PERPETUO spatial installation exhibition in Venice is organised by Valea Art, an initiative founded by Karel and Štěpánka Komárek and focused on supporting contemporary fine art. *"We are thrilled to collaborate with Veronika Psotková and we fully believe in her artistic vision. When she first shared with us the idea of an exhibition at the church of Santa Maria della Visitazione in Venice and introduced the vision of PERPETUO, we did not hesitate for a moment to join the project as its general partner. We had no doubt that we would be thus at the origin of an exceptional sculptural installation and we firmly believe that this exhibition will allow a wider audience to appreciate her artistic talent and creative potential,"* say Mr. and Mrs. Komárek.

Valea Art's mission goes beyond building a collection of high-quality contemporary art—it is committed to supporting emerging talents and helping them establish themselves in the art scene. *"We seek to amplify the voices of those who dare to pursue their artistic dreams. We provide professional, practical, and financial support and share our knowledge and experience with them. In doing so, we believe we can inspire others too,"* says curator and director of Valea Art, Linda K. Sedláková.

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EXHIBITION INFORMATION

The installation will be open to the public free of charge from May 9 to November 23, 2025, at the Church of Santa Maria della Visitazione, Fondamenta Zattere ai Gesuati, Venice. Opening hours 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., closed on Tuesdays.

More details: www.perpetuo-venice.art

VERONIKA KUDLÁČKOVÁ PSOTKOVÁ (*1981) is a Czech sculptress. In her work, she combines realistic figurative sculpture with unconventional spatial installations. Since 2007, she has been working with metallic wire mesh, crafting sculptures that resemble three-dimensional sketches floating in space. This material gives her works an ethereal, weightless quality, allowing them to seamlessly integrate with their surroundings.

In recent years, she has increasingly focused on connecting sculpture with architecture and with the exhibition spaces. Her large-scale site-specific installations engage with light and viewer movement, exploring both personal and societal themes—ranging from everyday life and self-reflection to motherhood and societal change.

Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at NordArt in Germany, Avesta Art in Sweden, and Koktebel Jazz Festival in Ukraine. One of her most important realizations is the altar for St. Joseph's Chapel in Slavětín near Trutnov, her largest figurative wire sculpture to date. She has also worked on monumental installations, such as the exhibition No Fear-Artium by KKCG in Prague (2024), where she created a site-specific installation exploring themes of courage and social responsibility. The dominant element was the "Pillar of Society", which showed her ability to create large-scale spatial compositions that not only fill the space but also actively communicate with it.

www.veronikapsotkova.net