



Forgotten Realms
DSC Gallery, Praha
7. 7. - 20. 8. 2026
Curator: Sarah Adnanová

DSC Gallery presents the group exhibition **Forgotten Realms**, bringing together the work of four contemporary artists – **Botond Keresztesi, Dominik Styk, Beáta Hechtová, and Kristýna Navrátil**. Although none of them currently live in Prague, each returns to the city in their own way: through memory, imagination, cultural experience, a sensitivity to the city as a place of historical layers, myths, and transitional states.

"The exhibition is conceived, to some extent, as both an escape from reality and a very direct response to current events. It draws on the legacy of artistic movements such as Surrealism, while Botond Keresztesi's work also reveals certain parallels with Dadaism. The apparent absurdity present throughout the exhibition is not intended as an escape from reality, but rather as a way of reflecting on it and encouraging us to reconsider our own understanding of it. What initially appears fantastical or fictional, ultimately points to events unfolding in the contemporary world. In Kristýna Navrátil's work, for example, we can clearly recognize a reflection of the ongoing climate crisis and humanity's evolving relationship with nature," explains curator Sarah Adnanová.

Forgotten Realms thus becomes a symbolic crossroads, inviting visitors to wander through imaginative landscapes, alternative realities, and speculative worlds that exist between memory, myth, and emerging mythology. The paintings, drawings, sculptures, and material objects function as portals into parallel worlds with imagined histories and open-ended narratives. These stories are often set in posthuman futures, yet they retain traces of humanity, its cultural traditions, folklore, religion, and the passage of time.

"All of the artists work with a particular sense of inner tension while simultaneously drawing the viewer into an introspective space. I feel a strong connection to this mode of expression, which is perhaps why the exhibition also functions, to some extent, as a generational statement. I believe everyone will recognize references to what is happening in the world today. That is certainly how I perceive it myself, and it was one of the perspectives from which the exhibition developed," Sarah Adnanová adds.

Forgotten Realms reflects the contemporary relationship between humanity and the landscape while acknowledging the climate anxieties of today's society. Rather than offering a dystopian vision, however, it presents a more sensitive and, in many ways, hopeful perspective: the possibility of new forms of coexistence grounded in respect for the past and a greater

harmony with the natural environment. Instead of imagining a catastrophic future, the exhibition considers the possibility of transformation, exploring new forms of life that emerge at the intersection of decline, adaptation, and imagination.

Through anatomical, cultural, and symbolic references, the exhibition opens an anthropological reflection on what it means to be human and how we relate to the world around us.

"At the heart of Forgotten Realms is humanity itself. Through anatomical, cultural, and symbolic references, the exhibition invites a deeper anthropological reflection on who we are and how we relate to the world around us. It explores both our strengths and our weaknesses, with particular emphasis on human vulnerability, uncertainty, and contradiction. Each artist approaches these themes differently. In the works of Botond Keresztesi and Dominik Styk, elements of the grotesque create space for a critical reflection on the present while exposing the paradoxes of human behavior. Another, lighter layer of the exhibition references a well-known fantasy role-playing game and its principles of collective storytelling, collaborative world-building, and shared imagination. The human desire to gather, share experiences, and create stories together is one of our most fundamental impulses, a theme that appears prominently in Beáta Hechtová's paintings. In this sense, the exhibition once again returns to anthropological questions and to the very core of human instinct. It is through this combination of imagination, irony, introspection, and shared storytelling that a common thread emerges, connecting the individual works and allowing them to engage in dialogue within a shared space," notes Sarah Adnanová.

Beáta Hechtová (1991, Prague) is a painter and recipient of the most recent Critics' Award for Young Painting. She studied at the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art in Plzeň and at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. A two-year residency in Peru profoundly shaped her artistic practice, shifting her painterly language toward what she describes as "futuristic folklore." She has exhibited primarily in Vienna (Artemis Gallery, CA Contemporary), London (Delphian Gallery), and at international art fairs such as Enter Art Fair in Copenhagen. Forgotten Realms marks her first gallery exhibition in Prague.

Botond Keresztesi (1987, Târgu Mureș) is a Hungarian painter, draftsman, and installation artist recognized as one of the leading artists of his generation. He was included in this year's selection of the most influential contemporary painters for Frieze Seoul. His paintings combine historical and pop-cultural references, the aesthetics of internet and cinematic culture, and everyday objects into distinctive visual collages. His major projects include exhibitions at The Hole in New York and Kunsthalle Košice, while his work has also been presented in Prague at Polansky Gallery and MeetFactory. His practice builds upon post-internet aesthetics while extending the traditions of Dadaism and Surrealism within the context of contemporary digital culture.

Kristýna Navrátil (1991, Prievidza) is a painter who studied at the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica before completing her education at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (Studio of Intermedia Confrontation). She received the VÚB Foundation Painting Award in both 2015 and 2016. She currently lives and works in Matúškovo. Her work has long explored the relationship between humanity and the landscape while addressing environmental issues, including the climate crisis. Characteristic features of her paintings include layered, semi-controlled backgrounds created by pouring together leftover paint, as well as artist-made frames constructed from found wood. Her work has been presented at international art fairs including Vienna Contemporary and The Others in Turin, and in exhibitions in Miami (To Bodily Go...), the National Gallery Prague, and the Zlín Young Artists' Salon.

Dominik Styk (1996) is a Slovak artist who studied scenography at DAMU in Prague before continuing his education at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg under Michaela Melián and Kader Attia. His practice is rooted in scenographic thinking and incorporates textiles, garments, and objects referencing the human body into installations and performative situations. He has completed artist residencies in Nuremberg and Vienna and has exhibited at institutions including Kunstverein Schwerin, Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst Bremen, the Zlín Young Artists' Salon 2024, and in Prague at Jiří Švestka Gallery and Gallery 35 m². His work has also been presented at Vienna Contemporary and Artissima Torino and is represented in The Robert Runták Collection.

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