

PRESS RELEASE

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Havel to the Café!

Vaclav Havel Bust by Czech Sculptor Marie Seborova

November 14, 2021

On Wednesday 17th November, the 32nd Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the sixth cast of a bronze bust of the late President Havel will be unveiled in the Academy of Performing Arts (AMU') owned Café Slavia opposite the National Theatre in Prague. It is believed to be the first such bust honoring President Havel to go on public display in Prague.

At 1 pm a special 'procession' will depart from the statue of the first president of Czechoslovakia, Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, in front of Prague Castle arriving eventually at Cafe Slavia. The procession will carry the bronze bust of Vaclav Havel by sculptor Maria Seborova to be put on permanent display at Cafe Slavia.

The event is jointly organized by Amnesty International Czech Republic, The Vaclav Havel Library and the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation.

The bust, designed by leading Czech sculptor Marie Seborova, was one of four winners in a competition organized by the Association of Czech and Moravian Sculptors in 2013. At the time Marie Seborova was quoted as saying that the responsibility of sculpting the legendary hero of the Velvet Revolution had been awesome:

"The burden of responsibility was huge, I would say it was even constraining in a way. Because we all admire the late president so much and you want to capture the essence of the man. It took me three months to make up my mind whether to take part in the competition because it was such a huge challenge. That made it so much harder."

In May 2014, Art for Amnesty Founder and Vaclav Havel Library Foundation Board Member Bill, who had known the late President since 2003, approached Marie Seborova to produce a bronze from her winning design for Art for Amnesty.

Chronological Sequence of Placing of the Casts:

1. Tlatelolco Campus of the Autonomous University of Mexico City, May 2015
2. Irish Parliament, Dublin, June 2015
3. University of Manitoba, Canada, June 2017
4. European Parliament, Strasbourg, July 2017
5. Columbia University, New York City, September 2018
6. Café Slavia, Prague, November 17, 2021
7. Watch this space for news on the next cast for Bratislava in 2022!