

Project Emauzy

**The Project Emauzy has been realised by two artists
Jan Vágner - Czech republic and Yvonne Christen - Switzerland**

After one year of collecting historical materials, taking photos, coming to this space and thinking about the project Emauzy, we have this information and these ideas.

History of the church

The oldest part of the church dates from 1373 when the monastery was built. In 1941 it was closed by the Nazis, the monks were sent to the concentration camp Dachau. In February 1945 the monastery and the church were bombed and completely destroyed except for the cloister. After the war the monks who survived returned to the ruins and tried to rebuild the church. But the work was stopped in 1950 due to pressure from the communists who were against religious life. Crudely renovated, the rooms were used by economic institutions as a store-room. The last part, the heavy concrete construction, was built in 1969 to replace the two original spires (the crossed spires symbolize that it is not a church any more).

The former church Emauzy reflects both: the rise to power and the decline of religion in Prague. It is a place of contrasts between the fragments of visible history: the remains of the old architecture, frescos, ornaments, stone reliefs and the brutal concrete spires outside; and the brutal renovation inside the church. It is old, quiet, beautiful, hopeless and empty. It is not a church any more. Today it is a space which echoes the clang of history. This echo of history we would like to show you.

Our instalation has four parts

-First is the emptying and cleaning of the space. Objects and small installations reflect on the details of the architecture.

-Second is the Infinite - Meantime - installation of sand showering for 24 hours through four holes in the 12 metre high ceiling. The sand will form four hills. During the whole exhibition about 16 tons of sand will fall, which we will carry up again.

-The third part is the timeless dimension, an acoustic installation of birdsongs from the rain forest of Mexico.

-And lastly, there is a cycle of three concerts of contemporary experimental music from artists from all over the world which through their variation in this space will complete the Project Emauzy.