

**Czech Photo Centre holds the *Family Pack* Hanke family exhibition in March**

**(Prague – 20 February 2017) The Hanke family, including Michael Hanke, fresh from his second prize at the World Press Photo 2017 contest, is showcasing its photographs from 2 to 29 March in Prague’s multi-genre Czech Photo Centre. The *Rodinné balení (Family Pack)* collection features a representative cross-section of all seven family members involved in photography.**

The *Family Pack* exhibition is based on the Hanke family’s many years dedicated to photography. Jiří Hanke is showcasing a selection of photographs from his *Otisky generace* *(Generational imprints)* series, in which he looks at family similarities and differences on portraits of parents and children. His son Michael, who won second place in the Sports category at the World Press Photo contest this February from over eight thousand photographs taken by professionals from around the world for his youth chess tournament series of photographs, will be exhibiting for the first time pictures from his new collection, *Ball Season* and others.

Jiří Hanke’s wife Jiřína will be showcasing her graphics-based collection *Totéž jako jiné (Same as Others)*, in which notorious objects are transformed with natural simplicity. Their daughter Lucie Halamíková will be represented with pictures from her *Hodiny baletu (Ballet lessons)* collection in which she captures the progress of dancers from their first ballet steps to the training of professional artists. Photographs showing aircraft in novel ways will come from the camera of Dominik Hanke, Michael’s son, while pictures from *Světla a záblesky (Lights and flashes)* are taken by Lucie Halamíková’s son, Vojtěch.

‘Obviously it was not enough for Jiří Janke to be one of the boldest Czech documentarists whose collection *Pohledy z okna mého bytu (Views from the Window of my Flat)* was admirably analysed by guru of the philosophy of photography, Vilém Flusser, in the prestigious magazine, European Photography, calling Hanke a photographic acrobat. And clearly the fact that over four decades he has been considered a major gallery operator to whose Malé galerie in Kladno the whole of Prague’s art scene regularly visit, did not fully satisfy him either. His wife Jiřina, poet and painter, whose photographs also lean more towards aesthetic expression, has also passed on to their children her creative concept of art, acting in balance with Jiří’s material documentarism. It is no wonder that influences from both of them can be seen in the work of both their daughter Lucie and grandsons Dominik and Vojtěch, but especially in their son Michael. At forty years old, following five awards in the Czech Press Photo contest and a further three international awards, he has now deservedly received an award in the World Press Photo contest,’ says Daniela Mrázková, *Rodinné balení* curator, of the Hanke family’s works.

At this year’s Czech Press Photo contest, Michael Hanke was nominated for the first prize for his series of photographs, *Den na dostizích (Day at the Races)*. His series covering youth chess tournaments was nominated for the Visitors Prize in Czech Press Photo 2015. In addition, Michael Hanke has received awards at the prestigious international contests, the Sony World Photography Awards 2016 and the International Photographer of the Year 2015 and 2016.

‘Since beginning operations last year in October, the Czech Photo Centre has already showcased the works of selected worldwide photojournalists from the prestigious VII Agency which includes internationally successful Czech photographer Antonín Kratochvíl, and this was followed by an exhibition of Jaroslava Kučera’s Sudetenland photographs, and a collection of Martin Frouz’s pictures of particular interest for Prague citizens showing repairs to Prague’s historic buildings. We are glad that we will now be able to show photographs from Michael Hanke, having just won an award in the World Press Photo, along with other members of the Hanke family,’ adds Veronika Souralová, director of the Czech Photo Centre and also the Czech Press Photo contest.

Entrance to the exhibition will cost 50 CZK, with a reduced entrance of 25 CZK. The Czech Photo Centre is open every day except Monday from Tuesday to Friday always from 11.00 am to 6.00 pm and at the weekend from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. Czech Photo Centre - Nové Butovice /wheelchair access/ - exit metro heading towards Lípa polyclinic, Na Zlatě 1.

**Source of photographs:** Czech Photo Centre

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**Press Release enclosure**

**About the *Rodinné balení* exhibition in the Czech Photo Centre through Jiří Hanke’s eyes**

I have decided to do the almost impossible – to showcase a representative cross-section of the work of all seven members of our family who are involved or have been involved in photography within the relatively confined exhibition space of this gallery.

My father **Jiří Hanke (1911-1980),** who initiated me into the secrets of photography from early childhood, began my obsession with photography. He never exhibited his photographs during his lifetime, producing them only for his own needs. I arranged the first exhibition of his work for the occasion of what would have been his seventieth birthday in 1981, and the second on what would have been his 100th birthday in 2011. My father’s favourite theme was the countryside.

After military service, I, **Jiří Hanke (1944)**, started out as a guitarist in beat groups, after which I started working on collages. Photography became my means of expression, and together with my wife, Jiřina we became members of Kladno artists group, Ateliér ’74. Music, an area close to my heart, was the subject of my first photographs. A quarter of a century visiting jazz concerts led to the book *Stop Time* (2003), but I have had a life-long interest in my home town of Kladno. This is evidenced by the books *Lidé z Podprůhonu/People from Podprůhon* (1995), *Kladnu pod kůží/Kladno Under the Skin* (2013) and the most well-known of my photographic works so far, *Pohledy z okna mého bytu/Views from the Window of my Flat*, which has been published twice (1994 and 2013). The photography collection I have been working on the longest is *Otisky generace/Generational Imprints* (1986). This looks at family relations, physical similarities and differences in portraits of parents with their children, along with information on the social environment in which they live. I am showcasing a selection of photographs from the *Otisky generace* series at this exhibition from the period subsequent to the book publication (1998). I have included a cross-section of my photographic work, which besides a selection from my previous books, also includes other Kladno themes, intimate still life, and also photographs from my stays in Paris and America, in my monograph, *Jiří Hanke fotografie / photographs* (2008). In 2011, I received the prestigious Czech Photography Personality award from the Czech Association of Professional Photographers in 2011 for my long-term contribution to photography. I have showcased my photographs at almost two hundred solo and group exhibitions. In 1977, I founded the Malé galerie/Small Gallery in Kladno’s savings bank, which this year is celebrating its 40th birthday.

My wife **Jiřina Hankeová (1948)** began taking photos at secondary school, and then focused on drawing, painting and poetry. She has published a number of poetry collections. She returned to photography later. Her most well-known collection, *Trapný pokus o autoterapii/An Embarrassing Attempt at Self-Therapy* (2006) was showcased in Prague’s Dům fotografie. Photographs from this collection were also part of the Vnitří okruh/Inner Circle exhibition of contemporary Czech photography in the City of Prague Gallery, House of Art in Bratislava and the Museum of Art in Olomouc. Her bold collection *Banality/Banalities* was included in the Leica Gallery Prague exhibition at Paris Photo 2010 in the Louvre gallery in Paris. In the exhibition, she showcases her graphically conceived collection, *Totéž jako jiné/Same as Others* (2016), in which notorious objects are transformed with natural simplicity. She has presented her photographic works at over thirty different exhibitions domestically and abroad.

My son **Michael Hanke (1972)** studied at the University of Economics in Prague and began his devotion to photography at the age of forty. His field is humanistic documentary photography with a focus on long-term projects. Some of his most well-known collections include *Cirkus/People of the Circus* (2012), *Senioři – taneční zábavy/Dances for Seniors* (2013), *Šachy – turnaje mládeže/Chess – Youth Tournaments* (2015), *Letecký den/Airshow* (2016) and *Den na dostizích/Day at the Races* (2016). He will be showcasing photographs from his new collection, *Plesová sezóna/Ball Season* (2016) for the first time at this exhibition. He has received five Czech Press Photo awards. He has also demonstrated success in prestigious global photography contests International Photographer of the Year 2015 and Sony World Photography Awards 2016. At this year’s Wold Press Photo 2017, he received second prize in the Sport category for a collection of photographs from his Chess – Youth Tournaments series. His previous work is presented on his website *michaelhanke.photography*.

My daughter **Lucie Halamíková (1976)** has devoted herself to music since childhood, studying piano at the State Conservatoire in Prague, and composition at the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatoire where she composed music for a number of my photographs for her final thesis. She too took up photography later. Her first work was the extensive series *Něco/Something* (2012), in which she captured poetic expressions located on building walls. She is now in her fourth year working on her *Hodiny baletu/Ballet lessons* (2014) series, which captures everything from the first ballet steps to the training of professional ballet dancers.

My grandson **Dominik Hanke (1997)**, Michael’s son, has been interested in flying and taking photos of aircraft since he was ten. In his shots, he endeavours to show aircraft in a novel way. He seeks out the soft light of the golden hours, the first and last hours of daylight, a time at which photographs taken acquire an almost mystical appearance. He has received a number of awards in the Czech Republic and abroad for his photographs, taken in many countries around the world. He publishes his photos on the aircraft enthusiast website Planes.cz.

My grandson **Vojtěch Halamík (2004)**, Lucie’s son, is the youngest exhibiting artist. He is no stranger to photography either. He has been taking photographs since early childhood and has received a number of awards in photography contests for his age category. At the exhibition, he is showcasing his photographs from the collection *Světla a záblesky/Lights and Flashes* (2016).

***Jiří Hanke (February 2017)***

Member of the Czech Association of Professional Photographers and FotoForum Praha