



**The ORBIS PICTUS or The Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination  
interactive exhibition in the Czech Republic**

**Petr Nikl and a dozen other artists open the ORBIS PICTUS interactive exhibition**

***Press Release***

Prague, 14 March 2007 – An interactive exhibition, **ORBIS PICTUS** or *The Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination*, designed by visual artist Petr Nikl, was opened at the Czech Music Museum today. The exhibition, which premiered at the Czech Centre in Paris in the autumn of 2006, will be **open for the public in Prague from 15 March to 30 April 2007**; then it will set out on a tour of other towns and cities both in and outside the Czech Republic. The exhibition is organised under the auspices of Pavel Bém, Mayor of Prague.

The project was initiated by Jiří Wald and Radana Waldová, who approached Petr Nikl in this matter; he then won additional artists for co-operation in the project. The authors of interactive instruments and installations include Milan Cais, Luboš Fidler, Ivan Havlíček, Martin Janíček, Jaroslav Kořán, Petr Lorenc, Jiří Melzer, Petr Nikl, Ondřej Smeykal, Václav Smolka, Čestmír Suška, Zdeněk Šmíd, and Miloš Vojtěchovský.

*“The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart* by Jan Amos Comenius has been the main inspiration,” says visual artist Petr Nikl, the author of the artistic concept of the exhibition. The scenario of the exhibition is based on his experience acquired from interactive exhibitions *Nests of Games*, Rudolfinum Gallery, 2000, and *Garden of Imagination and Music*, Czech exhibition at EXPO 2005 in AICHI, Japan, and the world premiere of the *PAMPAEDIA* project, of which *ORBIS PICTUS* is a part, in Paris in 2006.

“I am really glad that Komerční banka is the Main Partner of the *ORBIS PICTUS* exhibition, which combines art and education in a non-traditional way. Thanks to our sponsorship strategy, we have a special relationship to these two areas. The idea of an interactive exhibition, which awakens imagination and creative abilities, is an excellent example of continuously finding

new ways and means of eliciting lively interest in ordinary and generally known things. Our values, innovation, professionalism, and team spirit, are based on the same philosophy,” said Laurent Goutard, KB Chairman and CEO.

The Czech Music Museum’s monumental vestibule and transepts have been filled with numerous musical instruments that stimulate creative abilities and imagination in visitors. “The interactive exhibition prompts the visitors to play and create with the help of artistic objects and instruments that produce various sounds and light effects,” says Jiří Wald, the initiator of the project.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart* – an organic playing assembly mounted in an inflated heart-shaped structure, which makes possible, like all the other exhibits, the visitors’ active and creative participation. In the huge inflatable heart, in front of Petr Nikl’s imaginary landscape, visitors can play a three-octave bubbling water organ with its flue pipes immersed in water, designed by Václav Smolka, or a Hurdy-gurdy created by Martin Janíček, or they can use sticks to sound Jaroslav Kořán’s *Dreamers’ Horologes* and peek into periscope tunnels devised by Petr Lorenc. In the monumental space offered by the Czech Music Museum, whose nave forms a natural body of the exhibition, the visitors will also find *The Ear* – Ondřej Smeykal’s sound tent, and *The Eye* – Petr Nikl’s massive object designed on the principle of the *camera obscura*. They will also have an opportunity to chime Milan Cais’s anthropomorphic kalimbas, Luboš Fidler’s *Singing Butterfly* – a huge keyboard instrument with aluminium rods instead of strings, Ondřej Smeykal’s Rattling tube, Petr Nikl’s Cither, Martin Janíček’s Music Drum, Čestmír Suška’s metallic Sphere and Jiří Melzer’s Hat- the sound instrument. Visitors can also visually play Petr Lorenc’s giant kaleidoscope and the *Fountain of Delight*, Ondřej Smeykal’s rotating object and Ivan Havlíček’s telescopic tubes, or set Zdenek Šmíd’s kinetic plants and Miloš Vojtěchovský’s object. In front of the Czech Music Museum’s building an iron structure designed by Čestmír Suška will be mounted. During the exhibition a number of musical, dance and theatrical performances will be held; most of them will come from the alternative cultural scene.

“The exhibition forms the core of the *PAMPAEDIA* international project, and it draws inspiration from Comenius’s work. Visitors of the interactive exhibition will have an opportunity to buy Comenius’s book *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart*, with Rut Kohnová’s illustrations, a catalogue of the exhibition, and Benjamin Kuras’s latest book, *Restoring Comenius* with Adolf Born’s illustrations. In an accessible and witty way the book is trying to prove that Comenius ranks among the greatest universalistic thinkers of the world and that he is a thinker of a much greater calibre and importance than has been held so far,” adds Radana Waldová, the co-author of the project.

**Information about the exhibition:**

The exhibition is held in at the Czech Music Museum in Prague, at Karmelitská 2, Praha 1, from 15 March to 30 April 2007.

Connection: Tramlines 12, 20, 22, and 23 – the Hellichova stop

Open: Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**[www.pampaedia.cz](http://www.pampaedia.cz)**

[www.nm.cz](http://www.nm.cz)

The exhibition will also tour other towns and cities of the Czech Republic: in Brno it will be displayed at Dům umění města Brna from 11 May to 17 June 2007, in Kroměříž at Květná zahrada from 21 June to 26 August 2007, and in Opava at Kostel sv. Václava from 4 September to 30 September 2007.

**Official website: [www.pampaedia.cz](http://www.pampaedia.cz)**

The *ORBIS PICTUS* or *The Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination* exhibition, inspired by Comenius's *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart*, forms the foundations of the PAMPAEDIA project, <http://www.pampaedia.cz>. It is based on Jan Amos Comenius's intellectual legacy, which has become a firm part of the world's culture.

WALD Press publishers have carried out the project using the theme and script of Jiří Wald and Radana Waldová. Partner organisations include the Audabiac ([www.audabiac.cz](http://www.audabiac.cz)) civic association, the J. A. Comenius Pedagogical Museum in Prague, whose Director, Dr Markéta Pánková, is also the General Commissioner of the exhibition ([www.pmjak.cz](http://www.pmjak.cz)), Comenius Union, and the National Museum – Czech Music Museum in Prague. The ORBIS PICTUS exhibition has been supported by the following Main Partners: Komerční banka, MUCOS Pharma CZ, GEOSAN GROUP, and Auto–Exner division Audi. Other active partners include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Czech embassies, and Czech Centres ([www.czechcentres.cz](http://www.czechcentres.cz)). Czech Television is the Main Media Partner.

One of the principal objectives of the project is to propagate Comenius's intellectual legacy in the Czech Republic and in other countries. The project will also focus on countries in which the work of this important Czech humanist is not known too well. The exhibition will be accompanied by the publication of the book *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart*, translated into the host country's language and illustrated by an artist also from the host country. Outside the Czech Republic, local universities and specialists in various scientific disciplines will be involved in the project.

The world premiere of the *ORBIS PICTUS or The Gate to the World of Creative Human Imagination* exhibition took place at the Czech Centre in Paris, France, on 29 June 2006. It enjoyed a great interest on the part of both the media and the general public.

**Komerční banka** is the third largest bank in the Czech Republic in terms of total assets. It provides comprehensive services to clients in the areas of retail, corporate, and investment banking. Komerční banka's 7,550 employees serve more than 1,515,000 clients, who can use an extensive network of 378 points of sale throughout the country. Komerční banka operates 650 ATMs and more than 851,000 of its clients use one of direct banking channels.

Komerční banka is part of the Société Générale group, the fifth largest banking group in the euro zone, whose 120,000 employees serve more than 21 million individual clients all over the world.

[www.kb.cz](http://www.kb.cz)

### Hlavní partneři expozice

---



**KB**



**geosan**  
GROUP



### Pořádající organizace

---



### Partneři expozice

---



NÁRODNÍ MUZEUM



### Hlavní mediální partner

---



### Mediální partneři

---

