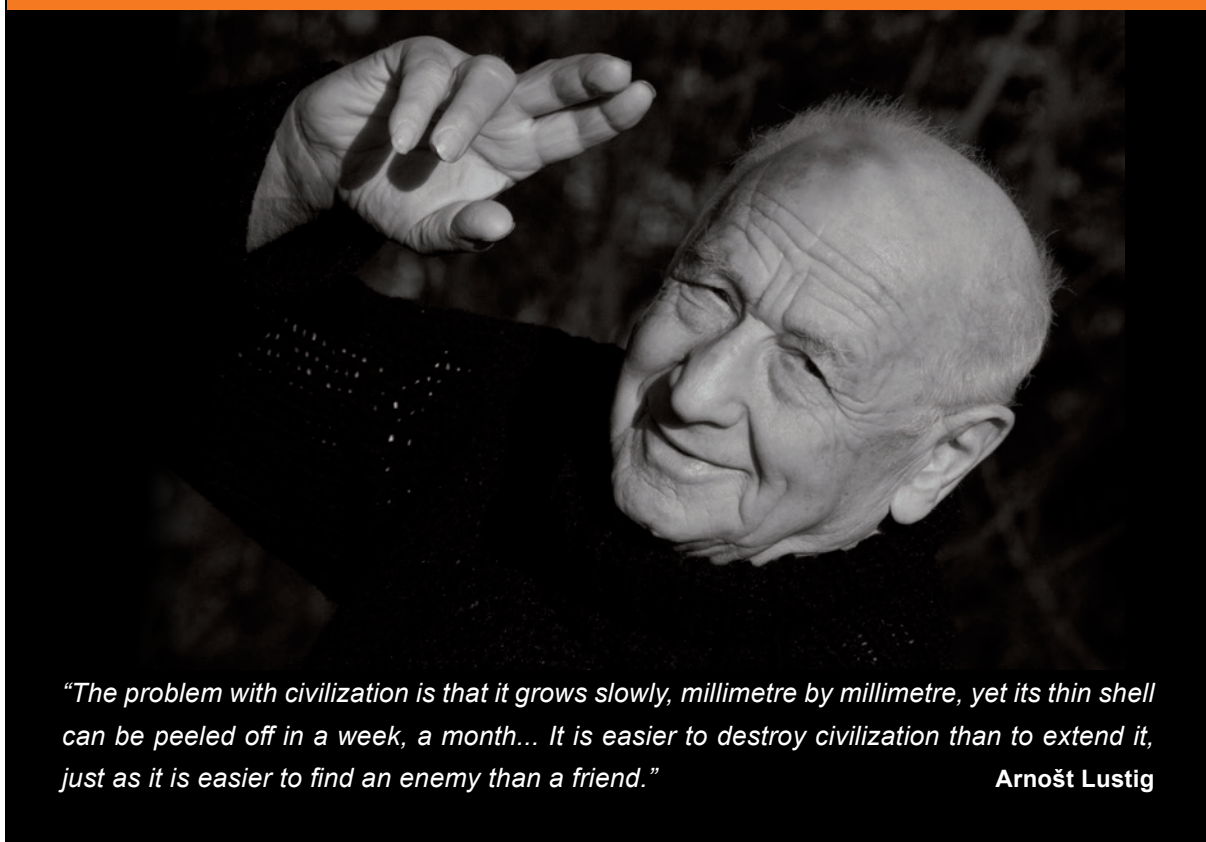


“I WANT TO BE HUMAN”

– ARNOŠT LUSTIG’S MESSAGE TO THE WORLD AND THE STARS

AN INTERNATIONAL TOURING EXHIBITION



“The problem with civilization is that it grows slowly, millimetre by millimetre, yet its thin shell can be peeled off in a week, a month... It is easier to destroy civilization than to extend it, just as it is easier to find an enemy than a friend.”

Arnošt Lustig

Arnošt Lustig; photo © Alan Pajer

**The exhibition, organised by the Arnošt Lustig Foundation,
opens on 22 September 2022
in the Royal Observatory of Belgium, Brussels**

The exhibition *“I Want To Be Human”* is a call to self-reflection, a challenge to young and old to build a better, fairer world. It is inspired by the life of one man, who during the Second World War was still a Jewish boy growing up in Prague. It is inspired by his agonizing life experience and humiliation in the face of death: on the *“death transport”* from which he escaped, or during the Prague Uprising against the Nazis. It is inspired by his awareness that life and death are sisters. With his own eyes he saw the very best and the very worst that humans are capable of.

As the Czech Republic takes over the presidency of the Council of Europe in Brussels this year, we are launching a “Czech spaceship” carrying the humanist and universal values that underpin the intellectual legacy of Arnošt Lustig. First it will land at the planetarium of the Royal Observatory in Brussels, then travel on to planetariums in the Czech Republic and other countries.



Eva Lustigová; photo © Petr Hoříčka

The idea for the exhibition arose from the humanist concept of “*local sustainability*”: humanism does not need to be imported into any country since it is present everywhere and belongs to all humanity – like space itself and everything that transcends us. Humanism lets us reach for the stars. Without it “*we reach into deep, impenetrable darkness...*” The exhibition is curated by a team headed by the eminent museologist and historian Pawel Ukielski. The author of the concept, format and localized input of the exhibition is Eva Lustigová.

The conceptual and architectural design is based on Lustig’s metaphor of the “*shell of civilization*”, quoted above. The project will involve students from selected schools in each location. They will be responsible for setting up the exhibition, working from a ‘template’ that will leave them plenty of scope for creativity and critical thinking. Venues will be selected that have a particular association with space – primarily planetariums.

An integral part of the exhibition is the participation of secondary school students (Years 6 - 10) in a preparatory workshop focussing on what humanism means to young people today. Its output will be a consensus on three quotations that will form a framework for individual chapters of the exhibition and will be installed and presented by the students themselves at the opening.

In partnership with the Czech Literary Centre, the opening will commence with an introduction by the literary historian Tomáš Kubíček, director of the Moravian Library in Brno, followed by a reading by Alena Mornštajnová from her most successful novel *Hana* in the English translation (Parthian Books, 2020), which tells the story of one family during WWII and the Holocaust. The French edition is published by Bleu et Jaune.

ABOUT ARNOŠT LUSTIG (1926-2011)

Arnošt Lustig is one of the 20th century's most important and influential writers. His legacy and life story stand out as truly exceptional in the European context and throughout the world. His oeuvre, much of which bears witness to the horrors of war and the concentration camps, earned him nominations for both the Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes.

ABOUT THE ARNOŠT LUSTIG FOUNDATION

Established as an artistic-educational institution, the Arnošt Lustig Foundation works to cultivate humanism and justice through the arts, primarily but not exclusively by stewarding the timeless legacy of the renowned Czech author and Holocaust survivor Arnošt Lustig around the world. Our aim is to inspire the young of today and strengthen their espousal of humanist principles and democratic values.



photo © Martin Salajka

PATRONS AND PARTNERS

The project is implemented with the financial support of the State Fund of Culture of the Czech Republic



State Fund of Culture
of the Czech Republic

PATRONS:



Úřad vlády České republiky
Předsednictví České republiky v Radě EU 2022



Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí
České republiky



Velvyslanectví České republiky
v Belgickém království



Velvyslanectví České republiky
ve Washingtonu

south moravian region



PATRONS:
Ing. Mariana Čapková, MBA,
Chair of Prague Municipal Council
Education Committee

PARTNERS:



Czech Literary Centre,
section of The Moravian Library, Brno



Czech School Without Borders in Brussels



representation of the south
moravian region to the eu



Johann Amos Comenius
National Pedagogical Museum and Library

Rés(O)nances
Musique son et expression plastique



For further information contact:

Eva Lustigová

Co-founder and CEO of the Arnošt Lustig Foundation

lustigova@lustigfoundation.cz; tel.: 420 776 813 139 or 41 79 477 3206

www.lustigfoundation.cz