



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES

ANNUAL POETRY LECTURE

Professor Martin Procházka (Charles University, Prague)

Wednesday, 18 March 2015, 18:00-19:00

Leventis Amphitheatre, A.G. Leventis Gallery, 5 Leventis Street, Lefkosia

*Senses against Proportions: Visuality and Vision
in the Czech Modernist Reception of William Blake*

The lecture will explore the so-far neglected influence of Blake's illuminated books on Czech Modernism, specifically on the conflicts between apocalyptic mysticism and avant-garde constructivism, Expressionism and analytical Cubism. The impact of Blake's work on the prints, books and paintings of the Czech artist Josef Váchal (1884-1969), and Váchal's controversy with the Czech pioneer of Cubism, Bohumil Kubišta (1884-1918), may help to understand the modernist (and originally romantic) changes of the traditional concept of visuality based on proportions into an expressive notion of vision rooted in the transformation of senses. The wider meaning of these changes will be traced in the development of Czech art-nouveau mysticism from the efforts to revive and modernize Catholic religion to Váchal's experimental synthesis of esoterism, romantic imagination and avant-garde art, anticipating post-modernism.

