

# Jindřich Štyrský *Dreams*

January 22–April 30, 2013



Untitled

From *Na jehlách těchto dní* ["On the Needles of These Days"], p. 7, 1934.  
Vintage gelatin silver print, 3 5/8 x 3 1/2 inches (9.2 x 8.9 cm).  
Signed & dated by Toyen for Štyrský on verso / Numbered "1" on verso



*Kresba k kerchovu* ["Drawing to kerchov"], 1934.

Pencil frottage on paper, 10 1/2 x 6 7/8 inches (26.8 x 17.4 cm).  
Signed & dated on recto

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ubu Gallery is pleased to present *Jindřich Štyrský: Dreams*, an exhibition of photographs, collages, drawings and publications by the preeminent Czech avant-garde artist. Photographs from *Na jehlách těchto dní* ["On the Needles of These Days," 1941] and collages from his erotic chef-d'oeuvre *Emilie Prichází Ke Mne Ve Snu* ["Emilie comes to Me in a Dream," 1933] are among those on display. The exhibition continues through April 30, 2013.

Beginning in the 1920s, Štyrský (1899–1942), who was closely allied with the Parisian Surrealists, began recording his dreams. In the 1930s, he revisited earlier dreams and added visual representations to accompany them. Sometimes the images were direct illustrations, while others were simply "loose" depictions of dream themes or events. Although Freudian psychoanalytics and the unconscious were exalted by the Surrealists, Štyrský kept this body of work private until nearly the end of his life, when he published a personal edition of *Dreams* in 1941. Originally containing a selection of 33 dream accounts and encounters, this publication presented dream-images, independent of text, and verbal reconstructions of his dreams. František Šmejkal later reprinted the book in its entirety in 1970. Both the original and the expanded versions of *Dreams* not only clarify and amplify Štyrský's life work, but are also a leading example of dream-literature from the Surrealist tradition.

Specific themes, such as death, eroticism and the fragmented body are reworked and reappear over the years. In addition to these general Freudian motifs, there are personal symbols for the artist that include places, like Prague and Paris, and close companions, like Vítězslav Nezval and Toyen, who were fellow Czech Surrealists.

*"Sleep is a bee that gathers honey for reminiscence to savor...We have no reminiscences, but we try to construct them."* - Štyrský

Gallery hours are 11:00 AM–6:00 PM Monday through Friday. Ubu Gallery is located at 416 East 59th Street between First Avenue and Sutton Place. For further information or for visuals, please contact Meghan Griffith at 212 753 4444 or [info@ubugallery.com](mailto:info@ubugallery.com).