

Life in exile

Heartfield fled to Prague when the national socialists took power in Germany in 1933. There, he continued his work for the *Arbeiter-Illustrierte Zeitung* (AIZ). The magazine was published in Prague, where German was a second language and topical images were available. Heartfield was thus able to continue his work. He joined artists' association Mánes and showed his montages at three exhibitions there. One of those exhibitions, in 1934, prompted protests from the German envoy. After Germany had exerted pressure on Czechoslovakia, the Prague interior ministry ordered the police to inspect the exhibition. Seven works were removed at the insistence of Hitler's government.

Heartfield and many other critics immediately responded to the 'Mánes affair'. He incorporated the incident into a photomontage for AIZ (no. 19, 1934): 'On the Third Reich's intervention against the International Caricatures Exhibition at artists' association Mánes in Prague. The more photographs they remove, the more visible the reality becomes.' The debate on the removal of the images led to a huge rise in the number of visitors, to over 3000 a day.