

PRESS RELEASE

**Transitional boundaries exposed at the Jiri Svestka Gallery through paintings by Jaromir Novotny**

Prague /October 13, 2009/. **The young Czech painter Jaromir Novotny will present his newest paintings at the Prague Jiri Svestka Gallery. The exhibition entitled *Transition Point* will be open for the Czech audience from October 14 till November 28, 2009.**

The presentation of Jaromir Novotny's paintings at the Jiri Svestka Gallery is made of works created mostly in this year. According to the author, the name *Transition Point* suggests a boundary in more than one form and meaning. The transition points – be it permeable or non-permeable surfaces – are mainly the works themselves. Some exceed the general perception of form and nature of a painting with their format. Some paintings are almost black; the colour scheme is therefore also on the borderline.

*“The work of Jaromir Novotny is distinctive for its repeated raising of questions which branch out chain even further. The entirety of theses forming the author's theme is developed from the elementary datum: to capture and define the concept of ‘home’, that is, of an emotionally concentrated space,”* Petr Vanous, the exhibition curator, describes the art work of Novotny. *“Jaromir Novotny updates the painting by enhancing the loosening of its scope (frame, framing), while, at the same time, observing the space entered by the spectator perceiving the work presented. A distance is created which enables the artist to loosen the fixed and definite connection between ‘the figure and the place’ in its conventional form; this is achieved by turning the actual painting into the ‘figure’ and the painting format into the ‘background’. Thus, he had graded the spectator's materializing consciousness and set a trap to the natural perception by inserting an illusive intermediate stage. He has inserted an error system between the human perception and the surface treated by the artist; this system, on one hand, prevents the automatic materialization of the perceived, on the other hand, it also prevents its definite abstraction and transformation into a symbol. This paradoxical situation enables the spectator to perceive Novotny's painting as a multiplied demarcation, a horizon (or a fragment of a multiplied horizon), expanding both inwards and outwards from the format. This bi-directionality is very fundamental,”* explains Vanous, who is also the author of the introduction to the catalogue published on the occasion of this exhibition.

The author himself leaves the perception of his paintings entirely up to the spectator: *“I understand that some people like to receive ‘instructions’ but I reckon it's better not to supply any. My intentions matter in the process of creation, they lead to some achievement – to a painting, which should, however, already stand independently. In a way, such finished, independent picture is as much of a mystery to me as it is to anyone else. Nevertheless, in some cases it is, naturally, obvious to me. Many people, for instance, see sorrow or anxiety in the black colour – but not me. You cannot change this through a recommendation, though,”* Jaromir Novotny says.

**Jaromir Novotny: Transition Point**

14. 10. – 28. 11. 2009

**JIRI SVESTKA GALLERY**

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**Opening hours:**

Tue - Fri 12 - 18 hrs

Sat 11 – 18 hrs

For more information, please contact:

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## **Jaromir Novotny**

- born 1974 in Cesky Brod

### **Education**

1993 – 1999 Academy of Fine Arts, Prague  
1996 UCLM, Facultad de Bellas Artes, Cuenca, Spain

### **Solo Exhibitions**

2009 Transition Point, Jiri Svestka Gallery, Prague  
Finisterrae, Geukens & De Vil, Antwerp  
2008 Observation Point, Jiri Jilek Gallery, Sumperk  
Restricted area, Via Art Gallery, Prague  
Emergency Exit, Geukens & De Vil, Knokke  
Emergency Exit, Dole Gallery, Ostrava  
2007 Welcome!, Felix Jenewein Municipal Gallery, Kutna Hora  
2004 The Place of a House, Via Art Gallery, Prague  
2003 Lonely Prototypes, Galerie Caesar, Olomouc /with Jitka Havlickova/  
Short Series, Gamin, Prague  
2002 25 x 35 cm, Municipal Museum, Letohrad  
2001 Motives of Home, National Museum - Libechov Castle

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2009 Prague Biennale 4 – *Expanded Painting 3* – Short List 09: 12 Painters  
from Czech Republic, Karlin Hall  
2008 Financial Crisis ... from our stock, Jiri Svestka Gallery, Prague  
INTroCITY, Topicuv salon, Prague  
Illusion of space, Nitra Gallery  
Lettrismus, Gallery of Modern Art, Roudnice n.L.  
2007 Resetting – Alternative ways to objectivity, City Gallery Prague  
New Patience, Manes, Prague  
2006 Next Station Arcadia, Gallery of Modern Art, Roudnice n.L./Castle of  
Pirna-Zuschendorf  
2003 Konfrontace, Svarov  
1996 Bienalle of Young Artists Zvon '96, City Gallery Prague