

PRESS RELEASE

Jakub Hosek rules at Jiri Svestka Gallery

/Prague, 8th January, 2009/ **The Jiri Svestka Gallery in Prague opens the new exhibition year with the display of Jakub Hosek (1979). The double runner-up (2005, 2007) of Jindrich Chalupecky Prize presents his latest works – paintings and three-dimensional installations - hand signed with his distinctive style and named *Let me rule*. Most of his works were created especially for this exhibition.**

“It is not essential to explain the title of the exhibition. The viewer should understand it in his own way. It might manifest certain arrogance or excessive ambitiousness, yet also despair. It could be attacking the contemporary art scene – or stand for an outcry at certain stage of life. Let me rule = Let me rule my time = Let me be,” Jakub Hosek comments his current exhibition.

At the Jiri Svestka Gallery, Hosek sticks to his favourite motifs, such as leaves, trees, daggers, knives, swords, bones and blood. Hosek’s artistic handwriting is distinctive at first sight. He creates his pictures on single-use pasteboard stencils that he covers with canvas acrylic paints. Text is a rather important part of his work. Mostly, the text is made of song titles of his favourite bands or of names of idols which become a part of his painting. The text on the picture doesn’t necessarily correspond with the painted motifs or symbols on the canvas – and this completely confuses the viewer.

“Someone has once written that my art suffers from the ambiguousness of deliverance,” says Hosek. *“But this is exactly what I am after. I want my art to raise unclarity with people; I want them to feel uneasy about not understanding it. My painting is not too realistic; it often stems from my subconsciousness or some kind of inner state,”* he adds. *“I insert texts into my paintings that I somehow identify myself with, I like their content, I borrow them and use them. The content of the picture lends the text a different meaning – and vice versa. If, for example, I create a gloomy air in the painting, I then put it down by some text. I enjoy degrading the poetic pathos by some grotesque message.”*

Jakub Hosek graduated from the workshop lead by Vladimir Skrepl at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. His paintwork and commercial art are complemented by the lifestyle and culture of musical placards, comics, album covers, graphic design and fashion. While his earlier works and installations reflected the influence of street art in the style of Jean-Michel Basquiat, today, he combines the expressive calligraphy with a specific technique.

The exhibition will feature paintings created with the technique of carving in acrylic paint on canvas. *“You may call it areal paintwork,”* he says. *“I use single-use paper pasteboard stencils; I stick them onto the canvass, paint the painting over them. Then I run a pen-knife around it, peel off the curved line and fill it with paint. Then I peel off the rest of the pasteboard and the print remains. All is based on drawing. Even the final effect is about my drawing handwriting, which is often expressive. The paintings are created without using the expressive pictorial gesture; this lends them a different*

dimension of the kind of tidiness/untidiness. Viewed from a distance, they look like a scribble; from close-up, it is a clean print affair.”

Hosek composes his pictures from various sketches and fragments. By transforming the drawings into 3D, new interesting objects come to life. *“I am interested in the object as such. I only selected certain details for this exhibition which depict nothing concrete – and, taken out of context – could not depict anything concrete, anyway. They are just peculiar strange-shapes – and that’s why they form a part of the installation.”*

Beside paintings and 3D objects, an installation of Hosek’s room forms another part of the exhibition; it illustrates the lifestyle and the aesthetics he draws from. From his childhood, he has also been collecting records; music appears in his paintings in a form of booklets, placards and the related design. *“Items in my room show my background and the environment I live in and where my paintings also come to being,”* explains Hosek. He himself looks up to the contemporary American painting. *“I like the fact the artists in America are mixed ethnically, which is also reflected in their work. I enjoy art created by artists coming from various ethnic groups,”* he adds.

Beside Jakub Hosek, the exhibition will also present the work of his sister Anezka Hoskova (1982) and of the English draughtsman James Unsworth (1980).

“The watercolours by Anezka perfectly complement my paintings; we have worked together a few times and I believe it can work really well together,” says Hosek. This time, his sister Anezka presents herself in a different dimension than the viewer is used to – with aquarelles. James Unsworth is a young artist from Liverpool, one of the most prominent young representatives of the Contemporary British drawing. *“I like James’s stuff a lot for its content and form,”* Hosek explains why he invited Unsworth to join the exhibition. *“I feel affinity with the motifs he uses in his drawings – and Anezka uses similar ones. I think our work fits together well, both in form and content. James is a young artist we are certainly going to hear about in the future.”*

Jakub Hosek: Let me rule

9. 1. – 21. 2. 2009

JIRI SVESTKA GALLERY

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Opening hours:

Tue - Fri 12 – 6 p.m.

Sat 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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Jakub Hosek

- born in Prague in 1979
- lives and works in Prague

Prizes

- 2007 J. Chaluppecky Prize, finalist
- 2007 Sovereign European Art Prize, finalist
- 2005 J. Chaluppecky, finalist
- 2004 Start point, finalist

Selected solo exhibitions

- 2009 Let me rule, Jiri Svestka Gallery, Prague
- 2008 Tejpci, kerky, kobry, zdarec, gulas, vercajk, udrzba, Indie Twins dj's (+ Anezka Hoskova), 5. Patro Gallery, Prague
- 2007 Sad redux-o-grapher, Gallery H'art, Bucharest
- 2007 Think well what you don't wanna miss, Sternberk Gallery, Sternberk
- 2006 Jakub Hosek, Turner Contemporary, Margate
- 2006 He is young he has time, Galerie ad astra, Kurim
- 2005 Jakub Hosek (+ Kim Nekrada, Johan Zetterquist), Rudiger Schottle Gallery, Munich
- 2004 Indie twins (+ Anezka Hoskova), Eskort Gallery, Brno
- 2002 Likelikethedeath, CO14, Prague
- 2000 Kabaret, BJ Gallery, Prague

Selected group exhibitions

- 2008 ITCA, International Triennale of Contemporary Art NG 2008, Veletržní Palac, National Gallery, Prague
- 2008 6. Biennale ZVON 2008, Dum u Kamenneho zvonu Gallery, Prague
- 2008 Fluff fest 2008, A.M. 180 stage, Rokycany
- 2008 Slow Century, Karlin Studios, Prague
- 2008 Fetisch versus Evocation, Galerie der Hochschule fur Bildende Kunste, Braunschweig
- 2008 Exhibition of Czech music posters – from the 60th till today /United Islands of Prague, Meet Factory, Prague
- 2008 Spleen&Ideal, Karlin Studios, Prague
- 2008 Farby Lucky/Barvy Laky, Czech Contemporary Paintings of Richard Adam Collection), Jan Koniarek Gallery, Trnava
- 2007 Resetting, City Library/City Gallery of Prague, Prague
- 2007 Finalists of J. Chaluppecký Award, A.M.180, Prague
- 2007 Fluff fest, A.M.180 stage, Rokycany
- 2007 Subkultura 2007, 14 Mystic sk8 Cup, Prague
- 2007 MOBILITY, A.M.180 gallery container, Haidplatz, Regensburg
- 2007 Muchy se nechcu spratat do koze, Galeria Fuka, Kosice
- 2007 Spleen and ideal, Brno Gallery, Brno/ Stredoslovensk Gallery, Banska Bystrica/ Bastard Gallery, Bratislava
- 2006 Akne (Czech Contemporary Painting of Richard Adam Collection), Rudolfinum, Prague
- 2006 Melancolia 2, Gallery of the Academy of Art, Prague

2006 Melanocilia, NoD, Prague
 2006 Fluff fest 2006, Rokycany
 2006 Subkultura 2006, 13. Mystic sk8 Cup, Prague
 2006 IV. Zlin Young Salon, KGVU, Zlin
 2006 Hot stuff, gallery/ cultural center Stanica, Zilina
 2005 That it's bad, but even worse, Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague
 2005 Finalists of J. Chaluppecky Award, City Prague Gallery, City Library, Prague
 2005 II. Painter Symposium, Brno Gallery, Brno
 2005 Criss/Cross 05, Castle Galley Skaly, Castle Bischofstein
 2005 Praguebiennale 2 (Expanded Painting), Karlin Hall, Prague
 2005 5. Biennale of Young Art Zvon '05, City Gallery Prague, Dum U Kamenneho zvonu, Prague
 2005 Kosmix. Gps art gate, Prague
 2005 Estern alianca 2, Motorenhalle, Dresden
 2004 Open Art, Rathausgalerie, Munich
 2004 Czech the market, Gallery Kai Hilgemann, Jiri Svestka Gallery, Prague
 2004 Start point, Gallery Klatovy / Klenova, Sypka
 2004 Diplomants of the Academy of Fine Art, Academy of Fine Art Gallery, Prague
 2004 Criss/Cross 04, Broumov
 2003 Drawing prize exhibition, Middlesex University School Gallery, London
 2003 Women, Doubner Gallery, Prague
 2002 Jo-jo effect, AJG, Wortneruv Dum, Ceske Budejovice
 2001 Magnetic fields, Jeleni Gallery, Prague
 2001 Criss/Cross 01, Broumov
 2001 Artrocksedativfrequebcies, Cultural Center Sedm, Tabor
 2001 Casino, NoD, Prague
 2000 Enklava, Kamenicka Space, Prague
 2000 00 iceroom, Ajsrum's Club, Prague-Prezletice
 2000 Jarni sraci, Gallery/Space Myslikova, Prague

Jakub Hosek and his sister Anezka Hoskova have, for quite some time, acted as initiators of musical and art events of the artistic scene in Prague and Brno. In 2002, they created a project titled **Indie Twins**, in which they operate as curators and DJs. They are members of the A.M.180 Collective group, which runs the Prague A.M.180 gallery – a combination of an alternative music store, a gallery and a film club. From August 2002 till May 2003, they moderated a programme focused on alternative culture of the Ocko Music TV. Along with Stepan Bolf, Jakub Hosek also moderates a programme of the Prague's Radio 1. He also cooperates with a couple of small record labels, designing booklets for CDs and LPs. Also, he shortly worked as an editor (again, together with Stepan Bolf) of the TV programme Pomeranc (Orange) of the Czech TV2.