House of Arts Brno

Malinovského sq. 2

602 00 Brno

**Jan Ambrůz in House of Arts Brno**

**After a long pause, Jan Ambrůz, a prominent representative of contemporary non-figurative sculpture and head of the Sculpture 2 studio at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno University of Technology, is returning to exhibition activity. From 17 August 2022, visitors to the House of Arts Brno can look forward to Ambrůz's latest work, not only in the field of sculpture, but also videos related to the community-ecological project *jinákrajina*, which Jan Ambrůz initiated. The opening will take place on Tuesday, 16 August 2022 at 6 pm, and will include a performance by the band Lesní zvěř.**

The basic theme of the sculptural objects and installations made of wood, iron or glass and the large-scale black drawings presented in the exhibition is an elementary shape - the oval, which appears in different variations. "*Ambrůz continues his earlier sculptural work based on working with basic geometric shapes. One of the initial inspiration for the oval is the artist's purely personal connotations in relation to Brno, with the motifs of sports tracks and circuits, which can be perceived on a general level as a repeating rhythm of journeys and returns, a life cycle or a natural cycle.*" says Marika Svobodová, the curator of the exhibition.

The exhibition also includes videos documenting the artist's observation of nature. These observations are related to his long-standing activities within the framework of the project *jinákrajina*, which was established in 2005, when Jan Ambrůz settled in Šarovy, a village near Zlín. The original concept of the project consisted in placing sculptures in the landscape, but over time it turned into a community and ecological-activist project, in which not only students of Ambrůz's studio, but also local residents participated significantly. In addition to the sculptures, over the years, there have been, for example, the planting of tree avenues, the restoration of a well and many other activities, the common purpose of which has been, above all, the reclamation of the landscape, the return of the inhabitants to the surrounding nature and the strengthening of their connection with the place in which they live.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a book presenting the work of Jan Ambrůz from the mid-1980s to the present. In addition to the traditional guided tours, the accompanying programme will also include a discussion evening on the cultivation of the landscape in the context of contemporary art, an excursion to Šarovy and other events. The complete programme with detailed information can be found at www.dum-umeni.cz.

Jan Ambrůz (\*1956) was born in Šarovy near Zlín, where he studied in the first half of the 1980s at the design studio of the Prague Academy of Arts and Crafts. Since the mid-1980s, Ambrůz's sculptural work has made a significant impact on the Czech and international art scene, mainly in the form of temporary, geometrically designed, large-scale installations made of glass panes, carved wooden beams, iron sheets or stone blocks, placed mainly in natural environments, but also in public spaces in the city and in the interiors of buildings and galleries. Since the 1990s, he has received numerous international fellowships, e.g. from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation in New York, Wilhelm Lehmbruck in Duisburg, Hannover and others. With his approach to the care of a particular landscape, its aesthetic quality, but especially his focus on ecological and community activism, Ambrůz has foreshadowed the tendencies of contemporary artistic initiatives. He regularly exhibits in the Czech Republic and internationally.

**Jan Ambrůz**

**House of Arts Brno**

**17. 8. – 30. 10. 2022**

**Exhibition opening 16 August 2022 at 6 pm**

**Curator: Marika Svobodová**

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