

J I N D R A V I K O V Á

Portraits / Figures

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Jindra Vikova's Heads

Heads is what the author herself calls them. They certainly are portraits, but they are also busts in the sense of half-figures. She does not really feel like using the word portraits, because it evokes the image of portraying a concrete person. If we look at the series of the "Heads" that originated between 1993 and 1999, it becomes clear that they have no ambition to portray concrete faces. Nevertheless, we can discern traces of these faces. These are symbolic appearances, representing a feeling, a mood, as if they represented the person or being that evokes this feeling or mood by the expression on his face. The oldest series of heads was created as a reaction to a six month residential stay in the US (Ohio). As the author explains, her source of inspiration there was the TV - she used to watch daily the shows on Discovery channel. Vikova materialized her interest for the animal world and her idealistic wishes for its total coalescence with the human world in the series of animal-people. Their faces are more or less human, but the ears appear to be animal ears. The figures are mostly women, or, because of their small virgin breasts, just girls. Some heads are multiplied and differ only by the expression of the mouth: expressing an outcry, laughter, licking. This seemingly naive stylization brought the author an extraordinary success, especially in commercial American galleries where she exhibited this series in 1993-1996. It was not hard for her to realize, though, that this road would take her to the abyss, or a well-running business, where the original idealism of the inspiration would fade into the security of commercialism. It happened several times before that the author abruptly ended a successful series of repeating topics, and this time it was maybe because the sphere of her life interests and attitudes had changed once again. In 1995-99, the stylization of the heads underwent a striking change. Ears disappeared completely but for a small indication, the eyes became small cut through crevices. The heads are bold, the breasts are often confronted with a geometrically shaped pillar or a stake or a beam. The original coquettish game of people-animals becomes more and more serious in its topic. Man and his burden ("Tired Man, 1996" etc.), strong human relationships are also accented (Vases, 1998). The most important example of this stylization is probably St John of Nepomuk, the only of these works that was made to order to replace the original Baroque statue in the central courtyard of a house in Loretanska street in Prague that was stolen under the communist regime. The change in the author's approach towards the portraits-heads had lasted several years (1996-99). Even though her appearances are different, one can certainly trace inspiration in the ancient cultures, especially the Mexican earthenware statues, the Chinese polychrome soldier statues and other hints. It is, however, not a retro-style but a typical postmodern stylization: historical quotes in quite contemporary philosophical context. Like several times before, the author has again disappointed her fans, especially those who liked the sweetly idealized animal-people form 1993-94, and embarked on a difficult journey, giving up on the attempt to address the broadest possible audience. It seems that after several years of discovering it for herself, even this sphere has exhausted itself. The last statues from this period seem to emanate quietening, meditation, total calm. The circle is closed, the topic has exhausted itself, what will be next?

Pavel Baňka



Tension
40x50x7 cm, 1993



Talk

40x38x41 cm, 1993



D r e a m e r

55x35x7,5cm, 1993



Who am I?

53,3x50,8x24 cm, 1997



Silent

53x50x28 cm, 1997



Maybe

56x48x20 cm, 1997



Whispering

52x44x24 cm, 1997



With the Beam

86x46x18 cm, 1994



Out of Time

66x38x20 cm, 1998



Out of Time

66x60x38 cm, 1998



I a m n o t s u r e

43,2x45,7x21,6 cm, 1997



Siesta

30x48x43 cm, 1997



Meditation

47 x 46 cm, 1998



Joy

64x53x32 cm, 1998



Under the Protection

40x28x10 cm, 1998



Couple
56x46x17 cm, 1997



Profile

62x52x25 cm, 1994



Desire

60x57x30 cm, 1999

Jindra Víková – Curriculum vitae

Born: 2. 2. 1946, Prague, Czech Republic
Education: 1960–64 Secondary Art School, Prague, CZ
1964–70 University of Applied Arts, Prague, CZ
Address: Benice 8, 103 00 Prague 10, tel/fax: (00420-2) 677 11 458, e-mail: pavel.banka@usa.net

Solo exhibitions:

- 2001 Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, USA (J. Woodward, C. Curneen, M. Pappas), figural works
- 2001 Galerie Via Art, "Multiplication" Prague, CZ
- 2000 Stadtgalerie Bruneck, – Looking for The Shelter, Italy
- 1999 Galerie "U Prstenu", Prague, CZ
- 1998 Galerie umění Karlovy Vary, CZ
- 1998 Connell Gallery, Atlanta, USA
- 1998 Cultural Center Herk – (with P. Knapek), Belgium
- 1997 Margo Jacobsen Gallery, – Who am I?, Oregon, USA
- 1997 Keramion Museum – Frechen, Germany
- 1997 Moravská galerie, Brno, CZ
- 1997 AGJ Galerie, Bechyně, CZ
- 1996 Groll Gallery in Naarden, Holland
- 1995 Universitní galerie, Plzeň, CZ
- 1995 Svatováclavské sklepy, Centrum keramického designu, Český Krumlov, CZ
- 1995 Knyrym Gallery, Regensburg (with Klaus Lehman), Germany
- 1994 Galerie "U Prstenu", Drawings and Sculptures, Prague, CZ
- 1993, 1998 The Works Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
- 1992 Via Art Gallery, Prague, CZ
- 1991 Jacques Baruch Gallery, Chicago (with Pavel Baňka), USA
- 1988 Czechoslovak Cultural Center, Havana, Cuba
- 1985 Zámek Sokolov, (with Jiří Slíva), CZ
- 1985 Middlesex County College, Edison, USA
- 1985 Galerie Bazovského, Trenčín (with Adolf Born), CZ
- 1983 Městská radnice, Dvůr Králové (with Vratislav Karel Novák), CZ
- 1983/89 Czechoslovak Cultural Centre in Budapest, Hungary
- 1981 Teestube Replslangenhause Gallery, Hamburg-Wedel, Germany
- 1980 Galerie Centrum, Prague, CZ
- 1980 Schoninger Gallery, Munich (with Adolf Born), Germany
- 1979/83 Galerie Fronta, Prague (with Petra Orišková), CZ
- 1977 Theatre in Chrudim (with Adolf Born), CZ
- 1976/78 /82 Galerie Dílo, Prague, CZ
- 1976/77 Galerie Kniha, Prague (with Adolf Born), CZ
- 1976 Vlastivědné Museum, Olomouc (with Petra Orišková), CZ
- 1974 Československý spisovatel – Malá Galerie, Prague, CZ

Awards

- 2001 Jury Award, The 1st World Ceramic Biennale, Korea
2001 Diplom XXXV Premio Nazionale di Pittura, Italy
1997 Teapot of the Year, Agentura keramického designu, Český Krumlov, CZ
1988 First Prize, International Art Festival, Baghdad, Iraq
1986 Gold Medal, Vallauris, France
Grand Prix, Triennale de la Porcelaine, Nyon, Switzerland
Honorable Mention, Ceramics Festival, Mino, Japan
Honorable Mention, Gualdo Tadino, Milano, Italy
1984 Gold Medal, Faenza, Italy
1981 Premio Acquisito, Faenza, Italy
1976 Product of the Year, Porcelain Factory, Duchcov, CZ

Collections

- Národní galerie, Prague, CZ
Moravská galerie, Brno, CZ
AJG Bechyně, CZ
Uměleckoprůmyslové muzeum, Prague, CZ
Gallery Nové Zámky, Slovakia
Ceramic Museum, Faenza, Italy
Keramion Museum, Frechen, Germany
Württembergisches Landesmuseum, Stuttgart, Germany
Museum for Modern Ceramics, Deidesheim, Germany
Römhild Museum, Germany
Ariana Museum, Geneva, Switzerland
International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary
Victoria Museum, Melbourne, Canberra University, Australia
Shepparton Art Gallery, Australia
Power House Museum, Sydney, Australia
Walbrzych Museum, Boleslawiec Museum, Poland
Silbers Collection, Laguna Beach, California, USA
Zámek Locket, Galerie umění, Cheb, CZ
Severočeské muzeum, Liberec, CZ
Agentura keramického designu, Český Krumlov, CZ
Novohradská Gallery, Lučenec, Slovakia
Wala Wala Foundry, Washington, USA
Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Oregon, USA
Auckland Institute and Museum, New Zealand
Saga Prefecture, Saga, Japan
Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan, China
City Hall, Herk – de – Stad, Belgium
Beladice, Pustý Chotár, Slovakia
Ceramic Center Skaelskor, Denmark
Museum Maranatha, Lutach, Italia
Izmir University, Turkey
Canakkale Seramik Kalebodur Museum, Turkey

Professional Activities

- 2002 Visiting Artist/professor, School of Fine Arts, University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA
- 2002 Juror of 6 th Cairo International Biennale for Ceramics, Cairo, Egypt
- 2002 Workshop, Kohoutov, CZ
- 2000 Lecturer, Long Island University, New York, USA
- 2000 Lecturer, Santa Anna College of Arts, California, USA
- 1998 Lecturer, New York University, New York, USA
- 1998 Lecturer, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- 1997/1998 Visiting Artist, Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Oregon, USA
- 1996 Spring term, Study Abroad Program, Ohio University School of Art, Athens, (teacher) Prague, CZ
- 1995 International Workshop, Cannberra University, Australia
- 1994 Juror and curator of International Competition, Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award, Auckland, New Zealand
- 1993 Visiting Artist, Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore, USA
- 1992/93 Visiting Artist/professor, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA
- 1992 Visiting Artist, Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1992 Workshop – Claysmore School Dorset, European Ceramic Festival ,UK
- 1991 Visiting Artist /professor , University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
- 1985 Lecturer/Visiting artist, Middlesex County College, New Jersey, USA

From 1983 **member** of IAC, Geneva, Switzerland, from 2002, Line Group, Europe

International Symposium:

- 2002 Canakkale Seramik Kalebodur, Turkey
- 2001 Beladice, Pustý Chotár, Slovakia
- 2001 Anagama, Lutach, Italy
- 2000 International Ceramic Center, Scaelscor, Denmark
- 1998 Lučenec, Slovakia
- 1995 Walbrzych, Poland
- 1994 Louny, CZ
- 1992/2000 Cobalt Painting on Porcelain, Dubí, Teplice, CZ
- 1990 Römhild, Germany
- 1990,91 Kaunas, Lithuania
- 1988 Canberra University, Australia
- 1988 IRIS PORVO -Borga Helsinki, Finland
- 1987/97 Experimental Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary
- 1976/86/98 Bechyně, CZ
- 1976/78/80/95/96 Boleslawiec, Poland

Selected Group exhibitions

- 2001 300 Years of Czech Decorative Art, Museum of Modern Art, Takasaki, Japan
2001 Configuras, Pasada del Potro, Cordoba, Spain
2000 Klain keramische plastik, Kunstforum, Kirchberg, Switzerland
2000 Contemporary Czech Ceramic, Novoměstská radnice, Prague, CZ
2000 Vandstücke, Museum St. Wendel, Germany
2000 Plate show, Inverness Museum, Scotland
2000 Headshots, Connell Gallery, Atlanta, USA
1997/98/99/2002 Agentura keramickeho designu Český Krumlov, CZ
1997 Sheparton Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia
1997 The International Symposium of Ceramics – Kecskemet, Aberystwyth, G.B.
1996 Listen the Voice, Klášter premonstrátů, Prague, CZ
1996 IAC, Saga Prefecture, Japan
1995 Museum of Applied Arts (A Selection from Kecskemet) Budapest, Hungary
1995 Tsechische Keramik, Sandhausen, Germany
1994 Taipei International Exhibition of Ceramics, Taipei, China
1994 International Ceramic Symposium, AJG Bechyně, CZ
1994 Czech Contemporary Ceramics, Dům u kamenného zvonu, Prague, CZ
1994 IAC Uměleckoprůmyslové museum, Prague, CZ
1994 Sculpture in Clay II, Mánes, Galerie u Prstenu, Prague, CZ
1993 Sculpture in Clay, Galerie výtvarného umění, Cheb, Muzeum moderního umění, Prague, Galerie umění, Karlovy Vary, CZ
1993 Sculpturen Aus Ton, Kunstlerhaus Saarbrücken, 1994 Galerie Tutesall, Luxembourg
1992 European Ceramics, Clay Studio, Philadelphia, Baltimore, USA
1991 Tschechische Keramik, Hetjens-Museum, Dusseldorf, Germany
1990 Smile, Joke and Grin, Palác kultury, Prague, CZ
1988 Solanger Gallery, Canberra, Australia
1987/96 Czech Medal, Starý královský palác, Pražský hrad, Prague, CZ