



Václav Buchtelík – Jaroslav Koléšek:

From Steel, a Scythe; From Concrete, a Flower

The joint exhibition showcases two representatives of Ostrava's artistic scene, spanning the middle and younger generations. Their shared platform lies in elementary shapes and messages, defining of their own visual languages, and a characteristic shift from personal themes and experiences to broader societal questions and contemporary issues. However, each artist favours a different medium—Buchtelík is a dedicated painter, while Koléšek focuses on bold sculptural forms.

Václav Buchtelík

Born in 1990, Václav Buchtelík has long addressed various forms of anxiety, tension, and feelings of danger. His peaceful landscapes often feature explosions, volcanoes, molten steel, or clouds of smoke (*Smoke*, 2019; *Migration*, 2021). He employs an illusory-expressive painting style, combining techniques such as oil, acrylic, and collage. His latest works delve into personal stories and symbols of separation—broken windows, winding tape, and an axe slicing through it (*Over the Edge, Done!*, both 2024). He also reflects on his identity as a painter with motifs like an oversized palette, a book, a chapel, and a ribbon (*Allegory*, 2023). Central to the Trnava exhibition is a recurring image of a scythe with a birchwood handle (a nod to Russia's national tree) against a fiery red war-themed background (*Sharp Birch, Puzzle*, both 2024).

Jaroslav Koléšek

Born in 1974, Jaroslav Koléšek's sculptural language emphasises civilian, industrial, and post-industrial forms, often in concrete castings (*Kawasaki, Triumph*, both 2022). He critically reinterprets different periods and aspects of life. Relationships and connections between pairs are recurring themes, as seen in *Side by Side* (2022), sandstone sculptures of submarines nestling together, or an enlarged and modified heart (*Heart of the Cross*, 2019). Followed by odd blending biological elements with menacing war machinery, such as a hybrid of a whip and a helicopter (*Missionary (Black Hawk)*, 2021). Especially striking are his medieval-inspired "fossilised" rosettes inscribed with logos of car manufacturers (*Mercedes-Benz Rose Window*, 2022, sandstone; *Fossil (Rose Window) - Volkswagen*, 2020, concrete, included in the exhibition). His latest series explores spiritual moments in juxtaposition with everyday realities (*Scales, Pulpit, Assumption*, 2021–23, plaster).

"From Steel, a Scythe; From Concrete, a Flower" complements a parallel project by painter Daniel Balabán, a professor at Ostrava University, hosted at the Koppel Villa. Together, these exhibitions present three generations of Ostrava's contemporary art scene. The exhibition runs until 26 January 2025.

Václav Buchtelík (b. 1990, Karviná) lives and works in Ostrava.

Education: 2010–2015, Faculty of Arts, Ostrava University (Painting I studio, Prof. Daniel Balabán); 2006–2010, School of Applied Arts, Ostrava (Decorative Painting, Aleš Hudeček). Current Role: Doctoral student at Ostrava University (under Prof. Balabán).

Recent Solo Exhibitions: *Mystery of the Picture Puzzle*, Karviná City Gallery, 2024; *Behind the Curtain, in the Distance Falling...*, Beskydy Theatre, Nový Jičín, 2023; *Hear the Harsh Voice of Your Persistent and Cruel Viper*, ZaZa Gallery, Ostrava, 2022.

Social Media: [Instagram: vaclavbuchtelik_painter](#)

Jaroslav Koléšek (b. 1974, Šternberk) lives and works in Ostrava and Valašské Meziříčí.

Education: 1992–1997, Department of Visual Arts, Faculty of Education, Ostrava University (Sculpture studio, M. Kotrba); 2009–2012, Doctorate, Academy of Arts, Banská Bystrica; 2014, Associate Professor, Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava. Awards: 2010, Rudolf Schlattauer Prize; 2003, V. Chad Prize. Recent Solo Exhibitions: *Missionary, Preacher, and Divine Mill*, Galerie Kaple, Valašské Meziříčí, 2023; *Technointim*, House of Art, Ostrava, 2023. Website: jaroslavkolesek.blogspot.com

Curator: Vladimír Beskid

Venue: Jan Koniarek Gallery (Koppel Villa, New Wing, Zelený kriček 3, Trnava)

Exhibition Duration: December 5th 2023 – January 26th 2024

Visual Communication: CUBE Studio Ltd.