



„Fabulous dream of Božena Augustínová“

Exactly at this time, two years ago, we met here at the Gallery „Michalský dvor“ where we were opening within the BIB 2003, as one of the accompanying exhibitions, the exposition of art work of Andrej Augustín entitled “Páranie peknúčka”. When selecting his works, I visited Andrej at home, and Mrs Božena, his mother prepared for us lemonade for refreshment. That was my first and at the same time the last contact with that nice lady. Two years after we are again meeting here at similar occasion, at the opening of the 20th anniversary of the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava at the presentation of art work of Andrej and Martin’s mother, Božena Augustínová. However, since then much has changed, everything is different.

I would like to welcome here the International Jury of the BIB 2005 composed of 14 members from different countries and to thank them for coming here this evening.

Anyway, the true reason for meeting here this evening is not only the tradition of the BIB, but first of all a sad and nostalgic event. At the beginning of this year Mrs Božena suddenly and unexpectedly departed this life. She left here her family, memories, poetic art work, but also the spirit of harmony, peace and respect for art and life.

It is an honour for me to be addressed by Andrej and asked to open this exhibition, and I undertook its preparation and arrangements with great respect. What is so uplifting and appealing for me in the Augustins art work in this bustling, stressful and commercialized world – it is their permanent leaning on the wave of humanity, their tremendous faith in life and its beauties, the angle of which they perceive it. With love, enthusiasm, colourfulness and natural human warmth.

Mrs. Božena Augustínová was engaged in the creation of free and applied graphic art, painting, illustration, tapestry and monumental art. She was a member of the Association of the Slovak Visual Artists, Slovak Union of Visual Arts – the club of graphic artists, the Club of Tapestry Artex, and since 1996 a founder of the AS Foundation Children’s Hope providing support to oncologic child patients. At this exhibition we present mainly her illustration work and we included also a part of the collection of tapestries from her wide-spectrum art work.

She was born on 17 January 1939 in Topolná, District Uherské Hradiště. She studied at Arts and Crafts School in Uherské Hradiště at the atelier of graphics led by Prof. J. Kořínek. She won many awards for her work and her art work is represented in many collections of domestic galleries and galleries abroad, and she had many presentations of exhibitions in Slovakia and also abroad. She died on 29 January 2005 in Bratislava.

The author’s illustrations are mostly figural; zoomorphic figures have their own characters, life and their own little world. They are expressively coloured, which gives them playful, joyful, optimistic expression /Toys/. On the one hand, she applies flatness of the styled scene, and on the other hand, the figures have their volume and predominate over less important horizon and surroundings /Folding picture books/. The figure is in the centre of the course of events and it usually has abstracted decorative character. She applies geometry, ornament, inspired by the structure of lace /The mirror, The myths/. This is contrasted with fine structure of the techniques of fine arts used, the animals are made “civilized” by funny clothes /The shelf and its little shelves - Polička a jej políčka/. There are also more dynamic elements reflected in illustrations, everything in the picture is slightly moving and shimmering, visually rippling, which has been reached by soft hatching by a paint brush and by combining colours /Pikulík a Chlpčo/. In her art work black-and-white illustrations for adults can be also found /Poems after hugs - Verše po objatí/.

While in illustrations she reveals a wider scope of her understanding of illustration, in tapestries she concentrates on figural compositions. The protagonist is predominantly a woman – elegant, tender, diaphanous, bringing always a different but the same message and sense. It is a message of beauty, love, harmony and nostalgia. Along with expressive contrasting colourfulness, which attracts attention, she underlines the figure, usually of decorative character but also spiritual dimension. The expression of figures includes the features of experiential level, sadness, secrecy with paramount preservation of aesthetic canon and fanciful essence of the scene. Such intentional surrealistic touches and tenderness demonstrated on subtle styled hands of ladies which are always clear and perceivable go hand in hand with the combination of zoomorphic elements – substitution of a woman’s head by a bird’s head. Everything is magic and mysterious, almost exquisitely staged, with mellow contrasting colours and, at the same time, incredibly peaceful and tranquil. The collection of women, mimes, dreams /The mime with a rose - Mim s ružou, Sad Harlequin - Smutný Harlekýn, White dreams - Biele sny, A rose for Chantall - Ruža pre Chantall, Meditation - Zamyslenie, The gate to Paradise - Brána do raja/ is, in a sense, even irritating and provoking harmony. Although a figure is dominant, there is a set of details in each plane adequately decorating and complementing the scene.

Mrs. Božena Augustínová left for us her womanlike diaphanous and poetically harmonious art work. However, she left here first of all a signal, a silent challenge, memento to accept her, understand and sense not only her creative side, but her human viewpoint. By silently departing this life she foreshadowed the ephemerality of our earthly existence, she inspired us to be able to stop for a while and sense one another as we are here just for a while. We believe that at this moment she is with us and can feel our tranquil, even though fragmentary meditation over the human spirit.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am not going to further interfere by my speech with Muses and messages from other dimensions. Let me express my gratitude to the sons of Mrs. Bozhka – Andrej and Martin – that through this exhibition they offered us again a POSSIBILITY to SENSE the life. Let's try to immerse in its sense and substance, even if we are often unable to reliably define them, anyway at least this evening. Let's try to listen to eloquent tranquillity.

Mgr. Barbara Brathová
Curator of the Exhibition

Božena AUGUSTÍNOVÁ , neé Rochovská

✿ 17.1. 1939 , Topolná , District Uherské Hradiště
+ 29. 1. 2005, Bratislava

Study: Arts and Crafts School in Uherské Hradiště, the atelier of graphics led by Prof. J. Kořínek
Member of Slovak Union of Visual Arts – the club of graphic artists, member of the Club of Tapestry Artex,

Independent exhibitions: Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, USA
Joint exhibitions : Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, France, USA, Cuba, Japan

Awards :

1975, Diploma and Premium of SFVU (Slovak Fund of Visual Arts) in creative competition „A woman in the world of today and tomorrow“ („Žena vo svete dneška a zajtrajška“), Bratislava
1979, Second place in the competition of ZSVU (Association of the Slovak Visual Artists,), SFVU (Slovak Fund of Visual Arts) (for the International Year of the Child), Bratislava
1982, Premium of SFVU, ČFVU a the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, poster, Prague
1982, Golden medal and diploma on the proposal of ZSVU “A woman in the contemporary art” („Žena v súčasnom umení“), Bratislava
1982, Special Award of the journal “Kultúra a život” (“Culture and Life”) for creative presentation of the topic: Woman, Family, Peace, Moscow
1984, Premium in the competition of the Slovkoncert, poster for “Bratislavská Lýra”, Bratislava

Since 1996 a founder of the AS Foundation Children's Hope providing support to oncologic patients.

Otvorenie - text

Presne o tomto čase , pred dvomi rokmi sme sa stretli v Galérii Michalský dvor, kde sme v rámci BIB 2003 otvárali ako jednu z jeho sprievodných výstav expozíciu tvorby Andreja Augustína pod názvom Páranie peknúčka. Pri výbere jeho diel som Andreja navštívila doma a pani Božena , jeho mama, nám starostlivo pripravila malinovku na osvieženie. To bol môj prvý a zároveň posledný dotyk s touto príjemnou dámou. Po dvoch rokoch sa tu pri podobnej príležitosti otvorenia 20. ročníka Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava 2005 stretávame opäť pri prezentácii tvorby Andrejovej a Martinovej mamy Boženy Augustínovej. Avšak, veľa sa odvtedy zmenilo , všetko je inak.

Dovolím si privítať medzi nami medzinárodnú porotu BIB 2005, ktorá pozostáva zo 14-tich členov z rôznych krajín a podľakovať sa im, že dnes večer prišli.

Akokoľvek, prvotný dôvod prečo sme sa tu dnes podvečer zišli nie je len tradícia BIB, ale predovšetkým smutná a nostalgická udalosť . Na začiatku tohto roku nás pani Božena náhle a nečakane opustila. Nechala tu po sebe svoju rodinu, spomienky, poetickú výtvarnú tvorbu, ale aj ducha harmónie, pokoja a pokory pred umením a životom.

Je pre mňa česť, že ma Andrej oslovil a požiadal o otvorenie tejto výstavy a rovnako som k jej príprave pristupovala s nesmiernou úctou . Čo ma nadchýna a oslovuje všeobecne na tvorbe Augustínovcov v tomto uponáhľanom, stresovom a skomercionalizovanom svete je ich neustále spočívanie na vlne ľudskosti, ich úžasná viera v život a jeho krásy, uhol pohľadu, akým ho vnímajú. S láskou, nadšením, farebnosťou a prirodzeným človečenským teplom.

Pani Božena Augustínová sa zaoberala tvorbou voľnej a úžitkovej grafiky, maľbou, ilustráciou, tapisériou a monumentálnou tvorbou. Bola členkou Zväzu slovenských výtvarných umelcov, Slovenskej výtvarnej únie – spolku grafikov, Klubu umeleckej tapisérie Artex a od roku 1996 zakladateľkou AS nadácie detská nádej zaobrajúcou sa pomocou detským pacientom s onkologickým ochorením. Na dnešnej výstave prezentujeme v prvom rade jej tvorbu ilustračnú a zaradili sme aj časť kolekcie tapisérií z jej širokého umeleckého záberu.

O jej tvorbe som pripravila informačný sumár, ktorý je Vám v písomnej forme k dispozícii, v prípade záujmu si ho môžete vziať pri vstupe do galérie . Nechcem dnes výnimavočne kunsthistoricky hodnotiť tvorbu autorky , chcem sa skôr pozastaviť čisto priateľsky a ľudsky nad pocitmi a myšlienkami.

Pani Božena Augustínová zanechala pre nás svoje žensky éterické a poeticky harmonické umelecké dielo. Zanechala tu však predovšetkým signál , tichú výzvu, memento o tom, aby sme sa nielen tvorivo, ale ľudsky akceptovali, chápali a cítili. Svojim tichým odchodom predznačila efemérnosť nášho pozemského bytia , vnukla nám, aby sme sa dokázali zastaviť a uvedomiť si jeden druhého, pretože sme tu iba na chvíľu. Veríme, že aj v tomto momente je spolu s nami a vníma naše tiché, aj keď možno fragmentálne pozastavenie sa nad duchom človeka.

Dámy a páni, nebudem svojim verbálnym vstupom ďalej rušiť múzy a odkazy z inej dimenzie. Dovoľte, aby som sa podľakovala synom pani Božky - Andrejovi a Martinovi- , že nám prostredníctvom tejto výstavy opäť ponúkli možnosť ako cítiť život. Pokúsme sa ponoriť do jeho významu a podstaty, aj keď ich často nedokážeme zodpovedne a spoľahlivo definovať, aspoň dnešný podvečer. Pokúsme sa načúvať veľavravnému tichu.