

Exhibition of a Slovak Illustrator, the Winner of BIB 2005 Golden Apple ĽUBOSLAV PAL'Ó

“CAT IN SACK“

Opening: 6 September 2007 at 5 p.m. at BIB Gallery in BIBIANA
Exhibition Curator: Mgr. Barbara Brathová

Do you remember? When we were small children one could buy a so-called “Cat in Sack” in a toy shop. It was such a small unattractive box as if produced by makeshift means that hid “a secret” inside. It could be opened only after you paid for it and so only then you could find out what was inside (mainly a useless thing) being so sensational to us children. Something one could compare to the present Kindersurprise. The Cat in Sack came spontaneously into my mind when thinking about a name of an exhibition of works of Ľubo Paľo. I shall explain why. The Slovak illustrator, today a winner of various awards for his illustration works, among which the BIB 2005 Golden Apple seems to be the most important to me, has gone through different development phases. He tried to work with different techniques and expressions; his illustrations differed enormously one from another till he took part in the **Albín Brunovský BIB-UNESCO Workshop in 2001**. There, in a group of colleagues from 20 countries he found, as if in a spontaneous manner, his figure and literally his CAT. No doubt that it was the publishing house **Bohem Press (Switzerland)** contributing to his success as the following books were published there in a quick sequence: **1+1 = 2 (2003)**, **Nicht erwischt! (2005)**, **Frohe Weihnachten (2006)**. Each book has its special story but the same visual art aesthetics and his characteristic handwriting. As if the Cat “discovered” by him at the aforementioned workshop would jump out of an imaginary sack and showed him the direction. For Ľubo Paľo the “Cat in Sack” is far from an unnecessary thing but a purely positive surprise. It is a comfort to see that she jumped out of that “sack” and brought luck to the author (and also to the readers). No matter she is black. She has got nine lives, after all.

What is the Exhibition about

This is the first more complex exhibition of illustration activities of the artist till now. The focus of the exhibition is to present the works from the last approximately five years long period. First of all the books made in co-operation with the Swiss publishing house Bohem press belong here, as well as books from the Slovak production: **1+1=2**, **Bohem press, 2003**, **NICHT ERWISCHT!**, **Bohem press, 2005**, **FROHE WEIHNACHTEN!**, **Bohem press, 2006**, **EMA A BARÓN V MESTE**, **Ikar, 2002**, **PODIVUHODNÉ PRÍBEHY SIEDMICH MORÍ**, **Perfekt, 2003**, **ZVERINEC NA SIEDMOM POSCHODÍ**, **Slovart, 2006**. This collection presents the current illustration expression of the artist and also his formal development is evident – from tempera (Podivuhodné príbehy.../Remarkable Stories...) and “light acryl” (Ema a barón v meste/ Ema and Baron in Town) up to present expression of paste-like structured acryl painting (Nicht erwischt!, Frohe Weihnachten!/Not Caught! Merry Christmas!). As for the topic and the concept, these books are made for children of pre-school age and younger school age. The titles published by Bohem press present the segment of so called PICTURE BOOKS – books of 32 pages rich in illustrations with a minimum of text. Books issued in Slovakia are of higher literary value, but they are not so strictly decided as for the style is concerned. Illustrations for young people and adults are part of the exhibition, too. In majority of cases they are made by graphic techniques (etching, aquatinta, mezotinta): **THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES**, **Knižná dielňa Timotej 1997**, **LEGENDS FROM SLOVAKIA**, **Vydavateľstvo Matice slovenskej 2001**, **MYSTERIOUS STORIES OF OLD PRESSBURG, PT 2002**, **CROW! VŠVU 1998**, **ABOUT A MAN**, **Knižná dielňa Timotej 1994**, **KIDNAPPED**, **Antique Collectors Classic, 1999**.

Luboslav Paľo

Date of birth: 14. 6. 1968

Place of birth: Vranov nad Topľou

Family status: married

Nationality: Slovak

Residence: at present he has been living in Bratislava dedicating himself to free artistic work, book illustrations and his teaching activities

Education:

1983 - 1987	Grammar School in Vranov nad Topľou
1987 - 1992	Pedagogical Faculty of P. J. Šafárik University, Prešov
1992 - 1998	VŠVU (Academy of Visual Arts and Design) Bratislava Department of Free Graphic Art and Book Illustration lead Prof. Dušan Kállay

Pedagogical Practice:

1993 - 1997	Základná umelecká škola – Elementary School of Arts, Podjavorinskej Street, Bratislava)
1998 – 2003	Stredná súkromná umelecká škola – Private Secondary School of Arts, Ivánska cesta Bratislava
od 2003	VŠVU - Academy of Visual Arts and Design, Bratislava

Selected Exhibitions:

- 1991 - Vranov nad Topľou
- 1992 - Medzilaborce (Múzeum rodiny Warholcov/ Family Warhol Museum)
- 1993 - Zvolen
- 1994 - Trnava (Západoslovenské múzeum)
- 1995 - Senica (Záhorská galéria)
 - Havířov, Trnava
- 1996 - Vranov nad Topľou
 - Osaka (small format)
- 1997 - Bratislava (Galéria Médium – VŠVU/Medium Gallery - Academy of Visual Arts and Design)
 - Bologna (Book Fair), Italy
- 1999 - Bratislava (Artotéka)
 - Bratislava (BIB)
- 2000 - Paris (Cité International des Arts), France
 - Brno (Galerie u Dobraho pastýře)
 - Trnava (Západoslovenské múzeum – Sculpture and Grafic Art)
 - Olomouc (Book Fair)
- 2001 - Banská Bystrica (Galéria Slovenskej sporiteľne/Slovenská sporiteľňa Gallery)
 - Bratislava (BIB)
 - Workshop UNESCO-BIB – Paris
- 2002 - Oslo, Reykjavík (Workshop UNESCO)
 - Bologna (Book Fair)
- 2003 – The Most Beautiful Books of Slovakia, Bibiana, Bratislava
 - BIB, House of Culture, Bratislava
- 2004 - Oita Biennale of Illustrations, Oita, Japan,
 - BIB Japan, Urawa Art Museum, Nara Prefecture Museum, Japan
- 2005 - The Most Beautiful Books of Slovakia, Bibiana, Bratislava
 - Current Slovak Illustration /Nomination Exhibition to BIB/, BIBIANA, Bratislava /Curator: Mgr. Barbara Brathová/
 - BIB, House of Culture, Bratislava
 - Biennale of Illustrations, Barreiro, Portugal
 - Illustrators Awarded at BIB 2005, Helsinki, Finland
 - Jyväskylä, Finland
 - Hämeenlinna, Finland
 - Berlin, Germany
 - Prague, Czech Republic
- 2006 – Individual Exhibition: Painted World, Hornozemplínske osvetové centrum, Vranov (Bulletin-Text by Peter Čačko)
 - Illustrators Awarded at BIB 2005:
 - Budapest, Hungary
 - Nadlak, Rumania
 - Bucharest, Rumania
 - Vienna, Austria
 - Čadca, Slovakia
 - Bologna, Italy
 - Vranov n. Topľou, Slovakia
 - Prague, Czech Republic
 - Warsaw, Poland
 - Milanowek, Poland
 - Radom, Poland
 - Poznan, Poland
 - Macau, China

- Banská Bystrica, Slovakia
- 1st Biennial of Illustrations, Zagreb, Croatia
/Curator of Slovak Collection Mgr. Barbara Brathová/
- Fantasy Pictures - Le immagini della Fantasia /Participation of Slovak illustrators/, Bibiana, Bratislava
/Curator Mgr. Barbara Brathová/
- BIB 2005 Japan
- Ashikaga Museum of Art, Japan
- Hiratsuka City Museum of Art, Japan
/Exhibitions organised by the BIB Department/
- Im Reich der Phantasie, Mindelheim, Kulturamt, Germany
- Literary Festival in Žilina /Slovakia/
- Artforum, Žilina /Slovakia/

Prizes and Awards:

Diploma "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 1993"- About a Man
Book Fair Bologna 1997 (Final Collection)

Matica slovenská Prize in competition "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 1998" – Krá/Crow

Diploma in competition "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 1999" – Muž, ktorý sadil stromy/The Man Who Planted Trees

Diploma in competition "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 2000" – Gilgameš/Gilgamesh

Diploma in competition "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 2002"– Ema a Barón v meste/Ema and Baron in Town

Diploma in competition "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 2003"– Rozprávky a bájky/Fairy Tales and Legends

Diploma - "The Most Beautiful Children Book"– Spring 2002 – Tuláčik a Klára/Little Wanderer and Clara
Book Fair Bologna 2002 (Final Collection)

Bibiana Prize "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 2002"

Diploma - "The Most Beautiful Children Book"– Summer 2003– Podivuhodné príbehy siedmich morí/Remarkable Stories of Seven Seas

IBBY Certificate of Honour for Illustration – Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, 2004

2004 - Oita Biennale of Illustrations – Associate Prize, Oita, Japan, 2004

2005 – Biennial of Illustration Bratislava 2005 – Golden Apple

2006 – Ministry of Culture of SR Prize for the Best Illustration

"The Most Beautiful Children Book"– Spring 2002 – Tuláčik a Klára/Little Wanderer and Clara

2006 – Diploma in competition "The Most Beautiful Book of Slovakia 2005" for the graphic design of the book Little Wanderer and Clara

The exhibition shall take place till 26 October 2007 and it is an accompanying event of the 21st Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava. The exhibition premises at Panská Street 41 in Bratislava are open daily except of Mondays always from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.