



Jan Kostohryz

(b. 1993; Czechia)

Lives and works in Prague, Czechia

The work of Czech artist Jan Kostohryz (1993) intertwines contemporary figuration with the civil poetry of everyday life and a subtle sense of grotesque. In his practice, insects play a central yet often barely noticeable role – a fly in a cup, a spider in the bathroom, or fruit flies in the kitchen. These minute motifs, which often reveal themselves to the viewer only through the title of the work, fundamentally shift the way the image is read. Kostohryz uses these micro-encounters as catalysts for tension between a person and their personal space, between the intimacy of a scene and its delicate disruption, between fascination and unease.

In his figurative plaster reliefs, the artist “preserves” fleeting moments in the form of static casts, while his paintings, with painterly exaggeration, capture potential scenarios of confrontation between humans and the most overlooked members of the animal kingdom. His use of a civil visual language and the familiarity of everyday situations forms an archetype of the young person – a representative of the millennial generation, characterized by the search for balance between work and personal life, as well as the paralysis induced by an excess of possibilities. Kostohryz’s works thus offer a sensitive, sincere, and at times ironic insight into how the young generation experiences contemporaneity.

Jan Kostohryz is a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, where he studied painting, figurative sculpture, and printmaking. In 2018, he received the Kunstpreis der Leinemann-Stiftung for his diploma thesis. His works have been presented in solo and group exhibitions in the Czech Republic and abroad, including at the House of the Lords of Kunštát in Brno and the Czech Centre in Berlin.

EDUCATION:

2012–2018

Academy of Fine Arts in Prague

2017–2018

Painting Studio I. - Robert Šalanda, Lukáš Machalický

2016

Erasmus - Korea National University of Arts

2014–2015

Studio of Figurative Sculpture - Jan Hendrych

2012–2014

Studio Printmaking I. - Jiří Lindovský

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2023

Spiders at the Bottom of Boxes, City Surfer Office, Prague, Czechia

Spiders at the Bottom of Boxes, Contemporary Art Jeseník, Jeseník, Czechia

2021

Tabook 10, Truhlárna, Prague Czechia

2020

Wasp in a Cup, Karlin Studios, Prague Czechia

2019

Moth on the Screen, SPZ Galerie, Prague, Czechia

Desert Rose, Sklad M1, Prague, Czechia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2026

Jarní výstava, Spot Gallery, Prague, Czechia

2025

Mám se zout?, Meetfactory, Prague, Czechia

2024

Guilty Pleasure, Spot Gallery, Prague, Czechia

2023

10th Litomyšl Symposium, Galerie Miroslava Kubíka, Litomyšl, Czechia

Everything Belongs to Everyone, 4+4 Days in Motion, Prague, Czechia

So macht man Frühling, German-Czech Cultural Festival, Bremen, Germany

2022

Personal Mythology, House of the Lords of Kunštát, Brno, Czechia

2021

KODL ■ C ■ NTEMP ■ RARY

Hulačová, Kostohryz, Litvan, Chaos Gallery, Polička, Czechia

Finalists of the Critics' Award for Young Painting, Critics' Gallery, Prague, Czechia

2019

I Follow the Shapes of the Shadow of My Hand, Garage Gallery, Prague Czechia

Leinemann Art Prize – Negative Realism, Czech Center, Berlin, Germany

2018

Jiné místo / Another Place: AVU Graduates 2018, AVU, Prague Czechia

AWARDS:

2021

Critics' Award for Young Painting - nomination

2018

Leinemann Foundation Art Prize - 1st place