

# **Nádoba vzpomínek/ The Vessel of memories**

**Petr Brožka\_Andrzej Brzegowy\_Ivan Bukovský\_Mariusz Dański\_Olga  
Divišová\_David Kadlec\_Sun Young Kang\_Ming-Jer Kuo\_Josef Lorenc\_Milan  
Lukáč\_Andrzej Markiewicz\_Katarzyna Pietrzak\_Jenny Rafalson\_Adam  
Romaniuk\_Daniel Szalai\_Imre Tolnay\_Jan Trojan\_Petra Vichrová\_Lenka  
Vilhelmová  
CZ/ HU/ PL/ SK/ USA**

Venue / the place of the event: Muzeum Jindřichohradecka, <https://www.mjh.cz/>

The date of the event: 28 May – 22 October 2023

Opening: May 27, 2023 at 2 p.m

Curators: Zuzana Duchková\_Olga Divišová

The exhibition entitled The Vessel of Memories mainly presents large-format works of different techniques (painting, drawing, graphics, spatial creation, photography) by artists of many nationalities (Czech, Hungarian, Slovak, Polish, South Korean, Taiwanese, Ukrainian/Israeli) and coming from different countries ( CZ, HU, PL, SK, USA), who, among other things, focus on topics related to human history and memory in their work.

The viewer could look for different parables of the cycle of life in most of the works, with all its positive and negative sides. The vessel of memories is a little different for each of the artists, yet they intersect or complement each other in certain motifs. A vessel can be understood not only as concrete bodies of various kinds, empty or with different contents, but also as the human body itself, which becomes a receptacle for memories that are never an accurate capture of reality but, on the contrary, forgetfulness and certain specific emotional moods. Therefore, many of the presented works are very intimate confessions of each of the authors, and many emphasize that their art work was a certain cleansing process, whether leading to dealing with and remembering one's own ancestors, childhood, specific life events, or a process directed towards more general themes of the general perception of humanity, human history, and human artifacts that persist and associate new and new thoughts and memories.

One of the prominent themes that runs through the entire exhibition is connected with human memory, whether in the form of human remains (I. Bukovský), which are an important connecting point between our past, present, and future and can draw our attention to many injustices and subsequent the penalties we have to pay for them. Human

memory is very clearly reflected in the motifs of heads (L. Vilhelmová), which are either alone or in a certain interaction, intermingle, connect, and try to capture mental impulses and physical changes in time and space (A. Romaniuk, A. Markiewicz, K. Pietrzak). Consciously and unconsciously, they "meet and encounter" their own history as well as the history of human beings as a part of nature, which despite certain human interventions, can still renew itself (D. Szalai), but nature is also capable of being a very harsh judge over the human race (J. Lorenc, M. Lukáč).

Other prominent lines accompanying the presented works include the encounter with the in/finity of man, with the theme of death and its legacy among the living through dedicated sites such as cemeteries, that often become unnoticed, yet important aspects of city life (M.-J. Kuo).

There can also be the objects – vessels, that relate to certain memories of deceased ancestors, for whom they were an important memento (J. Rafalson), or possibly have become a symbol of a certain period of recent human history associated with global threats, where they acted as "trophies" (O. Divišová). The very shape of the simplest container – its roundness, whether the elliptical edge preserves the presence of the infinite in the finite and captures the atmosphere the disappeared generations left us here (I. Tolnay). Even the contents placed in the vessel can offer a deep reflection on the life cycle, e.g. in the form of slowly fading flowers (P. Vichrová).

Memories of ancestors are also a strong theme that the authors present at this exhibition. Often the works are conceived as personal statements about the closest people who have already left this world and left behind themselves a series of memories, either in the form of diaries, the text of which became a certain silent ritual rebirth of the deceased (S.Y. Kang) or, on the contrary, the artist dives into his inner self and records all the associations he remembers with the persons in question, while reaching the limit of the "readability" of his own memories (D. Kadlec).

Some of the authors give the viewer a lot of space to develop their own observations, thoughts, feelings and perceptions and let the image space stand out by the apparent monochromaticity (M. Dański), the power of lines that create pulsating structures and emerge into space (A. Brzegowy) or the inspiration from the world of geometry with reference to the real world of things (J. Trojan). The absorption of color can also play an important role, the color stain that co-creates the inner memory world of the author (P. Brožka).

All the indicated themes create a whole that offers new stories about the life cycles of individuals and the entire human community, where more and more vessels of memories can be created.

Zuzana Duchková