

DIPLOMKY AVU 2025 / DIPLOMA WORKS AVU 2025 OBZORY V POHYBU/MOVING HORIZONS

Exhibition: 19 – 29 June 2025

Opening: 18 June 2025 at 5 p.m. in front of the main building of AVU, U Akademie 4, Prague 7

Curators: Pavlína Morganová, Michal Pěchouček

On 18 June at 5 p.m., The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague will open an exhibition featuring fifty graduates, including the first two graduates of the international programme Art in Context. 'Let's not forget that the generation currently graduating from AVU studied during a period when COVID-19 broke out, the war in Ukraine began and AI entered our lives,' explains Rector Tomáš Pospiszl, adding: "Today, students of fine arts are often returning to traditional media and learning handicraft techniques. At the diploma exhibition, alongside paintings, sculptures and objects, we find textile works and artistically processed glass. Thematically, the works are dominated by immediate social relationships, such as family dynamics. It is as if the artists consider understanding their surroundings to be the foundation that will enable them to face global challenges." The exhibition, entitled *Obzory v pohybu / Moving Horizons*, will run until 29 June 2025

This year's curators are art historian Pavlína Morganová and visual artist Michal Pěchouček, who say of the 2025 Diploma Works: "For the graduates, the title of the exhibition, *Obzory v pohybu / Moving Horizons*, symbolises individual transformation – the completion of their studies and entry into the uncertainty of the present, as well as the question of their own identity at a time when the framework of support for the art world, which is both welcoming and laconic, is changing. The horizons are not fixed but in a state of flux, both in the immediate space we inhabit and on a global scale. It is no coincidence that the international English version of the exhibition title was articulated first and this literally predetermined the local Czech title. It is not only horizons that are in motion, but also the language that defines us as human beings. *Moving Horizons – Obzory v pohybu* can therefore be seen as a metaphor for the dynamics of change, uncertainty and the constant reassessment of our own and society's starting points today.

Our near and distant future is a fractured, distorted and disrupted structure. Boundaries – whether physical, cultural or ideological – are not fixed. There are constant political, environmental and technological upheavals. In both art and society, the roles of institutions, narratives and authorities are changing. Innocent people are dying – right now. The rest of us go on living our lives and are fortunate enough to pursue something as beautiful and exciting as art. Even in this time of escalating crises, the need for knowledge and creative self-development will eventually prevail. The young generation of graduates from AVU in Prague is a Central European sample from which a receptive audience can gain concrete insights into what contemporary artists are doing today, what questions they are asking, what materials and forms they are experimenting with and what challenges they are encountering in their work. In this sense, we view the creation of the collective

exhibition not only as care for this year's graduating artists and their specific artworks but also as a manifesto of the continual search for a balance between personal expression in art and what emerges as universally relevant.

The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague has historically been a hub of public and professional debate about the values, continuity, and quality of artistic production. Terms such as *tradition*, *craft* and *decline* often arise in the context of criticism of contemporary art, an area in which the institution has long engaged and whose forms it has significantly influenced. Tradition is associated with a deeper understanding of an artistic discipline and, along with craft, is often seen as a lost element or as an opposition to experimental and conceptual approaches. Decline is a term that points to mediocrity, artlessness, commercialization or the desire to provoke at any cost. At the opposite pole of contemporary art criticism, progressive voices argue that breaking down tradition and experimenting are the hallmarks of viable contemporary art and represent a necessary approach to art education. Unfortunately, the discourse between these differing perspectives often revolves around not just the art itself but also about which side of the barricade is deemed safe in the culture wars.

This year's exhibition of the graduating works offers more: a genuine and shared way to have this discussion – reflecting not only the presence of different approaches to art, but also the broader issues of values, the role of art in society, and the connection between historical consciousness and the needs of the present. **Despite frequent claims about the decline of traditional craft at AVU, this year's graduation exhibition demonstrates the opposite. It is not merely a formal showcase, but a testament to the persistence of the creative gesture – often quiet, laborious and unspectacular.** The works present here show that contemporary art is not afraid to combine traditional media with experimentation, and that "craft" is not an anachronism but a means of finding expression that is both personal and topical.

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Graphic design: Kateřina Šuterová, Michal Pěchouček

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Opening hours:

19 June 2 – 7 p.m.

20 June 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

21 June 2 – 7 p.m.

22 June 2 – 7 p.m.

23 June 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

24 June 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

25 – 29 June 2 – 7 p.m.

Guided tours for the public:

22 June at 3 p.m. with the curators, main building of AVU

23 June at 5 p.m. with restorers, AVU Modern Gallery

Locations:

The main building of AVU

[U Akademie 4, Praha 7](#)

AVU School of Architecture

[U Akademie 2, Praha 7](#)

AVU Veletržní

[Veletržní 826/61, Praha 7](#)

AVU Modern Gallery

[Výstaviště 188, Praha 7](#) (entry from Stromovka Park)

Detailed information, including the full list of graduates, their CVs and a catalogue of exhibited works, can be found [HERE](#)

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