

Illusion of Design — Student Works from Art Colleges and Universities

15/2—17/3 2018

The basic impulse that gave birth to the exhibition *Illusion of Design* was a simple question: *Where does fine art end and applied art start? A question the answer to which even the artists themselves often look for. We approached the youngest generation of Czech designers, the students of the ateliers of design at Czech Art Colleges and Universities and then picked the artworks that stand on the imaginary border between functional design and fine art. Artworks too personal for industrial production but still with a certain design vision. More than fifty students from six colleges and universities from all over the Czech Republic registered their works. The final selection presents an overview of approaches, methods, forms or materials used. The exhibition gives the viewers the opportunity to get their own idea of the contemporary art design*

Artists:

Pavλίna Adášková, Ilona Dragoeva, Barbora Dvořáková, Zdeňka Fusková, Jan Grabowski, Kristýna Horáčková, Daniel Kinský, Kateřina Koblrová, Tomáš Krejčí, Kateřina Kučerová, Jakub Neufuss, Kateřina Rydlová, Nikol Rýdlová, David Sivý, Jitka Ticháčková, Kryštof Vitner, Ivana Zuskinová & Lenka Mlynarčíková & Matúš Opálka

Curators of exhibition:

Adéla Machová & Dana Zikmundová

Pavλίna Adášková / Growth Ring

Growth rings are the result of new growth in the vascular cambium throughout one growing season, and in this case, *Growth Ring* is also the name of a brooch series by Pavλίna Adášková. Inspired by the natural motif, the author uses growth rings to mark the days she and her six brothers and sisters were born on. The brooches imitate growth rings both in their size and shapes, reflecting the dates of birth of individual family members. Brooches can be viewed as symbols of the sense of belonging to the family or of capturing an important moment. The surface gilding of the wooden material refers to richness of the personal (family) world hidden from the outer (surrounding) world.

Ilona Dragoeva / AM

This *Glass Studio* student created three scenes in which she made use of her long-term experience with fragile materials and her favourite illustration work. Inspired both by the fairytale world of Lewis Carroll and by the Tim Burton's stories, the author puts table glass and drink glass into a completely new position – into a performance of illusions in which the value of the applied arts disappears. At the same time, she took serially-produced objects (teapots, vases) and added rather unobtrusive, yet precise and hand-made details (lemons, teabags).

Barbora Dvořáková / "On the Way to Heaven..."

For Barbora Dvořáková, a jewel can be a source of inspiration, protection, memories, calming effects, beauty or playfulness. Her works reflect her sensitive nature. Made of three types of white feathers, the "On the Way to Heaven..." series is light, fragile and sensitive. The author tries to offer the jewel holders a nice feeling provoked by the jewels – the atmosphere of balance, peace and delight found in beauty. The character of the jewels is also supposed to "protect" the owner from negative aspects of everyday life. Thanks to this collection of jewels, anybody can spend at least a while in "heaven".

Zdeňka Fusková / Apertures

Zdeňka Fusková has been engaging in the technique of light-exposed shadows of stained glass for a long time. Her interior mood makers introduce a pleasant atmosphere in the flat. Thanks to the carefully broken and re-glued glass, the author reconstructs the vanishing sceneries of her hometown. The glass tree trunks are highly demanding to make, and copy the real size of the original trees. What emerge are marvellous "illustrated" records of memories of a landscape that has been almost destroyed by industrialization.

Jan Grabowski / "Is this like an Art or Something?"

The "Is this like an Art or Something?" project introduces a series of T-shirts representing one of the simplest forms of clothes. T-shirts as products do not tend to represent great values, neither from the content point of view, nor from the material one; viewers usually deem them to be visually and culturally useless products. Although T-shirts are part of our everyday lives, we do not pay much attention to them. Grabowski's T-shirts, presented in pictures, have prints on them and speak about various topics, such as the position of an artist without any image, rejection of the accepted values of taste, the visual value of the tools of expression and other issues.

Kristýna Horáčková / Protectors

Living in the age of consumerism, we require our things to be multifunctional. The jewels from the *Protectors* series by Kristýna Horáčková are not merely decorative. Their aesthetical and applied function has an added value to it – a protective one. The author has experimented with materials, finally deciding to use the Nano Cord reflexive material. The jewels are plaited and knitted from basalt threads, a specific kind of technical silk that is flexible and firm at the same time.

Daniel Kinský / Profane

The working title of the project by Daniel Kinský, "The most Attractive Vase in the World", reflects the author's view of vases as interior accessories, often decorated with attractive ornaments. Instead of working with the surface as a whole, the author turns to the lively world of gambling machines and fairgrounds. On the simple and almost classic shape of a white vase, Kinský directly uses "playful" colourful lights to attract the viewers' attention. The visual (pop-art) work inspired by everyday life touches both the issues of human wants and the issues of design as a formal decoration stripped from its applied functions.

Kateřina Kobrlová / Authorial Jewels

The series of jewels made of sheet glass is based on the contrast between geometrical shapes and the soft human body. Kateřina Kobrlová is primarily interested in the issues of wearability. The individual parts of the thin and easily "destructible" material are connected with a crude construction element – metal screws. Used in architecture and reflecting the industrial era, glass and metal disturb and almost deform the natural moves of the wearers, making them subordinate to the object and static.

Tomáš Krejčí / Inflatables I

The series of inflatable lights was created in collaboration with the Fatra Napajedla company (one of the first processors of plastics in the Czech Republic, famous for their inflatable toys). Tomáš Krejčí studies the properties of glass, its fragility and transparency, and wraps it into, or protects it with, an outer inflatable pillow. The individual parts of the plastic film are welded together and after inflation, they "trap" the source of light inside. At the same time, the sharp edges of the glass object pose a threat to the outer film, as they could easily pierce it. The result is a tension between both the materials used and the artwork and design.

Kateřina Kučerová / Instrument

The curious player by Kateřina Kučerová is a variation of the classical gramophone and provides many with an unknown experience of perceiving the music. The mechanical machine leads the sound through our bones thanks to a special pickup arm the perceiver one must bite into. The steel pickup arm with a needle moves around the groove in the record, vibrating. These vibrations are transmitted through teeth and the skull into the inner ear where they result in a real sound. The object requires specific manipulation; the users wanting to experience this kind of art must be informed about it in advance.

Jakub Neufuss / Stick from the Jizerske Mountains

Sticks are part of the series of the jewels from the Jizerske Mountains which uses the authenticity of this landscape. Jakub Neufuss uses wood found outside where it is subject to time and weather, and combines it with clear crystals and components made by the Preciosa company. Thanks to the clear glass elements which optically enlarge and deform the structure of the ash wood at the same time, we can see the mountain landscape with new eyes. Jakub Neufuss creates together with Jan Salanský under the brand of SKUBB.

Kateřina Rýdlová / Feel Free to Touch

The minimalistic interactive installation Feel Free to Touch by Kateřina Rýdlová communicates with the viewers through magnetic liquid. After a viewer touches the linear potentiometer, liquid in an opaxit glass bowl starts vibrating, mediating a contact between the viewer and the object. Using this playful interaction,

the author points out certain objectivity and the "touch" which is required from design, although it is not necessary all the time.

Nikol Rýdlová / Recycling

As the title suggests, the Recycling object reacts to reuse of objects. The recycling process is based on the motif of connecting individual parts – common and basic objects of everyday use – into a new visual experience. The white glass bottles connected with a wooden block, representing both the middle and the barrier, have a rather minimalistic potential. The materials used are always smooth and fragile, almost fugacious, which is underlined by the simple ties holding the bottles together.

David Sivý / 2

The 2 project points out how important relationships and communication between two people are in our fast-moving times. The product is a unique work in the world of communication technologies. David Sivý uses well-known technological procedures in an unusual, creative way. At the same time, he tries to leave the ego of a designer behind and leaves the final form of the products completely up to the nature.

Jitka Ticháčková / Heart

The collection of meditative objects "touching the soul" is a naïve yet warm-hearted attempt to warm human hearts up and make them as similar to the unspoiled hearts of children as possible. Jitka Ticháčková, a jewel-maker creating under the "Je ticho" brand, has been inspired by Ovoce Čok (The Chock Fruit), a book by Anna Pleštilová, and by the writer's implications of the gradual losing of sensitivity. To warm our hearts up, we must be part of the ritual from the very beginning. When the ritual starts, the heart is white and the object must be covered in certain pigment to make its surface colourful and "warm". The visually attractive surface work achieved by flocking (applying textile cuts on glue-covered surfaces) creates an unbroken, soft layer.

Kryštof Vitner / Self-mop

What is it like to be a rag, a mop? That is the question asked by Kryštof Vitner who created his own mop for his performance. He puts his Self-mop on and wipes the gallery in front of the preview as his exhibit presentation. He collects all impurities, gets covered in them, wrings and continues in collecting. The final recordings of the performance and the object itself, based on a product, an object of daily use, represent both author's experience and the answer to the question asked. And the conclusion is: It is not easy to be a mop.

Ivana Zuskinová & Lenka Mlynářčiková & Matúš Opálka / latex - indi

The trio of authors primarily focuses on the possibility of overcoming boundaries when working with an unusual material: latex. The new technological procedures enable them to create their own yard goods that are then composed into interior products, site-specific installations and object paintings. The Lúčetone group tries to disrupt stereotypes connected to this specific material and its usage and realistic and functional interior products. The space boundary between light and shadow becomes softer and then disappears.

Adéla Machová & Dana Zikmundová

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