

Prague's DSC Gallery will again be infused with the smell of lacquer.

The renowned Czech contemporary artist Milan Houser who is also the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Brno returns to the gallery with his new exhibition titled Pictura Naturans. He is well known for his objects which he creates from specially mixed varnishes that he layers into refined and unforeseen paintings.

Thanks to their long drying process, the works can develop over two to three years. "If I would replace the varnish, it would cease to work. It's still a painting medium... the new layer dissolves the bottom layer. From the result I still gain a haptic and optical impression that it is a painting, and not plastic, which would look cheap," says Milan Houser about his "signature" material. "It's important to me that it is essentially about the time of sedimentation. The type of quality a person normally does not get. I'm not saying that you cannot create a good painting in five or ten minutes however, in this case time is an added value. Because time can be simply seen within the works," he explains.

The exhibition Pictura Naturans reveals new principles which in recent years appear in his work. "The new paintings by Milan Houser are stretched on frames or skeletons, like impregnated skin. Aspects of the body, mechanisms and colored materials intersect. The placement of paintings on autonomous structures or skeletons suggest their potential mobility. They are not fully confined by the gallery space. The paintings maintain something of an animal, elemental „attitude“. The "colours of skin" mounted on metal structures also associates with the principles of a cyborg or biotechnology, strife and the intertwining of the organic and technical," says the curator of the exhibition Vaclav Hajek.

In addition to his lacquer paintings Houser's objects which consist of bronze castings of sprouted potatoes resemble strange creatures from sci-fi films. These objects are an integral part of Houser's exhibition and are installed in specially designed showcases by architects and designers from Studio Olgoj Chorchoj.

"It is clear that from his previous exhibition with us Milan Houser has made a big shift within his work. This corresponds indeed, with the international interest, which we have seen in recent months from collectors, from Austria and Italy," confirms Peter Šec from DSC Gallery, that it is an exhibition of an artist, who is worth watching, amid the complex transparent world of contemporary art.