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„Milan Chabera is a substantive painter, illustrator, he is an excellent figuralist.“

author: PhDr. Alena Hejlová

Painter, illustrator and sculptor Milan Chabera has been able to outline his approach to his creative thought and characteristic expression and he has been developing that ever since. The author continues somewhat in the line of the European tradition of expressionism and new figurative genres. His creative style is characterised by a rational construction that is infused with lyrical emotional potential, both being driven by a very refined painter foundation and richly diverse colour spectrum.

The paintings of Milan Chabera belong with their attributes to the contemporary world. They won't allow us a careless passing by. They pull us in with their juicy colourfulness and their crisp and intense stylization. Right after that we notice the inner tension of lines and we follow their strong meaning. All those motives – precise details and grand stories – of Chabera's visual complex multitude are blending together, crossing each other and they surprise with their colour variations and unexpected chords. Depending on the reflected subject the painter's palette features bright red and yellow, beige tones and heavy dark greys and blacks. The first look is enough to be touched by how striking all this is. Strong colour tones are pushing forward and the roughly overlaid textures are highlighting a shocking vitality, capability and overwhelming energy. The stories the real life brings are also found in quiet, lyric expressions depicted through soft colour tones and they speak about the most inner side of the author.

Chabera also experiments with non-painter materials. He mixes oil paints with gold dust, chalk, he uses various types of collage. He works paper and textile components into the paintings' base with an incredible invention and ability.

Chabera's work is a result of clashes of moods, observations and reflections that are sourced in the most diverse situations of the painter's life. The author works through his emotions and experiences and he turns them into a visual state. His work has clear rules, he does not experiment wildly, he does not waste overwhelmingly, he is inclined towards specific events that he experienced himself and that he considers vital. The complex experiences gained through these psychological probes are woven into the painted compositions.

Milan Chabera is a substantive painter, illustrator and an excellent figuralist. The themes in his drawings and paintings don't really change that much, next to his inclusion of landscape and still-life aspects he is singularly devoted to figurative compositions and portraits. His work has its sources and origins as we mentioned above, but it also remains strangely authentic. The central core is the work with the body which he simplifies and reduces to basic symbolic shapes or he stylises it in response to the depicted events. Even in the most abstract and lightly suggested compositions he always manages to keep a visible connection to the portrayed reality. Amongst the lines and the colour areas there are more or less clearly visible contours and features of a body or a face .

When the author deals with sensations a strong silhouette of a character appears along with hand gestures or often only the strong face remains without the unnecessary body. His expressively firm signature that he uses to form figural motives is placed within a neutral schematic yet intricately worked background that has lost its spatial function and is an organic component of the painted symbolics.

His generous large format paintings with a more or less clear compositional solution and expressive divisions of large surfaces convince the audience about the essential need for large format compositions. Working on a large canvas with figures in various states of motion that is where Chabera is at his best. His sense for optical objectivity and compositional order never let the painting to become just chaos.

The artistic profile of Milan Chabera includes also results in other creative disciplines that have their own autonomous world but also influence and enrich each other. The drawings are not just preparations for the paintings, but they are a coherent self standing expression that reach a painting-like quality with their rich colour spectrum, a calligraphic emotional line and a spatial expression typical of the author. The broadness of his artistic outlook is underlined by his sculptural objects. The painter has a strong modelling potential and he channels it into spatial expression that takes place under his fingers in clay or wax before being cast in bronze.

Chabera's painting, drawing and sculpture work are all processes that he uses to record his own life experience. He does not only portray reality, but he tries to unveil the deeper layers of memory, he follows immediate inspiration and the precious moment of personal search in an environment that surrounds him. The whole of his configurations are composed of fragments, details and compilations that complete each other, overlap each other and create mutual boundaries. Despite the expressive features and excessive colour his work is full of clear emotion and is exceptionally cultivated, open and understandable.

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