

The painter of my time

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Milan Chabera – a student of professor Smetana – paints paintings that capture relationships between people in various times and stages. Human characters are set into their natural environments, they are portrayed on streets or in an interior, in agreement, in an understanding or in a conflict. The painter takes inspiration from daily life and random passer-bys. He observes with great interest the lives of other people including their problems, difficulties and their happiness and success. He is fascinated by different characters and goes to observe their typical features that differentiate them, unite them or make them stand out. The immediate moment is his key interest as he always exactly captures it in the expressions in the character's faces.

Sometimes he concentrates on more specific portraits into which he projects his insight into people's nature and uses his sense for essential shortcut. The experiences built with such psychological probes are then built up into larger compositions. The painter is also focused on the relationships between men and women and their complexity and ambiguity. He shows that they can be influenced and eventually broken by a third person.

During the years of his work Chabera develops his characteristic expression that blends in itself a great sense of hyperbole with a formulation of moods and environments. An important element in his work is the juxtaposition of attitudes, disharmonic sparkles and tensions connected with unusual moments that we experience in our lives. The facial expressions contain not only immediate responses to certain actions, but also life-long experiences that shape the character. A rough deformation of forms reveals the character and openly expresses attitudes inscribed into the face's features.

To convey his emotions of various connections and his opinion from varied social situations the painter uses a sophisticated range of color tones that give his work such temperate appeal. When needed he also accentuates color contrasts to create more drama or aggression. He finds ways to express himself efficiently, with apparent lightness but always very clearly and recognizably. His sculptural volumes are underlined with expressive hatching patterns. Rich systems of graphical lines accompany chords of colour and sometimes even dominate the colour. The painter sculpts shapes of characters that step out of a real or imaginary space using not only brushes, but also palette-knives, spatulas or even hands.

The paint work of Milan Chabera is so diverse in themes and techniques and it clearly proves that tradition and completely new ways of expression can be brought together. His work is based on traditional values but convincingly speaks to contemporary audience.