

## **Street Art and Its Influence on Contemporary Czech Painting**

Street art as a concept refers to an artistic expression, which is, however, not defined by one homogenous technique or subject. The only attribute that conjoins the diverse forms and subjects of street art is a very specific urban area utilization. Although street art encompasses many diverse forms and techniques, the most prevalent ones are sticker art, street posters art, stencil graffiti, murals, traditional graffiti artwork, art intervention, guerrilla art, street installations, yarn bombing, LED art, video projection and flash mobbing. Street art can be a powerful platform for reaching the public, and frequent themes include adusting, subvertising and other culture jamming, the abolishment of private property and reclaiming the streets.

Street art, because of its short history, is hard to define in terms of origin. However, it is often mentioned that street art descended from the modern graffiti that first appeared in the New York City, in the United States during the 1960's. Graffiti is usually connected with the artist personas such as Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat.

The most influential contemporary street artists are e.g. Blek le Rat, Banksy, Shepard Fairey, D\*Face, Blu, Swoon, Os Gêmeos, Neck Face, JR, Above, Invader, Alexandros Vasmoulakis, Joshua Allen Harris, Dan Witz, Brad Downey and Herbert Baglione.

Street art, unlike fine art, develops in a very organic way, outside the institutionalized system. For a past few years it has attracted rather considerable attention of the public, media and even fine art scholars. Street art has slowly become a socially acceptable form of illegal art, so to speak.

The significance of street art is also demonstrated in its impact on advertisement or design. The influence of street art can be traced in the work of several authors of contemporary Czech painting, including Josef Bolf, Jiří Franta, David Böhm, Jakub Janovský, Jakub Hošek, Anežka Hošková, Ladislava Gažiová, Jakub Matuška, Jan Kaláb and Martin Kohout. Street art means an influence on the used technique for some of them and a direct topic inspiration for others.

Contemporary art

Street art

Graffiti

Czech painting

Prague