

ELIŠKA JAKUBÍČKOVÁ
SOLACE

20/11/2019 – 1/2/2020
GALLERY U PRSTENU

Curator of the exhibition: Lucie Šiklová

Eliška Jakubíčková is one of the most prominent representatives of the current Czech expressionist painting. She is a master of the calligraphic gesture on a large format. Her gestic formulations are the result of a well thought-out and deeply experienced meaning of the portrayed, thus they are not merely a hollow painter's gesture. On her canvas, she gives form and volume to entities which one typically does not connect these very parameters, like fear, pain, joy, closeness, kindness, compassion. The message of her art is thus conveyed by a chain of titles of her key paintings, after which her exhibitions are usually named. Through her paintings, she offers the unique opportunity to experience almost physically their heaviness or lightness. This collection of monumental expressionist paintings, created for the most part during 2019, and complemented, for the sake of context, with a few older ones, is interconnected by a common thread running through them all – Solace.

If we follow closely the titles of Eliška Jakubíčková's exhibitions, we will easily find out the one central theme that preoccupies and permeates her artwork. The artist has for a very long time been set on exploring and probing in depth the age-old topic of humanity, its conditionality as well as its exaltation. Biblical themes, liberated from the traditional confessional connotations, gain here a very timely and essential relevance. St. Paul's `God is love` stops being a mere repeated evangelical rhetoric, and suddenly compels us to think about it on a much deeper level. In this hectic and self-centred age when one is drowned in the liquidity of the surrounding world, when the general confusion and clamour often blur even one's own inner world, the message of Jakubíčková comes as a remedy, as an antidote and much-needed solace.

Lucie Šiklová