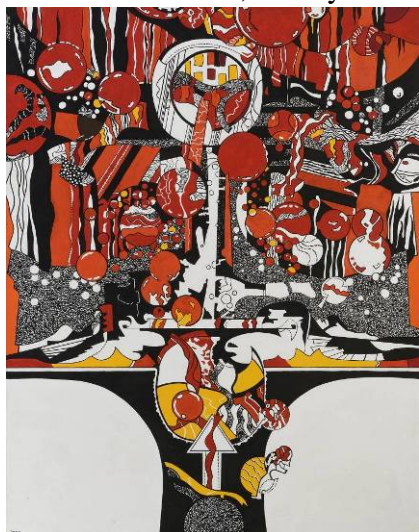


Press Release

“WRAINTER” JAROSLAV SERPAN: BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE

Jaroslav Serpan’s artwork is on display in many prestigious galleries around the globe. But he’s almost unknown in the country of his origin, the Czech Republic. Retrospective exhibition “Between Art and Science” will take place from February 19 until April 12 in Prague's Museum Kampa. It is a first large presentation of this truly versatile artist. The exhibition is organized under the auspices of the French Ambassador in the Czech Republic, His Excellence Jean-Pierre Asvazadourian. The vernissage of the exhibition will be attended by the daughter of the painter Ms. Katia Vinot Sossountzov.

Jaroslav Serpan’s artwork places him among the founders of postwar abstraction and postmodernism. He called himself a “wrainter”, because in terms of importance of his art, he did differentiate between his paintings and texts. He uses fictitious language to name his paintings with masterfully blended colors and principles of order and chaos. Almost one hundred artworks, mostly on large canvas, will be presented as a part of exhibition



“BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE.” *“Jaroslav Serpan originality and uniqueness speaks to art lovers around the world. Thanks to this exhibition, his work will be finally presented to the Czechs,”* says Jiří Pospíšil, board member of Museum Kampa.

Jaroslav Serpan was primarily a successful painter, but also a poet, writer, critic and respected scientist. His life was full of twists. *“He was born in 1922 in Karlštejn and his parents were doctors, who emigrated from tsarist Russia in 1917. Three years later, they all move to France. But the French do not recognize Russian medical degrees. The family is relocated to the colonies of Dahomey, where his father begins to work with Albert Schweitzer,”* says organizer of the exhibition David Železný, BEAUX ARTS company.

After returning to Paris, Jaroslav Serpan studies

mathematics and biology at the Sorbonne, where he later works as a professor. He changes his birth name Sossountzov to Serpan, after a snake he caught as a student in the school garden; the name, under he gained his worldwide fame. Even though he considers himself of a Czech origin, he visits Czechoslovakia in 1947 for the last time during presentation of his artwork at Prague’s version of “Surréalisme en 1947: Exposition internationale du surréalisme.”

“Jaroslav Serpan’s carrier in fine arts is launched at the end of 1940’s, when he shortly engages in surrealism. He then diverts from this movement and follows a new path along with art theoretician Michel Tapié and other artists, for example Georges Mathieu, Antoni Tapies, Jackson Pollock or Hans Hartung,” explains Jitka Šosová, exhibition curator. Their work is a foundation for the whole postwar abstraction and postmodernism. Art Informel, which arises in France, aims to demolish traditional concepts of art and composition with emphasis on spontaneity, irrationality and freedom. “In the 1960’s, Serpan is already renowned worldwide, has dozens of solo exhibitions, and also exhibits with his colleagues. His work constantly develops and in the 60’s, he emphasizes color, mainly the color red, and focuses on exploring artistic possibilities of textures,” says Jitka Šosová. Serpan radically changes his style in 1970, when he abandons abstraction of Art Informel and begins to create artwork in a distinctive style of Pop Art. He creates fairly large canvases of permeating fragments of the outside world and geometric shapes. His work comes to an abrupt end with dramatic event. In 1976, he disappears during his annual holiday in Pyrenees. His remains are recovered only many years later, and a fall from a cliff is determined as a cause of death.



Even though Jaroslav Serpan is internationally renowned and his artwork is sold in auctions around the globe, this is the first large presentation of his art in the Czech Republic. *The exhibition consists mainly of art pieces from private collection, which was purchased from Serpan’s estate by a Czech collector last year. Other art pieces were also lent by Czech collectors,*” explains David Železný. Jaroslav Serpan’s



artwork is presented in most prestigious galleries around the world, for example the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Guggenheim Museum in New York, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Israel Museum in Jerusalem; in Europe, the Ludwig Museum in Cologne and Vienna’s MuMoK (Museum Moderner Kunst).

Exhibition Jaroslav Serpan: BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE is open from February 19 until April 12. at Museum Kampa.

Exhibition Organizer	Museum Kampa and BEAUX ARTS Agency
Exhibition Authors and Curators	David Železný (BEAUX ARTS), David Karásek Jitka Šosová (External Curator of Museum Kampa)
Graphic Designer	Rostislav Sládek
Architect	Vojtěch Rada
Narrative Monograph Author	Jitka Šosová

For more information, go to www.museumkampa.cz.