

## Uwe Hand / Painter

### Exhibition of works by Uwe Hand

**Organizer:** Galerie Cermak Eisenkraft, [cermakeisenkraft.com](http://cermakeisenkraft.com)

**Project authors:** Uwe Hand, Tomáš Zapletal and David Železný

**Location:** Pop Up gallery Cermak Eisenkraft - SmetanaQ,  
Smetanovo nábřeží 4, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic

**Duration:** 30. 11. 2018 - 14. 2. 2019

« *Whoever proclaimed or proclaims that painting is dead has first of all no idea about the nature of painting, or art for that matter...* » (Till Richter)

The Cermak Eisenkraft Gallery, located in the premises of its POP-UP SmetanaQ gallery, continues its series of unique projects and initiates an exhibition of the German figurative artist Uwe Hand. The exhibition entitled "Painter", presents a retrospective of the work of the artist from the 1990s to today. The subject matter is that of landscapes, people, animals and buildings. The artist's father was an architect someone from whom he gleaned an intimate knowledge and insight into perspective. Long fascinated by the still life genre and Dutch baroque painting, the paintings of Hand emphasize a remarkable sense of atmosphere and studied composition. With an immediate sense of affective light and shadows Hand's paintings permeate and uncanny immanence that falls short of chiaroscuro and tenebrism.

Uwe Hand grew up by the sea in the North of Germany, which has greatly influenced his work. It often symbolizes four primordial elements - Fire, Air, Water, Earth - as fundamental components of the world that ancient philosophy sought to interpret, not only as to natural phenomena, but also in the internal psychical composition of man. Despite the fact that these elements are the constructs of consciousness, they possess a real intuitive palpability.

The painted images depict low horizons and expansive skies, a place where pictorial reality and abstraction meet. It is left open to the viewer as to the selected angle or viewpoint they adopt. Among the most important sources of inspiration for Hand are the American David Lynch's film and art works, something attested in the titles given to Hand's paintings, e.g., *Twin Peaks* (2007). Lynch's quote "*The concept of absurdity is something that attracts me,*" reveals Hand's own shared sense of the uncanny and the absurd. We see a creative space-time of painting, where reality becomes synonymous with dream, and dream with reality.

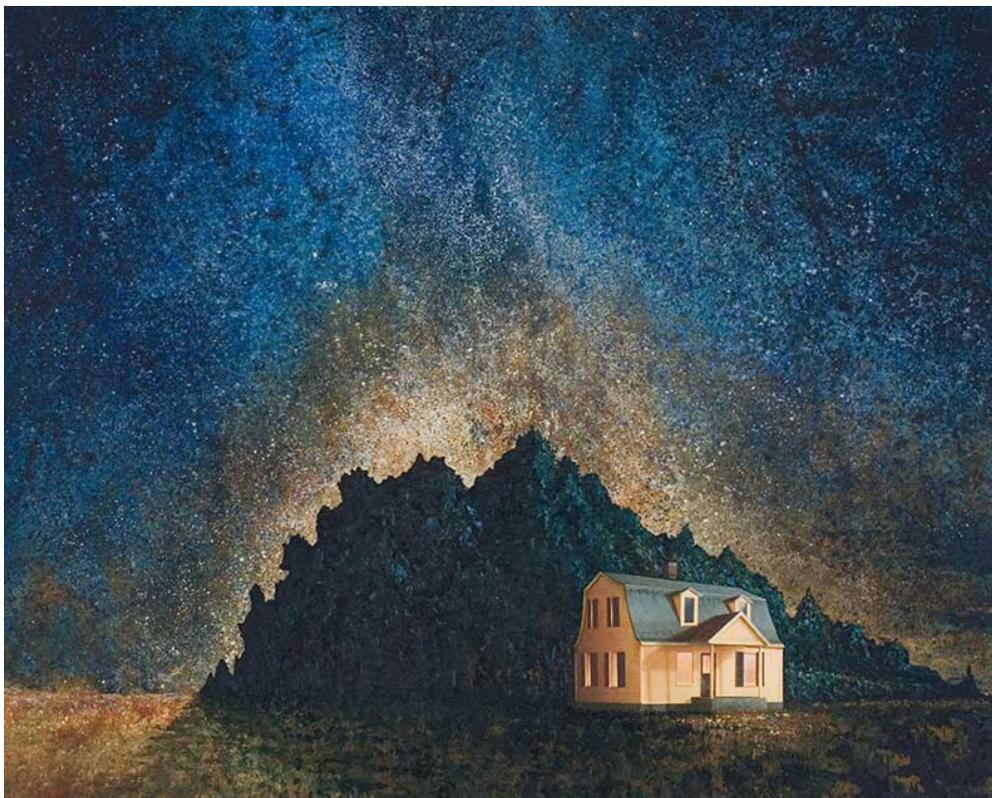
The great power of Hand's images rests therefore on his unique and individual material sources other than those of traditional painting. His allusive use of sand or concrete shows that the adoption of diverse material sources play an important role. The facture of his canvases, saturated and impregnated, reveal innumerable layers of paint and innovative

treatments or techniques using tools that require knowledge, experience a high-level of skill.

« ... His painting is not unlike good rock music, tenderly violent and peacefully loud, it can be ecstatic and is always expressive if often mysterious. It does not only transform its content but it literally moves and transforms the listener or, in this case, the viewer. This is why Uwe Hand is the rock in a sea of painting that sometimes indeed seems like the Dead Sea. Unfazed by those who might, once again, proclaim the death of painting, he sails on ... painting never dies. » (Till Richter)

Entry to SmetanaQ is free throughout the duration of the exhibition.

**High resolution photographs on demand.**



Gregory's House, 2009, mixed techniques on canvas, 200x170 cm, private collection, photo : Siegfried Bueker

**Uwe Hand** (\*1952, Schleswig) lives and works in Berlin. From 1973 and 1980, he studied painting with Ulrich Knispel and Dietmar Lemcke. In 1979, Hand graduated from the School of Art in Berlin (Hochschule der Künste). In 1996, he became the Professor of Painting Techniques at the now renamed University of Fine Arts Berlin (Universität der Künste Berlin - UdK), and has taught also at University of Fine Arts of Barcelona (Universitat des Bellas Artes), University of Provence in Aix-en-Provence, Higher School of Design in Lucerne (Hochschule für Gestaltung), Bauhaus Academy in Weimar, Weissensee Art Academy in Berlin (Kunsthochschule Weissensee), Academy of Arts in Kiel (Kunsthochschule Muthesius).

## Personal exhibitions - selection

2015 *ALLERHAND á la Hand*, Reinhardt&Partner bei Greskewitz/Kleinitz Galerie, Hamburg

2014 *HandMade*, Till Richter Museum, Buggenhagen

2013 Galerie Lux Berlin

Associacio Sant Lluc per l' Art de Mataro, Barcelona

Art Karlsruhe avec la galerie Lux Berlin

2011 Galerie Lux Berlin

2006 *Der Anfang und das Ende*, Galerie Claudius, Hamburg (catalogue)

1996 Galerie am Savignyplatz, Berlin

1992 *Die Einsamkeit der Dinge*, Galerie am Savignyplatz, Berlin (catalogue)

1984 Galerie List, Hannover

1983 Kunstverein, Utrecht

## Links:

In Czech Republic, Uwe Hand is represented exclusively by the Cermak Eisenkraft Gallery, Prague

<http://www.uwehand.de/>

<http://tillrichtermuseum.org/>

<https://cermakeisenkraft.com/>

[https://www.instagram.com/cermak\\_eisenkraft/](https://www.instagram.com/cermak_eisenkraft/)

## A Uwe Hand monograph will be published during the exhibition

It includes texts by Dr. Till Richter (founder and director of the Till Richter museum in Buggenhagen, Germany), who turned his passion into a profession, after graduating in the history of classical art at the Sorbonne in Paris, he subsequently became a professor at the American university. Also Mark Gisbourne (Senior Lecturer in Post-war and Contemporary Art, University of London, and visiting professor to numerous university institutions between 1987 and 2013. As a Former President of the British Section (AICA) - International Association of Art Critics - 1994-1997, he is the author of more than 250 books and catalogues on modern and contemporary art, along with numerous magazine articles and reviews in print, radio, and various film media (including the BBC in London).

The interview between Uwe Hand and the gallerist Tomáš Zapletal, attempts to encapsulate the central themes of the artist's work and forms an important contribution to the monograph.

## About the gallery

The Cermak Eisenkraft Gallery was established in 2013 with the ambition to become a major player in the field of post-war and contemporary Czech art as well as world art. Founders Tomáš Zapletal and David Železný, are independently active in the Czech art market, and have as their main goal and ambition the creation of a trustworthy,

reputable and internationally important institution. An institution that engages with creatively demanding art work, and which contributes to the promotion and expansion of the art market in the Czech Republic. The CE Foundation, now in its second year supports both Czech and foreign artists in their activities and actively cooperates with the gallery. For example, the foundation has supported the following artists: Magdalena Jetelova, Milan Kunc, Jiří Černický, Šimon Brejcha, Martin Velíšek, and František Matoušek among others.

Currently, the gallery owns two exhibition venues in Prague:

. Gallery Cermak Eisenkraft, Dlouhá 12, Praha 1

. POP UP gallery, Smetanovo nábřeží 4, Praha 1, 3. patro domu Smetana Q

## About the exhibition venue

### Location History

The apartment building in a Classical style was built on the right bank of the Vltava in the years of 1846 - 47, and was developed from a project undertaken by the architect Bernhard Grueber. The ferryman's lodge No. 334 was on the site of the present house—the number being transferred to the new house and retained until today. The South side the house is bordered by a small bay of the river. It therefore slopes on this side according to its plan of design. Originally the bay was used as a river port for local masonry. After the development of the wharf, the bay eventually disappeared and Lažanský Palace is today in its place where you find the Faculty of Cinema and Television AMU. While the building was originally designed as a residential building, gradually through several renovations and transformations, it has in the twentieth century become an office building. Among the owners of the house were V.J. Rott, a Prague shipping company (Pražská paroplavební společnost), and the Czech Air Traffic Control Directorate (Řízení letového provozu ČR).

### New life in the house on Smetanovo nabrezi (Smetana quay)

In 2013, the building was damaged by a strong gas explosion in Divadelní Street nearby. The original owner secured the house with extensive repairs, and then subsequently sold it. At the moment, part of the waterfront house, Smetana Quay, has been completely rebuilt. Its opposite side, giving out into Divadelní Street is still inaccessible and, for reasons of stability, it is difficult to know at this time when it will be possible to fully use the second part of the house. The cultural vision of the current building combines galleries and conference venues, young designers and shops in the lower part, while also facilitating gourmet coffee and extended refreshments at Café & Bistro SmetanaQ.

### Contacts :

# Cermak Eisenkraft

---

Tomáš Zapletal – Čermák, 00420 608 713 536, tom@cermakeisenkraft.com  
David Železný – Eisenkraft, 00420 732 489 824, david@cermakeisenkraft.com  
Renata Leroy-Vávrová, 00420 723 740 731, office@cermakeisenkraft.com