

Jakub Matuška aka Masker



One of the leading Czech artists of his generation, the Prague-born Jakub Matuška aka Masker (b. 1981) started out with graffiti and street art and today focuses primarily on painting and drawing, occasionally crossing over into sculpture, video, installations and public interventions.

Since 2013 he has been blending his boyish, ironic and poetic reflections on contemporary urban life with an examination of his own holistic experience. The persistent question 'how should a person be?' serves as the foundation for his ever-inquiring exploration into the fraught relationship between image and language, as well as between painting and drawing, and into the different capabilities these media possess in making sense of our surroundings. More than a decade of combining traditional painting techniques, computer manipulation of handdrawn sketches and the use of an airbrush on large canvases have allowed Matuška to explore questions of flatness and depth, solid and liquid, digital and analogue, transient and eternal, symbolic and everyday, and charming and confusing, creating his own rhetoric and dismantling conceptual and formal certainties in the process.

In 2010 Matuška was a finalist for the most prestigious Czech prize for young artists, the Jindřich Chalupecký Award. The following year, he won the National Gallery in Prague's 333 Award. His work represented Czechia at World Expo pavilions in Shanghai (2010) and Osaka (2025). In Japan, he created a 250-metre-long site-specific installation that connected the humanist legacy of Alfons Mucha's attributes of love, reason, and wisdom with a message for future society.

His work has been exhibited internationally.
Matuška lives in Prague, Czech Republic

born 1981

www.jakubmatuskaakamasker.com

Education

2003–2009 Painting II Studio of Vladimír Skrepl, Academy of Fine Arts in Prague

2008 Residency at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York

2007 Residency at Middlesex University, London

Jakub Matuška aka Masker

Solo exhibitions (selection)

2025	Beings like him, Pekelné sáně Gallery, Kroměříž
2025	First We Ran Out of Gas, Then We Crashed, Václav Špála Gallery, Prague
2024	A Shocking Experience Behind the Curtain, Czech Center, London
2023	The Sphere, Or You'll Pass Ten Stones on the Way to the Abyss, Villa Pelle Gallery, Prague
2023	When the Wings of Swallows Obliterate a Granite Block from the Face of the Earth, South Bohemian Gallery, Hluboká nad Vltavou
2019	Flowers in Our Hands, The Prague House, Brussels
2018	Breathe, Motherfucker!, DSC Gallery, Prague
2017	#ideal #blackorwhiteisalright #life #onpaper #nofilter, DSC Gallery, Prague
2017	An Energy Figure Created in Photoshop, Galerie Dukan, Leipzig
2015	The Red Gentleman Leaves on the Water and the Devil Wears Paddles, DSC Gallery, Prague
2014	View from the Skull, Galerie Dukan, Paris
2013	Let Me Tell You Why My Head Is Swelling, DSC Gallery, Prague
2012	Tree Growing from His Ear!, DSC Gallery, Prague
2012	Tree Growing from His Ear!, Red Gallery, London
2011	My Self, GAVU, Cheb
2010	If You Ever Needed Something in Your Life, Go Buy It, Jelení Gallery, Prague
2009	Masker, Kabinet, Zlín
2008	ŇU ŇU ŇU ŇU – NEW YORK, Karlin Studios, Prague
2008	Drawings, KO Salon, Prague
2008	Simulant, A.M.180 Gallery, Prague
2007	Kamuky na Kamuky, Bodhi Gallery, London
2006	Fax You! (with Martin Fischer), Třafačka (Trafo Gallery), Prague
2006	No Discount (with Pasta), Nábřeží Gallery, Prague
2005	This Is Klára, Tereza, She's Been Already Fired and Petra, We Call Her Píďa, etc. Gallery, Prague

Jakub Matuška aka Masker

Group exhibitions (selection)

2025	One Strike to Heaven, Miroslav Kubík Gallery, Litomyšl
2025	Humanity, Panství Bechyně, Bechyně
2025	Things Will Happen While They Can, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan
2024	Let It GROW Again!, Aleš South Bohemian Gallery, Hluboká nad Vltavou
2024	Mucha Today, Gočár Gallery, Automatické mlýny, Pardubice
2023	Rider, Magnus Art Gallery, Prague
2022	Wall Street, Villa Pelle, Prague
2021	CAN/VAS Gallery of Pilsen, Pilsen
2020	LUCA2020, Karpuchina Gallery, Prague
2020	While Supplies Last, Bellevue Arts Museum, Seattle
2020	Artikl, GASK, Kutná Hora
2018	The Audience Has Award, TIC Gallery, Brno
2017	Projektil 33, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague
2016	REVERSE, DSC Gallery, Prague
2015	Glassplus à la Borges aneb Zrcadlo a maskáč, DSC Gallery, Prague
2015	Et Cetera, MAXXI Museum, Rome
2014	Paper Obsessed + 2, DSC Gallery, Prague
2013	Et Cetera, Italian Cultural Institute, Prague
2012	SVEART, Saint Vincent European Art, Valle D'Aosta
2012	Stuck on the City, Prague City Gallery, Municipal Library, Prague
2011	333 Award, National Gallery, Prague
2011	Pátý přes devátý, Trafačka (Trafo Gallery), Prague
2010	Jindřich Chalupecký Award, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague
2010	Metropolis, DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague
2010	Trouble with Love, DSC Gallery, Prague
2010	EXPO 2010, Shanghai
2009	Contemporary Drawing Košice>Prague> Budapest, Labor Gallery, 2. patro Gallery, Kasárne/Kulturpark
2009	NA.PRO.TI.TO.MU, The Chemistry Gallery, Prague
2009	We Believe in Crisis, Trafačka (Trafo Gallery), Prague

Jakub Matuška aka Masker

Group exhibitions (selection)

2009	Exhibition of Graduates of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, National Gallery, Prague
2009	The A Critics' Award for Young Painting, The Gallery of Art Critics, Prague
2008	Tina B – The Prague Contemporary Art Festival, Prague
2008	Names International Street Art Festival, Prague
2008	INTRO 518 TEĎ 69 TEĎ* TEĎ 180 BONUS Q TRACK!, Karlin Studios, Prague
2007	Street Art, Školská 28, Prague
2006	Tina B – The Prague Contemporary Art Festival, Prague
2006	Painting II Studio exhibition, NOD Gallery, Prague
2006	Comics, Gallery NOD, Prague
2005	Subculture, Mystic Skate Cup, Prague