

TZ



Jonas Burgert
Stirn sticht
6 May – 7 July 2023

Exhibition curator: Karolína Juřicová

Featuring foreign artists next to the best-known Czech ones, the long-term exhibition programme of DSC Gallery continues with a new project. Nonetheless, the gallery has not yet presented an artist of such paramount importance as Jonas Burgert. The Berlin-based artist created an eight-metre painting and nearly twenty canvases and drawings for the DSC Gallery's greatest event of this season entitled *Stirn sticht*.

After a year and a half of preparation, Jonas Burgert, an artist known for creating monumental paintings and extensive sculptures, will be having a big Czech premiere in 2023. His successful Berlin peers Martin Eder, Michael Kunze, and Anselm Reyle have exhibited their artworks in DSC Gallery in the past few years. The gallery's next logical step is to embark on the future path with a top-class artist with original painting talent. For the very first time, the wider public will have an opportunity to visit an exhibition of the Berlin magician who will bring his works, tailor-made for the Prague gallery's space, from his factory hangar in Berlin's quarter Weissensee. Entitled *Stirn sticht*, the exhibition will strike the audience by a stunning nest of colours that will sting them in the forehead.

'I am thrilled by the exhibition space and amazed by its generosity. I put the exhibition with the Prague gallerists on my list very shortly after our encounter. I squeezed in the date for my first solo exhibition in Prague prior to my expected institutional exhibition abroad,' said Jonas Burgert, paying tribute to the gallerists. Collectors yearning for his paintings have been put on a waiting list, a common practice of artists in great demand, such as Neo Rauch. Influenced by the Freudian psychoanalyses and contemporary pop-culture narrative of David Lynch, Burgert went through a passion for philosophy. He has always fostered an interest in Friedrich Nietzsche but he preferred developing his ideas in painting compositions. 'Prague is a magic city that has sustained a strong matrix of intellect, learning, and knowledge since the Gothic era. Throughout history, no artist was left cold to it, many were captivated,' Burgert adds in the interviews.

It is evident that the local art market grows fast, expanding beyond the Czech Republic. As a result, the current programme of the gallery transforms: 'A broader spectrum of interest in foreign art is a signal for us. The potential and prosperity of Czech collectors encourage us to dive into uncharted waters and try to create a new context for Czech art. An interest in foreign artists, who impart credibility to Czech artists, is both a surprise and a dream come true. They foster mutual respect and grow together,' the gallery's director Edmund Čučka explains.

What is the exhibition curator's perspective of the genius painter? Karolína Juřicová compares Burgert to the Czech painter of epics: 'I dared to call Jonas Burgert a sermoniser of absurdity. In the *Stirn sticht* exhibition catalogue, I relate his art to the great painter Alphonse Mucha, which is the closest connotation with the Czech art scene. Both artists had similar compulsions: to imprint the legacy of humankind on monumental canvases with allusions of wars and key historical moments. Jonas Burgert sets the atmosphere of current global civilisation and the fate of homo sapiens into disintegrated compositions crowded with symbols and intricate messages.'

The grand public opening is scheduled for Saturday, 6 May 2023, 4 pm. Speeches will be delivered by the artist Jonas Burgert and the exhibition curator Karolína Juřicová.

Jonas Burgert (* 1969)

Born in Berlin, the German artist has been working in his birthplace since the dawn of his career. He is a descendant of Hans-Joachim Burgert's family. Jonas Burgert graduated from the Berlin Academy of Fine Arts in 1996 and continued to study for the postgraduate title under Professor Dieter Hacker therein. Afterwards, he travelled to Egypt for a study journey. Since 1998, he has displayed his art at multiple group exhibitions around the world. In 2003 he attended the painting biennale in Stockholm. Burgert marked a great success when Christoph Heinrich, then Director of Hamburger Kunsthalle, bought his painting for a large state collection. Burgert showcased his art at the exhibition *Geschichtenerzähler* organised by this institution in 2003. Shortly thereafter, he displayed his works in Saatchi Gallery in London (2006). A gamut of his solo exhibitions in several institutions was launched then: Kunsthalle Tübingen (2010), Kunsthalle Krems (2011), Kestnergesellschaft in Hannover (2013), and the University of Denver, USA. In 2019, Burgert exhibited in the gallery me Collectors Room Berlin together with Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Gerhard Richter, and the same year again when his works were placed alongside Jake & Dinos Chapman, George Condo, and Francisco de Goya. Thomas Olbricht included Jonas Burgert's works in his collection shortly after the artist was brought into public notice. His greatest exhibition was held in Long Museum West Bund in Shanghai. Paintings by Burgert are today in many public collections, including Burger Collection in Hong Kong, Denver Art Museum in the USA, Rubell Family Art Collection in the USA, and Taguchi Art Collection in Japan. Burgert has been ranked among the 1,000 best artists in Germany.