

**Michaela has a classical, beautiful and relatively traditional name. However, what she does is very unusual. She has the unique gift of painting condensation. She creates black and white line drawings by using a "one stroke drawing method" which makes her style, concepts, themes and creations rather exceptional, not only in the Czech Republic but also in Europe and the world over! An astrologer once told her that she was born with "Mozart's aspect" and basically everything she does is just as brilliant as his creations. Michaela Žemličková is without doubt a unique artist. She loves figure drawing without stressing colours or lines. She exhibits both in the Czech Republic and all over the world where she meets many remarkable and kind people who help her in her artistic development. She is the author of the Memorial Sheet for Prague and the Municipal House, and her Black and White exhibition started Lucie Bílá's (one of the most famous singers in the country) tour. She has also illustrated various books, brochures and magazines. In her artistic work she will never stop.**

**Do you come from an artistic family? Did someone from your family have a flair for art?**

I do not come from an artistic family, but due to the fact that my brother is a sculptor, it is highly probable that some artistic genes might have been inherited. Unfortunately none of our ancestors had the opportunity or conditions for artistic development. My brother and I are the only ones who make art for a living.

**Which of the pictures from the early childhood do you remember?**

A cat called Lawrence, a detective and an athlete from a popular cartoon.

**Which painting techniques have you used, and which is closest to you?**

At first, I experimented with acrylic and watercolor, but when I first came to drawing with pen, brush and black ink ... I fell in love, and I've been faithful to this technique for over twenty years. Drawing is a medium that I consider to be the founding technique in art, comparable to Latin in languages.

**Every artistic path is very tricky and we can easily go astray. What helps you to stick to the right direction?**

When you love something or someone and you are doing everything for pleasure, you never even think about this. I love my work. Painting is for me a sense of joy and urge, it is a never-ending story and a miracle cure for me. Painting is my permanent longing.

**It is said that the sacred moment for a painter is when they find themselves standing in front of a white clean canvas preparing to make their first brush stroke.**

Yes, I agree. However, my own experience is entirely different. This sacred moment for me comes spontaneously when my mind is full of various ideas; wondering, pushing themselves into my head as I just reflect on which of them is the most suitable. I have so many ideas that I basically do not manage to "record" them all in my drawings.

**Were you influenced by the works of Ota Janeček?**

I first saw his works during the opening of my first exhibition at the gallery called "U Zlatého kouhoutu" in Prague. I was nicely surprised by the minimalist nude at the entrance to the gallery.

**Can you remember any of the famous figures in the world of art whose work has influenced you or made an impression on you?**

In general, I'm more impressed by sculptors than painters. In fine arts, I was certainly enchanted by Pablo Picasso, but only at the end of his life in his later creations of minimalist sketches. And considering the fact he is no longer among us, I try or dare to develop his work. (*laughter*)

**We usually never forget our first love and first exhibition. How was yours?**

Thank you for your question. Of course, I will not forget. Both were full of joy and emotion ... And I would like to thank again Mrs Mirela Zúkal, the owner of the gallery "U Zlatého kouhoutu" in Prague. She introduced me to the artistic world with her professional and human approach.

**You also exhibit abroad. Is it difficult to present your creations abroad? Is your art understandable in countries with a different history?**

I would compare fine art to music. There are no boundaries in music and the same applies for fine art. I am not concerned with cultural or religious issues, so I think my art is easily understood.

**Can you now describe what a normal day for Michaela Žemličková looks like?**

I live the very ordinary life of a caring mum and wife. Every day in our family is completely different. But this is a known fact for every mother with two or more children. And in the meantime, I keep working.

**How would you proportion the craft work, idea or invention in your drawings?**

I think the idea of each work should be a priority for each author (of a video, songs, etc...). The most demanding but also the most interesting work for me is to "reshape" the idea by using my own game of lines. I do not feel it to be a craftsman's hard work, I do not suffer, I just enjoy creating. I usually stop when I start to erase more than I draw.

**How do artists find their studio? Is this your first studio or have you already moved to a better studio?**

I have my own studio at home. I often hear that I should have a studio at another location, to isolate myself, but I can only concentrate on my work at home. There, I have everything in one place ... I can work, cook and also be part of my family circle; feeling the closeness of my family which I need in my life.

**Chinese and Japanese painters preferred simple line drawings. Isn't it a mark of the greatest art to draw a couple of simple lines?**

And probably also the most difficult one. The less expressive means you use, the more difficult it is to express an idea and content. It may explain why I like simplicity and clean lines.

**I suppose that every artist uses an important specific tool. Is it a trade secret, or do you have your own favourite tool?**

It's not a secret, for sure! I tried pens, brushes and inks from various Japanese, Chinese and other international companies. However, the number one for me is definitely Faber-Castell, a company which has operated on the global market for 250 years. Their pens were used by Mozart, Napoleon Bonaparte, Beethoven, Goethe, Karl Lagerfeld and many other world figures...

**You will certainly have among your canvases a few of your favourite works that you would never sell... Could you tell us something about them?**

To be honest, I draw all the works for myself. And when you say goodbye to them, I hope they make their owners happy. I hope they feel the same or similar delight as I did when I brought them to life. The best is always the last work...

**What are you currently working on?**

In the last couple of months I have been working intensively on works for an exhibition in Dubai. It's a very important exhibition. I will exhibit new themes drawn in ink with some parts of the canvas glowing in the dark. I look forward to my exhibition opening in Prague, Bratislava and Moscow, which will be held under the auspices of DIC. I also cooperate on a long-term basis with various galleries where people can see and buy my works. I have worked with the magazine For Golf for over 10 years where you can find my drawings of the world's golf legends. My other activity is related to the La Femme gallery for which I create thematic works called "Homework" and participate in charity auctions. I have also started to cooperate on a project involving historical monuments launched by the town of České Budějovice. Finally, I draw and paint canvases on demand and I prepare logos for various companies. I'm going to have an exhibition in Paris soon.

**Would you like someone to model for you?**

Now, you've made me laugh. So far I have not felt this desire to have someone model for me. I can only think of caricaturing someone. My husband used to model for me but now I don't bother him anymore. I can do it with my imagination. I'd rather paint women and various forms of womanhood with its imperfections which are so familiar to us. I like when women are being women and men are

being men, a natural aspect which is more or less disappearing nowadays. Women are the bearers of emotions, they have a different type of soul and "body language".

I love their femininity, tenderness, delicacy, elegance, their desires, passions, motherliness ... That is why women are the major theme of my drawings.

**How would you describe your works in general?**

I think we put in our work much more than we think, and that it does not matter if you draw a tree or a whale.

**What do you do apart from your work?**

Our life is, I think, a place of different options... The time we have here is our only time. And it's our choice how we use it.

I took up English, I do Pilates, I love walking in the woods, doing gardening and spending my weekends with my younger son Josef at the tennis court. My elder son, Jan, studies at a university in London.

I love laughter, spontaneity, grace and joy among the people. It gives me strength to live and look forward to new impulses.

**What is your life motto?**

*"Life is fragile and we have no guarantee of tomorrow ... So live it as much as you can."*

And as Forrest Gump's mother used to say: *"Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get."*

**If you could show today's art students how to become a great artist, what would you advise?**

I believe that the most important thing is to be constantly focused and never give up. It is necessary to have patience and perseverance. And most importantly, when you do what you love, and you give it your heart and soul, everything you create will be great. If you want to be better than others, you have to work harder.

Only in art we can say that the stars shine only at dusk.