PRESS RELEASE

exhibition
Jan Kotík (1916 – 2002)
Possible Variations
Works from the 1970s

duration
April 20 – June 4, 2011

opening hours
Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Jiri Svestka Gallery is proud to introduce a selection of works by Jan Kotík from the 1970s. This time Jiri Svestka Gallery, as keeper of the artist’s inheritance, exhibits works from Kotík’s less frequently presented period.

Jan Kotík (born 1916 in Turnov, CZ, died 2002 in Berlin) belongs to the few Czech artists, whose work has a distinct place in the international context. To include him in domestic context is however not easy at all. Kotík always expressed himself very individually, it seems he carried an aversion to dogma of all kinds, thus became at some point unclassifiable. Therefore, this unusual classic of Czech art is still little known to wider public. Throughout his work was Jan Kotík strictly oriented to modernism and intellectual flexibility, even in the times when modernism was evicted from the social process. In 1969 was Jan Kotík invited to Berlin by DAAD, then, after he was deprived of Czechoslovak citizenship in 1970, he remained to live in Berlin where he also died.

The 1970s for the artist-painter signified particular deflection from painting or rather its exploring in wider context. More than in painting itself, Kotík was interested in possible transformations of its form. Therefore a base of painting, a mount or material is more important to him at this stage, as the overall shifting to an object. Consequently the exhibition shows Kotík’s artistic expression in a nutshell that is simultaneously also confirmed in his thinking and supporting conceptual components in his works. Reduction to the essential elements and basic processes is the theme of Jan Kotík and subject of the exhibition. Due to limited gallery space only a fraction of the author's work can be exhibited - one of the possible significant variations, though.

Selection of works focuses on several lines of thought, which Jan Kotík parallely dealt with, and which create loose groups in the exhibition. The intention was not a show which covers this Kotík’s period either thematically or chronologically. Selection was made from purely subjective perspective, with emphasis on the actual visual effects of works and the emerging contexts.

Works of Jan Kotík may be found in many international and local privat and public collections.

Conception and realisation: Jaromír Novotný, Pavel Švec
With thanks to: PhDr. Iva Mladičová