

Daniel Pešta was born in 1959 in Prague. He graduated from construction engineering school and from Václav Hollar's Art School in Prague.

Under the communist regime he worked outside the official cultural trends and societies. In isolation as an author, he chiefly devoted his activities to drawing and later on to painting. During the period of totality he worked in several labourer professions, later on he worked as a promotional graphic artist. He cooperated with a number of alternative musical groups, for which he designed record covers and posters. It is his poster work that became an important turning point for him in his transition to fine art.

After the revolution in 1989 he devoted his work to illustrations and also created around a hundred covers to classic music titles. His passport was returned to him.

He immediately travelled to West Europe where he became acquainted with new worldwide artistic trends for the first time. Under the influence of this experience he focused on fine art. He began to make his way into conceptual art, which subsequently became a permanent component of his work.

He gradually created his own unique style. His work cannot be perceived simplistically, it always contains multiple levels of import. He does not avoid subjects such as power and its misuse, or, on the other hand, tolerance and personal freedom as the highest level in the human order.

During 1998 and 2000 he presented his author exhibitions in New York. During his stays here he becomes fully acquainted with the American art scene. He gradually moves away from the influence of the modernists. Even though his work remained existential a gradual fundamental change occurred, which was only fully expressed after 2005.

At this time he ceased painting for a period and became interested in spatial work. He began to form various resin materials and his work was purely conceptual. His objects thematically continued to attempt to analyse and understand the human entity and its vulnerability. Our fates reflect the stigmata of previous generations in such a manner that they also open questions of the future and point out the relativity of the moment.

The artist's artistically quoted feminism or feministic expressive elements are a path by which he wishes to approach the female fate, but not appropriate it. The polarity here originates not through "re-embodiment" into female perception, but on the contrary through an attempt to find some sort of new path towards understanding the role of motherhood, thereby combining the spiritual and physical transitions of the individual phases of female existence. As if he wished to find a new path without any use of masculine posturing and understand and protect the female role.

The subjects of these works include not only women, but also helplessness and the absurdity of murderous genocides, such as the holocaust for instance and their impact on future generations.

Pešta's artistic skill and professionalism in working with the used material and his consummate psychological analysis of the individual prevents any pathos. His frequently nearly naturalistic method and approach to the human body and mind incites and provokes emotions, which are at the limit of absolute existential and archaic experience.

He works with questions such as collective consciousness, injustice, crime, private and never revealed tales and literally "seals" them into spatial or wall hung exhibits. He crossed the boundaries of local artistic style long ago, not only due to the fact that boundaries are what his work continues to break down

Subjects such as Amniotic fluid, Christ, Genetic Codes, Hells, Levitation, Mikveh, Red and Yellow are born.

Daniel Pešta has presented his work at tens of independent exhibitions in Europe and in America. His work is represented in important museums and private collections. He takes part in important contemporary art biennales (Mexico City, Chicago, Florence, Prague Biennale 3. and 4.). He has received a number of awards for his illustrative and fine art work.

He is a member of SVU Mánes (Creative Artists Association).

Daniel Pešta lives and works in Prague and Frankfurt am Main.