

WINNERS OF THE TREBBIA EUROPEAN AWARD FOR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (BETWEEN 2000 AND 2014)

AMINOV, AMRI (*1966, Tajikistan / France)



In the early 1990s, artistic ambitions and desires lead Amri Aminov, a French sculptor of Tajik origin, to the capital of arts, Paris. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg. For two decades, he has been involved intensively in sculpture. His works are exhibited in the Museum of the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, the Israeli National Museum in Tel Aviv and are represented in many private collections in the USA, Europe and Asia. He cooperates with significant international organizations. For example, he created the UNESCO Cities for Peace Prize and the Trebbia statue. Currently, he is completing a monumental sculpture for the Parisian district of Saint Germain en Laye, where he lives with his family and creates his works. In 2001, he was awarded the Masaryk Academy of Arts Award for creative activity. In addition, he is a laureate of the European Medal of Franz Kafka.

ANDERLE, JIŘÍ (*1936, Czech Republic)



He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague in 1961 (painting under Antonín Pelc and printmaking under Vladimír Silovský). The style in his drawings and prints took shape while he worked at the Black Light Theatre, with whom he travelled nearly the entire world as a technician and actor. He started to become well-known, especially abroad, in the mid-1960s. From 1969 – 73 he worked at the Prague Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design as an assistant to Zdeněk Sklenář and Jiří Trnka. Anderle has held close to one hundred solo exhibitions throughout the world and has won around forty awards. His work is represented in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and at the Centre Pompidou in Paris. A versatile man of the arts, he is also the drummer for the band Grafičanka and a writer, actor and musical director for the popular radio programme Láška za láskou. In 2006 he was awarded the Bronze Medal of Merit.

BALLEK, LADISLAV (*1941, Slovakia)



From 2001 to 2008 he was the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in the Czech Republic. In the past, he worked as a Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, lectured at the Faculty of Education of Comenius University in Nitra and at the University of Performing Arts in Bratislava. He has written nine novels, which have been translated into dozens of languages worldwide and two current affairs books. He is a member of the Club of Independent Writers and PEN Club in Bratislava. Ballek has been awarded a state distinction of the Slovak Republic – the 2nd class Pribina Cross. In 2002, he was awarded a Prize of the European Union of Arts as a „distinguished writer and arts journalist”. The Matěj Bel University has awarded him the honorary academic title of Doctor Honoris Causa. He is a Matěj Hrebenda Prize laureate for significant contribution to the pursuit of reciprocity between Czechs and Slovaks. In 1998, he ran for President of the Slovak Republic.

BÁN, JÁNOS (*1955, Hungary)



Hungarian actor János Bán graduated Dramatic Art School in Budapest in the class of well-known director, professor István Horvai. He worked in several regional theatres in 1975–1983, then in the National Theatre in Pécs, Kisfaludi Theatre in Győr and Szigligeti Színház in Szolnok. Since 1983 he has been a permanent actor of Katona József Színház theatre in Budapest. János Bán is talented actor able to perform all kinds of characters, comic as well as tragicomic roles. As a film actor he appeared for the first time in his 1979 debut in the role of a lonely young man looking for his place in society in the psychology drama “Every Wednesday” (Minden szerdán). In 1985 he became famous thanks to the role of Otík in the famous film by Jiří Menzel „My Sweet Little Village” (Vesničko má středisková), which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Since that time he has been very popular and sought after film and theatre actor. In 1987 he was awarded with Jászai Mari Award. He has been also awarded the title Meritorious Artist.

BĚLOHLÁVEK, JIŘÍ (*1946, Czech Republic)



Conductor Jiří Bělohlávek has cooperated artistically with all of our prestigious orchestras. When he was thirty-one years old, he became the head of the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Since 1981, he has been a conductor and later music director of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1994, he founded the Prague Chamber Philharmonia, which he led from the artistic point of view until 2006. From 1995 to 2000, he was the chief guest conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London, where he now acts as chief conductor. As a guest conductor, he has conducted orchestras throughout the world. He has performed in the world's most prestigious opera houses. He has earned the Supraphon and Diapason d'Or awards and has been nominated for the Grammy. In 2001, President Václav Havel awarded him the 1st Degree Medal of Merit. Since 1995, he has been a professor of conducting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and, currently, he is also the president of the Prague Spring International Music Festival.

ČIŽMÁRIK, RUDOLF (1949–2008, Slovakia)



This Slovak poet was born into a baker's family (1949, Šoporňa), but throughout his entire life his daily bread was literature and art. He studied aesthetic education and the Slovak language at the Philosophical Faculty of Charles University in Bratislava and worked for the Czechoslovak Radio Company, the Pravda daily, and the Slovak Press Agency. In 1971, he debuted with the collection Amazements in Stone and has written 16 books of poetry and prose to date, including the bilingual collection Horiaca ruža – Die brennende Rose (Burning Rose). He was the curator of numerous art exhibitions at home and abroad. He is engaged in translation, reporting, and essay writing on literature and fine arts, e.g. 13 Statutes by T. Bartfay, Double Life. His poems have also been published in 10 languages and he has participated in numerous European poetry festivals.

DESCHARNES, ROBERT (*1926, France)



Descharnes was born in 1926 in Nevers, France. He is a photographer, avant-garde film maker, and major biographer of the famous Catalan painter Salvador Dalí. In 1950, he met Gala and Salvador Dalí on a steamship journey to the United States, which later turned into a close cooperation. For example, they created a movie called The Amazing Adventure of the Lacesmaker and the Rhinoceros, dedicated to Dalí's theory of the logarithmic spiral. Cooperation on publications and film projects about Dalí himself followed. When in the 1980s the art market was overwhelmed with an avalanche of counterfeits of Dalí's works, Dalí entrusted Descharnes with management of the company Demart, which cleared the market of forgeries, and supervises the authenticity of his work even today. He is the author of the monumental biography Salvador Dalí: The Work, the Man.

DVOŘÁK, FRANTIŠEK (*1920, Czech Republic)



František Dvořák was born in 1920 in Červenka u Olomouce. In the years 1945–1949, he studied history of the arts and aesthetics at the Philosophical Faculty in Prague as a pupil of Antonín Matějček, Josef Cibulka and Jan Mukařovský. Shortly afterwards, he became an assistant to professor V. V. Štech for eight years at the Academy of Fine Arts, and concurrently lectured on history at the FAMU in Prague. In 1958, he was expelled from this activity for political reasons, and only after two years was employed as an expert at the National Gallery. From there, he was able to return to his pedagogical work at the Secondary Industrial Arts School in Prague in 1963, and later in 1969 he won the competition for

senior professor at the Palacký University in Olomouc, where he acted until 1985. In 1991, he was granted a professorship at Charles University in Prague, where he works in the department of cultural theory at the Philosophical Faculty to this day. He is the author of 35 books on fine arts, of which about one third were published abroad. He also cooperates with Czech Television, for which he prepared a ten-part documentary series dedicated to the history of Charles Bridge.

FEDOSEJEV, VLADIMIR IVANOVICH (*1932, Russian Federation)



Artistic director and chief conductor of the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra. He has held the post since 1974 and under his direction, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra has gained international fame, earned a reputation as one of the world's leading orchestras and is rightly considered a symbol of high musical culture. Outside of his home country, Vladimir Fedosejev works with leading orchestras with whom he continually delivers a masterful interpretation. He was chief conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra for ten years and continues to work with the orchestra. He is also the first guest conductor of the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and he has been a guest conductor of Opernhaus Zurich for over a decade.

JANE McADAM FREUD (*1958, United Kingdom), (great-granddaughter of Sigmund Freud)



is a prominent English sculptor and artist. Her focus is on printmaking, drawing, digital media and especially sculpture and art installations. She has studied at the Wimbledon College of Art, Central School of Art and Design and Royal College of Art in London. Since then she has held over twenty solo exhibitions around the world. She has also exhibited in the Czech Republic. In her own art she says she works "at the edges where art and psychoanalysis meet". Her works are represented in the collections of the world's most prestigious museums and galleries, including the British Museum, The National Gallery in London, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh and the other. At the International Symposium of Spatial Forms in Ostrava in 2008 she declared, "Art is culture, and it is young artists who will soon be responsible for the psychological, spiritual and ethical culture of this country."

HORIKI, ERIKO (*1962, Japan)



She is a renowned artist, artisan and innovator, who creates her own works by using the Washi paper. Her interior accessories as well as the whole wall systems and further architectural elements are inspired by the Japanese Washi Paper art technique. This unique technique has formed itself in Japan in the course of many centuries. It uses the soft play of light and shadow. Miss Horiki is probably the most significant follower of renowned Japanese „Paper house“ tradition. The fame of this versatile artist crossed the borders of Japan long ago. One of the main achievements of her work lies in transferring the creative processes and materials she uses into the Western architecture. She has completed dozens of monumental architectural realizations and has been given numerous awards. Among other things, she was awarded the main prize of the „Association of Japanese artists and architects“ in 2001 and two years later she was named the Japanese „Woman of the year 2003“.

HUSZÁR, TIBOR (*1952, Slovakia)



Significant Slovak photographer Tibor Huszár, under the leadership of Professor Ján Šmok graduated from the Department of Photography of the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. Before and during his studies, he photographed for different magazines and media. He also documented stage life. In 1983, he won the World Triennale of stage photography in Novi Sad, Serbia. At the beginning of the nineties, he left for New York, where he worked as an independent photographer and taught at Columbia University and New York University. In 1993, he published a photographic book Gypsies. Portraits, Koloman Sokol and many others followed. Currently, he lives and works in Slovakia. He tutors a photographic studio of students of the Faculty of Mass Media Communication, University of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava.

CHOCHOLA, VÁCLAV (1923–2005, Czech Republic)



He was born in the Libeň district of Prague, which is where he studied realistic high school, where he actively devoted himself to sports and started to discover the charm of photography. In 1941, he left the studio at the high school and entered photographic apprenticeship at the studio of O. Erban in Prague's Letná district, while simultaneously attending photography classes at the School of Graphics in Prague - Smichov. Chochola created many images using unusual techniques (photograms, collages, rollages). He published his photography in the daily press, and apart from sports was dedicated mainly to photographing theatre and cultural events. His documentary images from the Prague Uprising in May 1945 are priceless. He portrayed leading Czech and foreign artistic personalities, and was made famous by his portrait of Salvador Dali. On 22 January 1970, he was arrested for photographing the grave of Jan Palach and sentenced to 5 years on probation. This was followed by a photographic crisis and as a result he devoted himself mainly to sorting and completing his archive. From 2003, there were many retrospective exhibitions. On May 27th 2005, he passed away after a brief illness at the Motol Hospital in Prague.

CHUDÍK, LADISLAV (*1924, Slovakia)



Ladislav Chudík remains engraved in the memory of TV viewers as Dr. Sova, a chief consultant in the famous TV series The Hospital on the Edge of the Town. The legendary actor Ladislav Chudík was born in Hronec, the Slovak Republic. In 1944, after his studies at the Faculty of Arts in Bratislava, he started his carrier as a student actor in Slovak National Theatre, while studying acting at the State Conservatoire. During the following seven decades, he portrayed a huge number of theatre, television and film characters, who were given grace and inner charm by his astonishing acting expressivity. Ladislav Chudík won many awards, and in 1999 he became the first winner of the Prize of Jozef Króner for his lifetime achievement.

KABO, OLGA (*1968, Russian Federation)



Russian actress and accomplished artist of the Russian Federation studied at the Russian State University of Cinematography named after S. A. Gerasimov, Department of Dramatic Art, the Sergei Bondarchuk Studio, and graduated in 1989. In the same year, she became famous and sex symbol of her time thanks to her role in the comedy Lysistrata. Nevertheless, it were the films The Ice Runner and Burial of the Rats which brought her international acclaim. In 2002, she became the star of the Moscow theatre Mossovjeta and portrayed Roxanne in Cyrano de Bergerac, or Feliciano in the Dance Master, among other unique characters. In 2010, she starred in Jerzy Hoffman's historical drama The Battle of Warsaw 1920. Miss Kabo currently works on „Ulanskaya ballada“, a film realised as glorious honour to the 200th anniversary of the victory at Borodino. Her newest artistic act is her role in the performance Memory of the Sun. Here she pays tribute to the oeuvre of Anna Achmatova. Even today, Olga Kabo symbolises beauty, femininity and dramatic art not only for Russian population but also for people from other post-communist countries. This represents the meaningful truth that art and beauty live and exist everywhere and are not limited by state frontiers.

KLIVAR, MIROSLAV (*1932, Czech Republic)



Miroslav Klivar was born in Košice. He is an art theorist and historian, artist, and writer. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy and History at Charles University in Prague in 1955 and spent many years as a pedagogue at schools of art. In 1955–1960, he was an assistant at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. In 1960–1969, he became an expert assistant at the Academy of Musical Arts in Prague and in 1969–1990 he worked as an assistant at the Institute of Industrial Design in Prague. He worked externally at the Secondary Industrial Arts School in Prague 3, at the University of Fine Arts in Bratislava and at the West Bohemian University in Pilsen. He has been a professor of the World Information Distributed University of Brussels since 1999 and an academic at the Accademia internazionale Il Convivio in Italy since 2005. In the years 1990–2003, he was the president of the Masaryk Academy of the Arts in Prague. Furthermore, he is at the head of the European Franz Kafka Circle, since 1995 he has been the president of the European Union of Art and from 1998 he is a member of the International Order of the Knights of St. Constantine the Great.

LASICA, MILAN (*1940, Slovakia)



The legendary Slovak humorist, film and theatre actor, dramatist, lyricist and director studied Dramaturgy of the small theatre at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. During his studies, Mr Lasica performed his own authorial dialogues in Tatra, a music hall in Bratislava. He started to work as script editor for the Czechoslovak television in the 1960s and became member of the Korzo Theatre. There he started writing sketches for himself and his lifelong dramatic partner Július Satinský. The inspiration for these unique sketches, which broke all rules of the realistic theatre, became the Czech comedians Voskovec and Werich, or Miroslav Horníček. The comic of Milan Lasica is based on ruminating on trivial life situations and pushing them to the absurd. In 1982, he became artistic director of „Štúdio S“. He is active on the field of prose and wrote approximately twenty books. Milan Lasica is memorable for portraying numerous theatre and film characters, for example in the films Utekajme už ide, Tři veteráni, or Saturnin. Mr Lasica currently devotes his time to writing lyrics; he recorded two albums of old evergreens. Václav Havel, the President of the Czech Republic awarded Milan Lasica with the State Medal „For the Merit“ in 2003.

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ (*1949, USA)



is a prominent U.S. photographer who successfully crossed over from photojournalism to portrait photography. As a high school student she focused on various types of art. She studied painting at the San Francisco Art Institute but started to become more interested in photography while visiting relatives one summer in Japan. She achieved her first success in 1970, when she sold one of her photographs to Rolling Stone for \$25, and went on to work for the magazine for many years as the chief photographer. Annie Leibovitz's most iconic photograph is of John Lennon, lying nude and nestled up against a fully clothed Yoko Ono. Leibovitz has become a household name mainly from her staged portraits of prominent American figures and celebrities in politics, technology and the arts. Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Bill Clinton, Queen Elizabeth II and President Barack Obama's family have all stood before her lens.

LIBESKIND, DANIEL (*1946, USA)



Libeskind was born to a Jewish family in Lodz, Poland. As a child, he moved to Israel and finally settled in the USA. In his youth he pursued music, but later architecture won. In 1989, he won a competition with the design for the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Since then, he has received prestigious commissions from around the world. At present, as the winner of the most highly observed architectural competition in recent years, he works, among others, on restoring the World Trade Center in New York. He is the author of the design with the working title Dalineum Palace of Arts, which the MIRO Gallery intends to build in Prague. Libeskind says about architecture: "Architects have to be optimists, and fast... I'm building a better world and more beautiful places. They have to put an ear to the ground and listen."

LÜPERTZ, MARKUS (*1941, Germany)



Lüpertz is one of the most acclaimed current German painters, born in Liberec, Bohemia. After his studies at the Werkkunstschule in Krefeld and the State Academy in Düsseldorf, he moved to Berlin in 1962. The expressive figurative pictures of the painter that were in direct opposition to the abstract tendencies of that time, gradually gained huge acclaim. In 1983, Lüpertz was given the Professorial Chair at the Summer Academy in Salzburg and in autumn 1987, he became the Rector of the State Artistic Academy in Düsseldorf. He holds this function up to date.

MILER, ZDENĚK (1921–2011, Czech Republic)



Zdeněk Miler was born in Kladno in 1921. He started his professional career during the war years in the Zlín Film Studios. In 1945, he returned to Prague and came to Jiří Trnka's Film Tricks Studio. When Trnka announced a competition for a new logo for the studio, Miler won it with his curly-haired boys in sailor T-shirts: the studio was called Brothers in T-shirts. As early as in 1947, his first independent film About The Millionaire Who Stole The Sun scored a huge success at the Venice Film Festival. In 1956, he made the film How the Mole Got His Trousers, which started the world-renowned serial of the small black hero. Miler's rich creative activity also includes numerous book illustrations.

NÁLEPA, JOSEF (1936–2012, Czech Republic)



Since 1962, sculptor Josef Nálepa had been working in Prague mostly on public commissions. His versatility is reflected both in the choice of materials (bronze, stone, wood) and in the processing technique. The spectrum of his work includes monumental statues, reliefs and small sculptures, medal plaques and coins designs as well as product designs. Since the 1970s, his portrait work has become famous such as the portrait of Salvador Dalí, who modeled for him (one of the few in the world for whom he modeled) in 1974. In recent years, he has created a number of portraits of renowned Czech actors and prominent personalities. Another important part of his works is the ink drawings, which reveal the plasticity of the author's visual sense even at a maximum shortcut and simplicity. As a collaborator with major Czech architects, he participated in many cases of the organic union of monumental sculpture and modern architecture.

OBRAZCOVA, JELENA (*1939, Russian Federation)



The world-known mezzo-soprano singer Jelena Obrazcova was born in 1939 in Leningrad (today Saint Petersburg). She spent her early childhood in the period of blockades in the city during the Second World War. In 1954, she began to study at the music school in Rostov upon Don and then she was accepted by the conservatoire in Leningrad. Throughout her studies she already won several singing competitions. In 1963, she received an invitation to the opera choir of the Great Theatre in Moscow. She entered the European music scene with a highly successful concert in Paris, followed by her triumphant performances in La Scala in Milan, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and on many other magnificent stages of the world. Nowadays, she devotes her time to pedagogical activities in Moscow and in Saint Petersburg.

SAUDEK, JAN (*1935, Czech Republic)



Czech photographer primarily focused on studio photography featuring a typical, inimitable style – colourised photographs (since 1977). He spent part of World War II at Auschwitz concentration camp with his brother, artist Karel Saudek. In his early work he addressed the themes of childhood and the relationship between adults and children. The most frequent subject of his photographs is the female body and the relationship between men and women. He is well-known around the world, has received numerous awards and has been appointed to the rank of Knight of the Legion of Honour.

DE SIGALDI, EMMA (1911–2010, Monaco)



Her avant-garde sculptural work has brought her general recognition in Europe, America and Asia. She was born in Karlsruhe, Germany, and her talent for arts, particularly music and dance, was soon discovered. She started her artistic career as a dancer. She designed her own costumes and created her own choreography to the modern music of Bartok, Rachmaninoff and other composers. After her marriage to Count de Sigaldi of Monaco, she began to focus on sculpture, working with bronze and marble in a very distinctive manner. As she says herself, it is necessary to have daring plans in sculpture. Her bronze and marble sculptures are located in the middle of squares and parks worldwide. In 2005, she dedicated the “Blue Flower” statue to the city of Prague, which is located on Sluneční náměstí (Sunshine Square) in Prague 13.

JIŘÍ SRNEC (*1931, Czech Republic)



is a legendary Czech theatre producer, stage designer, director, artist, composer and the inventor of “black theatre”, in which a staged production is created from actors dressed in black who move against a black backdrop, thus rendering them “invisible” to the audience. This simple production principle has successfully represented Czech theatre culture throughout the world for the past fifty years. Its very first performance at the Edinburgh film festival in 1962 was greeted with enthusiastic ovations in the sold-out festival arena. Over the past decades the theatre has gone on 300 international tours and its performances have been seen by five million theatregoers in 68 countries around the world. The company’s most popular productions are Striped Dream, Legends of Magical Prague, Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, Labyrinth, The Week of Dreams and White Pierrot in Black. In 2011 he received the Medal of Merit from Czech President Václav Klaus for his work and representation of Czech arts on the world stage.

TABAKOV, OLEG (*1935, Russian Federation)



As an eight-year old son of a military doctor, Oleg Tabakov spent part of his childhood in the field hospital where he entertained wounded soldiers with his humorous poems and songs. When he was fourteen, he was already performing in the Moscow Palace of Pioneers. From 1953 to 1957, he studied acting at Vasilij Toporkov Theatre Studio of Nemirovich-Danchenko at Moscow Art Academic Theatre (MCHAT). In 1957, he became one of the founders of the Moscow theater called Sovremennik. Eleven years later, he gave a guest performance in the Prague Cinoherm Club Theatre (Dramatic Club Theatre) as Khlestakov in “The Inspector-General” by Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol. One of his most well-known roles in film is Count Nikolai Rostov in Sergei Bondarchuk’s adaptation of Lev Tolstoy’s novel “War and Peace.” Another famous role he played is a lazy intellectual who spends his life in seclusion and philosophical reflection in Nikita Michalkov’s film adaptation of Goncharov’s novel “Oblomov.” In 1967, he won the State Award of Russian Federation for his theatrical work.

THOMASCHKE, THOMAS (*1943, Germany)



Thomas Thomaschke, a world-renowned opera singer, was born in 1943 in Saxony to a family of musicians. He studied singing at the Dresden Musical University under the guidance of the famous tenor Anton Dermota. In 1982, he was nominated for a prestigious American prize, the Grammy Award. As a pedagogue, he has been teaching at the music universities in Winterthur, Wien, Lübeck and Dresden. Since 1992, he has been appointed the Art Director of the International Festival Mitte Europa, Bavaria – Czech Republic – Saxony. He was also awarded the title Kammersänger. In 2004, he received from the hands of the German President Horst Köhler a Federal Cross of Merits, the highest honour of the Federal Republic of Germany.

TSCHINAG, GALSAN (*1944, Mongolia)



Galsan Tschinag, a renowned Mongolian writer, poet and medicine man, was born on Christmas day of 1944 in the Altai Mountains in the small ethnic group of the Tuvin, a group with no written language of its own. After his studies in Germany, he returned to his native country and became Professor of the German language at the State Mongolian University. At the age of 36, the doctors discovered that Galsan is suffering under a serious heart disease. This led him to start using the medicine-man abilities more intensively. Although he currently lives in Ulaanbaatar, he spends a part of his year by travelling through Europe. He introduces his literary works mainly in German-speaking countries. He writes in the German language, but his books are translated into many languages.

VANO, ROBERT (*1948, Slovakia / USA / Czech Republic)



Robert Vano was born in 1948 in Nové Zámky in the Slovak Republic. In 1967, he emigrated to the USA to avoid then obligatory military service. In New York, he kept changing jobs until he began working in a hairdressing salon. He later began cooperating with the most famous fashion photographers. In 1984, he made the most important step of his career and began to take photos himself. Soon he earned his place among famous photographers and his work appeared in all the most prestigious fashion magazines. He became well-known especially for his male nude photography. He has held dozens of successful exhibitions all over the world, and has published a great amount of monographs, which form a representative profile of his whole endeavour.

VITULA, JIŘÍ (1925–2011, Czech Republic)



After graduating from classical high school and majoring in philosophy, history, musical history, and ethnography at Masaryk University in Brno, he continued his professional specialization at the universities in Denmark, Italy and Bulgaria. He launched his career as a journalist working as a UN reporter during the trial with president Tiso in Bratislava, then shifted his activities permanently to the cultural sphere. He defended two rigorous theses on the topic of culture at Charles University in Prague. He then developed extensive medial and initiative activities in the function of head of the cultural section of Lidová demokracie, which found acclaim abroad. This concerns in particular the formation of international music and opera festivals (Prague Spring, Bratislava Music Festival, Osterfestspiele Salzburg, Festival van Vlaanderen). At the same time, he worked as an author on international co-production documentaries (Vyšehrad Codex, Johannes Kepler, Vltava, Master of the Týn Altar). With the SCARS artistic group, he created audiovisual projects for the world exhibitions in Montreal (1967 – Kinoautomat), Osaka (1970) and Teheran (1972 – Shahyaad), for which he was highly acclaimed. These activities were accompanied by the interaction with prominent personalities – Marlene Dietrich, Gina Lollobrigida, Pablo Picasso, Iranian shah Reza Pahlavi and others. He devoted one of his six historical popular literary works to his cooperation with phenomenal conductor Herbert von Karajan.

WOOD, RONNIE (*1947, Great Britain)



Ronnie Wood was born in 1947 in Middlesex, England, to an artistic family. Before his musical career with the Rolling Stones, he graduated with a degree in painting from the Ealing College of Art in London. His most frequent themes are musicians, portraits of friends and self-portraits. In the 1980s, he created his first woodcuts and a series of monotypes in America. After several months of study in a professional printing studio in 1987, he has been involved in various graphic techniques. He exhibited in North and South America, the Far East and Europe. In 1996, a grand retrospective exhibition was held at the Museum of Modern Art in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

ZOUBEK, OLBRAM (*1926, Czech Republic)



The talent for art and the ability to mold materials was discovered in Olbram Zoubek by his Secondary school teacher Miroslav Kužela. He also supported Zoubek to pursue his talent by studying at the Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague. Following his advice, Olbram Zoubek started studying in the studio of Wagner, the sculptor, in 1945: "The education and experience he gave me were the best things I could get," says the master even after many years. He finds inspiration in people around him. Men, women, or family are his most used motives. In 1969, he cast the death-mask of Jan Palach. In 2002, he created the Victims of Communism Memorial that stands on the Petřín hillside. "I create people I think about. I try to clarify my relationship to them and to the world. Doing that, I try to understand myself," he states.

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BARTOŠKA, JIŘÍ (*1947, Czech Republic)



Jiří Bartoška is one of the most popular film and theatre actors in the Czech Republic. After graduating from Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, he launched his acting career at Goose on a String Theatre in 1972. He went on to Činoherní studio in Ústí nad Labem before being engaged at Prague's Theatre on the Balustrade in 1978. He has regularly performed at Theatre on the Balustrade since 1991 and recently won critical acclaim for his role in Jacques and His Master. Of his numerous film and theatre roles, his characters from several popular Czechoslovak television shows brought him national fame: Malý pitaval z velkého města, My všichni školou povinni and especially Sanitka. He has played in nearly thirty films and recently won viewers over with his performance as the successful author Karel in You Kiss like a God. While the country was still under communism, he signed a petition calling for the release of Václav Havel from prison and a Charter 77 petition titled "Několik vět" (A Few Sentences). He co-founded the Civic Forum and was one of Havel's closest associates. He has been the president of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival since 1994 and is greatly credited with turning the event into one of the most popular festivals in the world. Each year the festival welcomes stars such as Michael Douglas, Helen Mirren, Susan Sarandon and many others as well as famous filmmakers from around the world. The special, intimate atmosphere of this "big little festival" is especially popular among the hundreds of thousands of film aficionados who have converged on the spa town since the mid-1990s.

HOLUŠOVÁ, ZLATA (*1958, Czech Republic)



The soul of the Colours of Ostrava music festival, Zlata Holušová, was born in 1958. She graduated from the Faculty of Arts of the university in Brno. She has been organizing multicultural and charity projects that transcend national borders for almost two decades. At the end of the 20th century, she set up a small multi-genre festival in the village near Ostrava. After four years of its success, the festival became one of the biggest and best-known international music festivals in Europe, attended annually by hundreds of musicians from all over the world. "Ostrava is not black any more, but full of colours", says the founder.

PECHÁČEK, PAVEL (*1940, Czech Republic)



He was persecuted by the Communist regime for a long-time. Later, he studied high school where also studied some other cadre loaded students as Václav Havel or Miloš Forman. In sixties, at a certain of liberalization he studied direction at DAMU in Prague. In 1958, he started to cooperate with Czechoslovak Radio as a sports editor, later as a director. After his emigration in 1968, he worked in Munich redaction of Radio Free Europe. From the mid-seventies he worked in Washington redaction of American Voice where he became a director of Czecho-slovak department, in 1985. He started to work as a director of Free Europe in Munich before the Velvet Revolution, and later in Prague. Now, he is a counselor of the president of Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty.

KUNYING STRAKOVÁ (*1969) and **JIŘÍ STRAKA** (*1967), Czech Republic – China



Czech sinologist and his wife, Kunying Straková, a Chinese painter, curator, opened CCC – Czech China Contemporary in Beijing in 2012. The aim of the successful project is to form a bridge between two philosophies – West and East, European and Asian, Czech and Chinese. Ever since he was a child the Czech native has been attracted to everything Chinese, and he dedicated his studies to ink and wash painting and sinology. He attends to modern ink and wash paintings, which are based on ancient Far Eastern techniques such as "meticulous ink" and "boneless". His wife, Kunying Straková, conceived of building a Czech-Chinese modern art gallery and selected the largest art community in Beijing, Songzhuang. The gallery's mission vision is to foster dialogue, meetings, comparative exhibitions, and the intersection, blending and mutual influence of two and more worlds of culture.

Sir WINTON, NICHOLAS GEORGE, MBE (*1909, Great Britain)



A British humanitarian, who organized the rescue of 669 mostly Jewish children from German-occupied Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Second World War in an operation later known as the Czech Kindertransport. Winton was awarded Order of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, Fourth Class, by Václav Havel in 1998. In the 1983 Queen's Birthday Honours, he was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for his work in establishing the Abbeyfield homes for the elderly in Britain, and in the 2002 New Year Honours, he was knighted in recognition of his work on the Czech Kindertransporte. His story was filmed in All My Loved Ones (1999), The Power of Good: Nicholas Winton (2002) and Nicky's Family (2011). He was also nominated for the 2008 and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

Czech Centres is a governmental agency established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Czech Centres provides a wide range of promotion for Czech culture as part of serving the mission of developing a cultural dialogue between the Czech Republic and other countries in the areas including culture, science, education, trade, and tourism. Czech Centres actively work to enhance positive reputation and image of the Czech Republic abroad, namely in the public diplomacy. There are 24 Czech Centres globally operating in 21 countries. In 2006, another Czech Centre opened in Prague. The Czech Centre Prague supports the Czech public to be acquainted with foreign artists and cooperates with cultural institutions of the Czech Republic. The program provided by Czech Centres brings together cultural traditions and contemporary artistic development not only in music, fine arts, cinematography, architecture, design, photo-graphy, but also in education and social area. Projects implemented by the Czech Centres focus on presenting the Czech Republic as a brand; they present the creative potential of the contemporary cultural scenes of Czech abroad and work in active cooperation with the organizations of cultural events bringing Czech and local cultures in different countries together.

WINNERS OF THE SPECIAL TREBBIA EUROPEAN AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (BETWEEN 2011 AND 2014)

NOVÁK, RICHARD (*1931, Czech Republic)



is a significant Czech opera singer (basso), composer and organist. He completed his studies at the Brno Conservatoire in 1955. He is laureate of vocal competitions in Toulouse (1961) and Hertogenbosch (1962). In 1954, Mr Novák became soloist of the Ostrava State Theatre Opera. Later he sang at the Janáček Opera in Brno, where audiences and critics became impressed by his dramatic performances and by the unique sound of his voice and its register. Mr Novák became famous for his perfect singing technique and his sureness of intonation, which is given by his absolute pitch. His repertoire includes the complete Opera works by Bedřich Smetana, or works composed by Bohuslav Martinů and Leoš Janáček. He also studied pieces of work by Rossini, Mozart, Mussorgsky, Shostakovich, Strauss, Brahms, or other renowned geniuses of the musical heaven. He gave guest performances abroad, mainly in operas by Janáček, and sang on stages of many of significant opera houses. He often sings great oratorios. In 2001, Mr Novák received The Thália Award of Whole Champion. The Minister of Culture presented him with the Prize for Musical Achievements in 2005. Mr Novák has studied around 160 opera roles up to now.

HYKISCH, ANTON (*1932, Slovakia)



Slovak author, playwright, politician and diplomat. He was a literary editor at Czechoslovak Radio in 1962 – 1969, worked at the Central Library of the Slovak Academy of Sciences from 1969 – 1974 and later at the Slovak Visual Arts. After 1968 he was barred from publishing. From 1988 he was an assistant business manager at the publishing house Mladá letá, and was later made director. From 1990 – 1992 he was a member of parliament and in 1993 – 1997 he was Slovak Ambassador to Canada. He is a member of the Slovak Writers' Society and the Slovak PEN Centre. In January 1998 the President of Slovakia presented him with a Pribina Cross 1st Class. Hykisch started to publish in 1956. His writings are characterised by social criticism which appeared already in his first novel, *Sen vchádza do stanice* (The Dream Pulls In at the Station), published in 1961. In his work, Anton Hykisch refers to social ills and the moral emptiness of society, corruption and other vices that create disillusionment and disappointment with life.

ŠTEFAN KVĚTIK (*1934, Slovakia)



is a leading Slovak actor and theatre instructor who studied acting at the Academy of Performing Arts (VŠMU) in Bratislava. He got his start at the Armed Forces Theatre in Martin, Slovakia, and since 1959 has been a member of the Slovak National Theatre. He landed his first major film role in Peter Solan's 1962 film *The Boxer*. To his most distinctive character belongs Baron von Goldring in *Sám vojak v poli* (released in Germany as *Allein im Felde*), contradictory Pirin in Martin Hollý's film *The Copper Tower*, Urban Habdža in the excellent television adaptation of the book *Red Wine*, and the legendary role of the strapping lad Samo Pichanda in Juraj Jakubisko epic film *The Millennial Bee*. Incredibly, the number of roles this charismatic actor has portrayed on the silver screen, television, stage and radio is close to three hundred. He has received numerous awards for his acting. The President of the Slovak Republic Ivan Gašparovič presented him with the Order of Ľudovít Štúr 2nd Class in the 2004.

VÁVRA, OTAKAR (1911 – 2011, Czech Republic)



After studying in Hradec Králové and after his unfinished studies of architecture in Prague, he began to fully pursue film shooting. In 1931, he produced an experimental film called "Light Penetrating Darkness" and other short films. In 1937, he directed his first film, "History of Philosophy" followed by the next film called "The Guild of Kutna Hora Virgins." After 1945, he filmed "Kratit (The Explosive)", a film with a strong anti-war message. He made more than fifty films, among which the most valued are "The Golden Apple", "Romance for Cornet", and "The Witchhammer." In the 1950s, he was greatly concerned in establishing the famous Film School of Academy of Performing Arts, where he taught for five decades as a professor since 1963. His students were Miloš Forman, Věra Chytilová, Jiří Menzel and other representatives of the Czech New Wave. He left the Film School in 2008. In 2001, he was awarded the Czech Lion for Lifetime Achievement in the Czech Cinematography and the Award for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to World Cinema at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. In 2004, President Václav Klaus awarded him the Medal of Merit.

WINNERS OF THE TREBBIA EUROPEAN AWARD FOR SUPPORT OF THE ARTS (BETWEEN 2000 AND 2014)

ABREU, JOSÉ ANTONIO (*1939, Venezuela)



Economist, politician and pianist who founded the social programme El Sistema, a national network of youth and children's orchestras and choirs in Venezuela. Thirty-seven years ago, Abreu started to use music to address the country's problems with drugs, rising crime, gangs and especially the number of children who had become stuck in the hopeless cycle of poverty. He set up music education centres throughout Venezuela and fostered in the children not only an appreciation for classical music, but also values such as pride, devotion and a sense of belonging. It is estimated that over 300,000 children have been through the programme and several hundred ensembles have been formed. The Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences presented Abreu with a Latin Grammy Award in 2009.

AL-QADIRI, MOHAMMED (*1952, Kuwait)

AL-BAQSAMI, THURAYA (*1951, Kuwait)



Thuraya Al-Baqsamí is a leading Kuwaiti artist, writer and holder of many awards with the most recent one being the World Prize of Salvador Dalí. She has held 52 solo exhibitions and participated in more than 200 group exhibitions throughout the world. Having become the leading Arabic artist, Thuraya is the author of 15 books, many of which have been translated into major world languages. Her husband, Mohammed al-Qadiri, who is also a writer, spent 11 years in diplomatic service. He obtained extensive contacts abroad while in the service of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry. He also manages Thuraya's universe of artistic activity. In 1987, they founded the Ghadir Gallery, which became a cultural bridge between Kuwait and the rest of the world.

ALTENBURG-KOHL, DADJA (*1949, Czech Republic / Germany)



The doctor and businesswoman. She built one of the most successful pharmaceutical companies in Germany. She is the founder of the DrAK Foundation and owner of the private Museum of Contemporary Art in Prague, MuMo. For several years she is the major collector and patron of fine arts, supports individual artists, as well as larger institutions, such as the National Theatre. She was born in Prague. She studied medicine at Charles University. In 1972, she was emigrated to Germany where she worked as a maxillofacial surgeon for many years. Nowadays she is the curator of many important exhibitions, a member of the European Cultural Forum in Berlin and focuses on projects between the Czech Republic and the Germany. The credo of this important patroness is: „I realize that everything is somehow linked together, all spiritual and material values, culture and health. I want to use my time and at least to contribute to this complex system with something meaningful.“

AMIOT, JEAN (*1949, France)



Jean Amiot is an important French gallery owner and founder of both the famous Parisian gallery and a publishing house J.B.F. Editions d'Art. He studied economics at the University of Lille. Today, he is an internationally recognized expert in graphic works of Salvador Dalí, whose works he has been successfully presented all over the world for many years. In 1998, he, as the first exhibitor, introduced Dalí's works in the post-communist Europe, here in Prague for the exhibition called "50 Years of Surrealism" which was exhibited for more than 500 times. Over roughly three decades, he has created a comprehensive and valuable collection with almost a thousand of the original works of this modern art genius. He is an honorary doctor from the Masaryk Academy in Prague and a member of the International Academy of Salvador Dalí in St. Petersburg. In addition, he is the consultant for the Interpol to assess the authenticity of Dalí's graphic works.

AUERBACH, NORBERT (1922 – 2009, USA / Czech Republic)



Norbert Auerbach knew that American dreams come true. A Native of Vienna, he spent his childhood in Barrandov, Prague, where his father worked as a pre-war producer. In 1939, the entire family moved to the USA. He studied Economy at the University in Los Angeles. After that, he joined the American army and spent four years fighting in Europe during which he was wounded several times. After the war, he started working as an errand boy at the Columbia Pictures Hollywood Studio. Thanks to his hard work and determination, he worked his way up and ultimately became President of the United Artists Company. He participated in making of many successful films, such as Hair, West Side Story, and the Pink Panther. In addition, he came up with the idea of filming a book about an agent in his Majesty's Service called James Bond.

BODA, CORNEL (*1954, Czech Republic)



Two decades ago, a successful Romanian businessman living permanently in the Czech Republic founded and built from scratch COBRA s.r.o., a company operating in the field of construction hardware. He is one of the founding members of Lions Club Heraldic in Prague. Within Lions Club's activities, he supports various charity projects to help orphaned children. Throughout this period, he has also given generous financial support to numerous exhibition projects in the arts.

ECZACIBASI, BÜLENT (*1949, Turkey)



Bülent Eczacıbaşı, an art benefactor was born in 1949. He studied at a German grammar school in Istanbul and later graduated with a chemical engineering degree from universities in London, UK and Massachusetts, USA. This uncrowned king of the Turkish pharmaceutical industry is one of the top 50 European entrepreneurs. Thanks to his successful business activities, he is able to provide a considerable amount of support to artists and art venues, thus continuing the legacy of his father, who in 1973, established the Foundation for Modern Arts, now chaired by his son. His most important philanthropic achievement is the foundation and financial support of the Museum of Modern Art in Istanbul called Istanbul Modern, which a renowned cultural centre on the shore of the Sea of Marmara with its buildings renovated from customs warehouses.

GELDOF, BOB (*1951, Ireland)



Thanks to his charity activities, Bob Geldof earned the nickname Saint Bob. This musician, actor and political activist was born in 1951 in Dublin, Ireland. He was the first rock musician to meet with the highest state representatives and make them listen to him. He won recognition as someone who is able to motivate people and as a tireless worker and ardent participant in discussions. In 1982, he played the lead character in the famous "Pink Floyd" movie, The Wall. In 1985, he organized the biggest and most famous charity concert in the history of popular music called Live Aid. The biggest music stars gathered on the same day in stadiums in London and Philadelphia to sing and help Africa. In 1986, he was, as the first rock singer, knighted by the Queen of the United Kingdom. His popular autobiography is called "Is That It?", which – as he claims – is also the question he keeps asking himself and which could be expressed by means of another question: "What more can we do to help?"

GRONDOL, ZDENEK (*1952, Czech Republic)



Zdeněk Grondol is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the joint-stock company CZECH International, which has been operating on the Czech and European market for 15 years. He was able not only to build a successful business company, but also to think constantly about supporting the arts, for which he was awarded the Prize of the Masaryk Academy of Arts in 2002 and the European Union of Arts Prize in 2004. By virtue of his position as chairman of the board, Ing. Zdeněk Grondol has consistently supported the temporary import of priceless art works by world-class art masters to the Czech Republic in the period before the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union, when a guarantee in the value of millions was required. He thereby enabled the general Czech public to see the works of masters such as Picasso, Chagall, Braque, Miró, Dalí, Warhol and others.

HÁBA, JAROSLAV (*1946, Czech Republic)



After graduating from the Czech Technical University, he started to work in the Central Bohemian power company, Středočeská energetická, a.s., in 1970. Since 1994, he has been the General Manager and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Středočeská energetická, a.s. With his management and personal commitment, the company gave financial support to a number of cultural, social, charitable, health care, educational, and sport projects. In 1996, the company continued the tradition of energy companies from the interwar period to organize regular exhibitions of art works of renowned and emerging artists from the collections of the company, and to purchase their works for enlargement of the collection. In addition, the company also supported concerts by Jiří Stivín (Homage to St. Cecilia), soprano Dagmar Pecková, Time Rainbow cycle, Dvořák Festival in Příbram, Theatre without Handrails, and many others.

RUDOLF KALLAT (*1938, Austria)



a trained hospitality manager and restaurateur. He has held every job in the hotel and restaurant business since 1953, from waiter to hotel manager. He gathered his industry experience in several Western European countries. In 1994 he started the hotel chain Rosen-Hotels-Austria, which is the source of significant support he provides to the Vienna Music Seminar. He was Vice President of the Seminar from 1991 through 1997 and has held the post of President since 1997. Since 1970 the non-profit project has helped talented instrumental and voice students take Master Classes with the world's leading music professors. Over eleven thousand students from 29 countries have taken Master Classes. The project also includes exchanges in which students who have completed the Vienna Music Seminar receive the opportunity to perform at concert halls and opera houses around the world.

KULCZYK, GRAŻYNA (*1950, Poland)



Art collector, organiser, entrepreneur and patron. All of her investments connect both business and art. Grażyna Kulczyk's greatest project is the Polish art centre Stary Browar, which has become a cultural platform for new trends and activities in both commerce and the arts. The centre was founded in the revitalised 19th century building of the Brewery Hugerów. As many as 15 million people visit the centre annually. The urban complex has received a number of Polish and international awards. The Art & Fashion Festival has been held at Stary Browar each year since 2007. Already as a law student, Grażyna Kulczyk started to build her collection of art titled GK Collection, which has been exhibited and many exhibitions around the world. The gallery itself is connected with Art Station Foundation by Grażyna Kulczyk, an independent project named after the founder.

LOBKOWICZ, WILLIAM (*1961, USA / Czech Republic)



Since the restitution of property to the family in the nineteen nineties, William Lobkowicz aspires to open the Lobkowicz family collections to the general public. The collections belong to the largest and most valuable private collections in the Czech Republic and Europe. Mr. Lobkowicz has opened permanent exhibitions at the castle in Nelahozeves and the Lobkowicz Palace at Prague Castle to the public. They exhibit works by Brueghel, Rubens, Canaletto, Beethoven and many other masters. Works from the artistic collection and from the eminently valuable Roudnice Lobkowicz library can be admired by visitors to exhibitions held at home and abroad. Every year, the castle in Nelahozeves hosts the "Dvořák's Musical Nelahozeves" festival as a tribute to the place where the famous composer Antonín Dvořák was born and where his memorial is.

MARCH, MICHAEL (*1946, USA / Czech Republic)



There is perhaps no poet or writer with whom Michael March did not meet personally or at least talked on the phone. Born in New York, March has been bringing writers, readers, and thoughts closer together for 25 years. However, he has always been fascinated with European literature, so after graduating, he moved to Europe. He was involved significantly in benefitting writers in Eastern Europe, including the former Czechoslovakia, who could not be published. His own works such as the Child of Europe and the Description of a Struggle are also well-known. In 1980, he founded a festival in London, which later found a home in Prague – Prague Writers' Festival – which has gained prestige and a reputation for quality. A poet and tireless organizer of the international literary life, March is currently the president of Prague Writers' Festival.

MAYER, RICHARD H. (*1933, Germany)



Trained as an art trader in Munich, he has been involved in organizing exhibitions and making contacts with avant-garde in New York. He began cooperating with Andy Warhol since 1958 and starting in 1960, he visited Salvador Dalí regularly and built up a collection of his works, which now belongs among the biggest private collections in Central Europe. In 1972, he established the art gallery and museum at the Bottinghaus Castle in Bamberg – a sister town of the Prague 1 City District. In 2004, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Dalí's birth, he organized one of his biggest retrospectives at the Bruchsal Castle near Baden-Baden. There he introduced visitors to 50 years of Dalí's life and work. Then the exhibition toured to the State Museum in Moscow and the State Art Gallery in Budapest. In addition to Dalí's works, visitors to the MIRO Gallery could also see Mark Chagall's cycle of Illustrations of the Bible and Francisco Goya's world-famous cycle of etchings, also from collections of the Bottinghaus Museum.

MLÁDKOVÁ, MEDA (*1919, USA / Czech Republic)



Meda Mládek is the founder and director of the Kampa Museum and president of the Jan and Meda Mládek Foundation. After 1946, she lived in exile, where she founded, in addition to other things, the first Czechoslovak exile publishing house – Edition Sokolova. There she published the first book about Toyen written by André Breton, Ivan Blatný's poetry, and Peroutka's works, among others. Together with her husband Jan Mládek, she supported Czechoslovak artists. She built a collection of works by František Kupka and Otto Gutfreund as well as modern Central European art that she donated to Prague after 1989. In September 2003, she opened the Kampa Museum in the former Sova Mills, where the collections were located and entrusted to the care of the Jan and Meda Mládek Foundation.

MOJTO, JAN (*1948, Germany)



Jan Mojto is one of Europe's most significant film producers. He is of Slovak origin, living in Germany. He studied literary science and history at universities in Bratislava and Munich. After emigration in 1969, he worked as a journalist. In 1977, he began to work in the media group of German magnate Leo Kirch and climbed the corporate ladder to become a member of the Board of Directors. He was present at the inception of a number of films coproduced by Germany and Czechoslovakia. In 2002, he founded the production company EOS – Events of Screen – and produces very successful series, such as Napoleon, The Misers and the newest series adaptation of the novel War and Peace. Not long ago, he bought an important part of Kirch's empire and Europe's biggest film archive, Beta Film. In 2001, he was awarded the Charlemagne Prize. He is a personality of the media industry in particular and personifies the European coproduction idea in a unique way.

NAWROCKI, ALEKSANDER (*1940, Poland)



Aleksander Nawrocki majored in Polish and Hungarian Philology at the University of Warsaw. He writes poetry, prose, literary reviews, and translates Hungarian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Russian, Finnish, Georgian, Serb, German, English and French to Polish. He is the author of more than eleven collections of poems and two novels. In 1992, he established the publishing house IBIS, focusing on Polish and foreign poetry. Starting in 2001, he has organized the World Days of Poetry under the auspices of UNESCO and Polish Ministry of Culture and since 2008, he has been organizing Festival for Slavic Poetry. As a businessman who is active in a hotel industry, he has generously provided financial support to young writers and poets since 1990. Along with the numerous awards and accolades, he has also received Golden Cross of Merit.

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI (*1953, Cambodian Kingdom)



Norodom Sihamoni was born in 1953 in Phnompenh. He is the only monarch in the world that is fluent in Czech. In 1962, he was sent by his father, king Sihanuk, to study in Prague. He attended the Elementary school in Ostrovni Street, after that he studied ballet at the Conservatory and the Academy of Performing Arts. He performed in the National Theatre and also the TV Opera Brundibár. He sees Prague as his second home. In 1981, he founded a Dancing school in Paris and was a ballet teacher. From August 1993, he worked as the Ambassador of Cambodia at UNESCO. In 1994, he was given the title the Grand Prince by his father and 10 years later, he was crowned King of Cambodia.

PINCHUK, VICTOR (*1960, Ukraine)



Entrepreneur in the investment finance business and steel industry, owner of several TV stations, former member of the Ukrainian parliament and prominent philanthropist; graduated from the Metallurgy College in 1983. In 2006, he opened the greatest centre of modern art in Eastern Europe – Pinchuk Art Centre in Kiev. It supports fine art, the Ukrainian Chamber Orchestra, film industry or projects fighting for human rights. He established the Victor Pinchuk Foundation in the same year. It is considered to be the biggest philanthropist organization in Ukraine. He established and also owns many companies producing steel. A substantial amount of their profit is used to finance the Global fight against AIDS. Mr Pinchuk is founder of the Kiev School of Economics. In the list made by the TIME Magazine, he became the first Ukrainian state official to be ranked among the 100 most influential people in the world. In this list Mr. Pinchuk became 7th in the Thinkers Category. Giants such as Steve Jobs, founder of the Apple Company, Sonia Sotomayer, Judge of the US Supreme Court, or the renowned architect Zaha Hadid can be also found in the same category. Since 2008, the British Review Art Magazine has ranked him among the one hundred most influential people in art.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ DE QUIRÓS Y CORUJO, Count of La Carrera (*1943, Spain)



is a Spanish Art expert and one of the world's most notable art experts, collectors and patrons. He studied in Madrid and Perugia and other Italian universities, where he gradually became acquainted with the most influential people in the world of culture. In the course of the Seventies he discovered an extensive art market in Argentina and purchased over 2,000 European works of art, including masterpieces by Matisse, Lautrec and Renoir, from Picasso's Blue, Pink and Cubist periods, as well as works by Sorolla, Solana, Fortuny, Cubellse, Nonell and others. Today these works are represented in some of the most important art collections in the world. In 1975 he met Salvador Dalí and the two developed a close and productive friendship that lasted until the final days of Dalí's life. Through this friendship he formed a collection of Dalí sculptures that is considered unique and one of the best in the world. His expertise in art, which ranges from the Flemish and Italian schools to Goya, Delacroix and the giants of the modern era, is recognised worldwide.

SVĚTLÍK, JAN (*1958, Czech Republic)



The Chairmen of the Board of Directors and General Manager of Vítkovice Holding, Jan Světlík, graduated from the Technical University of the School of Mining in Ostrava. He has gradually created and currently manages VÍTKOVICE MACHINERY GROUP, which integrates thirty companies both here and abroad, and is a globally operating machinery producer. In addition, he is a great promoter and collector of the arts. Thanks to his assistance, extraordinarily successful exhibitions have been held – in addition to others, the unique exhibition of Czech artists from the turn of the 20th century called "Feuds of Visions" in the Ostrava Gallery of Modern Art. He supports cultural projects and the publishing of historical and art publications. He had implemented the idea to renovate technical national monuments in the lower part of Vítkovice and the unique architectural project New Vítkovice, which will change the face of modern Ostrava completely. He supports science, research and innovations in a long-term horizon.

VOŠTIAR, MIRO (*1947, Czech Republic)



Originally a professional filmmaker, who, after many years of work at Barrandov Film Studios, founded his own independent film company, Mirofilm. In addition to a number of co-productions with European film and television companies, he has also produced independent works. Worth noting are the film by director Juraj Jakubisko, Better to be Healthy and Rich than Sick and Poor and the maverick documentary series charting pressing social problems, Angels are not Angels and Body Without Soul. His relationship with the arts has given rise to a remarkable collection of Czech art and a comprehensive collection of works by Marc Chagall and Salvador Dalí. Individual works of art are regularly loaned to prestigious exhibitions at home and abroad. At present, he is involved in the hotel business (ARIA musical hotel, AT THE GOLDEN WELL hotel).

VIACHESLAV ZARENKOV (*1951, Russian Federation)



is a doctor of economics, founder and president of Etalon, one of the largest construction companies in Russia, holder of over 80 patents, painter, author and graduate of the Construction Engineering Institute in Leningrad. He is the President of the International Fund for the Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments and has worked toward renewing many architectural treasures. In the arts he is primarily known for "Creating the World", a project that supports fine art, film and literature with the clear aim of bringing people together based on simple, clear values such as kindness, justice, mutual respect and personal development. He has received many awards and honours, including one of the highest honours of the Russian Federation, the International Glory Award, for his exceptional contribution to the development of international economic and cultural relations. He is also a recipient of the Honoured Builder of the Russian Federation award and many other appreciation.

COMMERZBANK AG (Germany)

COMMERZBANK  Commerzbank AG is the second largest bank in Germany and one of the largest foreign financial institutions in the Czech Republic. Having arrived in the Czech Republic in 1992, Commerzbank Prague offers an attractive and comprehensive line of sophisticated corporate banking services for multinational corporations in the Czech Republic as well as for large and mid-sized local Czech companies. Commerzbank clients benefit from the unique combination of our detailed local market knowledge and extensive know-how available from across the global Commerzbank network. Historically, it has always supported a broad cross-section of cultural activities, both in Germany and abroad, including the Czech Republic. Indeed, since 1995, the Prague branch has been regular supporter of the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, helping young artists in their artistic growth. For many years, Commerzbank has also been the proud sponsor of the Trebbia Gala Benefit Evening. In addition to culture, Commerzbank supports charitable non-profit societies, organizations and foundations such as the Our Child Foundation.

ČESKÁ SPOŘITELNA, a.s. (Czech Republic)



Česká spořitelna (Czech Savings Bank) Financial Group, with 5,300,000 clients is the largest financial institution with the longest history on the Czech market among the banking houses. Czech Savings Bank spends considerable resources to support social, charitable, health care, educational, cultural and sport projects. It supports charitable non-profit societies and organizations, civic associations, general beneficial organizations, foundations, and endowment funds. In 2001, it became a founder of the Czech Savings Bank Foundation, which aims to support projects in the field of culture, education, science, public and social affairs, health care, charity, community activities, sports and environment. In the field of culture, it holds the partnerships with Prague Spring and the Colours of Ostrava music festivals, Smetana's Litomyšl Opera Festival, the Prague Theatre Festival of German Language and the long-term cooperation with Prague's Vinohrady Theatre.

FOPEX SLOVAKIA, s.r.o. (Slovakia)



Fopex Slovakia has been operating in the engineering industry for almost 10 years. It provides customers throughout Europe with casting dies for aluminium and plastic castings. Radovan Morochovič is the founder and executive director of the company. Three years ago, he founded a second company, Fopex Plastic, which is a supplier of plastic molded parts for the automotive industry. Since the beginning of his business, Mr. Morochovič has also consistently promoted culture and the arts. Let us mention, for example, the support of the international Dreams and Teams project with the aim to teach young people to work in a team and assert their personalities, the children's support organization called Phoenix that focuses on culture, sport, and tourism, and the support of the Technical University of Košice. The company contributes to the realization of art exhibits in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava and International Art Festivals in Snina.

ROYAL CANONRY OF PREMONSTRATIENSIS AT STRAHOV (Czech Republic)



The Royal Canonry of Premonstratensians at Strahov belongs among the oldest still existing monasteries of the Premonstratensian Order worldwide. Since its founding in 1143, the continuity of its existence has been virtually consistent. It has resisted fires, wars and the despotism of the Communist regime. In addition to the spiritual administration, education and training of novices and clerics, it also has its merits in rich cultural development. It offers the public an insight into the rich art picture gallery, library and historical spaces of the monastery. Furthermore, it focuses significantly on the restoration and renovation of cultural monuments: renovation of the Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary at Svatý Kopeček, painting of the St. John the Baptist Church in Velká Chyška, renovation of the sculpture of Christ on the Mount of Olives in Jihlava, renovation of sundial in Milevsko Convent, and etc.

OHL ŽS, a.s. (Czech Republic)



OHL ŽS, a.s., is a dynamic multidisciplinary construction company with nearly sixty years of tradition, which belongs among the largest and most significant construction companies in the Czech Republic. It performs restorations, modernizations, and constructions in the Czech Republic and abroad i.e. Bulgaria, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Slovakia, and etc. Support from the joint-stock company OHL ŽS is traditionally directed at numerous beneficial projects and activities in health care, education and sport as well as major cultural events such as the International Music Festival in Český Krumlov, the International Music Festival Concentus Moraviae, the Easter Festival of Sacred Music, Peter Dvorský's International Music Festival, the Moravian Autumn Festival and the International Academia Film Festival in Olomouc. It is also a partner of the Municipal Theatre in Brno, the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra and the Czech Philharmonic Choir.

ŠKODA AUTO, a.s. (Czech Republic)



Škoda AUTO is one of the oldest car factories in Europe. It followed the tradition of the Laurin and Klement Company based in Mladá Boleslav, where cars had been put together since 1905. The Company currently manufactures four model sets and is one of the biggest exporters in the Czech Republic having sold 630 thousand cars. The Škoda Auto Company states that supporting culture is one of the crucial pillars of its social responsibility. Partners of Škoda Auto are for example the National Theatre, the Czech Philharmonia, the Prague Symphonic Orchestra FOK, the International Film Festival for Children and Youth Zlín, and the Smetana's Litomyšl International Festival.

ZENTIVA, a.s. (Czech Republic)



Zentiva is a modern international pharmaceutical company whose mission is to help to enhance good quality treatment, particularly in primary care. The effort to improve the health of the population is complemented by supporting the fields of culture and sport. The longest and most visible support concerns the Prague Autumn International Music Festival. In addition, it supports the Pontes International Music Festival, whose concerts are held in UNESCO -protected monuments. The support of Febiofest, an international film festival in Central Europe which takes place in several cities throughout the Czech Republic, is continuing for the third year. Zentiva has sponsored the restoration of the original scores of Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák. Furthermore, Zentiva supports fine arts through galleries such as Jiří Anderle's Gallery. The head office premises often accommodate exhibitions of major contemporary artists, graphic designers, and photographers.