

## PRESS RELEASE

**JAKUB MATUŠKA AKA MASKER | i'll tell you why my head is swollen****Opening: 11. September 2013 18:00., Dlouhá 5, Praha 1**

Exhibition: 12. 9. 2013 - 11. 10. 2013

Monday - Friday 10.00am - 18.00pm

We are pleased to announce the launch of the solo exhibition of one of the most outstanding new talents of the young generation of Czech artists Jakub Matuška (1981) at gallery dvorak sec contemporary. Also known under the pseudonym Masker, the exhibition will present his latest canvases characterized with his unmistakable artistic style and several original objects. Jakub Matuška presents his work for the second time around at dvorak sec contemporary, continuing on from his previous successful exhibition, which kicked off considerable interest and growing respect for his original style.

Jakub Matuška aka Masker studied at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts at the painting studio of Vladimír Skrepl (2003 - 2009) and during his studies he also studied at Cooper Union in New York (2008) and Middlesex University in London (2007). Although Jakub Matuška studied at these prestigious art schools, his street art history is reflected in all his work. The quality of his work and hallmark of one of the most interesting artists of the younger generation can be measured by his success in Czech and international art competitions. This year he joined the ranks of a few selected international artists at the festival of contemporary art SVEART in Italy. In 2011, he received the prestigious award NG 333, awarded by the National Gallery of the best young artists under 35. In 2010 he was among the finalists for the Jindřich Chaloupecký prize, being one of the favorites for the title. And along with five other street artists Jakub Matuška successfully represented the Czech Republic at Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

The most important component of Masker's work is painting, but the breadth of his talent extends into photographs, videos, installations and sculpture. The artist's paintings attract combining approaches of monumental painting and street art, which implements technical elements into the works. Strongly deformed figural scenes committed to the environment are created whilst mutually permeating spaces are formed. Typical is the unique work of scale that affects the meaning and tone of the work itself. There is notably a strange atmosphere that emanates from Masker's work which draws the viewer into the heart of the artist's mind. The distinctive styling and relaxed imagination is a unique combination that with a clear outline in the work allows for tense emotions of joy and gloom at the same time. From the most recent canvases by Jakub Matuška we can observe an increasing precision and persuasiveness from the artist in which he achieves considerable success.

*"The characters I use are a sort of paraphrase of something from the past. In the end, I find that I still regularly use similar things that I know, either things from childhood, or things that I notice more. Or then play with finding the right composition. Penetrating these things together. Before, I was able to deal with relationships, it didn't make sense to me to deal with anything else, following now on from my diploma work there appear more figures, more stories. The fact that I live in the city my whole life, I use these scenes, which I intensely think about. An apocalyptic feeling. Nice things are harder for me to do. From childhood I tend to this position, stylization. It is not only negative, I try to capture a clash between two positions. At the same time there is also inspiration from other artists which greatly appear as moods or similar elements. From Bosch and other issues of his time I like the different environments and spatial solutions or insights into the landscapes... I am inspired also by comics, photos of graffiti or designs on skateboards from where I can take a combination of colors, which I would not have found myself,"* says Jakub Matuška aka Masker

